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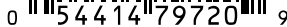
75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

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The club is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Projects at Hispanic Serving Institutions grant.



Rudy Haddad, MD

For appointments and info call (325) 481-2281.

Obituaries

Alton Rogers



Alton Rogers passed from this life on Dec. 24, 2017, at the age of 102.

He was born June 27, 1915 on Monday, Knox County, Texas, to Alton Byrd and Susie Emma Johnson Rogers. Alton was a native of Big Springs, Texas, since 1928. He married Opal Irene Mosley of Big Spring on Feb. 7, 1934, in Stanton, Texas. Of this union were born two sons and one daughter. He was employed by Cosden Petroleum Refinery Company in Big Spring from May 1940 to 1977 earning the title of Craftsman A in the machine shop.

After retirement he and wife Opal enjoyed life with family and friends until Oct. 1984 after 50 years and 8 months of marriage she passed away. To keep busy Alton turned to his longtime hobbies of fishing and hunting, gardening and house painting. He was a man always ready to meet the needs of family and neighbors dependable and optimistic. In 2010 he made the move to Elgin, Texas, to live with his oldest son. He was baptized in 2011 at

the age of 96 years and was a member of the Lost Pine Church of Christ in Bastrop.

Alton is preceded in death by his parents; all of his siblings, two brothers and four sisters; wife, Opal Rogers; daughter, Eddie Merle Hart-McCormick and former sons-in-law Clifford Hart and Jerry McCormick; daughter-in-law, Marcia Rogers; and one grandson-in-law, Paul Kimberlin.

Surviving members are two sons, Doyle Rogers of Elgin, Texas and Curtis Rogers of Colorado City, Texas. Seven grandchildren; Waymon and wife Jackie Rogers of Elgin, Patricia (Rogers)Kimberlin of Taylor, Texas, Teela Hart Holsenbeck of Big Springs, Texas, Clifford Arvin Hart Jr., Jason McCormick, Staci Rogers of Lubbock, Texas and Gene Ray Rogers of Colorado City, Texas. Twelve great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren. Last to miss Alton is former daughter-in-law, Melba Rogers Speckels.

A Graveside service will be held 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, at Trinity Memorial Park Cemetery Big Springs, Texas.

Arrangements entrusted to Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home, Elgin TX 512-281-2340.

Paid Obituary

Lois Wynell (Gray) Berry



Lois Wynell (Gray) Berry, 79, of Big Spring passed away Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017. She was born Nov. 15, 1938, in Santa Anna, Texas, to her parents, Jessie Coleman Gray and Eunice Eldred (Baker) Gray. She moved to Big Spring, Texas with her husband Eugene Berry and their five children in 1970.

Lois was preceded in death by her father, Jessie Coleman Gray; her mother, Eunice Eldred (Baker) Gray; brother, Billy Carl; brother, James Cody and her son, Jackie Lee Berry.

Lois is survived by her loving husband, Eugene; sisters, Maxine Cope of Coleman, Texas, and Carolyn Bluhm of Big Spring, Texas; her children: Janice Watson of Rankin, Texas, Juanita Emerson of Big Spring, Texas, Jimmy Berry of Big Spring, Texas, and James Berry of Midland, Texas. She is also survived by her nine grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

Lois was baptized at the First Baptist Church of Coleman, Texas. She was a loving and devoted mother, wife and sister. She enjoyed gardening, feeding her birds (especially the hummingbirds) and turtles, getting frustrated at Days of Our Lives, laughing over everything and nothing with her sisters, and making certain everyone she loved was as happy as she was.

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

Paid Obituary

Police, Sheriff reports

- The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:
- **LADONNA FAITH ARNOLD**, 38, of 909 Henrietta A Fredericksburg, Texas, was arrested on the warrant of failure to control speed.
 - **JESUS JOSE ORTIZ**, 62, of 101 Sterling St., was arrested on the warrant of another agency.
 - **ANGEL JUNIOR VILLA**, 20, of 1104 Austin, was arrested on warrants of burglary of habitation, and theft of firearm.
 - **STEVEN ALLEN SAVELL**, 35, of 1308 S Main St., was arrested on the charge of evading arrest detention, and on charges of criminal mischief less than or equal too \$750 and \$2,500, and on expired registration.
 - **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported on Similer and Airbase, on Kentucky Way and Birdwell, and in the 700 block of E FM 700.
 - **ACCIDENT MAJOR** was reported in the 100 block of B EB 1-20.
- **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported in the 1000 block of E 19th St., and in the 200 block of Morrison Dr.
- The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity:
- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 70 inmates at the time of this report.
- **LADONNA FAITH ARNOLD**, 38, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of failure to control speed, and by HCSO on a warrant of speeding, going 89 mph in a 75 mph.
 - **MERCEDES GABRIELLA CASTILLO**, was arrested by BSPD on charges on bail jumping and failure to identify fugitive, and was arrested on warrants of three counts of assault by physical contact, theft of property, engage in organized crime, possession manufacture, or distribution of certain instruments used to commit retail, and contributing to delinquency of a minor.
 - **JOHNNY LEE ELLIS**, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug.
 - **PACE HAMILTON GO THARD**, was arrested by GLASSCOCK on a charge of assault on family, household member.
 - **JESUS JOSE ORTIZ**, 62, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of another agency.
 - **STEVEN ALLEN SAVELL**, 35, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant on criminal mischief of less than or equal to \$750 to \$2,500, and on charges on display expired registration, an evading arrest detention.
 - **JAMES ERIC TREVINO**, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault to date/family/household member.
 - **ANGEL JUNIOR VILLA**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on warrants of burglary of habitation, and theft of firearm.

Take Note

- The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.
 - Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade. Cash donations to allow the Lions to purchase additional books are also appreciated. Books or donations can be taken to the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., or to the home of Lions member Ken Lawhon at 1707 E. 15th St. For more information, contact Lawhon at 214-998-9716 or Lions member David Stives at 432-270-2251.
 - Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.
 - Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.Cost has dropped to \$5 per person thanks to a sponsor Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road.
 - Howard County Republicans meet the second Monday of each month. Club members meet in the Cactus Room at Howard College at 11:30 a.m. for Dutch treat lunch and meeting at 12 p.m.
 - The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.
 - Big Spring Centennial Lion's Club meets twice a month at the Big Spring TA Truck Stop.
- They meet on the first Tuesday of the month at noon and the 3td Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.
- The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.
 - Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 432-271-2138.
 - Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 ½ Main St. All Masons are welcome.
 - Membership to the Big Spring Native American Association is open to the public. People interested in Native American culture are encouraged to find out more about the organization by calling Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125,
 - Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary Group is looking to expand. Positions are available for the Auxiliary group and the Teen Volunteer program. Must be 15 years of age to take part in the teen volunteer program. If you would like to volunteer please contact Heath White at 268-4850.
 - The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations (432) 268-7535.

Fire/EMS

- Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported on S HWY 87 and Sterling City Co. No transport.
 - **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the South Hwy 87 area. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
 - **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of Howel. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
 - **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of Moss Lake. No transport.
 - **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
 - **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 600 block of W I-20. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
 - **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Support Groups

- THURSDAY**
- GriefShare is a biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Weekly 10/5/17 through 01/11/18; 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.
 - 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.
- FRIDAY**
- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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BUS

Continued from Page 1

Paul de Vincent find their shelves falling bare to keep up with the demand.

