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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017



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Gutierrez pleads guilty to murder

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer
 Joe Cruz Gutierrez pled guilty to the May 27, 2015 murder of Freddie Ramos Monday afternoon in the 118th District Court. According to 118th Judicial District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, Gutierrez was sentenced to a term of 15

years in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice prison. "We are not happy with it," Wilkerson said. "I don't like this term. It's not enough for what we felt like we could get, but we had



Gutierrez

some evidentiary difficulties we had to face. Those difficulties had to do with the lead investigator at the Big Spring Police Department at the time who has since been terminated and is himself laboring under three felony indictments." Wilkerson is referring to former Big Spring Police offi-

cer Derek Rojo, who resigned and is facing indictments for sexual performance by a child and indecency with a child. In the case of the Ramos murder, Big Spring police officers responded to a shots fired call outside of the Spanish Inn Restaurant located in the 300 block of North Scur-

ry the night of May 27, 2015. When the police arrived, officers found Ramos dead, according to reports at the time of the shooting. Gutierrez was arrested within the week and confessed to the murder, according to a press release from the Big Spring PD following his arrest.

A token of thanks



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

The Howard College board of trustees presented the Big Spring Area Community Foundation with a resolution of appreciation Monday for giving the college two grants. The first grant funded the renovation to a youth practice field located on the college campus. Trustees held a ribbon cutting ceremony earlier in the day. The second was given to support the athletic program at the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID) to purchase new uniforms and equipment. Pictured are officials from Howard College, the Community Foundation board, and students from SWCID.

Guns on campus

Howard College prepares for concealed carry on campus starting in August

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer
 Howard College officials presented a draft plan to trustees during their monthly meeting to prepare for the implementation of a new law which allows concealed gun carry on the campus grounds. The change comes from state law passed in 2015 which allows licensed concealed gun owners the ability to bring handguns into campus grounds and buildings. College and universities were tasked with creating rules and regulations to fit their particular campus, but still complying with the law to allow concealed carry on

campus. Four-year universities were required to comply by August 2016. Community colleges have until August 2017. According to Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks, a committee made up of administrators, faculty, and staff created the draft plan and are currently seeking input from the college faculty, staff, students, and the community as a whole. "We have it on the website," she said. "We are having informational meetings for employees and also for students so that those groups can share their opinions of

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Trump puts anti-global warming projects on the chopping block

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is expected to sign an executive order Tuesday aimed at moving forward on his campaign pledge to unravel former President Barack Obama's plan to curb global warming. The order will suspend, rescind or flag for review more than a half-dozen measures in an effort to boost domestic energy production in the form of fossil fuels. As part of the roll-back, Trump will initiate a review of the Clean Power Plan, which restricts greenhouse gas emissions at coal-

fired power plants. The regulation, which was the former president's signature effort to curb carbon emissions, has been the subject of long-running legal challenges by Republican-led states and those who profit from burning oil, coal and gas. Trump, who has called global warming a "hoax" invented by the Chinese, has repeatedly criticized the power-plant rule and others as an attack on American workers and the struggling U.S. coal industry. The contents of the order were outlined to reporters in a sometimes tense briefing with a senior White House official, whom aides insisted speak without attribution

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Howard County commissioners approve a bid on a chiller unit

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer
 During their regular meeting Monday, Howard County commissioners accepted a \$121,625 bid to replace the county courthouse's chiller unit. The bid was from JL Heating and Air Conditioning and was the lowest bid the county received. Commissioners opted to replace the current 18-year-old chiller after having issues with the unit for the past year. Earlier this month, the chiller quit working, prompting commissioners to solicit bids on a new unit during a special meeting. Repairs to the old unit brought it back to working at half strength again. Commissioners plan to have the new unit installed sometime after the heat of the summer because the courthouse will be without a working air conditioning for several days while the new unit is installed. During a budget workshop,

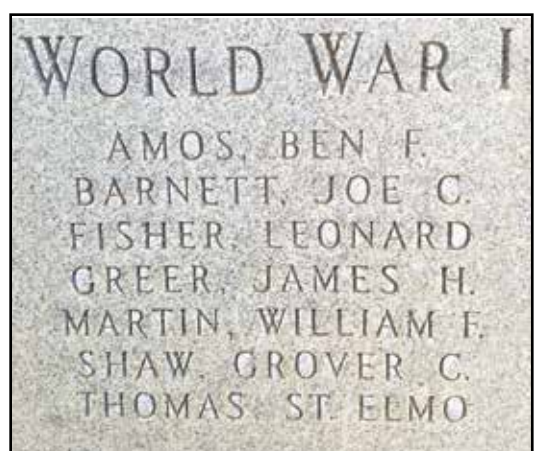
Howard County Road and Bridge Administrator Brian Klinksiek informed commissioners the Texas Department of Transportation has classified FM 2599 as load restricted. Heavy transport such as many trucks used for the oil and gas industry will not be able to travel along this road due

the restriction forcing more traffic along county roads, he said. "They are trying to keep heavy traffic off the road because it is degrading the road," he said. Commissioners discussed allowing Klinksiek's office to conduct

See COUNTY, Page 3

A moment to reflect

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer
 During the Howard County commissioner's meeting Monday, County Judge Kathryn Wiseman took a moment to recognize two important historical events. Commissioners approved a resolution to declare April 6, 2017 as World War I Remembrance Day in Howard County to mark the centennial of the United States' declaration of war against Imperial Germany.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
 Pictured is part of memorial located at the Howard County Courthouse.

See REMEMBER, Page 3



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Obituaries

Henry Samuel Hicks

Henry Samuel Hicks went to live with his Lord and Savior.

Graveside services will be at the Coahoma Cemetery in Coahoma, Texas, on Monday, March 27, 2017, at 11 a.m. There will be visitation at Sanders Funeral Home in Lubbock March 26, 2017, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Henry was born in Bells, Texas, on Jan. 17, 1934, to Samuel and Ruby Hicks. He was one year old when they moved to Coahoma, Texas. Henry graduated from Coahoma High School in 1952 and Howard College in 1955.

He married the love of his life, Charlene Ruth Potts, on April 21, 1957. They had 58 wonderful years together. They were blessed with four daugh-

ters and three granddaughters. His greatest joys were traveling and spending time with his wife, daughters, and granddaughters.

Mr. Hicks began his career in the lumber business by being employed by Forrest Lumber Company. He later purchased nine lumber yards in Texas and New Mexico.

He was an active Lions Club Member and served as President in Seminole. He was on the District Appraisal Board for Winkler and Loving counties. He was a director on the State of Texas Lumberman's Association. Henry was President of the Seminole Industrial Foundation. He was very active in 4-H. He was a member of St. Luke's Methodist Church in Lubbock.

He was preceded in death by his wife, two brothers, and one sister. He is survived by four daughters, three granddaughters, one brother, and several nieces and nephews.

Paid obituary

Milton "Fern" Cox

Milton "Fern" Cox, 93, of Big Spring, passed away Saturday, March 25, 2017. Funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at Myers & Smith Chapel with Chaplain Skip Hedgepeth of Home Hospice and Tom Thompson, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Fern was born July 9, 1923 to Zemma and Jim Will Cox of Garden City, Texas. He graduated from Garden City High School in 1941 and served with the United States Army during World War II. He went to work for the Howard County Sheriff's Office as a deputy after his military service.

Fern also served as County and District Clerk of Howard County for several years. During this time, he enjoyed raising club lambs for 4-H and FFA. He married Sandra Cross on January 14, 1984 in Big Spring and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Later in life, Fern worked with Schaffer

Farms raising goats and constructing projects. He was known by many as the "Old man at the barn."

He is survived by his sister Bonnie Bednar and husband Wilburn of Abilene; his brother, Ben Cox of Abilene and a sister: Russelene Edburg of San Angelo and several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by four step-children, Mitchell Gross, Jana Williams, Craig Gross and Blake Gross; nine grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and host of many other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Kenneth Cox; a sister Isabelle Herzog; his daughter Lita Cox and his wife Sandra.

The family suggests memorials to the First Presbyterian Church, 701 Runnels, Big Spring, Texas and Home Hospice, 111 E 7th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

Pallbearers Tyler Bednar, Brandon Bednar, Richie Yarbar, Chris Evans, Ky Hofacket and Stan Parker.

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

Paid obituary

Dolores Klein

Funeral mass for Dolores Klein of Stanton, Texas has been set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Father Timothy Schwertner officiating. Interment will follow at the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery. A Rosary Vigil will be held Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at Stanton Memorial Funeral Home at 7 p.m.

Dolores was born Oct. 16, 1927 in Hartshorne, Oklahoma and passed away March 26, 2017. Dolores was a long time resident of Stanton, Texas. She was a dietary super-

visor at VA Hospital in Big Spring, Texas for 29 years. She was also a member of the Altar Society at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Dolores is survived by her daughters: Denise Marie Klein of Bedford, Texas, Patricia Louise McBride of Amarillo, Texas, and Tracy Susan Bryan of Stanton, Texas; sons, Benjamin Joseph Klein of Cedar Hill, Texas, Leo Stephen Klein, and Robert Earl Klein of Stanton, Texas; sisters, Molly Homer of Paris, Texas, Elizabeth Flesher and Mary Stizza of McAlester, Oklahoma; brothers, Robert Bernasky and Theodore Bernasky of Hartshorne, Oklahoma; 22 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Dolores was preceded in death by her husband Leo Klein.

