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MERRY Christmas!

HOLIDAY EDITION,
DECEMBER 24-26, 2022
BIG SPRING
HERALD

VOLUME 118, NUMBER 84

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75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION



Weather



Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 21.

Christmas Day: Sunny, with a high near 49.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 30.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 56.

Source: NWS, via weather.gov

On This Day
Dec. 24-25

Dec. 25, 336: First documentary sign of Christmas celebration in Rome.

Dec. 24, 1777: Kiritimati, also called Christmas Island, is discovered by James Cook.

Dec. 24, 1826: The Eggnog Riot at the United States Military Academy begins that night, wrapping up the following morning.

Dec. 25, 1914: During WWI, A series of unofficial truces occur across the Western Front to celebrate Christmas.

Daily Quotes

"What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day."

— **Phyllis Diller**

"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly."

— **Andy Rooney**

"T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse."

— **Clement Clarke Moore**

"Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand."

— **Dr. Seuss**

"Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard or too sad when you've got a Christmas tree in the living room."

— **Nora Roberts**

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www.bigspringherald.com



Happy New Year
2023

The First Christmas



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round

about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel

a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

— **Luke 2: 1-20 (KJV)**

Gas prices dropping as millions travel for the holidays

Special to the Herald

The statewide gas price average in Texas is \$2.62 for a gallon of regular unleaded fuel, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch. That price is three cents less than on this day last week and is 27 cents less per gallon compared to this day last year.

In Big Spring, three locations shared the lowest fuel price as of Thursday: Murphy USA, Shell at 2501 S. Gregg St., and H-E-B. All three locations were selling a gallon of unleaded for \$2.49.

Of the major metropolitan areas surveyed in Texas, drivers in El Paso are paying the most on average at \$2.90 per gallon while drivers in McAllen are paying the

least at \$2.41 per gallon. The national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded is \$3.10, which is nine cents less when compared to this day last week and 20 cents less than the price per gallon at this same time last year.

The statewide average fell for the tenth week in a row even as crude oil prices have increased. Texas remains the cheapest place in

the country to buy regular unleaded fuel. With higher crude oil prices, falling pump prices may soon reverse direction. And with the third busiest end-of-year holiday travel period ahead, more demand for fuel could cause price fluctuations in some areas. However it's possible bitter

See **GAS**, Page 3A

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New Mexico woman killed in Midland County wreck

By ROGER CLINE

Managing Editor

The Texas Department of Public Safety is reporting a fatal accident at the intersection of State Highway 349 and County Road 130 in Midland County.

According to the report, Ana Isabel Ruiz, 35, of Moriarty, N.M., was driving her 2000 Toyota Tacoma east on CR 130, and disregarded a stop sign at the intersection with SH 349. Bailey Erin Rhodes, 33, of Odessa was traveling south on SH 349 in her 2019

Chevrolet Silverado, and struck Ruiz's vehicle in the intersection.

Ruiz was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital, where she was pronounced deceased by medical staff. Rhodes was reportedly not injured in the accident.

According to the report, Rhodes was wearing a safety belt at the time of the crash, while Ruiz was not.

Conditions at the time of the wreck were clear and dry.

The accident was investigated by DPS Trooper Eric Phillips of Midland.

City offers dumpsters for holiday trash disposal

Christmastime can mean a lot of extra trash. Between wrapping paper and even old trees, most people have some - often a LOT - of extra rubbish to dispose of this time of year.

Luckily, the City of Big Spring already has some dumpsters out to help you clean things up after Christmas.

The dumpsters are located at city fire stations. One of the dumpsters is at Fire Station No. 4, located at 110 NE Eighth Street, while the other can be found at Fire Station No. 5, 1701 Wasson Road.

The dumpsters were put out Friday, and will remain in place through Tuesday, Dec. 27.

The city requests that *only* holiday trash be placed in these special bins, including holiday boxes/cardboard boxes, and Christmas trees. Please do not put household trash, furniture, or other large items in these dumpsters.

The Gift

A poem by Big Spring's
Dr. Joseph Chavez

Every year
In the cold of winter
In the darkness
We look to a star
That brings a gift
A light
A gift
A reminder
That we can have joy
That can have love
That we can find peace
Whether we are alone
Or together
With friends and family
A reminder
Of Christmas trees
Filled with lights
And decorations
That open our hearts
Of looking for that gift
That brings the joy
To someone we love
Or someone
We don't even know
To bring that smile
To bring that family
To bring those friends
That have come and gone
Until we open our eyes
And find the love and joy
And
The kindness
The peace
That lies within
A gift within you
That is always there
Waiting to be opened

And thus I say to you
Open your eyes
Open your heart
And
Join the triumph of the skies
Because
That triumph
That gift
Was given to you
A long time ago
When you were born

You just have to unwrap it

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Obituaries

Robert Wasson Ragan

Robert Wasson Ragan, 89, died peacefully Dec. 21, 2022, surrounded by his family. He was a gentleman, cowboy, faithful church attendee, and honorable husband and father. His favorite pastimes were training horses, calf-roping, and country western dancing.

Robert was born in Haskell, to Rex Lanier Ragan and Dorothy Wasson on Nov. 15, 1933. He grew up in Big Spring and graduated from BSHS in 1951. He married Charlene Shuff in Sweetwater, Sept. 2, 1959, and recently celebrated 63 years of marriage. He worked his entire career in the oil and gas industry, selling drilling bits for the Security Engineering Division of Dresser Industries Inc. He retired in 1997.

Robert developed his passion for horses and calf-roping from his grandfather Ira "Papa" Wasson, a pioneer rancher in southwestern Borden County. He and Cousin Ronald learned to ride and rope while working on the ranches.

Robert was called "Sonny" by family and close friends. After Robert began working for Security Engineering, and could afford a good roping horse and trailer, he pursued his interests in calf-roping and horse-training in earnest.

In later years, he actively participated in senior "old-timer" rodeo associations and traveled back and forth across Texas, developing lifelong friendships in the process.

Robert was inducted into the Heritage Museum of Big Spring's Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2017.