For one day only, parents and donors drive up to the elementary parking lot in the early morning hours where students are there to receive the donations. For the first time,

junior high school student council members participated this year and gathered donations on their own campus.

“Each elementary student that brings a donation gets their nose painted red like Rudolph for the day at school,” McJimsey said.

Then the students sort the canned goods, pack them up, load them on the bus and head to Isaiah 58.

“Once we arrive, Mr. Cooley gives the students a tour and explains how the system works for families in need,” McJimsey said. “He also talks about other donations the food assistance program receives along with the importance of volunteers. I appreciate Mr. Cooley for taking the time to explain the system to the students, so they have a better idea about what happens with their donation and how

people are helped through Isaiah 58. After the tour, the students unload the items from the bus.”

The CES Student Council and junior high officers delivered the non-perishable items to the long-time food assistance program last week. The Fill the Bus food drive is overseen by CES teacher Brynn McJimsey.

TRUMP

Continued from Page 1

weekend of Jan. 6-7, the White House said.

Spokesmen for Ryan and McConnell have confirmed they will attend.

The pow-wow will follow the recent enactment of legislation to cut taxes, beginning next year, for corporations and individuals at an estimated cost of \$1.5 trillion added to the national debt over 10 years.

The bill marked the first major legislative achievement of 2017 for Trump and congressional Republicans, aside from confirmation of Trump's Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch. Trump and the GOP had made cutting taxes a must-do item this year after the Senate failed to close the deal on the party's promise to repeal and replace the Obama health care law.

The tax bill ends the requirement that all Americans buy health insurance or pay a fine, which is a key component of the Affordable Care Act, but leaves intact other features of the health care law. No Democrats voted for the tax bill, which Trump signed at the White House before he flew to Florida on Friday.

The agenda for next year is already lengthy, and 2018 is still a few days away.

Trump predicted in a tweet earlier this week that Democrats and Republicans will "eventually come together" to develop a new health care plan. The president is also forecasting unity between the parties on spending to upgrade aging roads, bridges and other transportation. The White House has said Trump will unveil his long-awaited infrastructure plan in January.

Ryan, meanwhile, has talked about overhauling Medicaid and Medicare and other safety-net programs, but McConnell has signaled an unwillingness to go that route unless there's Democratic support for any changes. Trump has also said he wants to pursue "welfare reform" next year because "people are taking advantage of the system."

Congress, meanwhile, will open the year needing to clear a backlog from 2017.

The list includes agreeing on a spending bill by Jan. 19 to avert a partial government shutdown and efforts to boost Pentagon spending. Lawmakers also need to agree on billions in additional aid to help hurricane victims, lifting the debt ceiling, extending a children's health insurance program and extending protections for immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Trump tweeted earlier in the year that he was ending the program for the immigrants. He gave lawmakers until Jan. 5 to come up with a legislative solution.

Much of the work will need to be done before Republicans shift their focus to the midterm elections that take place November 2018. The GOP wants to hang onto its House and Senate majorities.

China: US should curb demand for opioids, not blame China



AP photo

Yu Haibin of the China National Narcotics Control Commission speaks during a press conference held in Beijing, China, Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017. Yu said Thursday there was little evidence showing China was the source of much of the chemicals used in the production of the powerful opioid fentanyl.

By GERRY SHIH

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The United States should look within to cut down demand for opioids which are fueling its deadly drug crisis rather than stressing unsubstantiated claims that China is the major source of these chemicals, a top Chinese drug enforcement official said Thursday.

China and the U.S. have worked to build a close working relationship to fight global flows of illicit synthetic drugs, but their collaboration remains fraught.

Yu Haibin of the China National Narcotics Control Commission told reporters there was little evidence showing China was the source of much of the chemicals used in the production of the powerful opioid fentanyl. President Donald Trump in November blamed a "flood of cheap and deadly" fentanyl made in China for the deadliest drug epidemic in U.S. history.

"China doesn't deny that shipments to the U.S. happen, but there isn't the proof to show how much — whether it's 20

percent or 80 percent," said Yu, adding that U.S. authorities have only sent him information about six shipments from China in the past year.

In October 2016, the AP identified 12 Chinese companies willing to export carfentanil around the world for a few thousand dollars a kilogram (2.2. pounds), no questions asked. Carfentanil is 100 times more powerful than fentanyl and is legally used as an anesthetic for elephants and other large animals.

Yu urged the U.S. to share more data and police intelligence with Chinese authorities and said rampant over-prescription of pain medication and lax cultural attitudes toward drugs had fueled massive demand for opioids in the U.S.

Insufficient drug education and the trend in some states of legalizing marijuana have hurt drug enforcement efforts, he said.

"As many states decriminalize marijuana, the public's attitudes and trends of thinking toward drugs will also have a bad effect" on the fight against hard drugs, Yu said.

Chinese officials have been eager to tout their collaboration with American counterparts on drug enforcement as a bright spot in the occasionally rocky relationship.

Though Beijing has said U.S. assertions that China is the top source of fentanyl lack evidence, the two countries have deepened cooperation as the U.S. opioid epidemic intensifies. Beijing already regulates fentanyl and a number of related compounds, even though they are not widely abused domestically.

Since 2016, China has arrested dozens of synthetic drug exporters, destroyed several illegal labs and seized tons of new psychoactive substances, according to the Office of the National Narcotics Control Committee.

Officials in Beijing said Thursday they busted a fentanyl factory in November and seized 4.7 kilograms (10.36 pounds) of the substance thanks to a tip-off from U.S. Immigration and Customs about a major online purveyor named "Diana" that turned out to be a front for a 19-person drug ring scattered across China.

China wanted to work more closely with U.S. law enforcement, as well as authorities in Mexico, a transshipment point, Yu said.

Islamic State claims attack on Shiite center, 41 dead

By AMIR SHAH

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A brutal attack claimed by the Islamic State group devastated a two-story Shiite Muslim cultural center in the Afghan capital on Thursday, killing at least 41 people and wounding another 84, many suffering severe burns from the intensity of the explosions.

The IS-linked Aamaq news agency said three bombs were used in the ferocious assault as well as a single suicide bomber who blew himself up inside the center, where scores of people had gathered to mark the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan by the former Soviet Union.

The claim reflects eyewitness reports that said one bomber sneaked into the center and exploded his device. Other explosions occurred outside the build-

ing, which also houses the pro-Iranian Afghan Voice news agency, which may also have been a target in the attack.

Earlier, Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said an unknown number of suicide attackers set off an explosion outside the center before carrying out an attack inside.

In its statement to Aamaq news agency, the IS said the center was being funded by Iran and used to propagate Shiite beliefs.

Ali Reza Ahmadi, a journalist with the Afghan Voice, told The Associated Press he had been in his office when the explosion shattered the building. He leapt from his second-story office to the roof of the building where he saw flames from the basement.

"I jumped from the roof toward the basement yelling at people to get water to put out the fire," he said.