Survivors include her mother, Amber Hillger and her sister, Rylee Thomason of Big Spring; her father and step-mother, Pete and Jennie Marrero of Haltom City and their children Andi, Precious, Patricia, Pharah and Baby Pete; her maternal grandparents, David and Debra Hillger of Big Spring; her paternal grandparents, Pete and Gilda Marrero of North Richland Hills; her great-grandparents; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The family suggests memorials to Rett Syndrome at www.retsyndrome.org or to the Circuit Riders Cowboy Church, Mady Hillger playground fund, 5108 Nichols Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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

Madysyn Valeigh "Mady" Hillger

Madysyn Valeigh "Mady" Hillger, 12, of Big Spring, died Sunday, March 26, 2017 at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, March 31, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Courtney Ballard officiating. Interment will follow at Garden City Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 30, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Mady was born June 11, 2004 in Big Spring.

Frances Capps

Frances Capps, 75, of Coahoma, passed away Monday, March 27, 2017 at Lubbock Heath Care Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **MARK JOHN NOVAK**, 40, of 1615 Cardinal Street was arrested on a warrant for evading arrest/detention and a warrant from another agency.
- **BRODY ERIC GUTIERREZ**, 24, of 109 Wildfire Road was arrested on a charge of driving with invalid license.
- **LILI ALVARADO**, 20, of 604 Holbert was arrested on a warrant for cruelty to animals.
- **KENDALL CHRISTOPHER LUNA**, 32, of 2401 Merrily Drive was arrested on charges of displaying fictitious motor vehicle registration, expired registration, and bail jumping/failure to appear.
- **RICARDO MARTINEZ CASTILLO**, 38, of 1503 Sycamore Street was arrested on charges of robbery, evading arrest/detention, and a warrant from another agency.
- **EARL PERRY HANKE**, 58, of 704 Borden was arrested on a warrant for speeding.
- **DEANDRE TYRELLE WALTON**, 36, of 9713 Jay Road was arrested on a warrant for driving with an invalid license and driving without a safety belt being secured.
- **AUGUST LASHAY ALEXANDER**, 18, of 1 Courtney Place was arrested on a warrant for theft of property.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal Street and the 600 block of Holbert.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of W FM 700.
- **HARASSMENT** was reported in the 3600 block of W Hwy 80.

Take Note

• The Texas Department of State Health Services accredited food handlers program is being offered in Big Spring on April 27 at 10 a.m. and at 3 p.m. at Howard College's GC Broughton Agriculture Complex, 2411 Echols Drive.

The class, which is being offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, is required for all food service employees to help promote the service of safe food.

The class is a basic overview of food safety practices that are necessary to ensure such safe food practices as: good personal hygiene, prevention of cross contamination, and good time and temperature practices.

The cost of the program is \$20. To register, call 432-264-2236.

• Registration is now begin taken for cancer survivors/caregivers who will be attending the 2017 Howard/Glasscock County Relay for Life. To register by phone or online call 1-800-227-2345 or www.relayforlife.org/bigspringtx. For assistance, you may contact Howard Stewart at 432-935-0582 or Beverly Grant at 432-967-0901.

• Forsan Elementary School has scheduled Pre-K and Kindergarten pre-registration for Monday, April 3, through Friday, April 7 in the elementary office located at 500 West Main in Forsan, Texas. The school office will be open for registration between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In order to be eligible for Pre-Kindergarten, the student must be four years old on or before Sept. 1, 2017, and meet at least one of the following criteria: Must be unable to speak or comprehend English; the household fully qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches; the family is homeless; one or more parents are on active-duty military service or have been injured or killed while serving on active duty; or the child is in foster care

If your child meets one of the above criteria, please bring the child's birth certificate, social security card, immunization records, proof of residency (utility bill with name and physical address), proof of income (paycheck stub for ALL household income), and enrolling parent/guardian driver's license.

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

• A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will start Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship located in the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles

for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

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

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

THURSDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615

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

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

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.



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REMEMBER

Continued from Page 1

During America's participation in the Great War, or World War I, more than 100,000 U.S. soldiers were killed including seven from Howard County. Those men were Ben F. Amos, Joe C. Barnett, Leonard Fisher, James H. Greer, William F. Martin, Grover C. Shaw, and St. Elmo Thomas whose names are inscribed along with World War II and Vietnam veterans at a memorial located at the east side of the Howard County Courthouse.

Wiseman also marked another historical event during the meeting and one significant to the Texas Revolution.

"On this day, 181 years ago was the Goliad massacre," Wiseman said. "It was an event that occurred on March 27, 1836 during the Texas Revolution."

Hundreds of prisoners of war from the army of the Republic of Texas were killed by the Mexican army in the town of Goliad, Texas. Among those killed was Colonel James W. Fannin

The killing was under the orders of Antonip Lopez de Santa Anna who was leading the Mexico army against the forces of the Republic of Texas. The massacre inflamed and unified the Texas resistance.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 235, or email citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

HC

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that policy. We are doing this on all our sites." The policy heavily models the one Texas Tech University instituted on its campus, Sparks said. Texas Tech, a West Texas four-year university located in Lubbock, has a very similar cultural environment as Howard College, Sparks said.

The new law doesn't give much leeway in where the college can restrict gun carry on the campus, Sparks said. Gun owners can not bring their weapons near the college's pre-k program or into governmental meetings such as the monthly board of trustees meeting. Also, the law restricts gun owners from carrying their weapons into certain youth events such as athletic meets or camp type activities. Testing centers are also off limit along with certain laboratory settings which is dependent on what type of chemical the lab stores.

"Really what we've been able to do is just a few areas to be able to restrict," Spark said. "The law is very specific of what you can do and can't do and there is not

a lot of wiggle room."

The law does allow licensed gun owners to carry concealed weapons into the classroom and in the dormitories. As part of the draft policy, Howard College will require those individuals to store their weapons in a college approved locked gun safe located in the individual room.

In other business, the college has received six to seven applicants for the Dean of Library position, according to Dr. Amy Burchett, vice president of academic and student affairs.

In January, the college and Howard County which supports a public library program, entered an agreement to share the head librarian salary since neither had much luck in filling the position with the salary they offered.

The college is offering a salary rate of \$63,000 to \$65,000 and the applicant must have a master's degree in library science, Burchett said.

Once hired, the new librarian will oversee the college district's three academic library sites and the county public library. The new person will also research into the possibility of merging both the county and

the college library services.

"I am doing preliminary phone calls to ensure the applicants understand what the job entails because it is unique," Burchett informed trustees.

"At this point one of the obvious questions is if this doesn't work out do I still have a job and do I still have the same amount of money," Sparks said. "We had a Dean of Libraries position open. We were not getting much response so we already knew we were going to have to increase the salary. And it just happened at the same time the county was having the same struggle, and we went downtown the path of the MOU (memorandum of understanding). The bottom line is Yes this person will have a job and they will have the same salary. People are invested in this. It's very different but at the same time becoming a joint library — I wouldn't say is common but it is happening more across the country even in the state of Texas."

Sparks stressed that the college and county have not made any agreements to combine the library services oth-

er than sharing a head librarian. Any decision will be further down the line after much research and public discussion on the issue, Sparks added.

"It is a difficult process because everyone wants the answer, but we've got to be methodical to work through the process because we've got to make sure its going to be good for all those concerns."

In other business, trustees approved

- Increases in lab fees for certain allied health courses excluding the nursing and dental hygienists programs, charging students who take less than six credit hours a \$5 activity fee, and increasing the tuition for out of state students who attend the SWCID. Those student will now pay \$465 a semester hour from \$458.

- A resolution calling for the extension of Interstate 27 along the Ports to Plains trade corridor route which would run through Big Spring.

- Approve the contract renewal of the college's cabinet employees.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 235.

TRUMP

Continued from Page 3

despite President Trump's criticism of the use of unnamed sources in the news media.

The official at one point appeared to break with mainstream climate science, denying familiarity with widely publicized concerns about the potential adverse economic impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and more extreme weather.

In addition to pulling back from the Clean Power Plan, the administration will also lift a 14-month-old moratorium on new coal leases on federal lands.

The Obama administration had imposed a three-year moratorium on new federal coal leases in January 2016, arguing that the \$1 billion-a-year program must be modernized to ensure a fair financial return to taxpayers and address climate change.

Trump accused his predecessor of waging a "war on coal" and boasted in a speech to

Congress that he has made "a historic effort to massively reduce job-crushing regulations," including some that threaten "the future and livelihoods of our great coal miners."

The order will also chip away at other regulations, including scrapping language on the "social cost" of greenhouse gases. It will initiate a review of efforts to reduce the emission of methane in oil and natural gas production as well as a Bureau of Land Management hydraulic fracturing rule, to determine whether those reflect the president's policy priorities.

It will also rescind Obama-era executive orders and memoranda, including one that addressed climate change and national security and one that sought to prepare the country for the impacts of climate change.

The administration is still in discussion about whether it intends to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change. But the moves to be announced Tues-

day will undoubtedly make it more difficult for the U.S. to achieve its goals.

Trump's Environmental Protection Agency chief, Scott Pruitt, alarmed environmental groups and scientists earlier this month when he said he does not believe carbon dioxide is a primary contributor to global warming. The statement is at odds with mainstream scientific consensus and Pruitt's own agency.

The overwhelming majority of peer-reviewed studies and climate scientists agree the planet is warming, mostly due to man-made sources, including carbon dioxide, methane, halocarbons and nitrogen oxide.