Robert is survived by his wife Charlene; three children: Becky Ragan Williams (Stewart), Amy Ragan Burchett (Carey), and Charles Robert Ragan (Amy); six grandsons: Brady Ragan Williams, Tucker Wasson Williams, Paden McGehee Williams (Shannon), Foster Robert Burchett (Jordan), Trevor Wayne Burchett (Taylor), and Brooks Robert Ragan; three great-grandchildren: Trace Wayne Burchett, Foster Boyd Burchett, and Tatum Ragan Burchett. Robert was preceded in death by his mother Dorothy Wasson Ragan, sister Billilee "Bee" Ragan Carr, and grandfather Ira Elmo Wasson.

Family will receive visitors at Fellowship Hall in the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry St., Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 10 a.m.

A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Private family internment will be held at Trinity Memorial Park following the memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Robert's memory to Food 2 Kids, P.O. Box 1641, Big Spring Texas 79720 or to the First United Methodist Church.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com

Paid Obituary

Deb "Tex" Noerr Arrick

Deb left the Love of Her Life, Buddy Arrick, on Oct. 1, 2022.

She and Buddy spent more than 40 years together.

First it was lust, which quickly turned into a Lifetime of Love.

Deb always believed that life began the day that she met Buddy, June 18, 1980.

They lived in Big Spring, Buddy's hometown.

She worked as a waitress at Rip Griffin's truck stop and The Branding Iron. Deb and Buddy worked together raising their two daughters, Samantha and Stephanie.

Together they moved to Phoenix in 1988, where, as Tex, she worked at Bill Johnson's Big Apple, while Buddy went to Motorcycle Mechanics Institute.

Soon after he graduated from school, Buddy found a job working for Harley Davidson in Las Vegas.

Deb soon joined him in Las Vegas. She worked for 10 years at Jokers Wild.

She also worked at a private club as a bartender for many years. While living in Nevada, she and Buddy worked together to build their lifelong dream.

Both of their daughters met their husbands in Henderson, Nevada.

Samantha and William Bueler I gave them five grandchildren, William Jr. (Joey), Nathaniel, Kaitlyn, Robert and Abigail.

Stephanie met and married the love of her life, Jeffrey Sommers.

The whole family eventually returned to Big Spring.

Buddy and Deb opened Cobra Custom Motors in Las Vegas in 1993.

His lifelong dream was to own a motorcycle shop and she worked to help him make that a reality for the rest of her life.

Deb and Buddy moved their business home in 2012.

Debra was the sixth child of seven, born to Ira Eugene Noerr and Helen Adams Noerr.

She was born in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1958. At the time the family lived on Redstone Arsenal Army Base.

As a military dependent, we traveled to Germany, as our father served two tours, one in Nuremberg, the second in Butzbach.

During these tours we took vacations to England, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland, and many other European countries.

We visited the Eiffel Tower, the White Cliffs of Dover, many castles, churches and cemeteries.

While in England, we visited our mother's family members, her Uncle Edgar and Aunt Ettabelle. Also their children and grandchildren.

We spent three summers in the south of France with our mother's sister, Aunt Vera.

Aunt Vera was a nun who worked with the elderly and poor.

The Little Sisters of the Poor were very wonderful and taught us to care for others.

While in France we also had the opportunity to swim in the Mediterranean Sea.

We traveled from Germany to France by train, to England by hovercraft and down the Rhine River by boat.

As American children in Germany we went to the American Youth Association (AYA) Girl Scout Camp and matinees on base every Saturday afternoon.

She was born into an Army family who traveled most of her life.

Deb was the sixth child born to Ira Eugene and Helen Adams Noerr.

She was born Sept. 27, 1958, in Huntsville, Alabama. Deb is survived by sisters Jacqueline Luty, Roberta Ciesiolka Olen, Marilyn Rodgers, and Margaret (Peggy) James, and their families. Buddy's sister Joannie, and his brother, Kris, and their families also.

Her brothers Stephen and Charles preceded her in death.

Charles left behind his wife and their family.

Also preceding her in death were her parents, Buddy's parents, and her Aunt Vera.

She had many very special people in her life that she wants mentioned.

Peggy, with whom she spent her childhood and the rest of their life together.

Teri Anne Cox, her niece, and Tony James, her nephew, who both spent time with them learning and growing.

Also, just a few special people in her life: Debbie and Frank Higgins of Flagstaff; John and Lisa Petco of Henderson; Susie Maguire, Robert and Vicky Walker, Jessie Dickens, Johnny Flores and family, Josh Bailey and Rae Ripple in Big Spring.

There are so many people who influenced her life who would take pages and pages to list. Just know that you each were loved.

The whole group of caregivers from Home Hospice and the pharmacy helped to make Deb's life easier.

Thank you.

Paid Obituary

Contact the Herald at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

Edward Jones edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Merry Christmas

During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.



Raul Benavides
Financial Advisor
2108 Scurry St
Big Spring, TX 79720
432-267-2501

MKT-9811C-A

Angela McMullen

Angela McMullen, 48, died Tuesday Dec. 20, 2022. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help assist the family with funeral expenses.

Merry Christmas from Our Family to Yours!

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MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Thanks and best wishes to all of you!

The City of Big Spring



282392

Merry Christmas!



We're just connecting in to say, Hope you have a great holiday. May it be happy, healthy and bright, Making each day a sheer delight.

Thanks and best wishes to all of you! God Bless!

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290863

GAS

Continued from Page 1A

The statewide gas price average in Texas is \$2.62 for a gallon of regular unleaded fuel, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch. That price is three cents less than on this day last week and is 27 cents less per gallon compared to this day last year. Of the major metropolitan areas surveyed in Texas, drivers in El Paso are paying the most on average at \$2.90 per gallon while drivers in McAllen are paying the least at \$2.41 per gallon. The national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded is \$3.10, which is nine cents less when compared to this day

last week and 20 cents less than the price per gallon at this same time last year.

The statewide average fell for the tenth week in a row even as crude oil prices have increased. Texas remains the cheapest place in the country to buy regular unleaded fuel. With higher crude oil prices, falling pump prices may soon reverse direction. And with the third busiest end-of-year holiday travel period ahead, more demand for fuel could cause price fluctuations in some areas. However it's possible bitter cold and blizzard conditions in parts of the country could put a dent on demand, analysts suggest. In the meantime, relatively cheaper gas prices are good news for those 8.3 million Texans expected to drive to their year-end holiday destina-

tions, according to AAA Texas.