Shiite leader Abdul Hussain Ramazandada said witnesses reported at least one suicide bomber sneaked into the event and was sitting the pro-Iranian Afghan Voice news agency.

pants. He exploded his device and as people fled more explosions occurred, he said.

At nearby Istiqlal Hospital, director Mohammed Sabir Nasib said the emergency room was overwhelmed with the dead and wounded. Additional doctors and nurses were called in to help and at the height of the tragedy more than 50 doctors and nurses were working to save the wounded, most of whom suffered severe burns.

The death toll rose as the day progressed. By late afternoon Wahid Mujro, spokesman for the public health ministry, said 41 were dead and 84 others were wounded.

The two-story cultural center is located in a poor area of the Shiite-dominated Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood in the west of the capital. The center is a simple structure surrounded by sun-dried mud homes where some of Kabul's poorest live.

In an interview with The Associated Press, a senior member of the Shiite cleric council, Mohammad Asif Mesbah, said the center may have been targeted because it houses the pro-Iranian Afghan Voice news agency.

Jack Frost visits West Texas



HERALD photo/Erin Stephens

No tree in Comanche Trail Park was left untouched by the wintry weather yesterday. The Historic Spring is normally a beautiful sight to see but with almost every tree, plant, and blade of grass covered in ice, it looked like nothing short of a winter wonderland.

Jack Frost visits West Texas

HERALD photo/Erin Stephens

No tree in Comanche Trail Park was left untouched by the wintry weather yesterday. The Historic Spring is normally a beautiful sight to see but with almost every tree, plant, and blade of grass covered in ice, it looked like nothing short of a winter wonderland.

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Theresa Stehling Lewis, 79, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday followed by a vigil service at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Lois Berry 79, died Saturday. Private family services will be held at a later date.

ITEM OF THE WEEK

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Norway prime minister to visit Trump on Jan. 10

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway will be the first foreign leader to call on President Donald Trump in the new year.

The White House announced Tuesday that Trump will welcome Solberg to the White House on Jan. 10. The White House says Trump looks forward to exchanging views with Solberg on relations between the U.S. and Norway, as well as on how to make progress on regional and global security issues and economic prosperity.

The leaders also plan to discuss defense and security goals within NATO and the coalition aligned against the Islamic State group, along with trade matters.

The White House announced the visit while Trump was in Florida for the holidays.

'Something did survive' California wildfires: Goldfish

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — What Logan Hertel and his friends found in the scorched remains of their Northern California neighborhood wasn't a photo album, wedding ring or even a skittish cat separated from its family for months.

What they discovered were goldfish — plain, sickly and living off ash in a grimy tub.

Somehow the unspectacular goldfish had survived infernos that had wiped out neighborhoods, and Hertel was determined to reunite the fish with their owners, he told The Mercury News of San Jose.

"I could picture myself in their shoes," said Hertel, a 21-year-old student at Santa Rosa Junior College, "and knowing that if I lost everything, even knowing something this small is alive would be kind of important to me."

Wildfires in October swept through Sonoma, Napa and other counties in and around wine country, killing 44 people and destroying thousands of homes. Entire neighborhoods were leveled.

Lisa Hertel made signs Tuesday with her number and a photo of her son Logan rescuing the goldfish. She taped them around the rubble of the home where the fish were found.

The Hertels were lucky that their house wasn't damaged. But she knows other people lost mementos, keepsakes and photos, which is why she wants to get the fish back to their owners.

"Something actually did survive," Lisa Hertel added, "and somebody cared enough to get the fish and save them."

A cougar in your luggage? Hunting carcass found at airport

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Police say a hunter's trip home hit a snag in Las Vegas after security screeners found a dead cougar in his luggage.

No crime was committed because the man had a hunting tag. But police Lt. David Gordon told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that Transportation Security Administration agents held the man at McCarran International Airport late Tuesday to confirm the validity of the Utah hunting tag.

His name and where he was headed weren't released.

Airport spokeswoman Melissa Nunnery says the man ended up shipping the cougar carcass home, not on the airplane.

Gordon says it's not a crime to transport legally possessed game on an airline flight. But he says airlines can refuse to transport certain items.

Co-creator of MTV Unplugged dies after being struck by taxi

NEW YORK (AP) — The co-creator of MTV's "Unplugged" was struck by a taxi while crossing Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and later died.

Jim Burns was struck Saturday. The taxi turned onto the avenue and accidentally struck the 65-year-old who had been walking with his seeing-eye dog near his Upper East Side home, police said. He had some type of vision problem, and the dog was a seeing companion, police said.

Burns suffered a serious head injury and died from his injuries Tuesday. The taxi driver remained at the scene; police still were investigating but said it did not appear to be criminal.

An MTV spokeswoman said the network was deeply saddened to learn of the death. Burns co-created "MTV Unplugged" with Robert Small. The wildly popular show debuted in 1989 at the height of MTV's musical and cultural influence in America. It features artists such as Nirvana, Eric Clapton, Mariah Carey, Jay-Z and Bob Dylan in an intimate venue performing stripped-down versions of their songs.

"As co-creator of the beloved 'Unplugged' franchise, his groundbreaking work continues to resonate with audiences around the world. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones," says a statement from MTV.

According to Billboard, Clapton's Unplugged album sold 7.7 million copies after its 1992 debut, the most-ever for the series. Nirvana sold 5.1 million copies when it debuted in November 1994 at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and was the band's first album after Kurt Cobain's suicide in April 1994.

The music series returned to the air this year, with performances from locations around the country that hold meaning for the artist performing. It premiered in September with Shawn Mendes.

As California legalizes pot, laws collide at US checkpoints



AP photo

In this Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017 photo, a drug-sniffing dog discovers a small amount of marijuana in a bag at California's Pine Valley checkpoint, on the main route from Arizona to San Diego. California legalizes marijuana for recreational use Jan. 1 but that won't stop federal agents from seizing small amounts on busy freeways and backcountry highways. Possession will still be prohibited at eight Border Patrol checkpoints in California, a daily demonstration of state and federal law colliding.

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

PINE VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — California legalizes marijuana for recreational use Monday, but that won't stop federal agents from seizing the drug — even in tiny amounts — on busy freeways and backcountry highways.

Marijuana possession still will be prohibited at eight Border Patrol checkpoints in California, a reminder that state and federal laws collide when it comes to pot. The U.S. government classifies marijuana as a controlled substance, like heroin and LSD.

"Prior to Jan. 1, it's going to be the same after Jan. 1, because nothing changed on our end," said Ryan Yamasaki, an assistant chief of the Border Patrol's San Diego sector. "If you're a federal law enforcement agency, you uphold federal laws."

The checkpoints, located up to 100 miles (161 kilometers) from Mexico, are considered a final line of defense against immigrants who elude agents at the border. They also have been a trap for U.S. citizens carrying drugs, even tiny bags of marijuana.

About 40 percent of pot seizures at Border Patrol checkpoints from fiscal years 2013 to 2016 were an ounce (28 grams) or less from U.S. citizens, according to a Government Accountability Office report last month. California's new law allows anyone 21 and over to carry up to an ounce.

The Border Patrol operates 34 permanent checkpoints along the Mexican border and an additional 103 "tactical" stops, typically cones

and signs that appear for brief periods.