The official who briefed reporters said the president does believe in man-made climate change.

The power-plant rule Trump is set to address in his order has been on hold since last year as a federal appeals court considers a challenge by coal-friendly states and more than 100 com-

panies who call the plan an unconstitutional power grab.

Opponents say the plan will kill coal-mining jobs and drive up electricity costs. The Obama administration, some Democratic-led states and environmental groups countered that it would spur thousands of clean-energy jobs and help the U.S. meet ambitious goals to reduce carbon pollution set by the international agreement signed in Paris.

Trump's order on coal-fired power plants follows an executive order he signed last month mandating a review of an Obama-era rule aimed at protecting small streams and wetlands from development and pollution.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 235.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

a study to see if some county roads can also be classified as load restricted. They took no action on the issue.

In other business, commissioners also approved eight pipeline road crossing permits — two in Precinct 1, three in Precinct 2, one in Precinct 3, and two in Precinct 4. All eight are gas and oil related, according to Klinksiek.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 235, or email citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

White House eyeing \$18 billion list of social program cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is following up its long-shot roster of budget cuts with a wish list of \$18 billion worth of immediate reductions, including cuts to medical research, infrastructure, and community development grants.

Like President Donald Trump's 2018 budget, which was panned by both Democrats and Republicans earlier this month, the proposals have little chance to be enacted.

Unlike the budget document itself, the roster of cuts do not represent official administration proposals. Instead, they were sent to Capitol Hill as a set of "options" for GOP staff aides and lawmakers crafting a catchall spending bill for the ongoing budget year, which ends Sept. 30.

The documents arrived as negotiations over a catchall spending package continue Tuesday with the aim of averting a partial government shutdown at the end of next month. The package would wrap up \$1.1 trillion in unfinished spending bills and address the administration's request for an immediate \$30 billion in additional Pentagon spending.

Those talks are intensifying, but Senate Republicans are considering backing away from a showdown with Democrats over whether to fund Trump's request for immediate fund-

ing to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Senate Democrats have threatened to filibuster any language providing money for the wall.

Asked about including Southern border wall financing in the broader spending package, Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., a key negotiator, said, "They will not pass together. That's just my view."

Blunt added, "My view is there's a path to get 60 votes" in the Senate, the total required to overcome a Democratic filibuster.

"There is no path to put a supplemental (wall) as currently described on that package," said Blunt, a member of the Senate GOP leadership team and is major player on health and human services accounts.

The government would shut down except for some functions on April 29 without successful action on spending. GOP leaders are eager to avoid a politically damaging shutdown, especially in the wake of last week's embarrassing failure to pass the Trump-pushed bill to "repeal and replace" former President Barack Obama's landmark health care law and Trump's decision to abandon the effort.

Negotiators have made progress on the core elements of a dozen must-do funding bills but have ignored the White House's list of cuts in doing so.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Dorothy Bailey, 83, died Tuesday. Funeral service was held at 2:00 PM today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Michael Edward Bearden, 73, died Thursday. Services are pending.

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3rd member of Texas college rodeo team dies following wreck

VERNON, Texas (AP) — A third member of a Texas college rodeo team has died from injuries suffered in a traffic accident while driving to a competition.

The Wichita Falls Times Record News reports that 20-year-old Jakob Plummer of Petrolia died Sunday, about a week after the March 18 wreck that killed two other members of the Vernon College rodeo team.

The team was traveling to Brownwood for a National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association tournament.

Nineteen-year-old Yancie McCuiston of Sugar City, Colorado, died at the scene near Haskell, north of Abilene. Nineteen-year-old Vinita Trevino of Petrolia died a day later.

Another teammate was injured.

Authorities say McCuiston was the driver of a pickup that drove through a stop sign and was struck by a motor home.

Sheriff: ICE arrests 26 parolees during community service

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Authorities in Fort Worth say federal immigration agents arrested 26 parolees living in the country illegally as they performed community service.

Tarrant County Sheriff Bill Waybourn tells KXAS-TV his office participated in Sunday morning's operation at the request of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. An ICE spokesman confirmed the operation, but didn't provide additional details.

Spokesman Carl Rusnock tells the station "ICE routinely conducts immigration enforcement operations locally and nationwide."

Waybourn says those arrested were convicted of high-level misdemeanors or low-level felonies and were released from jail by mistake. He also says the families of the detainees had been notified.

The sheriff says they were taken to an ICE facility in Dallas for processing, and some may be released.

2 dead, 4 wounded in shooting at Houston apartment complex

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities say two people are dead and four others wounded following a shooting outside an apartment complex in Houston.

Harris County Sheriff's Office spokesman Thomas Gilliland says the incident occurred Sunday evening at the Haverstock Hills apartments on the city's northeast side.

Two men were killed in the shooting, and two other men and two women were wounded. Gilliland says the four wounded are hospitalized in critical but stable condition.

None of the people shot have been identified.

Authorities say the shooting followed an argument between two groups of people.

The spokesman says three suspects were inside a vehicle when one man stepped out of the car and opened fire.

No suspects are in custody and the sheriff's office is investigating.

Suspect arrested in Houston-area hit-and-run, 2 cyclists die

BROOKSHIRE, Texas (AP) — Officers have arrested a man suspected of driving a vehicle in a Southeast Texas hit-and-run that left two bicyclists dead and another hurt.

Waller County jail records show Victor Kevin Tome of Dallas was being held Sunday on charges including murder, aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury, accident involving death, accident involving serious bodily injury and burglary.

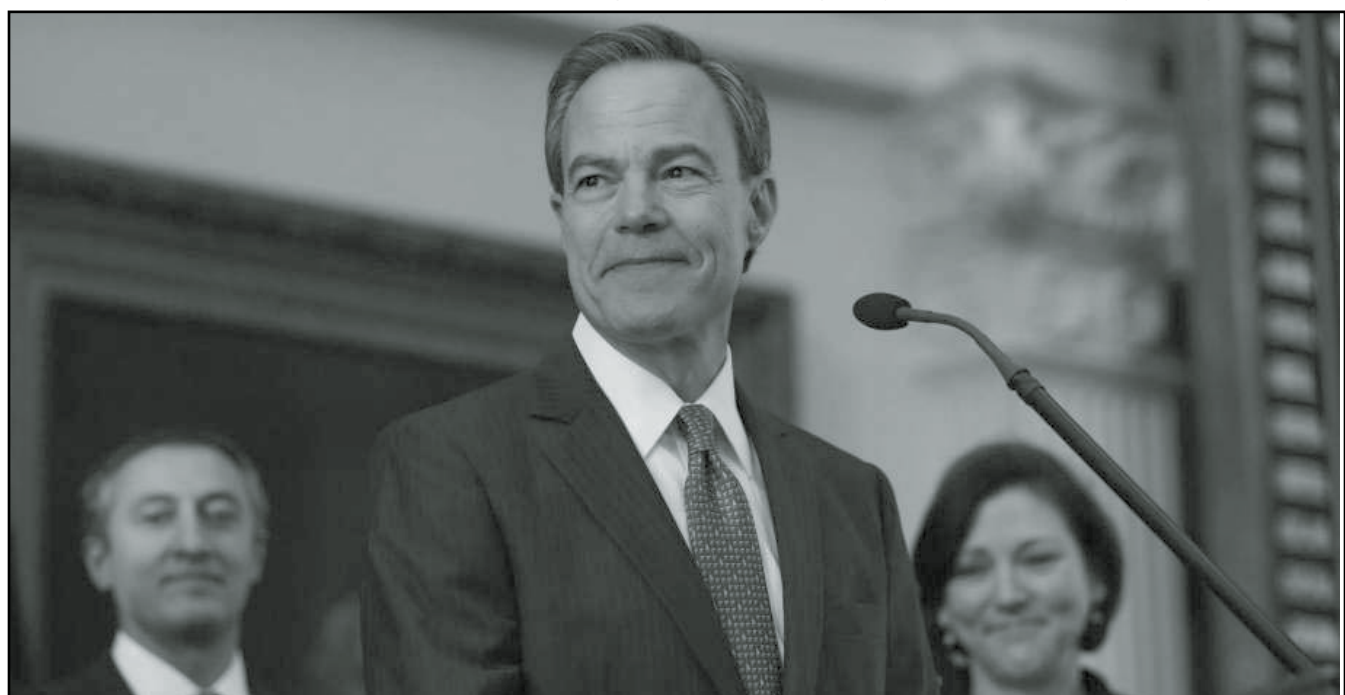
Authorities say Tome was arrested Saturday a few hours after the accident in Brookshire, 40 miles (64 kilometers) west of Houston.

Officials say two riders died, while a third suffered a leg injury.

Investigators say the driver ran from the scene and allegedly broke into a home, but agreed to surrender after being confronted by the resident.

Jail records didn't immediately list bond or an attorney to speak for Tome.

What to watch: Texas isn't alone in rainy day fund fight



AP photo

In this Jan. 10, 2017, file photo, Texas Speaker of the House Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, stands before the opening of the 85th Texas Legislative session in the house chambers at the Texas State Capitol after he was re-elected for a fifth consecutive term in Austin, Texas.

By WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press
AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Is it raining in Texas? That depends on who you ask.

The rainy day fund contains \$10-plus billion at a time when slumping oil prices have left the state facing a potential \$6 billion shortfall

just to maintain current spending levels in the 2018-2019 budget the Legislature is now devising. Democrats and Republicans in the House want to spend some of that to forego widespread cuts.