"Falling gas prices may incentivize even more people than anticipated to make a last-minute decision to travel," said AAA Texas spokesperson Daniel Armbruster. "AAA recommends drivers assess the weather along their route before heading out and that their vehicle is well-maintained with a well-stocked emergency roadside kit."

Drivers in Texas are paying the lowest gas price average in the country, according to gasprices.aaa.com. Meanwhile drivers in Hawaii are paying the most at \$5.10 on average for a gallon of regular unleaded.

Netflix plans \$900M facility at former New Jersey Army base

By WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

Netflix said Wednesday it plans to build a state-of-the-art production facility at a former Army base at the Jersey Shore that will cost more than \$900 million, and create thousands of jobs.

The subscription video streaming company will pay \$55 million for a 292-acre site on the former Fort Monmouth military base in Eatontown and Oceanport.

The California-based company plans an additional \$848 million worth of investments in 12 sound stages and for other uses related to the film industry.

"We're thrilled to continue and expand our significant investment in New Jersey and North America," said Ted Sarandos, the company's co-CEO and chief content officer. "We believe a Netflix studio can boost the local and state economy with thousands of new jobs and billions in

economic output, while sparking a vibrant production ecosystem in New Jersey."

The announcement was made Wednesday evening, following a vote by the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority to accept Netflix's bid over three competing offers.

"This transformative investment will serve as a cornerstone in our efforts to create a thriving industry from whole cloth," said New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat. "As a result of nearly a billion dollars in film production spending, New Jersey will further solidify its status as an emerging national leader in the television and film industries."

He also said the project will create new housing, hotel and film-related businesses in the area, which has suffered economically since the Army closed the base in 2011.

The project is due to be completed in two phases over the course of several years.

The first will include the construction of a

dozen sound stages, each ranging in size from 15,000 to 40,000 square feet (around 1,400 to 3,700 square meters).

Additional work may include office space, production services buildings and related studio space with the potential for consumer-focused components including retail uses.

"We are thrilled by the promise this Netflix project will deliver," said Michele Siekerka, president and CEO of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association. "Jobs and innovation are at the heart of this Netflix-New Jersey partnership, just as they were throughout Fort Monmouth's rich history."

The plan still needs numerous levels of approvals from local and state officials.

Another TV and film production studio is set to be built in New Jersey on the site of a now-demolished public housing complex in Newark. The \$125 million, 12-acres studio will be anchored by global entertainment provider Lionsgate, officials announced in May.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson
267-8288

John Parker, 70, died Sunday. Services will be held at a later date. A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help assist the family with funeral expenses.

Angela McMullen, 48, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help assist the family with funeral expenses.

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Police blotter

The Howard County Detention Center reported the following activity:

- **LARRY MARTINEZ HILARIO**, 39, of 800 S. Johnson, was arrested on a charge of assault family/household member impede breathing.
- **EDRION PATRICK HOUSTON**, 32, of 4219 Calvin, was arrested on charges of evading arrest detention with vehicle, unlicensed possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of marijuana less than 2 oz., possession of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 4 grams but less than 200 grams and possession of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 4 grams but less than 400 grams.
- **KARLA-ANN KING**, 46, of 4602 Oakdrove Blvd., San Angelo, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated/open container.
- **LOSOYA MIGUEL III**, 20, of 1204 Dixie, was arrested on a charge of accident involving damage to vehicle deadly conduct.
- **EVERETT LEE PARTON**, 58, of 600 Tubb Loop, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated 3rd or more offense.
- **JOHNNY TREVINO JR.**, 32, of 3607 Hamilton, was arrested on charges of aggravated robbery, possession of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.
- **KESSANDRA LOUISE URBINA**, 31, of 1113 Lloyd Ave., was arrested on a charge of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.
- **LITTLE JOHN PHILLIP WINFIELD**, 60, of 1408 Runnels St., was arrested on a charge of driving with license invalid with previous conviction.
- **THEFT** was reported at the intersection of Rockhouse and Cauble Rds.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported at 3613 W. Hwy 80.
- **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported at 22nd St. and Main.
- **UNWANTED SUBJECT** was reported at 704 W. I-20.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the 4800 block of W. Hwy 80.
- **UNWANTED SUBJECT** was reported at 500 NW 9th St.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 1200 block of Douglas St. No transport.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 300 block of Brelyn Rd. One person transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 1000 block of Sycamore. One person transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 2600 block of E. 24th St. One person transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 1300 block of Richie Rd. One person transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 1800 block of N. Hwy 87. One person transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 1200 block of Young St. One person transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** reported at the 800 block of W. I 20. One person transported to SMMC.

Merry Christmas from the staff of the *Big Spring Herald!*



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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Opinion

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT



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

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Form letters, letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered. **No political based letters will be printed.**
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

CONTACT US

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

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

ADDRESSES

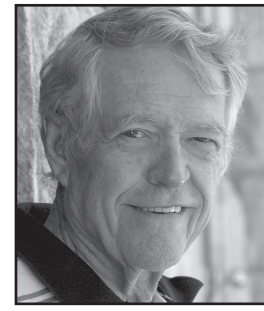
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STATE GOVERNMENT	HOWARD COUNTY COMMISIONERS
GREG ABBOTT Governor State Capitol, Room 2S.1 P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711 Phone: 512-463-2000	KATHRYN WISEMAN - County Judge Office: 264-2202
DAN PATRICK Lt. Governor Phone: 512-463-0001	EDDILISA RAY (1) 432-213-5461
DREW DARBY State Representative Texas 72nd District P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768 Phone: 512-463-0331	CRAIG BAILEY (2) Office: 264-2202
KEL SELIGER State Senator Texas 31st District 401 Austin, Suite 101 Big Spring, 79720 Phone: 432-268-9909	JIMMIE LONG (3) Home: 267-4224
	JOHN CLINE (4) Home: 263-7158
	HOWARD COUNTY APPRAISAL BOARD
	CRAIG WYRICK - Chairman Phone: 432-263-8301
	JORDAN PARTEE No phone number
	MIKE DAWSON No phone number
	SCOTT EMERSON Phone: No phone number
	NOEL HOFF Phone: No phone number
	TIFFANY SAYLES - Tax Collector (non-voting member) Phone: 432-264-2232

WEEKLY PRAYER

You have sent light to shine on earth and have revealed your power in Jesus Christ. May your name be honored, your kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Slinging Watermelons With A Catapult

Blanket is just a great town to live in, I think. It's full of characters." Charley Atchley has the General Store in Blanket, Texas, a small place near Brownwood. The store is a popular gathering place for residents, especially during the morning coffee hours. The store sells food and has delicious fried pies. Outside the store is a steel catapult made of junk form his scrap pile.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

"Since I was a little boy I always wanted to make one," says Charley. "I'd watch an old movie and see them throw rocks at castles with a catapult, so I decided to just go ahead and build one so I could throw watermelons. I've been throwing them now for about five years." He admits it is truly a spectacle when he launches a watermelon and sends it sailing through the air.