Ronald Vitiello, acting deputy commissioner of parent agency Customs and Border Protection, called drug seizures an "ancillary effect" of enforcing immigration laws. Motorists typically are released after being photographed and fingerprinted. They generally aren't charged with a crime because prosecutors consider them low priority.

The clash between state and federal marijuana laws played out on a smaller scale near the Canadian border in Washington after that state legalized marijuana in 2014. California is a far

busier route for illegal crossings with many more agents.

State and federal marijuana laws have conflicted since California became the first to legalize marijuana for medical use in 1996. Next week, California will be among seven states and Washington, D.C., with legal recreational pot.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a staunch opponent of legalization, said last month that he was taking a close look at federal enforcement, suggesting a tougher stance than President Barack Obama's administration.

At highway checkpoints, Border Patrol agents look for signs of nervous drivers, like clutching steering wheels and avoiding eye contact and interrupting when passengers are asked to state citizenship. Some panicked drivers make a U-turn when they spot the checkpoint, a dead giveaway.

One recent morning on westbound Interstate 8 about 40 miles (64 kilometers) east of San Diego, an agent standing outside a booth under a large white canopy stopped drivers for a few seconds to ask their citizenship or waved them through after peering inside.

In about an hour, three raised enough suspicion to be ordered aside for a thorough vehicle search.

A dog discovered a marijuana stash about the size of a thumbprint inside the pickup truck of a

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Israel minister plans Trump train station at Western Wall



AP photo

In this file photo of Tuesday, June 9, 2009, Palestinian men work at a construction site in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Maaleh Adumim, near Jerusalem. Israel's transportation minister is pushing ahead with a plan to extend Jerusalem's soon-to-open high speed rail line to the Western Wall, where he wants to name a future station after President Donald Trump.

By ILAN BEN ZION

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's transportation minister is pushing ahead with a plan to dig a railway tunnel under Jerusalem's Old City, passing near sites holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims — and ending at the Western Wall with a station named after President Donald Trump.

Yisrael Katz's plan, currently in the initial stages, involves constructing two underground stations and excavating over 2 miles (3 kilometers) of tunnel beneath downtown Jerusalem and under the politically sensitive Old City. The project would extend Jerusalem's soon-to-open high-speed rail line from Tel Aviv to the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray.

The route will run close to — but not directly under — the Church

of the Holy Sepulchre, where tradition holds that Jesus was crucified and buried, and a contested holy site known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. Previous excavations by Israel near the holy site — the spiritual epicenter of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — have sparked violent Palestinian protests.

Because of those sensitivities, the proposal will likely meet with heavy resistance from the Palestinians, neighboring Arab countries and the international community.

Katz, a senior Cabinet official who also serves as Israel's intelligence minister, is a close ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and is seen by many as his likely eventual successor as head of the Likud party.

Transportation Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia said Wednesday the project is estimated to cost more

"the beating heart of the Jewish people — the Western Wall and the Temple Mount." He proposed naming the station after Trump "for his brave and historic decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital" earlier this month.

Trump's announcement has enraged the Palestinians and much of the Muslim world. The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution last week condemning the move, with several traditional American allies breaking with Washington to vote in favor of the motion.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, which includes the Old City, in 1967, and annexed it in a move not recognized internationally. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, and a longstanding international consensus holds that the fate of the city

than \$700 million and, if approved, would take four years to complete.

Katz's office said the minister advanced the plan in a recent meeting with Israel Railways executives, and has fast-tracked it in the planning committees.

Katz said a high-speed rail station would allow visitors to reach the Jewish people — the Western Wall and the Temple Mount. He proposed naming the station after Trump "for his brave and historic decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital" earlier this month. Trump's announcement has enraged the Palestinians and much of the Muslim world. The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution last week condemning the move, with several traditional American allies breaking with Washington to vote in favor of the motion.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, which includes the Old City, in 1967, and annexed it in a move not recognized internationally. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, and a longstanding international consensus holds that the fate of the city should be decided through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Ikrema Sabri, a senior Muslim cleric in Jerusalem, denounced the planned train line extension, saying that Palestinians won't accept "any change or act in the occupied territories."

He said that "giving the name of Trump to this project will not give it any legitimacy. It would be just another implementation of the unacceptable decision of President Trump to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

Digging railway tunnels to the Western Wall would also entail excavating in Jerusalem's Old City, where religious and political sensitivities — as well as layers of archaeological remains from the city's 3,000-year history — could make for a logistical and legal quagmire.

Last year an initiative to convert an already excavated area abutting the Western Wall into an egalitarian Jewish prayer section was hotly contested by Israeli archaeologists, who said such a move would cause irreparable damage to the historic remains of the ancient city.

The Israel Antiquities Authority declined to comment on the planned train extension.

Despite the likely opposition to the project, Ovadia said he expects the plans to be approved in the coming year, barring major complications. The Tel Aviv-Jerusalem high-speed line is expected to open next spring.

"There's no reason why this train won't be built," he said. "We already know how to deal with no less difficult opposition."

Katz has previously proposed other ambitious infrastructure projects, including an artificial island off the coast of the Gaza Strip that would serve as an air and seaport for the Palestinian territory, and a railway connecting Israel with Saudi Arabia and other Arab states.

Border Patrol officials insist they are effective. Without them, Vitiello said, smugglers would have open passage to cities like Phoenix and Albuquerque, New Mexico, once past the border.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1976 that agents can question people at checkpoints even without reason to believe anyone in the vehicle is in the country illegally and don't need a search warrant.

Michael Chernis, an attorney who represents people charged with marijuana crimes, believes checkpoint seizures are a waste of resources but acknowledged the government is empowered.

"The bottom line is, there's absolutely no protection against federal interaction when it comes to adult use," he said.

POT

Continued from Page 4

man with Arizona license plates who was taking his elderly uncle to a hospital appointment. It would have taken up to an hour to process the arrest, so agents released him after seizing the pot and warning it was illegal.

"I didn't know that, sorry," the driver said, walking to his truck after waiting on a bench a few minutes while the dog searched.

The animal sniffed something in another car but found nothing in the seats or trunk. The apologetic driver said she smoked marijuana a week earlier, implying the odor lingered.

The Pine Valley checkpoint, amid oak- and chaparral-covered mountains on the main route from Arizona to San Diego, gets busy with drivers returning from weekend getaways but is less traveled than others.

Agents say a checkpoint on Interstate 5 between San Diego and Los Angeles can cause a 4-mile (6.4-kilometer) backup in 90 seconds during peak hours.

The government faces pushback over checkpoints. Some residents complain about delays and trespassers trying to circumvent checkpoints — some even dying from heat and exhaustion. Motorists who consider them a privacy invasion steadfastly refuse to answer questions and post their test encounters on YouTube.

Lawsuit: Sam's Club discriminated against transgender worker

By JONATHAN DREW

Associated Press

A transgender woman said in a lawsuit Wednesday that she was called "it" and "thing" by co-workers and then wrongfully fired from a North Carolina Sam's Club store after repeatedly complaining about harassment.