But in its version of the budget, the Senate avoided raiding Texas' piggy bank by using an

accounting gimmick that would temporarily divert \$2.6 billion previously earmarked for highway funding. House Speaker Joe Straus decried that as "counting money twice."

"I'm not interested in cooking the books just to avoid a vote on the rainy day fund," said Straus, a San Antonio

Republican.

It's a common fight across conservative America, where legislatures often won't touch cash reserves, preferring to hoard money for untold future calamities at the expense of keeping themselves afloat during current budget

See TEXAS, Page 5

Austin cemetery chapel floor removed in search for graves

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Crews have removed the floor of the historic Oakwood Cemetery chapel in Austin as part of efforts to identify buried remains discovered last year during a restoration project, experts said.

The chapel was built in 1914 on what was then the nonwhite part of the segregated cemetery. The restoration project was halted in November when archaeologists working with contractors discovered human remains under the chapel. Workers also found discoloration in the ground of some grave sites, officials previously said.

About 50 people attended a public meeting Saturday to provide suggestions on how to proceed with recovery of the remains, such as contacting relatives if the deceased are identified, according to the Austin American-Statesman (<http://atxnews.com/206JXli>).

At least 13 grave sites, some partly obscured, have been seen, said Kevin Johnson, project coordinator at the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Eight burial sites and three headstones have also been found on the chapel grounds, Johnson said.

City staffers will re-

view the community feedback gathered during the meeting, plus comments received via email, and by April 7 make a draft recommendation on the next city's steps, Johnson said.

Moving or demolishing the chapel is not an option because the Oakwood Cemetery is a state and city historic landmark, said Kim McKnight, the parks department coordinator who has worked on historic cemetery planning. She said the building also lacks the structural integrity to be picked up and moved.

One option would be to exhume the remains, analyze them to learn basic details about the de-

ceased and inter them elsewhere, McKnight said. Identification of the remains could be difficult because of limited documentation from the time period, she said.

Colony Park resident Barbara Scott, who has a friend buried at Oakwood, visits the cemetery on holidays and other occasions to place flowers.

"I think that especially the prominent African-Americans that are there need to be recognized, you know, with plaques or tours," Scott said. "I'm just hoping to see that that section of the cemetery is recognized."

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Suspects sought in deadly Cincinnati nightclub shooting

By JOHN MINCHILLO and DAN SEWELL

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati police searched for suspects in a nightclub shooting that left one man dead and 16 other people injured and sent club patrons diving to the ground to dodge bullets in what they described as a chaotic and terrifying scene.

A gunfight broke out inside the crowded Cameo club early Sunday after a dispute among several patrons escalated into a shootout, authorities said. Some 200 people were inside the club near the Ohio River, east of downtown Cincinnati at the time.

"What we know at this point in the investigation is that several local men got into some type of dispute inside the bar, and it escalated into shots being fired from several individuals," Cincinnati Police Chief Eliot Isaac said. It was not immediately clear how many people fired shots.

The chief updated the number of injured to 16 on Monday morning, saying another person had come forward.

He said it doesn't appear there was any video footage of the shooting. He also said the nightclub had metal detectors, or wands, but it wasn't something the club was required to have.

Mayor John Cranley called the shooting of so many people enjoying themselves at a club "absolutely unacceptable."

"We live in a city and a country where we ought to be able to go out and have a good time and not be terrorized by gun violence," Cranley said at a Monday morning update.

City manager Harry Black said he believes the city is safe but security must be continuously worked on.

"Cincinnati does not operate in a vacuum," Black said. "We have issues which are sort of like a microcosm of what's going on in the rest of the country and we're going to have incidents that are going to occur."

O'Bryan Spikes, 27, was killed and 16 other people were injured.

At least five victims remained hospitalized Monday morning. A University of Cincinnati Medical Center spokeswoman said shortly before daybreak that two were in critical condition and three were in stable.

No suspects were in custody in the shooting at the club, which police said has a history of gun violence.

Club patron Mauricio Thompson described a chaotic scene in which as many as 20 shots were fired as people scrambled to get away. He said there was a fight and people were yelling for security to intervene before the gunfire began.

"Once I got outside, people coming out bloody, gunshot wounds on them, some of their friends carrying them to the car, rushing them to the hospital," Thompson told WCPO-TV. "It was just crazy."

Another patron told the television station that



Members of the ATF and local police work at a crime scene at the Cameo club after a fatal shooting, Sunday, March 26, 2017, in Cincinnati. AP photo

she dove to the ground outside of the nightclub to dodge bullets, and that her boyfriend climbed on top of her to protect her.

"I thought I was going to die. At that point survival skills started kicking in," said Sherell, who preferred not to give her last name. "Once I heard the third shot — I didn't know whether it was coming from outside, someone was shooting at the club, or whether it was coming from inside."

Isaac said the club has its own security operation that uses detection wands and pat-downs, but that police believe several firearms somehow got inside. Four officers were working security in the club's parking lot and some tried unsuccessfully to revive the man who died.

The club has a history of gun violence, including a shooting inside the club on New Year's Day in 2015 and one in the parking lot in September of that year, City Manager Harry Black said.

Four candles illuminated a makeshift memorial outside the club on a foggy Monday morning. A poster dedicated to Spikes said "R.I.P. Lucky" and

"Father Son Uncle Brother!!" The club's operator said it will remain closed until the police probe and an internal investigation are completed.

Cameo's Facebook page, which later was taken down, said it caters to college students on Friday nights, when anyone over 18 is allowed in, while Saturdays are "grown and sexy night" for ages 21 and older.

"Saturday night, it is a very young crowd. We have had incidents here in the past, but this is by far the worst," Police Capt. Kim Williams said.

Authorities asked anyone with information on the shooting to come forward. Investigators were checking to see if surveillance cameras were working, Williams said.

The operator of the nightclub, Jay Rodgers, released a statement Sunday night calling the shooting "senseless."

"We will do everything in our power to cooperate and make sure the monsters that did this are caught and brought to justice," said Rodgers.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 4

boondoggles.

The National Association of State Budget Officers says rainy day funds nationwide had an all-time high fund balance of \$79.6 billion in fiscal year 2015 and slipped only to \$73.3 billion in fiscal year 2016, despite the prolonged oil price slump punishing state revenue in Texas and other energy-producing locales. Just nine states tapped their cash reserves in fiscal year 2016, and fewer still appear ready to do so this fiscal year.

Texas' aversion to rainy day fund spending is especially acute, though. The budget officers' association lists Texas' rainy day fund as worth more than \$10.1 billion, equivalent to 19 percent of total state expenditures for fiscal year 2017. It reports that that's a greater percentage than anywhere except sparsely populated Wyoming, whose about \$1.5 billion cash reserves exceed 100 percent of state expenditures, and Alaska, where the \$3.5 billion rainy day fund represents nearly 83 percent of state spending this fiscal year.

There's precedent here. In 2011, Tex-

as cut \$5.4 billion from public schools rather than draw more substantially from the rainy day fund. That came amid pressure from then-Gov. Rick Perry, who was preparing a presidential run and wanted to bolster his tea party credentials by keeping Texas' cash reserves as intact as possible. Perry's successor, Gov. Greg Abbott, now has said he'd prefer to avoid tapping the rainy day fund — but it may yet happen.

While waiting on the rainy day fund's fate, here are key legislative issues to watch this week:

SENATE BUDGET

The draft budget is set to hit the Senate floor Tuesday. It includes cuts to higher education and Medicaid and no extra funding for public schools while defunding an Abbott-championed pre-kindergarten program. Despite some believing that President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown might save Texas money, meanwhile, the Senate is seeking to maintain border security spending at \$800 million.

Debate may prove arduous, but the proposal should still pass the Senate relatively unscathed. The House looks like another story.

VOTER ID

Also poised for a Senate floor vote is a bill modifying Texas' strict voter ID law by incorporating some temporary changes ordered after it was ruled discriminatory last year.

Federal appeals courts declared that the law disproportionately penalized poor and minority Texans, and ordered a workaround for November's presidential election. That let people without required ID vote by signing an affidavit.

The bill seeks to make-permanent much of that temporary fix while mandating up to 10 years in prison for anyone convicted of lying on such affidavits.

DUELING EDUCATION PRIORITIES

The House and Senate continue to advance different priorities for public education — meaning neither may get what it wants.

The Senate, as early as this week, could approve a voucher plan offering state subsidies for children attending private and religious schools. But that issue is a House non-starter.

Instead, the House should soon debate and pass a bill making sweeping changes to Texas' school finance system — which the state Supreme Court ruled was flawed but minimally constitutional last summer.

A school finance fix, though, may face a tough road in the Senate, where some are weary of tackling such a complex issue when they've not been ordered by a court to do so and without a special legislative session to focus solely on the topic.

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Steers sitting at first after round one of district play



Courtesy photo

Pictured above is the Steers varsity golf team along with coach, Ariel Falcon, at the first round of district play which took place yesterday in Sweetwater, Texas.

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**

Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers boys golf team took their skills to Sweetwater, Texas yesterday, where they competed in the first of three rounds of district play. The Steers are currently sitting in first place after completion of yesterday's play.

Weather conditions were almost perfect, and golfers from all schools were hoping to take advantage of it. Big Spring came out of the gates firing, but cooled down towards the end of play.