"We usually have several hundred people come out to watch. They let out a big cheer when one goes a long way. We'll buy a pallet of watermelons and throw about 50 of them. They'll go about 200 yards. Whenever I feel like doing it I just hang a sign out there and put the date when it's going to be and people kind of get excited about it. I'll put a target out there and see if we can hit it. The target is usually an old car or pickup. I've had people tell me they

could catch one. I don't think so. That melon's coming at about two hundred miles an hour. If you get hit by an eleven pound watermelon you probably wouldn't survive."

Charley throws his melons in the fall because he says he can get them cheaper then. He doesn't mind throwing melons that are trashy. He has thought about throwing pumpkins but they are too expensive. He made more than one catapult.

"I've got one at home. Now and then we'll set it up and throw some rocks." His catapults have two thousand pound weights that are released to throw the melons or other objects.

"It's kinda dangerous so I don't let anybody get close when I'm firing."

Charley belongs to the GOOD OLE BOYS SOCIETY in Blanket. The group puts on all kinds of events year-round.

"We put on a Mardi Gras Parade the Saturday before Mardi Gras. We have a float. People decorate their cars and pickups. Somebody will drive an old school bus and our fire truck will be in it. Last year we had about fifteen entries in our parade. That's pretty good for a town of just 400 people. When the parade is over we usually feed everybody Cajun-style food. Mainly it's for the people who live here."

"We also have three cook-offs every year, chili in the spring and steak sometime when it starts getting cooler. In the summer we have a big ice cream social. We judge homemade ice cream. We try to keep the town hopping."

Home Country

A bit 'bout names

Alphonse Wilson verbosifyin' here, once again. Need to talk a bit 'bout names. Some of you might know me by my nickname, Windy.

Now you might think at first that I come about that name 'cause I've been known to verbulate quite a bit, and I have to remit here that I thought so at first, my own self. But nossir ... not the case. Years ago, ol' Doc set me up to meet this nice lady from the county health depot and told her I was called Windy 'cause my emolument of the English language zifted like a heifer of realism through our mundaniety.



SLIM RANDLES

Perked up the circumloquasion, I can tell ya. Fact.

But that's just on them nickenames, of course. On the birth certificate aspirations, there's a little scientificals in them. You memorate how mom used to call you by all three of your names? Yes she did. But she did it only when you was in trouble. She'd holler something like "Jeremy Pixilated Johnson, you get in here this minute!" And when you heard all three of your names, you knew you was in a pickle fer shore.

You see, appertraining to the use of a middle name? Wellsir, we need them for murderers, burglars and assassinator. You know an assassinator gets to be famous after the deed, right? And ever' body knows his name. You just take in there that Lee Harvey Oswald fella. The newspaper guys had to throw the Harvey part in so's folks wouldn't ask themselves "I wonder if that's the Lee Oswald works

down at the Gulf station."

Of course, some folks are just nominatin'ly deprived, of course. You just take my ol' grandpap for example. His middle name was nimmin. I seen it on them papers they give you for your obitulary after you die. Said right there "Constantine nmn Wilson." I had to go ask someone why they didn't capitoluate the n in nmn, and the lady said it means no middle name. No middle name? Wellsir, then I memorialized that ol' Grandpap was the thirteenth kid in the family and I suppose they just ran out of middle names about then.

So the outcome of all this is, if you don't have a middle name, go get one. It'll come in handy if you take up criminal actuarials or if you die.

Slim Randles's middle name is Victor, but he was NOT named for a mouse trap.

The Idle American

Christmas on the Rails...

Less is heard about trains these days, particularly since the homegoing of Johnny Cash. He always loved train songs. Accounts of a single railroad car are even rarer, despite the jump start provided in 1930 by "The Little Engine That Could," a children's book.

This piece about Christmas centers on a single 1950-model dormitory lounge car which trailed behind the Santa Fe Super Chief for several decades before it was idled in Lake Charles, LA.

That's where the late Donald Rassmussen found it 26 years ago. He was known as the "quiet founder" of ESPN (Entertainment and Sports Programming Network). A lifelong entrepreneur, he spent several years in Brownwood, relocating the railcar to a remote area where Camp Bowie was operative during World War II....



DON NEWBURY

No doubt residents scratched their heads in wonderment about someone laying track for one railcar, not to mention paying the freight bill. Today, its location is still remote, opening as the "Classic Car Diner" after a year's renovation. It's a virtual rural setting, with only the junior high school and a scattering of industries, homes and apartments in the neighborhood.

In 2004, Kim Bruton noticed online that the diner was for sale. Weary of the corporate world, she and her then husband decided to buy it. They moved from the Metroplex to Brownwood with sons ages one, two and five. She has operated it since that time, naming it "The Runaway Train". She was divorced in 2006, and in 2009, married firefighter Brent Bruton, who is in partnership with her in real estate ventures. Together, they have five sons, all of whom grew up in the café environment.

Kim credits customers with much, including her becoming a Christian in 2008....

On Christmas Day, 2010, seasonal magic began. Kim and the boys noticed that a frequent visitor always walked to the diner. He didn't own an automobile, and was on their hearts when it was decided to serve free meals on Christmas Day, 1-3 p.m. The

walker--and several other patrons--showed up, responding to a homemade sign on the front door.

"It was a joyous experience, one we have repeated annually," Kim said. Crowds grew, with 300 or so now claiming free chili Frito pie and ice cream. Many who previously were "partakers" now are "giver-outers." Count her and her family among those believing that it is more blessed to give than receive....