The federal lawsuit by Charlene Bost seeks unspecified monetary damages and asks the court to order the big box retailer to train employees to prevent future harassment of transgender workers. It says Bost was wrongfully fired in 2015 from the Kannapolis store in retaliation for her complaints.

Transgender people around the country are increasingly taking employers or schools to court to demand that their rights be protected, and North Carolina has been the site of a protracted legal battle over state laws governing which restrooms transgender people can use.

The executive director of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, which represents Bost, said legal battles over transgender employee rights are becoming more common.

"Given the increase in the number of transgender people who are coming out, particularly at earlier and earlier ages, I think we're going to see many more claims in the future for discrimination against transgender people," said Jillian Weiss, the fund's executive director, in an interview. Weiss added that it's important for "employers to recognize that prejudice still exists among their employees."

Bost hadn't yet transitioned to life as a woman when she began working in 2004 at a Sam's Club location about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northeast of Charlotte. Bost said she received praise and was promoted to supervisor before she began to express her

feminine identity at work in 2008.

The lawsuit said the harassment by co-workers and multiple managers began around that time and escalated as Bost began wearing her hair longer and adding makeup to her appearance. In 2014, one co-worker told a customer as Bost walked by: "Here comes that thing with an attitude," the lawsuit says.

Bost, who's now 46, said she was repeatedly harassed by a man who became her direct supervisor when he was promoted to assistant manager in 2014. The lawsuit said he called her "it" in front of other employees, made off-color jokes and initiated unwanted physical contact.

According to the suit, the assistant manager also was involved in fabricating written infractions against Bost that led to her firing.

A spokesman for Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the parent company of Sam's Club, said the company doesn't agree with Bost's account.

"We disagree with the claims raised by Ms. Bost. Her termination was for performance reasons," said spokesman Randy Hargrove. He said that the company "maintains a strong anti-discrimination policy."

The lawsuit said Bost filed complaints and took her case to the federal Equal

Employment Opportunity Commission in 2014. The commission issued a finding in late 2017 that there was evidence Bost faced a hostile work environment.

Sam's Club denied the allegations, according to EEOC documents. After a failed conciliation process, the federal commission recognized Bost's right to sue Sam's Club.

The lawsuit alleges Sam's Club violated federal workplace discrimination laws by creating a hostile environment and then retaliating against her complaints by firing her.

Bost's lawsuit was filed in the same federal court that is hearing a legal challenge to North Carolina's "bathroom bill" of 2016 and the law that subsequently replaced it. While North Carolina lawmakers did away

with the requirement that transgender people use restrooms corresponding to their birth certificates in many public buildings, the plaintiffs argue that the replacement law continues to harm them with intentionally vague bathroom rules.

The Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund is representing another transgender woman who alleges that a supervisor at a Florida Sam's Club store harassed her after she began expressing her female identity. The EEOC found in July 2017 that there was evidence that the retailer discriminated against that woman.



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What Rhymes with Freeze?

List 10 words that rhyme with "freeze."

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|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Some answers: bees, breeze, cheese, ease, he's, please, seize, sneeze, squeeze, tease, these, wheeze



NAME THAT TERM

Each of the following is a term used to describe winter weather. Fill in the blanks to name that term.

- | |
|----------------------|
| 1) __LU__IES |
| 2) S__OW S__ALL |
| 3) __EET |
| 4) BLI__AR__ |
| 5) GRAU__E__ |
| 6) F__EE__ING __AI__ |
| 7) I__E S__OR__ |

Answers: 1) Flurries, 2) Snow squall, 3) Sleet, 4) Blizzard, 5) Graupel, 6) Freezing rain, 7) Ice storm



How Softly They Fall

Have you ever seen a snowflake up close? With their detailed patterns, snowflakes can be beautiful, which may explain why many people decorate their Christmas trees with snowflake ornaments.

Snowflakes form when water vapor in the air cools and turns into drops of water. The drops freeze into tiny ice crystals, which bond together to form snowflakes.

There are many different types of snowflakes. Some include needles, hollow columns and dendrites. While some snowflakes may look alike, no two are the exact same because of all the factors that may affect how they are made such as wind speed and humidity.

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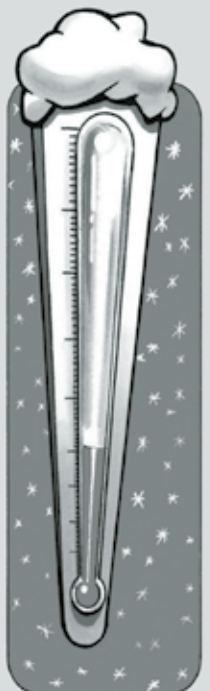


Fact or Fiction?

H₂O Challenge

With winter comes a change in temperature, and that often results in a change of weather. Ice, sleet and snow are common in many areas of the country during the holiday season. For these winter conditions to happen, water must change states. Here are some questions about the states of water. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) Water comes in four states. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 2) Solids and gases have a definite shape and volume. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 3) Ice is a gas. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 4) Snow and frost are solids. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 5) Rain is a liquid. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 6) Freezing occurs when water changes from a gas to a liquid. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 7) Liquid water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 8) Evaporation occurs when water changes from a liquid to a gas. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 9) Melting occurs when water changes from a solid to a gas. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 10) Frost occurs when water changes from a gas to a liquid to a solid. *Fact or Fiction?*



Answers: 1) Fiction, water comes in three states: liquid, gas and solid, 2) Fiction, solids have a definite shape and volume, liquids have a definite volume and gases have neither, 3) Fiction, ice is a solid, 4) Fact, 5) Fact, 6) Fiction, freezing occurs when water changes from a liquid to a solid, condensation occurs when water changes from a gas to a liquid, 7) Fact, 8) Fact, 9) Fiction, melting occurs when water changes from a solid to a liquid, sublimation occurs when water changes from a solid to a gas, 10) Fiction, frost occurs when water changes from a gas straight into a solid

Jokes and Riddles

Q: Where do snowmen go to dance?

A: Snowballs.

Q: What kind of hats do snowmen wear?

A: Icecaps.



Young helps Texas beat Missouri 33-16 in Texas Bowl

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas coach Tom Herman knows he has a long way to go to get the Longhorns where he wants them to be.

But finishing with the school's first winning record since 2013 following a 33-16 victory over Missouri in the Texas Bowl on Wednesday night certainly has them on the right track.

"It's really important for these guys to call themselves a winner," Herman said, "and to be able to walk around their hometowns over the next few weeks of Christmas break knowing they had a winning season. It wasn't going to be life or death. We would have been just fine next year, but this was a big step forward."

Freshman running back Daniel Young had 64 yards receiving with a touchdown and added 48 yards on the ground to pace Texas (7-6).

The Longhorns, in a bowl for the first time since 2014, bounced back from a loss to Texas Tech in their regular-season finale to finish with their first winning record since going 8-5 in coach Mack Brown's final season in 2013.

Shane Buechele and Sam Ehlinger split time at quarterback for Texas, and both players threw a touchdown pass. The defense helped out, too, with Anthony Wheeler scoring a TD on a fumble return in the first half and Davante Davis grabbing an interception with about three minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Armanti Foreman dashed 18 yards

for a touchdown on the ensuing drive to extend the lead to 33-16 and put the game out of reach.