The Big Spring Steers ended with a score of 234, which was good enough for a one stroke lead over the Brown-

wood Lions. The leading scorer for Big Spring was Nolan Otto, who shot a 75, and leads all individuals in the event so far.

"We have a one stroke lead going into round two of district, and we're coming back to our home course, so I'm excited about that," said head golf coach Ariel Falcon. "The boys played well, and they're becoming mentally stronger each time they tee it up. I hope that everyone who gets a chance to come out and support these Big Spring golfers will do so. These boys are going to do something special."

District play will resume when the Big Spring Country Club hosts round two, which will take place on April 3 with a tee time set for 10 a.m.

Leonard scores 25 as Spurs dismantle ailing Cavs, 103-74

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Cavaliers acknowledged having heavy legs, yet there is something far weightier on the minds of the defending NBA champions.

Cleveland is in the midst of one of its worst stretches this season and there is little time to fix it.

Kawhi Leonard scored 25 points and the San Antonio Spurs dismantled the ailing Cavs 103-74 on Monday night in a much-anticipated showdown that turned into a major let-down for Cleveland.

"The way we've been struggling, (the Spurs are) the last team that you want to play," said LeBron James, who was fine after taking an elbow to the neck. "A well-oiled machine like this, they exploit everything that you're not doing well at that point in time of the season and right now we're not playing good basketball."

James, who finished with 17 points, eight rebounds and eight assists in 29 minutes, said he will play Thursday at Chicago.

Cleveland (47-26) dropped its second in a row, set a season low for points and fell a half-game behind Boston (48-26) for the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs. The Cavaliers have nine games remaining, all against teams in the East, including a visit to Boston on April 5.

James said the standings "always matter," but playing more consistently is far more important and he refused to blame injuries or an arduous schedule for the team's troubles.

"It matters more that we're playing better basketball than where we're at," he said. "If that results in us having the No. 1 seed, the No. 2 seed, 3 or whatever the hell it is, we need to play better basketball. That's what it comes down to."

What Cleveland is seeking, the Spurs have already found.

San Antonio (57-16) is two games behind Golden State (59-14) for the league's best record entering a home game against the Warriors on Wednesday.

The Spurs have won five straight and eight of 10 after sweeping the season series with the Cavaliers.

"It was a big game, but in the end, it's just one game, and one win," San Antonio guard Tony Parker said. "We're trying to be consistent. We're trying to play the same way every game. It was definitely surprising. Coming off a loss, I thought they would play with a lot more energy, but it can happen. It's a long season. It's just one game and I'm sure they're going to bounce back and use this game as motivation."

LaMarcus Aldridge and Pau Gasol added 14 points apiece for the Spurs.

San Antonio led by as many as 33 to the delight of the sold-out crowd, and the Spurs' bench outscored the Cavaliers' reserves 49-24.

"We did a good job coming out early and then keeping our foot on the pedal," Leonard said.

See **SPURS**, Page 12

Westbrook, Thunder top Mavs 92-91 with 14-0 finishing run

DALLAS (AP) — Russell Westbrook rescued Oklahoma City with a stunning rally and guaranteed the first losing record for Dallas in 17 full seasons under owner Mark Cuban.

Westbrook hit a pull-up jumper with seven seconds left and the Thunder erased a 13-point deficit in the final four minutes for a 92-91 victory over the Mavericks on Monday night.

The six-time All-Star and current NBA scoring leader, whom Cuban steadfastly claims isn't a superstar, had his third straight triple-double with 37 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists. Westbrook scored 12 in a 14-0 run by Oklahoma City to finish it, but said he wasn't trying to convince Cuban, who was in the first row of seats just a few feet from the winning shot.

"Nah, man," said Westbrook, who has 37 triple-doubles and needs four in the final nine games to tie Oscar Robertson's NBA record set during the 1961-62 season. "I play every night the same way. Whatever he says doesn't even matter to me. He's going to do his job, and I'm going to do mine."

The Thunder gained possession on a replay reversal with 13 seconds to go and Westbrook hit the decisive shot from just beyond the free throw line over West Matthews.

Dallas was out of timeouts, and Harrison Barnes missed a long 3-pointer before the buzzer. The Mavericks (31-42) last had a losing season in 1999-2000, Dirk Nowitzki's second year. Cuban bought the team in January that season, when Dallas finished 40-42.

"It just happened so fast," said Nerlens Noel, who scored 15 points along with Matthews to lead Dallas. "They were just playing more aggressive than we were late in the game."

The Thunder (42-31) won for the seventh time in nine games since a four-game losing streak that matched a season high. They are a game behind the fifth-place Clippers in the Western Conference and 2½ in front of Memphis for the No. 6 seed.

Mavericks rookie Yogi Ferrell scored 11 of his 13 points in the fourth quarter, capped by a 3-pointer for a 91-78 lead with 3:31 remaining. Dallas didn't score again.

Westbrook started the stunning run with a breakaway dunk, followed by a 3. After Steven Adams tipped in Westbrook's missed 3, the star guard hit a floater on a three-point play to get the

Thunder to 91-88.

The Mavericks had possession with the shot clock off after Westbrook missed a jumper, but Dallas got stuck in the backcourt and called its final timeout. With just three seconds left to get the ball past midcourt, an inbounds pass for J.J. Barea was tipped by Westbrook, who immediately signaled Oklahoma City ball even though the initial call went Dallas' way.

There were plenty of celebrating Westbrook fans when he pulled up on a backpedaling Matthews.

"That's about as good a shot as you're going to get," Oklahoma City coach Billy Donovan said. "You're trying to take away something at the rim."

TIP-INS

Thunder: Went scoreless for the first 5:25 of the second and finished with 10 points in the period, their lowest total for any quarter this season. ... Victor Oladipo scored 15 points, and Taj Gibson had 13. ... Westbrook scored at least 30 points for the 39th time this season.

Mavericks: G Seth Curry was a late scratch with a left shoulder injury. He had started 34 straight games, and Dallas was 20-14 in those games after a horrid start for an injury-plagued team. ...

Dallas went on a 31-9 run over more than a quarter in the first half.

TAKING OVER

The Thunder closed a game with at least a 14-0 run for the second time this season, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. They had a 15-0 spurt in a 114-102 win at home against Memphis on Feb. 3. The rest of the NBA has combined for one such game-ending run this season, Elias said.

ZIPPING THE LIP



AP photo

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) slam dunks past Dallas Mavericks defenders Yogi Ferrell (11) and Nerlens Noel during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Monday, March 27, 2017. The Thunder won 92-91.

Rick Carlisle was visibly upset after Westbrook wasn't called for traveling while taking a long step and pulling the ball in after changing his mind on a dribble. The Dallas coach wasn't in the mood to address it after the game. "I didn't look at it so I don't have a real opinion on it," he said. "And if I did, it would cost me a lot of money, so I will pass."

GAME OF DROUGHTS

The Thunder won despite a six-minute scoring drought in the first half.

They managed just two points in the last six minutes of the third quarter after nearly wiping out a 15-point halftime deficit in the first six minutes of the period.

UP NEXT

Thunder: At the Orlando Magic on Wednesday to finish a three-game trip in four nights.

Mavericks: At the New Orleans Pelicans on Wednesday to start season-ending stretch that features seven of nine on the road.

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pendent School District in-
tends to destroy special edu-
cation eligibility folder re-
cords maintained for individu-
al students who have not re-
ceived special education ser-
vices since May 2011. The
information is no longer
needed to provide education-
al services.

Public Notice

Special education records in-
active since May 2011 or be-
fore will be destroyed by
shredding or burning.

Destruction of these records
conforms to the require-
ments of the following legal
authorities-

Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act: §300.611-
300.625;

Texas State Library and
Archives Commission, Local
Schedule SD (13 TAC
7.125(a) (4) (Special Educa-
tion), Retention Schedule for
Records of Public School
Districts- Section 3-1: Spe-
cial Education Program Re-
cords, and Financial Account-
ability System Resource
Guide, Update 14- January
2010 - 7.4.3.3 Destruction of
Records.

A parent or adult student
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request copies must make
the written request so that it
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vices office no later than April
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ANSWERS

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

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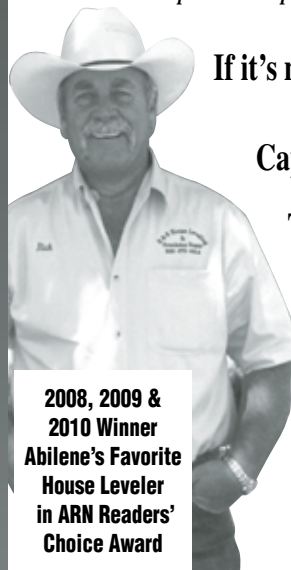
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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