Kim now focuses largely on "The Intermission Bookshop," her charming bookstore downtown. It is housed in an old movie theater building. (Brownwood had eight downtown movie houses around 1950.) She's turning over "train" management to son Zach, 19, with son Atticus, 18, alongside. Folks still flock to the diner that has original features, plus a 10-foot extension on one side for the kitchen.

They've shortened operating hours since COVID. Customers still find their way to 3600 Stephen F. Austin Blvd. "on purpose." Maintaining social distancing challenges, but patrons may dine in, grab food to go or sit at outdoor picnic tables, Christmas Day or whenever....

The community also has a Thanksgiving Feast each year for whoever wants to partake. It was introduced in 1983 by the late Ronald Gray, Brownwood Bulletin/publisher, and Harold Preston, Howard Payne University CFO. Ten years later, Bill Fishback, Preston's successor, directed the event for 27 years. When he retired, Ron Keener, pastor of Northlake Community Church, took over. They've served some 60,000 meals--most of them at Howard Payne University--for the past 38 years. Some 2,000 persons have been served annually for several years. Area residents and businesses underwrite feast food costs. Brownwood also has the Lehnis Railroad Museum. The city's mantra is "feels like home." And it does.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God willing, I'll begin my 21st year of weekly ramblings come February, hoping always to provide smiles....

Dr. Newbury was a longtime university president. He continues to write weekly and speak regularly throughout Texas. Contact information: Phone, 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Facebook: Don Newbury

Howard Co. Area Sports Schedule

Dec. 28-30: Big Spring Steers Basketball (Varsity) at Brownwood Tournament in Brownwood. Game times TBA

Dec. 27-29: Big Spring Lady Steers Basketball (Varsity) at Monahans Tournament in Monahans. Game times TBA

Dec. 28-29: Coahoma Bulldogs and Bulldogettes Basketball (Varsity) at Jayton Tournament in Jayton. Game times TBA

Dec. 29-31: Forsan Buffaloes and Lady Buffaloes Basketball (Varsity) at Caprock Classic Tournament in Lubbock. Game times TBA

Dec. 29-31: Howard College Lady Hawks Basketball at Bruce Fleck Classic in Tucson, AZ. Game times are 5 p.m. Dec. 29 against Mesa Community College, 7 p.m. Dec. 30 against Cochise College, and 9 p.m. Dec. 31 against Pima Community College.

Jan. 2: Howard College Hawks Basketball non-conference matchup against Southwest JV at Howard College. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

Jan. 3: Big Spring Steers Basketball (Freshman, JV, & Varsity) non-district matchup against Seminole at Seminole. Game times are 5 p.m. (Freshman), 6:30 p.m. (JV), and 7:30 p.m. (Varsity)

Jan. 3: Big Spring Lady Steers Basketball (JV & Varsity) non-district matchup against Coleman at Big Spring. Games times are 4 p.m. (JV) and 6:30 p.m. (Varsity)

Jan. 3: Coahoma Bulldogs & Bulldogettes Basketball (JV & Varsity) district matchup against Jim Ned at Coahoma. Game times are 4 p.m. (JV Girls), 5:15 p.m. (JV Boys), 6:30 p.m. (Varsity Girls), and 8 p.m. (Varsity Boys)

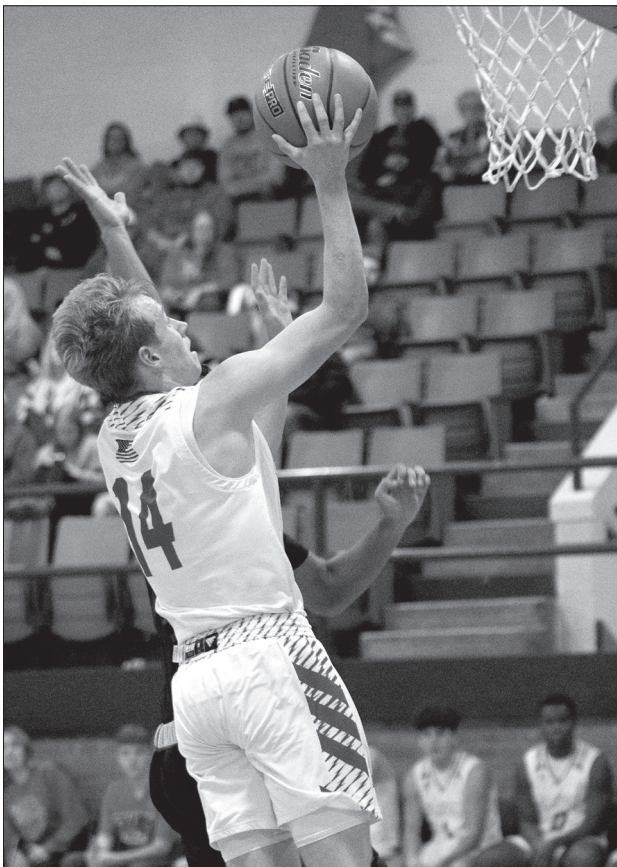
Jan. 3: Forsan Buffaloes and Lady Buffaloes Basketball (JV & Varsity) district matchup against Reagan County at Big Lake. Games times are 4 p.m. (JV Girls & Boys), 5 p.m. (JV Boys), 6:15 p.m. (Varsity Girls), and 7:30 p.m. (Varsity Boys)

Jan. 6: Big Spring Steers Basketball (Freshman, JV, & Varsity) non-district matchup against Monahans at Monahans. Game times are 4:30 p.m. (Freshman), 6 p.m. (JV), and 7:30 p.m. (Varsity)

Jan. 6: Big Spring Lady Steers Basketball (Freshman, JV, & Varsity) district matchup against Levelland at Big Spring. Game times are 5 p.m. (Freshman), 6:15 p.m. (JV), and 7:30 p.m. (Varsity)

Jan. 6-7: Big Spring High School Swim Team (Boys & Girls) at Andrews Invitational. Swim times TBA

Coahoma opens District 6-3A with 62-51 win over Ballinger



Special to the Herald

The Coahoma Bulldogs varsity basketball team opened up District 6-3A play with a win over the Ballinger Bearkats Tuesday night.

The Bulldogs dominated from the start ending the first quarter up 17-7.

Coahoma junior Billy Bailey led the Bulldogs, scoring a game-high 23 points, including five 3-pointers to lead Coahoma to a win over Ballinger.