Michael Dickson, who won the Ray Guy Award as the nation's best punter, was selected the game's Most Valuable Player, making him the first non-offensive player to be Texas Bowl MVP and the second punter ever to win MVP of a bowl game, joining Florida State's Graham Gano, the MVP of the 2008 Champs Sports Bowl.

Dickson, who will forego his senior season to declare for the NFL draft, punted 11 times for 452 yards, with four landing inside the 5.

He was shocked that he won the honor.

"I didn't believe it when they told me at first," he said. "I was like, 'Wait, why am I going on stage?' It's still

kind of sinking in now."

Missouri coach Barry Odom said he's never seen a punting performance like Dickson's.

"I guess that's why he won that award," Odom said. "He's pretty good and they played well off of it."

Drew Lock passed for 269 yards and a touchdown, but also threw an interception and lost a fumble in the loss which snapped a six-game winning streak for the Tigers. Lock led the nation during the regular season with a Southeastern Conference-record 43 touchdown passes and had thrown three or more in eight straight games.

"We'll use this as a learning tool and motivation and continue to build our program and build our team," Odom

See **TEXAS**, Page 13

QB Darnold could be making his last USC start in Cotton Bowl

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Sam Darnold knows the speed of an NFL game is much faster than it appeared from the upper-level seats that he and his Southern California teammates had for a Dallas Cowboys game after arriving in North Texas for the Cotton Bowl.

What is still unclear is how quickly the All-Pac-12 Trojans quarterback could be playing at field level in the pros.

Darnold, a third-year sophomore, hasn't said yet if he will return to Pac-12 champion USC for another season or if the Cotton Bowl against fifth-ranked Ohio State will be his Trojans finale. He has to decide by Jan. 15 whether to make himself eligible for the next NFL draft, which will be held in late April in the same stadium where he will play Friday night.

"Obviously, I haven't been thinking about it a ton. I've been really focused on Ohio State. So I think after the bowl game, honestly, I'll be able to give a better answer," Darnold said Wednesday during his media session at the Cotton Bowl. "But I think just looking at all the factors, I can't really pinpoint anything specifically."

In two seasons with the Trojans, though he didn't become the starter until the fourth game in 2016 on way to a Rose Bowl title, Darnold has thrown for 6,873 yards with 57 touchdowns and 21 interceptions while completing 65 percent of his passes. Often considered just a prototypical drop-back passer, he has also run for 350 yards and seven scores.

The kid who has al-

ways dreamed of playing in the NFL is expected to be a top pick if he leaves USC early. Darnold said his decision on whether to go or stay won't be impacted by which NFL team might choose him.

"It's been such a dream of mine to play in the NFL that whether I go or whether I stay at USC, to be able to have the opportunity to even play in the NFL and achieve that dream of mine is something that I've always looked at," Darnold said. "And for an organization to put their trust in me to be able to go out there and play football for them, I think any opportunity to play for anyone would be amazing and something that I've always dreamed of."

While Darnold expects it to be a hard decision, he believes he will be able to say he made the right decision — no matter what that is.

USC offensive coordinator Tee Martin describes Darnold as a "quarterback's quarterback" who will be ready for the NFL whenever he decides to go.

"Ultimately at the end of the day, he wants to win. He's an extreme competitor," Martin said. "I think he does like being in college. It might be one of those heartstring things, where, 'Hey we made it to the Cotton Bowl, we did great. But can we do better?' Can I play better?" If that's the case, then you'll see him coming back.

"If he feels it's the right situation, or the right timing for the right organization on the next level, he may make the decision to leave," he said.

Before that Cowboys game on Sunday, when

See **BOWL**, Page 13

Mavs beat Pacers



AP photo

Dallas Mavericks guard Yogi Ferrell (11) defends Indiana Pacers guard Cory Joseph (6) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017.

Nowitzki, Mavericks beat Pacers to end eight-game road skid

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks finally have another road win.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 15 points, Harrison Barnes made the tie-breaking free throw with 37.7 seconds left and the Mavericks snapped an eight-game road losing streak with a 98-94 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday night.

Nowitzki, the franchise's career leading scorer in his 20th season, scored six points in the final quarter to help the Mavericks rally for their third win in 17 road games.

"I'm real happy for the guys with the way the season's gone. It's been a tough go," Mavs coach Rick Carlisle said. "This group has a ton of character and a lot of fight. It's the first time we've won consecutive back-to-back games, which is a big deal. So, we want to try to take this momentum

and continue it."

Barnes and Yogi Ferrell each scored 13 points. Ferrell, an Indianapolis native, hit a key 3-pointer to take a four-point lead with 2:09 remaining.

The Pacers led 90-84 with 5 minutes remaining.

"We never got down on ourselves, especially in the first half when they were shooting the heck out of the ball," Ferrell said. "We just brought it right back at them and tried to score and in the second half we just wanted to make it a lot harder for them to make shots."

Make Stephenson, Myles Turner and Darren Collison had 16 points apiece for the Pacers, who played without injured leading scorer Victor Oladipo for the first time and struggled down the stretch.

"We were right there," Stephenson said. "I'm not going to say (the

loss) was because (Oladipo) was out. We were right there."

Stephenson's layup tied it at 94, but he committed a costly turnover on the Pacers' next possession with 28 seconds remaining that the Mavericks converted into an uncontested layup.

"We just couldn't get shots that we needed down the stretch to convert," Collison said.

The Mavericks rallied from an early seven-point deficit as reserve center Dwight Powell scored 11 first-half points. The visitors led for much of the third quarter before the Pacers surged behind Bojan Bogdanovic and Turner to take a 74-71 lead entering the final quarter.

TIP-INS

Mavericks: Nowitzki is expected to make his 14,000th start Friday. He's sixth on the career wins list at 886 and is 14 free throws behind

Hall of Famer Jerry West for sixth on that list. ... Ten of the Mavs' 11 wins have come when they've limited an opponent to fewer than 100 points.

Pacers: The NBA percentage (.387) were 10-0 at home when hitting at least 10 3-pointers and 15-3 overall, but made 10 of 25 and lost. ... Reserve forward Domantas Sabonis was questionable with a sore left big toe, but played in his normal rotation. ... Reserve guard Joe Young sank two 3-pointers in the first half. He had made just two in 18 previous games this season.