Mercury and Saturn
Embolden

Pressure begets pressure. Resistance is met with resistance. People are naturally inclined to push against whatever is pushing against them. But we don't always have to go with our natural inclinations. Mercury and Saturn embolden a nontypical response to life -- the kind that will shake things up, if not heal the situation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Honest self-reflection requires a big person with a little ego. You'll review the chain of events that led up to an undesired result. Your willingness to look at what your part may have been will enable you to see a solu-

tion.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If allowed, there are some rather unhelpful ideas that will go marching around your mind with all the pomp and circumstance of bonafide facts. Check them, challenge them, or just ignore them and they'll diminish in the distance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What seems like a formless mess may very well be just that now, next week and next month. But it will not always be this way. Trust that things yet unknown are shaping slowly into the structures of your future.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Coral reefs make up only about a tenth of one percent of the earth's surface, yet that's where nearly a quarter of the known species of marine life live. You want beauty. Go to a rare place of concentrated diversity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Of course you can be creative all alone and you often have a peaceful experience creating in

solitude and silence. And yet, you need the group energy to keep you motivated. Get involved.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've been emphasizing output over input, and that's fine for a while as long as you realize that when the inspiration dries up, you'll need to go replenish it. But why wait?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). They may look at you appraisingly, figuring out what value you might add to their lives. And yet, do not fall into the trap of thinking you are as good as what you can do for others. You are invaluable and your worth is inherent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In regards to finance, you'll benefit from erring on the side of caution. What builds slowly will build strong. The same will go for partnerships of all types. Be methodical and stay aware.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Someone is going to get the best deal, the highest quality and in the most abundant

quantity available -- why not you? Nothing is guaranteed, but ask anyway. Those who don't ask, don't get.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A certain amount of political play is to be expected. And yet, if it seems that the intrigues and falsehoods surround you on all sides, it's a sign that you are in a toxic game. Get out. No prize is worth this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Discovering why what you offer is different and necessary is the usual burden and challenge of business. Being the total original that you are, you will find this neither burdensome nor challenging today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Oddly, there are some people in the world who find it extremely difficult to be happy for other people. They are the opposite of you, with powers of empathy so strong that you feel every human victory almost as if it were your own.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 28). Go on and set those

ambitious goals. The next three weeks bring the clarity to organize your efforts, prioritize your responsibilities and make a doable plan. One special person brings sunshine to your summer days. You'll create new income for your family in July; also there's a big sale in October. Sagittarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 39, 40, 47 and 1.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I consider myself a rational, practical person. Yet when I tell people that I follow astrology, their skepticism challenges me. I'm not sure if I even believe in astrology, and I certainly can't justify why it speaks to me, it just does."

My favorite letters from readers are the ones that start, "I don't believe in astrology..." and end "...so what's in the stars for me?" Plenty of people don't believe, but "believing" is kind of beside the point. You can use astrology whether you're a believer or not. Astrology provides an opportunity to pause

for self-reflection. It's all about the personal: What's happening to you, in your life and in your head? One fun exercise is to read your horoscope at the end of the day and use it as a lens for reflection on the events and interactions you've had since you woke up. What did they mean to you, how they shape you, what do your reactions say about you?

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Aries natives are risk takers. Grammy winner Lady Gaga eats risk for breakfast. Whether she's wearing a meat suit, diving off a stadium, posing for her painter friend Tony Bennet or simply changing genres for an album, she keeps it hot like her fire sign nature. Her Scorpio Moon lends a talent for transformation. Mercury and Jupiter in Pisces suggest untapped acting talent.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com and click "Write the Author" on her page.
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Annie's Mailbox

Past Abuse Getting in the Way

Dear Annie: I'm a 46-year-old woman who has been married (and divorced) twice. Both marriages were filled with abuse -- physical, emotional and sexual. Add to that severe child abuse -- which has me permanently disabled now -- and, well, I'm scared to be intimate

with anyone ever again.
I've been on two dates in the past 13 years. I'm finally getting to the point where I like myself and am considering dating again (if anyone will want to date a middle-aged disabled woman). But I know that if I find someone I want to marry, the relationship will have to involve sex. It's been 13 years since I last had sex. And for the seven years prior,

it was forced sex, never consensual on my part.
Do you have any suggestions? Right now, the thought of sexual intercourse terrifies me. It's certainly not an issue now, but it will be when I start dating again. I do see a counselor, which has helped me greatly, but we never discuss healthy sexual relationships; we just discuss the past abuse.
-- Ready to Start Over

indeed. But before then, you really need to discuss with your counselor how past abuse has impacted your current relationship with sex. He or she may even be able to refer you to a sex therapist who specializes in working with victims of past abuse. A counselor's office is a safe space that's free of judgment, and this is exactly the type of thing a counselor is there for.
You're only 46. You still have decades of fun ahead of you. Hang in there, and keep striving to open your heart.

cently, you responded to "Frustrated Friend," who was having difficulty with someone who talks incessantly and does not allow any comments.
I am an experienced mental health professional and wonder whether you considered that someone who cannot stop talking may be in a manic phase of bipolar affective disorder. There is no way of reasoning with or even interrupting people who are exhibiting these symptoms. They should be under the care of a psychiatrist. Medication is the first treatment of choice, followed by counseling. -- A Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Sarasota, Fla.

Dear LCSW: Thank you for raising this important point. I hadn't considered that it could be something that serious, but it's possible and, at the very least, worth exploring. I'm printing your letter here so that "Frustrated Friend" might consider helping her friend seek psychological help.

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.
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
A time to rise and shine

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 6 5	♥ Q J 10 9 4	♠ Q 10 7 3 2	♥ A 8 6 3
♦ 7 5 2	♣ A 10 3	♦ J 6	♣ 6 4
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ A 9	♥ 7 5 2	♠ K J 8 4	♥ K
♦ K 10 8 4	♣ J 9 8 5	♦ A Q 9 3	♣ K Q 7 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead -- five of clubs.
Let's say you're declarer at three notrump and West leads the club five, which you win with the seven after East follows low. You play the king of hearts, but, naturally, the opponents don't take it.
This doesn't disturb you too much, because you next lead a low club, planning to finesse the ten and then set up dummy's heart suit. Assuming the club finesse works, which seems likely, you are sure of at least nine tricks.
Unfortunately, when you lead the two of clubs at trick three, West, a

worthy adversary, plays the jack. This forces you to take the ace and, with the K-Q of clubs still in your hand, renders dummy's ten useless as a subsequent entry. It therefore becomes pointless to establish the hearts.
So you play a diamond and finesse the queen, hoping to find East with the king and the suit divided 3-3. If this is the case, you would still have a chance to make the contract. But West takes the queen with the king and returns a club. You struggle awhile, but eventually wind up down one, due largely to West's fine play of the jack of clubs.
Some time later, you think the hand over and realize you should have made the contract. It's too late now to do anything about it, but you add the deal to your store of experience and hope you won't ever repeat the error.
It all goes back to your play to the very first trick. Instead of winning the opening lead with the seven of clubs, you should have won it with the king!
Then, after the king of hearts is refused, as expected, you can lead the two of clubs, intending to finesse the ten. Now it wouldn't matter whether or not West put up the jack of clubs, because if he did, the ten would become a second entry to dummy after the hearts were established.

Tomorrow: Defense is a logical process.
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su | do | ku

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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. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Why So Relaxed?

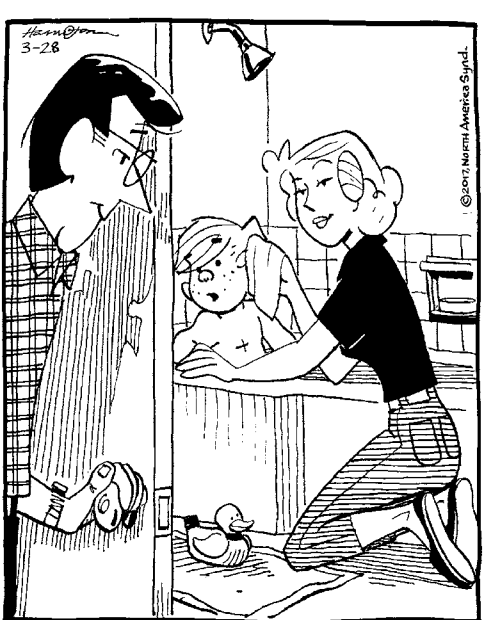
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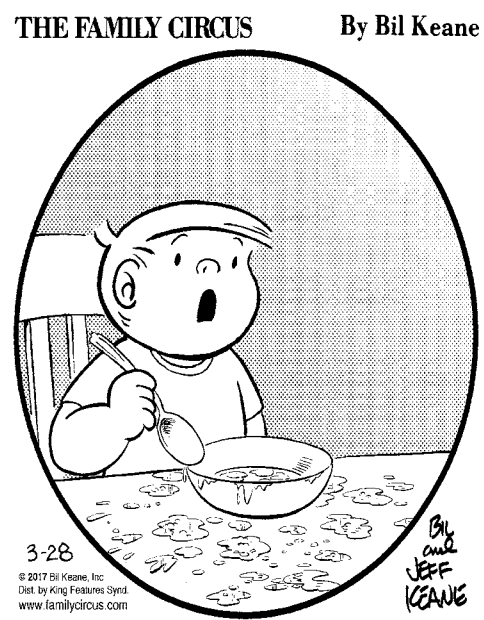
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Local 2	Hotel	The List	CBS 7	Tele	News	Shofar	Focus	Mama's	American	Seinfeld	(:15) Movie: Tammy (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	UFC Unleashed	Chrisley	Intervention	Moonshiners
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Noticias	News	Perspect	Business	Mama's	American	Seinfeld	College Basketball	SportsCenter	Stars Pre.	Chrisley	Intervention	Moonshiners	
7:PM	Wheel	Pequeños Gigantes	Big Bang	ET	Eliminatorias	News	House	Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	College Basketball	30 for 30	Awards	Chrisley	Intervention	Moonshiners	
8:PM	Middle	New Girl	NCIS (DVS)		The Voice	News	Dead Reckoning		Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang	College Basketball	30 for 30	UEFA Champions League Soccer	WWE SmackDown!	Intervention	Moonshiners	
9:PM	House	Vino el Amor	Bull		Trial	Light of Southwest	Dead Reckoning		MacGyver	DC's Legends	Big Bang	College Basketball	30 for 30	Baseball Tonight	Postgame	Chrisley	(:01) Intervention	Moonshiners
10:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	CBS 7	Eliminatorias	Chicago Fire	Light of Southwest	Dead Reckoning	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	College Basketball	30 for 30	SportCtr	Champ Spotlight	Mod Fam	(:03) Intervention	Moonshiners
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	On the	Off Air		Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	College Basketball	30 for 30	Baseball	Champ Spotlight	Mod Fam	(:03) Intervention	Moonshiners
12:AM	Extra	La Mujer del	Middle	Insider	Programa	Da'siñas	Light of Southwest		Perry Mason	Rules	Detour	College Basketball	30 for 30	Jalen	Polaris	Law Order: CI	(:04) Intervention	Moonshiners
1:AM	Paid Prg.	A Que No Me Dejas	Law Order: CI	ET	Programa	Da'siñas	Light of Southwest		Mannix	Cheaters	Broke Girl	College Basketball	30 for 30	Jalen	Polaris	Law Order: CI	(:04) Intervention	Moonshiners