Fellow junior teammate Ryan Shifflett contributed 16 points in the win, while Coahoma freshman Landon Wells scored 13.

The Bulldogs now 9-4 overall and 1-0 in the Jayton ISD Tournament on Dec. 27-28.

Courtesy photo/Lyndel Moody

Top left, Coahoma's Billy Bailey goes up for the layup over a Ballinger defender in the Bulldogs District 6-3A opener Tuesday night in Coahoma. Bailey scored a game high 23-points to help lead the Bulldogs to a win over the Bearkats. Coahoma will play in the Jayton ISD Tournament next on Dec. 27-28.

Freshman Morris excels for No. 7 Texas in 100-72 victory

By MARK ROSNER

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Freshman Arterio Morris scored a season-best 25 points in just 18 minutes and No. 7 Texas beat Louisiana-Lafayette 100-72 on Wednesday night for its third straight win without suspended coach Chris Beard.

The Longhorns (10-1) pulled away with a 15-0 push spanning more than five minutes, bridging the first and second halves.

Morris, a reserve whose previous best was 11 points, connected with 9 of 11 shots and made five 3-point baskets against Louisiana-Lafayette. Texas converted 12 of 22 3-pointers.

"He's been working really hard over the last two weeks, and I'm glad to see he was able to reap some of that," acting coach Rodney Terry said.

Timmy Allen and Marc Carr scored 17 apiece for the Longhorns, whose 100 points were a season-high and their most since a 105-59 victory against Northwestern State on Nov. 10, 2017. Reserve Christian Bishop produced 10 points and eight rebounds in 20 minutes.

Jordan Brown, a 6-foot-11 forward, led Louisiana-Lafayette (10-2) with 20 points.

Texas is undefeated under Terry since Dec. 12, when Beard was suspended indefinitely without pay after his arrest on a felony family violence charge. Beard does not have a court appearance scheduled until mid-January.

The university elevated Terry to acting head coach and have declined to comment on Beard's case since.

Texas officials are allowing only Terry to speak on behalf of the team. Players were not made available for postgame interviews.

Terry said he did not have an update on how long he would serve as acting coach. Asked if he is trying to put his stamp on the team, Terry said, "It's not about me; it's about our players."

Terry had the Longhorns ready to defend Louisiana-Lafayette behind the 3-point line, a team strength. The Ragin' Cajuns began the night averaging 8.5 3-point baskets a game with 41% accuracy, ninth-best in the country. They hit just 6 of 19 (31.6%) against Texas.

"They are good defensively," Louisiana-Lafayette coach Bob Marlin said. "We needed to make a dozen 3s tonight."

Terry said the Longhorns did credible work of swarming Brown inside while also defending the perimeter.

"I thought we did a great job of running guys off the line," Terry said.

BIG PICTURE

Louisiana-Lafayette: The Ragin' Cajuns, picked to win the Sun Belt Conference by the league's head coaches, compiled a 10-1 record before Monday without having played a Top 25 team. The game against Texas was a step up, and they had difficulty defending the Longhorns, who shot a season-best 58% and had assists on 23 of 36 baskets.

Texas: The Longhorns are deficient at shooting 3-pointers. Their 30.6% accuracy is well below the national average of 34.2%, but sometimes they heat up. Texas hit 8 of 21 (38%) against Stanford on Sunday before hitting Louisiana-Lafayette with a barrage.

"They shot the cover off the ball," Marlin said. "Better than we thought they would."

DISU INJURED

Texas forward Dylan Disu suffered a left knee injury late in the first half while playing defense and missed the remainder to the game. Terry said he did not have a status update, adding "we'll have more tomorrow." Disu had season-ending surgery on the same knee while playing for Vanderbilt in 2020-21.

UP NEXT

Louisiana-Lafayette: Visits Coastal Carolina on Dec. 29.

Texas: Hosts Texas A&M-Commerce on Tuesday.

Steers drop non-district matchup against Idalou 53-34



Courtesy photos/Tony Claxton-Claxton Photography

Top, Big Spring's Gavin Padron shoots for three points during the Steer's non-district matchup against Idalou on Tuesday, Dec. 20. Bottom, Big Spring's Derick Walleck goes up for a short jump shot during the Steer's non-district matchup against Idalou on Tuesday, Dec. 20. The Steers would go on to lose to Idalou 53-34. Big Spring will play in the Brownwood Tournament next on Dec. 28-30.

Harmon, Obonor score 22 points each; Texas Tech wins 111-67

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — De'Vion Harmon and Kevin Obonor scored 22 points each and Texas Tech rolled to a 111-67 victory over Houston Christian on Wednesday for the Red Raiders' fifth straight victory.

Harmon was 8-of-10 shooting in reaching his season high and he added a career-high nine assists. Obonor was 7 of 12 with nine rebounds. He made all six of his free throws, four of which came after Huskies coach Ron Cottrell was given two technicals with seven minutes remaining. Those free throws were part of an Obonor run of nine straight points that put the Red Raiders up by 30.

Daniel Batcho, who had missed the last two games with an injury, returned to score 12 points with 10 rebounds and Jaylon Tyson scored 11 points with five assists for Texas Tech (9-2), which had a season-high point total that is tied for 13th all-time in the program.

Brycen Long scored 21 points, hitting four 3-pointers, for the Huskies (3-10). Bonke Marling added 13 points and nine rebounds.

Submit local sports stories, scores or photos to sports@bigspringherald.com

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TPWD Responds to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Decision to List the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Special to the Herald

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) executive director David Yoskowitz, Ph.D. said Wednesday he applauds 16 years of “tremendous” voluntary collaboration with private landowners and industry to conserve lesser prairie-chicken habitat and reiterates the department’s opposition to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listing the species.

“This decision jeopardizes decades of voluntary conservation efforts, increases regulatory burden and does not assure recovery of the species,” Yoskowitz said.

USFWS published a final rule Nov. 25 listing the lesser prairie-chicken under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Once implemented in January, the decision would affect 14 counties in Texas, listing the bird as threatened in some and endangered in others.

“Notwithstanding this very unfortunate decision, TPWD stands committed to working with private landowners and industry to conserve the lesser prairie-chicken and its habitat, just as we have for decades,” Yoskowitz said.