NO OLADIPO

Oladipo missed his first game of the season to rest a sore right knee. The league's eighth-leading scorer (24.9 ppg) scored a season-low 13 points in Tuesday's 107-83 loss

See **MAVS**, Page 13



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C.E. Mike Thomas III
Attorney for Evelyn Corbett
State Bar No.: 19845200
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#9649 December 28, 2017

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case
No. 0308122
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec
19, 2017 Status/Permit No.
831834
NOTICE OF PROTEST
DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 23,
2018
Address: Railroad Commis-
sion of Texas ATTN: Drilling
Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email:
SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Public Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the SM ENERGY COM-
PANY, [RRC Operator No.
788997] has made applica-
tion for a spacing exception
permit under the provisions of
Railroad Commission
Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex.
Admin. Code section 3.37).
Applicant seeks exception to
the lease line distance re-
quirement because the Ap-
plicant is less than the re-
quired Rule 37 lease line dis-
tance to an unleased or non-
pooled interest within the
subject unit for the
AMENDED NEW DRILL per-
mit in Sec. 17, Bk. 31 T2N,
T&P RR CO Survey, A-185,
SPRABERRY
(TREND AREA) Field,
HOWARD County, being
13.6 miles NE direction from
BIG SPRING, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE
TERMS of Railroad Commis-
sion rules and regulations,
this application may be granted
WITHOUT A HEARING if
no protest to the application
is received within the dead-
line. An affected person is
entitled to protest this applica-
tion. Affected persons in-
clude owners of record and
the operator or lessees of re-
cord of adjacent tracts and
tracts nearer to the proposed
well than the minimum lease
line spacing distance. If a
hearing is called, the applic-
ant has the burden to prove
the need for an exception. A
Protestant should be pre-
pared to establish standing
as an affected person, and to
appear at the hearing either
in person or by qualified rep-
resentative and protest the
application with cross-exam-
ination or presentation of a
direct case. The rules of evi-
dence are applicable in the
hearing. If you have any
questions regarding the hear-
ing procedure, please con-
tact the Commission's Dock-
et Services Department at
(512)463-6848. If you have
questions which are specific
to the Application or the in-
formation set forth in this No-
tice, please contact the Com-
mission's Drilling Permit Unit
at rule 37
(512)463-6751.

**IF YOU WISH TO RE-
QUEST A HEARING ON
THIS APPLICATION, AN IN-
TENT TO APPEAR IN
PROTEST MUST BE RE-
CEIVED IN THE RAILROAD
COMMISSION'S AUSTIN
OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS,
FAX NUMBER, OR
E-MAIL ADDRESS SET
OUT ABOVE BY Jan 23,
2018 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO
PROTEST IS RECEIVED
WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU
WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT**

Public Notice

**TO PROTEST AND THE RE-
QUESTED PERMIT MAY BE
GRANTED ADMINISTRAT-
IVELY.**

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICA- TION REQUIRES PUBLICA- TION

The location and identity of
the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY
(TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name : MIR-
ACLE MAX B
Lease/Unit Well No. :
1745WA
Lease/Unit Acres : 637.3
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 1.0

Lease Lines : 290.0 F N L,
2365.0 F W L
Survey Lines : 290.0 F N L,
2365.0 F W L

Wellbore Profile(s) :
Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 500.0 F S L
2306.0 F E L
Terminus Location BH
County: HOWARD
Section: 26 Block: 31 T2N
Abstract: 1061 Survey: T&P
RR CO / MANION, R K
Lease Lines: 50.0 F S L
330.0 F W L
Survey Lines: 50.0 F S L
2307.0 F E L

Field Rules for ALL fields on
the permit application are as
follows: SPRABERRY
(TREND AREA) : Special
Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres. This
well is to be drilled to an ap-
proximate depth of 9500 feet.
If you have questions regard-
ing this application, please
contact the Applicant's rep-
resentative, Jill Hamilton, at
(432)8484855.

#9644 December 21, 28,
2017 January 4, 11, 2018

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as, the following property will be sold by pubic
auction:

THE SURFACE ONLY OF SECTION 43,
BLOCK 37, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH TEXAS &
PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY SURVEY,
ABSTRACT NO. 233, MARTIN COUNTY,
TEXAS, CONTAINING 640.81 ACRES OF
LAND, MORE OR LESS.

Such sale will be for cash, which may also
be in the form of certified funds. The public
auction will 288613 take place in front of the
northeast corner of the Martin County Court-
house on the 2nd day of January, 2018 be-
tween the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

For information about the property, please
contact Brent Preston at (806) 470-0464.

281712

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A resistible temptation

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 2
♥ A Q 10 4
♦ 10 7 5 3
♣ J 7

WEST
♠ Q J 10 8 3
♥ 7 3
♦ K Q 6
♣ K 9 4

EAST
♠ A K 9 5 4
♥ 6
♦ J 9 2
♣ 10 8 5 2

SOUTH
♠ —
♥ K J 9 8 5 2
♦ A 8 4
♣ A Q 6 3

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

Opening lead — queen of spades.

There is no question that the finesse, although a valuable weapon in many deals, can easily be abused. Not every finessing position should be exploited, because there are often other approaches available that offer a better prospect of success.

Take this case where declarer resisted the temptation to take a finesse and scored a game as a result. The bidding was spirited, and South wound up in five hearts. He ruffed the opening spade lead and cashed the A-K of trumps. He then led a low club toward the jack, giving up the opportunity to finesse against East

for the king.

It did not matter what West did. If he went up with the king, dummy would play low, and declarer would later be able to cash the J-A-Q of clubs and discard two diamonds from dummy. On this line of play, South would lose only one club and one diamond.

And if West did not take the club king, dummy's jack would win, and the end result would be the same, with declarer losing only two diamond tricks.

Note that if South had started the clubs by leading the jack from dummy, he would have lost the finesse, and also the contract, because the defenders would have scored two diamonds and a club.

The question from the start for declarer is which opponent has the king of clubs. If West has it, the finesse should be avoided, while if East has it, the finesse must be taken to secure the contract.

South found the winning approach when he decided that West was more likely to have the king. This conclusion was based on West's opening lead, which indicated that East had the A-K of spades. Since West had made a vulnerable overcall on a queen-high suit, he became a strong favorite to have most of the missing high cards in the side suits — diamonds and clubs. All South did was to take advantage of this deduction.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
©2017 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Cosmic Invocation of the Muses

Mars and Neptune form a magic triangular window in the sky that serves as a cosmic invitation to the muses to generously grace us with inspiration and increased creative powers. Tasks that require inventive thinking will go exceptionally well. Any and all parts of life will be improved with an open-minded, imaginative approach.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't have to be the cause of an event to feel that you're the one to do something about it. If all you do is hope for the best, you will be doing more than most. Of course, you'll take bigger action than that. It's who you are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have plenty that you can leverage into plenty more. It's all how you play it. Step back and assess where you are. Talk to outsiders about it -- people who see you more objectively than you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you act to please people, the opposite will happen -- not always, just today. See, it's really supposed to be your turn. So take care of your own needs, and pursue what delights you. People will like you all the more for it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Narrow your focus. If you go too broad, people will have no idea how to relate to you, where to hook in or what to do with you. Home in on the one thing you want that people can support you in now. You'll make friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are things that should be discussed, and a lot that shouldn't. Discretion will be the better part of diplomacy. The proverb states, "Even a fish wouldn't get into trouble if it kept its mouth shut."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Common sense isn't always common practice. If anyone can get in there

messing up the perfect peace available to you today.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 28). Discuss how you feel, because that will tell people more about you than any fact you could share. Why do you want them to know? The better they know you, the

better they can help you or allow you to help them. Your relationships are your gold. The connections you make will bring you your heart's desire. Scorpio and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 22, 31, 25 and 5.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "My friend, who is a Leo, gave me her trust. And I betrayed her and got involved. She says she forgives me, but how am I really supposed to know if I will ever have her trust again? I am truly sorry for what I did, but she may not forgive me. I am a Libra."