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU'RE NOT EVEN DIRTY, DAD. WHY WOULD YOU WANT MOM TO GIVE YOU A BATH NEXT?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"But I thought it was dangerous to try to stop a sneeze!"

HAGAR



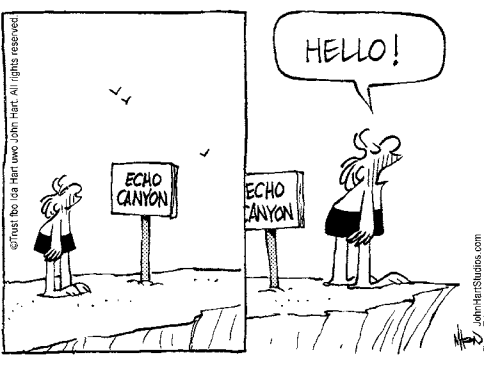
DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?!

BLONDIE



OH... I GUESS HE DID!

BC



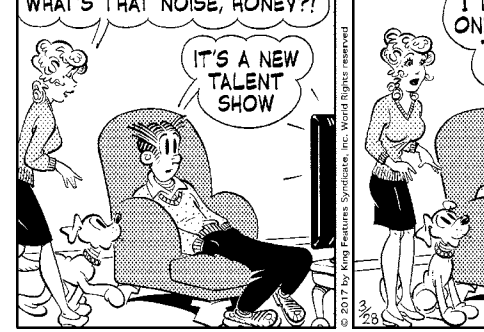
HELLO!

WIZARD OF ID



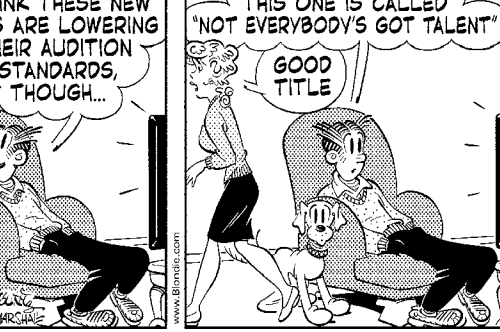
YOU'RE A FAILURE.

BLONDIE



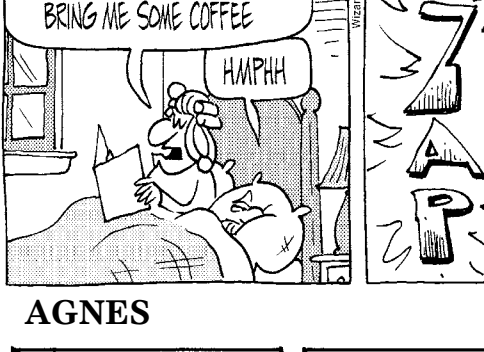
WHAT'S THAT NOISE, HONEY?!

BLONDIE



I THINK THESE NEW ONES ARE LOWERING THEIR ADDITION STANDARDS, THOUGH...

AGNES



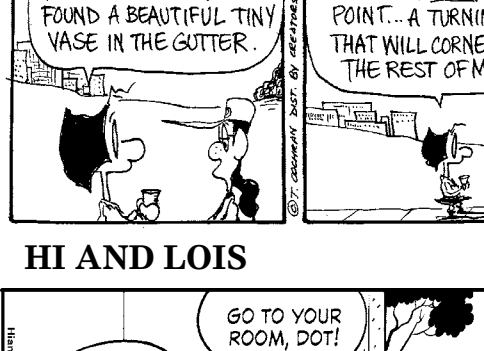
WIZ, BE A DEAR AND BRING ME SOME COFFEE

AGNES



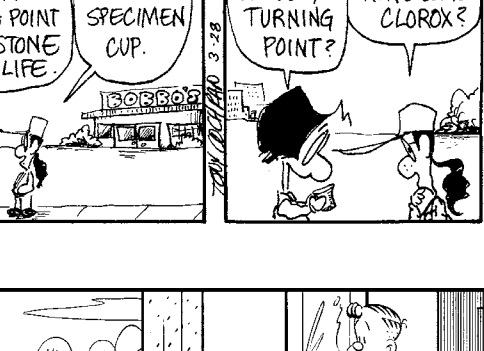
AND A CUP

HI AND LOIS



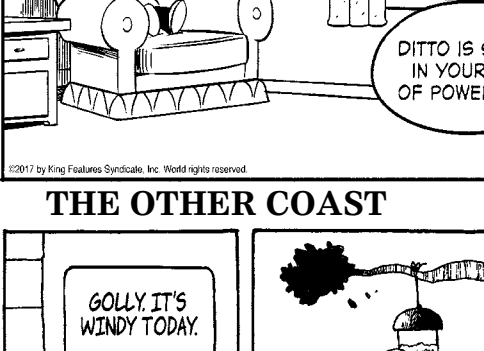
GO TO YOUR ROOM, DOT!

HI AND LOIS



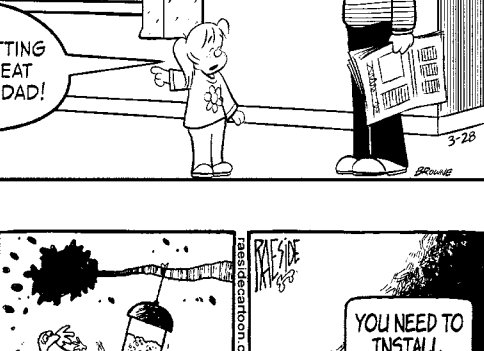
DITTO IS SITTING IN YOUR SEAT OF POWER, DAD!

THE OTHER COAST



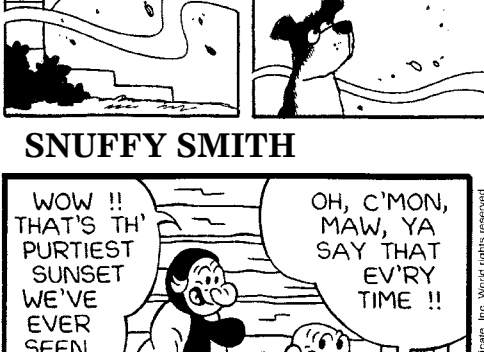
GOLLY, IT'S WINDY TODAY.

THE OTHER COAST



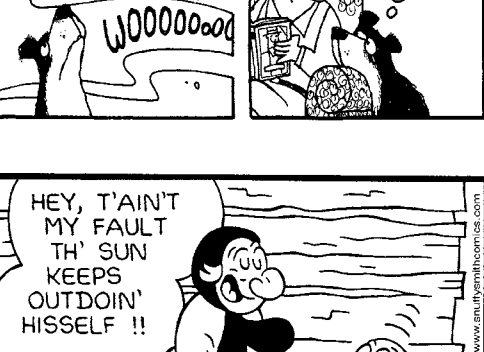
YOU NEED TO INSTALL SEATBELTS ON THE BIRD FEEDER.

SNUFFY SMITH



WOW !! THAT'S TH' PURTIEST SUNSET WE'VE EVER SEEN, PAW !!

SNUFFY SMITH



HEY, T'AIN'T MY FAULT TH' SUN KEEPS OUTDOIN' HISSELF !!

BEEBLE BAILEY



WHY DOES BEETLE SLEEP WITH HIS HAT ON?

BEEBLE BAILEY



BUT HE ALWAYS HAS HIS HAT ON

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 28, the 87th day of 2017. There are 278 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 28, 1942, during World War II, British naval forces staged a successful raid on the Nazi-occupied French port of St. Nazaire in Operation Chariot, destroying the only dry dock on the Atlantic coast capable of repairing the German battleship Tirpitz.