The new USFWS designation comprises a Northern Distinct Population Segment (DPS), where the bird will be listed as threatened in seven counties in the northeast Texas Panhandle, and the Southern DPS, where the species will be listed as endangered in seven counties in the southwest Texas Panhandle. The listing under the ESA goes into effect Jan. 24, 2023 and makes “take” of lesser prairie-chickens or their habitat a federal violation. Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Incidental take refers to takings that result from, but are not the purpose of, conducting an

otherwise lawful activity.

Under the final USFWS ruling, a 4(d) rule for the Northern DPS provides for incidental take exemptions for routine agricultural activities on cultivated lands, prescribed grazing conducted under an approved plan and prescribed fire. Landowners in the northeast Texas Panhandle interested in receiving an approved prescribed grazing plan under the 4(d) rule should contact a USFWS-certified prescribed grazing planner to initiate enrollment into that plan. A list of FAQs and certified planners will be continuously updated and available at www.fws.gov/lpc, and a list of FAQs is available on the USFWS Lesser Prairie-Chicken Listing FAQs website.

Ongoing Efforts

In 2006, TPWD entered a 20-year Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) with USFWS to work with private landowners to manage and improve lesser prairie-chicken habitat in exchange for assurances that no additional regulatory burden would be placed on participants if the species were listed. The 91 properties currently enrolled in the program, which cover 649,780 acres across 19 Texas Panhandle counties, are exempt from take and habitat management restrictions while they operate under a TPWD-approved wildlife management plan.

Enrollment for the Texas lesser prairie-chicken CCAA program is open until the official effective date of Jan. 24, 2023. Private landowners within the lesser prairie-chicken range are encouraged to contact the TPWD Panhandle Wildlife District prior to the effective date to initiate the enrollment process.

“The CCAA provides landowners the assurances that they can continue to manage their prop-

erties to meet their goals while also benefiting the lesser prairie-chicken,” said John Silovsky, TPWD director of wildlife. “We appreciate the tremendous collaboration with private landowners during the past 16 years and we want to continue those important partnerships for the benefit of the lesser prairie-chicken habitat.”

In 2013, TPWD along with the state wildlife agencies for Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma, developed the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Plan (RWP). The plan established population goals for four lesser prairie-chicken ecoregions and designated focal areas and connectivity zones to incentivize voluntary conservation for the species and its habitat.

Under the direction of WAFWA, the RWP also produced a CCAA for oil and gas companies to voluntarily mitigate for new development and operations across the species’ range. This CCAA provides funding to private landowners to improve or maintain lesser prairie-chicken habitat on their lands and provide a net conservation benefit to the species and regulatory certainty for industry.

Since then, USFWS has also approved an Oil & Gas Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Renewables HCP that provide additional opportunities for industry to mitigate for the incidental take of the species.

Landowners or industries interested in the Texas Lesser Prairie-Chicken CCAA, industry CCAA or HCP options should contact Brad Simpson, TPWD Panhandle Wildlife District Leader, (806) 651-3012 brad.simpson@tpwd.texas.gov or Russell Martin, TPWD Panhandle Wildlife Diversity Biologist, (806) 452-9616 russell.martin@tpwd.texas.gov.

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Jasmine Ahrnkeil, 1301 Princeton, Big Spring
Sherri Monique Aldridge, 1507 E. Sixth St., Big Spring
Anthony Anderson, 3401 Camellia Dr. #707, Temple
Steve Antoine, 1425 E. 6th St., Big Spring
Katie Cole L. Baker, P.O. Box 3372, Big Spring
Letitia Baucham, 1202 Stanford, Big Spring
Linda Beck, 1713 Worley Rd., Banner Elk, N.C.
Joshua Bell, 1962 Tuscola, Snyder
John Bochnicka, 538 Westover Rd. #260
Chad Wayne Brown, 3901 Ave. O, P.O. Box 391, Snyder

Douglas “Doug” Lee Brown, 205 W. 14th St. P.O. Box 275, Monahans

James Bullard, 202 Fourth St., Palestine
Melinda Burns, 2218 Carlton Way, San Angelo
Gloria Cerna, P.O. Box 55, Lamesa
Matilda Cortez, 302 N St. Teresa
Roy E. DeBlanc, 1066 Cutrer Rd., Osyka, Miss.
Laura W. Dennis, 1511 Scurry, Big Spring
Humberto Diaz Jr., 3417 N. Midland Dr, Midland
Nelba DeLosRios Diaz, 10600 McMillian Dr., Austin
Krista A. Dickson, 6917 Todd, Sachse
Jimmy Dodson, 405 31st St., Snyder
Ben Doherty, 5019 McKinney St. No. 105, Dallas
Angela Doty, 1401 E. Rundberg, Austin
Clayton W. Durbin, 6508 Centerpoint, Big Spring
Tina Marie Ellis, 4002 Austin Ave., Snyder
Selena Bethani Enriquez-King, 100 E Parker, Midland
Joanna Esparza, 501 S.Tackitt Seymour, Texas
Carol W. Evans, 809 E 33rd, Plainview, Texas
Chris M. Fagan, 3508 W. Eighth St., Amarillo
Kristen Falcon, 2606 Fairchild Dr., Big Spring
Leza Faulkner, 1102 South Water, Burnet
Mumduh Felemban, 9338 Perrin Beitel Apt. 701, San Antonio

Alexander Fernandez, 404 Cypress, Colorado City
Juana Fierro, 406 N. W. 5th St., Big Spring
Tracy D. Flores, 2401 Russell Ave., Abilene
Ellen French, P.O. Box 942, Poteau, Okla.
Sharlamarr Frink, 3723 Monclair, Odessa
Johnnie Fuller, 3801 23rd St., Snyder
Juan E. Garcia, 3355 River Road North Keizer, Ok
Mary Jo Garner, 11802 Silver Barring Cove, San Antonio

William Gene Garner, 704 Rosemont, Big Spring
Rosa M. George, 509 W. Second St., Stanton, Texas
Perry Gholar, 1510 Nolan, Big Spring
Elizabeth Gomez, 509 Raleigh St., Plainview
Guillermo Gomez, 2107 Morrison, Big Spring
James E. Gonzalez, 604 Neff St., Sweetwater
Jeremy Goodman, 3471 Green Meadow #24, San Angelo