All good friendships go through rough patches. Loyalty is huge with Leo, the royal lion of the jungle, just as it would be with any leader type. And Leos are such effusive friends that when they start giving you a normal amount of attention, it seems like they don't even like you. Though the bright affection she's so generously heaped on you throughout your friendship has temporarily dimmed, try not to think of this as the cold shoulder. Time will put distance between events, and she'll likely return to the jubilant kind of affection that comes naturally to her. One thing you can do, which you Libras do so well, and Leos adore, is spoil her a little. Pick up lunch, concert tickets, coffee, flowers... you'll hasten the process of forgiving and feel better about yourself as a friend, too.

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

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

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

12/28/17

Cities in ruins after Islamic State, little cash to rebuild

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE and LORI HINNANT**

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — For nearly 2½ miles along the western bank of the Tigris River, hardly a single building is intact. The warren of narrow streets of Mosul's Old City is a crumpled landscape of broken concrete and metal. Every acre is weighed down by more than 3,000 tons of rubble, much of it laced with explosives and unexploded ordnance.

It will take years to haul away the wreckage, and this is just one corner of the destruction. The Iraqi military and U.S.-led coalition succeeded in uprooting the Islamic State group across the country, but the cost of victory is nearly incalculable.

Three years of war devastated much of northern and western Iraq. Baghdad estimates \$100 billion is needed nationwide to rebuild. Local leaders in Mosul, the biggest city held by IS, say that amount is needed to rehabilitate their city alone.

So far no one is offering to foot the bill. The Trump administration has told the Iraqis it won't pay for a massive reconstruction drive. Iraq hopes Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries will step up, and Iran may also take a role. The U.N. is repairing some infrastructure in nearly two dozen towns and cities around Iraq, but funding for it is a fraction of what will be needed. As a result, much of the rebuilding that has happened has come from individuals using personal savings to salvage homes and shops as best they can.

Nearly every city or town in former IS territory needs repair to one degree or another. The longer it takes, the longer many of those who fled IS or the fighting remain uprooted. While 2.7 million Iraqis have returned to lands seized back from the militants, more than 3 million others cannot and they languish in camps. Worst hit is Mosul; the U.N. estimates 40,000 homes there need to be rebuilt or restored, and some 600,000 residents have

been unable to return to the city, once home to around 2 million people.

Corruption and bitter sectarian divisions make things even harder. The areas with the worst destruction are largely Sunni, while the Baghdad government is Shiite-dominated. The fear is that if Sunni populations feel they've been abandoned and left to fend for themselves in shattered cities, the resentment will feed the next generation of militants.

"The responsibility to pay for reconstruction falls with the international community," said Abdulsattar al-Habu, the director of Mosul municipality and reconstruction adviser to Nineveh province, where the city is located.

If Mosul is not rebuilt, he said, "it will result in the rebirth of terrorism."

FROM HUE TO MOSUL

Mosul's Old City paid the price for the Islamic State group's last stand.

Streets are now knee-deep in rubble from destroyed homes. The few high buildings of six or seven stories have been blasted hollow, reduced to concrete frames. Shopping centers and office buildings are pancaked slabs. Almost all that is left of the 850-year-old al-Nuri mosque, blown up by IS fighters as they fled, is the stump of its famed minaret.

At the southern end of the district, the arcades of stone-arched storefronts in the historic bazaars that once sold spices, cloth and household goods are charred and gutted. Eaves that once shaded shoppers look like they were hurled into the air to land as mangled metal scattered across the cityscape. At the northern end just outside the Old City, some buildings have been blown to splinters and piles of dirt in a large medical compound that housed the College of Medicine and the Jomhuriya Hospital.

All five bridges crossing the Tigris have been disabled by airstrikes, forcing all traffic onto a single-lane temporary span linking east and

west.

A debris field the same size in New York City would run from the 9/11 Memorial nearly to 18th Street and cover nearly a quarter of Manhattan south of Central Park.

There were effectively two battles for Mosul. The first, from October to February, freed the city's east, which survived largely intact. The second pulverized the west side. There, IS dug in and the Iraqis and U.S.-led coalition upped their firepower, culminating in house-to-house fighting in the Old City. The city, which IS overran in the summer of 2014, was declared liberated in July. An Associated Press investigation found at least 9,000 civilians died in the assault to retake Mosul, most in the west.

The Old City shows the densest destruction, but nearly every neighborhood of western Mosul has blocks of blasted houses, industrial areas, government buildings and infrastructure.

It's been more than a generation since the last comparable fight to seize a city. Military experts compare the assaults on Mosul and IS-held Raqqa in Syria to the devastating 1968 battle for the Vietnamese city of Hue.

Some look even fur-

ther back. "All I can think of is Dresden, or pictures I've seen of World War II," said Stephen Wood, a senior analyst at the satellite imagery firm DigitalGlobe.

Along the Old City's gutted roads, a handful of people are beginning to rebuild. Amar Ismail Brahmi sold his wife's gold to repaint his cafe. He didn't bother asking for government aid.

Brahmi ultimately blames the Islamic State group for the destruction, but he believes the obligation of reconstruction lies with the United States and other Western countries.

"We fought Daesh on behalf of the whole world," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the group. "Now is the time for them to stand with Mosul."

WRENCHING HOME-COMINGS

The enormity of the task ahead in Mosul can be grasped by what has — and hasn't — happened in Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's western Anbar province. Two years after it was retaken from IS, more than 70 percent of the city remains damaged or destroyed, according to the provincial council.

Nearly 8,300 homes — almost a third of the houses in the city

— were destroyed or suffered major damage, according to UN Habitat. All five of Ramadi's bridges over the Euphrates River were damaged; only three are currently under repair. Three-quarters of the schools remain out of commission.

The Anbar provincial council holds its meetings in a small building down the street from the pile of rubble that was once its offices. Nearly all of Ramadi's government buildings were blown up by the militants.

"We haven't received a single dollar in reconstruction money from Baghdad," said Ahmed Shaker, a council member. "When we ask the government for money to rebuild, they said: 'Help yourself, go ask your friends in the Gulf' — a reference to fellow Sunnis."

So people in Ramadi borrow, beg and compromise.

Halayl Sharqi and his wife Hanna returned in 2016 and found their house destroyed.

"All I remember doing is picking up the pieces of our furniture in a blanket," said the 75-year-old Halayl.

Like most of their neighbors, they borrowed money from extended family to partial-

ly rebuild their modest two-room house. A Qatari aid organization helped fix the roof of one room. All around, other houses are in similar states of semi-repair; on one home, bullet-holes are patched up with cement, while its neighbor is still missing walls. Weeds are thick in neglected gardens around damaged homes that remain abandoned.

On one street corner, children clamber up a collapsed apartment building and pick through the rubble. The former residents pay them 1,000 Iraqi dinars (a little less than a U.S. dollar) for each family photograph or identification document they retrieve from the dust and concrete.

Most of Ramadi's pre-IS population of around a half million has returned. Restaurants and shops are reopening along main streets, and traffic churns through scores of checkpoints. Iraqi officials cite that as a sign of success.

But like many others, the Sharqiis' decision to return was out of desperation, not hope. Their savings were drained and they wore out their welcome in a crowded home with extended family in Baghdad.



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