On this date: In 1834, the U.S. Senate voted to censure President Andrew Jackson for the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States. In 1896, the opera "Andrea Chenier," by Umberto Giordano, premiered in Milan, Italy. In 1898, the Supreme Court, in United States v. Wong Kim Ark, ruled that a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrants was a U.S. citizen. In 1930, the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara. In 1935, the notorious Nazi propaganda film "Triumph des Willens" (Triumph of the Will), directed by Leni Riefenstahl, premiered in Berlin with Adolf Hitler present. In 1941, novelist and critic Virginia Woolf, 59, drowned herself near her home in Lewes, East Sussex, England. In 1955, John Marshall Harlan II was sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington, D.C. at age 78. In 1977, "Rocky" won best picture at the 49th Academy Awards; Peter Finch was honored posthumously as best actor for "Network" while his co-star, Faye Dunaway, was recognized as best actress. In 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred with a partial meltdown inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pennsylvania. In 1987, Maria von Trapp, whose life story inspired the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music," died in Morrisville, Vermont, at age 82. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the widow of U.S. Olympic legend Jesse Owens. Ten years ago: Iran aired a video of 15 British sailors and marines who were captured five days earlier; the lone female captive, Faye Furney, wearing a white tunic and a black head scarf, said the British boats had "trespassed" in Iranian waters while patrolling for smugglers near the mouth of the Shatt al-Arab, a disputed waterway. (The crew members were released a week later.) In the Philippines, dozens of children were taken hostage on a bus by a day-care center owner armed with grenades and guns; the crisis ended peacefully 10 hours later with the hostage-taker's surrender. Five years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court wrapped up three days of public arguments on President Barack Obama's historic health care law. On the last day of his visit, Pope Benedict XVI demanded more freedom for the Roman Catholic Church in communist-run Cuba.

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- Start of "The Alphabet Song"
- ___ dish (fries or onion rings)
- Brief farewells
- Broadcast again
- Work hard
- Reign
- Small sample of food
- "___ never work!" furniture chain
- Mideast artificial waterway
- "___ blame you"
- IDs on luggage
- Sports venues
- Woman on the silver screen
- From ___ (completely)
- Was compassionate
- Keyboard players
- Make level
- Utilize, as power
- Awkward person
- Very young plant
- Spherical map
- Deserve to receive
- On or earlier (than)
- Disreputable, informally
- Fey of TV
- Reduce by 50%
- Nation in northern South America
- "Suffice ___ say . . ."
- Basic unit of heredity
- Enter, as data
- Lima's country

DOWN

- ___ and crafts
- Boyfriend
- Detective's assignment
- Scatterbrain
- Built, as a skyscraper
- Bee attacks
- Tiny bits
- Pickle herb
- Em preceder
- Overly bossy fiancée
- Northwest Canadian region
- Justice Kagan
- Does an usher's job
- Some clock batteries
- Metal in steel
- Just slightly
- Top poker cards
- Underground home for bats
- Genealogical chart
- Secret meeting
- Feel unwell
- Tent anchor
- Coal dust
- Toothpaste holder
- Suffix for poll or prank
- Thin and muscular
- Quaft hotel
- Goof off
- Window installer
- Fourscore and ten
- Small bill
- Cruise vessels
- Supply food for
- Preppy for violet
- Midmorning hr.
- Turn suddenly
- Annual
- Monumental story
- Good fortune
- Legal representative: Abbr.
- College transcript stat.

EASY PICKINGS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14					15							16		
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No. 1 South Carolina follows men's team, reaches Final Four

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP) — Before they climbed the ladder to take their turn cutting the nets, Kaela Davis and A'ja Wilson started dancing. And dancing. The band blared inches away, and they danced some more.

A spectacular, spontaneous moment for South Carolina's two biggest stars: one headed to her first Final Four, and the other going back to chase the school's first NCAA championship.

"It was just one of those in-the-moment things, having fun. We love our band," Davis said.

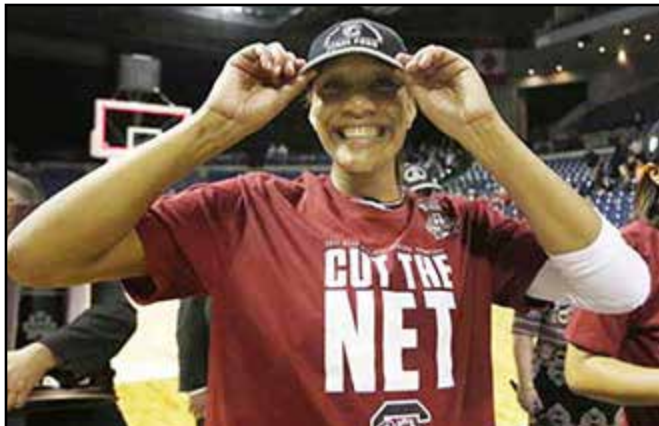
Moments before tipoff, Wilson pulled Bianca Cuevas-Moore into a quick embrace, then South Carolina's 6-foot-5 center began the night by winning the opening jump and the Gamecocks were on their way to the Final Four, holding off Florida State 71-64 on Monday to win the Stockton Regional.

Most Outstanding Player Davis scored immediately off the tip and again with a timely left-handed drive with 1:42 to go on the way to 23 points. Wilson finished with 16 despite foul trouble and Allisha Gray acrobatically drove her way to 11 points for top-seeded South Carolina (31-4). Dawn Staley's Gamecocks are back in the Final Four for the first time since 2015 determined to bring home a title.

South Carolina is hoops country for the moment. The men's program reached its first Final Four with a victory against Florida on Sunday that sent the women screaming in delight at Stockton Arena all the way across the country from the victory at Madison Square Garden.

"We'd also like to congratulate our men's basketball team, because we're coming to join you!" Staley told the crowd, then later pulled down the net and showed it off to both sides of the arena.

Leticia Romero cut the South Carolina lead to five on a driving jumper



AP photo

South Carolina's A'ja Wilson smiles after the Gamecocks beat Florida State, 71-64, in the regional final game of the women's NCAA tournament, Monday, March 27, 2017.

with 3:51 left. Then Britany Brown's steal and layup at 3:25 made it 65-62, but the rally fizzled from there for the third-seeded Seminoles (28-7).

After the buzzer sounded, the Gamecocks hustled together for a team hug, and then danced at midcourt sporting fresh "CUT THE NET" T-shirts and Final Four hats.

Tyasha Harris added 16 points for South Carolina, which made things uncomfortable all game for Romero. The Spanish star had 16 points on 6-for-23 shooting as Florida State fell short once more of the program's first Final Four.

The Seminoles shot 36.6 percent (26 for 71).

"We just didn't hit shots. That was the big bottom line," coach Sue Semrau said. "You have to put the ball in the basket."

Davis, daughter of former NBA player Antonio Davis, delivered on both ends. She shot 10 for 15 and is headed to her Final Four debut on Friday against Stanford. She transferred from Georgia Tech for the chance to do something special.

"The end goal is just to get to the Final Four," she said. "It makes it 10 times better to say you want to do something and accomplish it."

Two power programs from the South that scrimmaged together the past two preseasons faced off way out West in Northern California, a rematch of South Carolina's six-point Elite

Eight win against the Seminoles two years ago in Greensboro.

This one was plenty entertaining, too — from big plays to a nail-biting final few minutes.

BIG PICTURE

South Carolina: Wilson got her fourth foul with 5:16 left and stayed in the game. ... South Carolina made 16 of 20 free throws after converting 18 of 19 from the line in a 100-58 rout of 12 seed Quinnipiac on Saturday.

UP NEXT

South Carolina will face Lexington Regional winner Stanford (32-5) on Friday at the Final Four in Dallas. Staley starred for Hall of Fame Cardinal coach Tara VanDerveer on the gold-medal winning 1996 Atlanta Olympic team and asked Stanford's coach to speak to her team following a 70-32 whipping by Stanford in November 2010 at Maples Pavilion. "As a coach you want to coach against the best," Staley said.



AP photo

San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard (2) celebrates a basket with Spurs' LaMarcus Aldridge and Patty Mills during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers, Monday, March 27, 2017, in San Antonio.

SPURS

Continued from Page 6

Cleveland, which was already without injured Iman Shumpert, received more bad news Monday morning when it was announced that Kyle Korver will miss at least two more games with a sore left foot.

"You lose Korver and Shumpert off your bench and things tend to change," Cavaliers coach Tyrone Lue said. "With those two guys out, we tried some different things and it didn't work. It was not on the bench. It was on me."

Cleveland opted to play its stars rather than rest them, but the trio of James, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love sat out the fourth quarter of the Cavs' second lopsided loss in the past two weeks.

Lue said he has considered resting his stars over the team's final nine games, which James is not in favor of.

"Coach is going to have his logic of things, but we need to play," he said.

James exited with 25 seconds remaining in the third after taking an elbow to his neck from David Lee on a rebound. James continually rubbed the area before collapsing after he crossed midcourt. He remained on the floor for about a minute before

walking unassisted to the bench.

James left for the locker room early in the fourth quarter during a timeout, but said afterward he is fine.

EXTRA SHOOTING

Irving returned to the court for about 15 minutes following the loss to work on his jump shot. The star guard had eight points and two assists in 26 minutes. He finished 4 for 13 from the field and missed his two 3-point attempts.

TIP-INS

Cavaliers: Cleveland completed its schedule against the West, finishing 16-14. In addition to losing to the Spurs by 29 points, the Cavaliers lost by 35 to Golden State and 30 to the Los Angeles Clippers. ... James needs 24 points to pass Shaquille O'Neal for seventh overall in career scoring. O'Neal has 28,596 career points. ... The Cavaliers averaged 116.3 points in their previous four games.

Spurs: San Antonio is holding opponents under 100 points per game for the 22nd straight season. ... Danny Green tied his season high with four blocked shots. ... Leonard has scored in double figures in 100 straight games.

Cavaliers: At the Chicago Bulls on Thursday night.

Spurs: Host the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday night.

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