Kay Grant, 4405 N. Garfield #1005, Midland
Isaiah Green, 4801 State St., Abilene
John Grima, 914 E. Sixth St., Big Spring
Thomas E. Gross, 4100 S. Highway 87 #37, Big Spring
Lynn Guerrero, 203 W. Ave #3, Clayton, N.M.
Melissa Gutierrez, 3310 SF Austin, No. 58, Brownwood

Sandra Ann Gutierrez, 1501 N. Fourth Place, 1312 S. Ave. L, Lamesa
Mike Haddix, 401 Humble St. Apt. E, Midland
Dylan Hammons, 4401 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
William J. Harman, HC 76, Box 147K-1, Big Spring
Nicholas D. Hasenbalg, 207 W. Williams St. #9, Breckenridge

Ann Hashem, 120 Airbase Rd. 15-5, Big Spring
Christine Henderson, 420 N. El Paso
Juanita Hernandez, 1502 Bluebird, Big Spring
Scott Herrera, 4608 Ash St, Big Spring
Billy Dean Hill, 7117 Alissa, Rowlett, Texas
Johnny R. Hill, 704 San Antonio, Big Spring
Shatiya Lasha Jenkins, 4590 N Texas #198 Odessa
David Kelley, P.O. Box 724, Salado
Joni D. Kelly, 3050 Co. Rd 139, Colorado
Renola S. Kelly, 4503 LA Salle Circle, Midland
Cynthia Lee Kent, Moved to Newport News, Virginia
Kayle R. Lane, P.O. Box 83965, Waco
Rafael Lemus, 1804 Mittel, Big Spring
Jesse Paul Lopez, 101 Scurry St., Big Spring
Ruben Lopez Jr., 107 Milburn St., Snyder, Texas
Clifford G. Lowe, 501 Circle, Big Spring
Patricia D. Lyons, 7502 Interstate 27 number A, Lubbock

Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham Ave., Odessa
Bruce Edward Mallard, P.O. Box 3265 504 Westover,

See RECORDS, Page 7A

Stocks open lower, giving back much of the prior day's gain

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks are opening lower on Wall Street, giving back a good chunk of the gains they made a day earlier. The early losses put most major US indexes back in the red for the week. The S&P 500 lost 1.2% early Thursday and the Nasdaq composite gave back 1.8%. The Dow Jones Industrials lost 1%. Used car seller CarMax sank 8% after reporting results for its latest quarter that came in far below what analysts were expecting. The government raised its estimate for U.S. economic growth in the third quarter to a surprisingly strong 3.2%. Treasury yields rose slightly.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

Markets on Wall Street trended modestly lower before the bell early Thursday as the last economic reports of the year trickle in, including a final reading on inflation, which has dogged the the U.S. economy for nearly two years.

Futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow industrials were down 0.2%. World markets were mixed and oil prices rose.

Investors are awaiting Thursday data releases from the U.S. government on gross domestic product and applications for unemployment aid, with an important report on inflation and consumer spending coming Friday. The report is monitored by the Fed as a barometer of inflation, which has been easing, albeit at a slow pace. Economists expect the report to show inflation cooled in November.

Markets got a boost from a report Wednesday showing U.S. consumer confidence is surprisingly strong, despite inflation squeezing wallets. The Conference Board's consumer confidence index rose to 108.3 in December from 101.4 in November, pushing the index to its highest level since April.

Consumer spending and the job market are strong areas for the U.S. economy that have helped prevent it from slipping into a recession. Wall Street is hoping for a “soft landing” from decades high inflation and the interest rate hikes being deployed by the Federal Reserve to tame it.

The Fed's key lending rate, the federal funds rate, stands at a range of 4.25% to 4.5%, the highest level in 15 years. Fed policymakers are forecasting the rate will reach a range of 5% to 5.25% by the end of 2023 and won't be cut before 2024.

If the Fed goes too far in raising interest rates, it

could cause the economy to stall more than planned and tip into recession.

Asian markets also got a lift from the overnight rally in tech shares, which spilled into trading in Hong Kong. E-commerce giant Alibaba jumped 4.1% while online services company Tencent gained 4.1%. Online shopping and food delivery platform Meituan picked up 6.9%.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 2.7% to 19,679.22, while the Shanghai Composite index fell 0.5% to 3,054.43.

“Asian stocks picked up where the U.S. market left off, with technology and property companies leading the charge after a profusion of comments from regulators on supporting broader markets,” Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 closed 0.5% higher at 26,507.87 and the Kospi in Seoul rose 1.2% to 2,356.73. In Sydney, the S&P/ASX 200 advanced 0.5% to 7,152.50.

Bangkok's SET gained 0.2% while the Taix in Taiwan climbed 1.2%.

In Europe, Germany's DAX edged 0.1% lower to 14,081.26. The CAC 40 in Paris also lost 0.1%, to 6,578.93. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.4%, to 7,525.54.

Treasury yields mostly fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury, which influences mortgage rates, slipped to 3.65% early Thursday from 3.66% late Wednesday.

In energy trading Thursday, U.S. benchmark crude oil added \$1.30 to \$79.59 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It picked up \$2.06 to \$78.29 per barrel on Wednesday.

U.S. inventory data showed the Strategic Petroleum Reserve falling to 378.6 million barrels, its lowest level since 1983, thanks to a larger-than-expected draw down last week. That overrode worries about weak demand due to the slowing economy, pushing prices higher.

Brent crude, the pricing basis for international trading, gained \$1.38 to \$83.96 per barrel.

The U.S. dollar slipped to 132.09 Japanese yen from 132.42 yen. The euro rose to \$1.0638 from \$1.0606.

Stocks closed broadly higher on Wall Street Wednesday, bringing major indexes into the green for the week after two straight weeks of losses.

The S&P 500 jumped 1.5%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average advanced 1.6%.



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US economy grew 3.2% in Q3, an upgrade from earlier estimate

By PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer
 WASHINGTON (AP) — Shrugging off rampant inflation and rising interest rates, the U.S. economy grew at an unexpectedly strong 3.2% annual pace from July through September, the government reported Thursday in a healthy upgrade from its earlier estimate of third-quarter growth.

The rise in gross domestic product — the economy's output in goods and services — marked a return to growth after consecutive drops in the January-March and April-June periods.

Still, many economists expect the economy to slow and probably slip into recession next year under the pressure of higher interest rates being engineered by the Federal Reserve to combat inflation that earlier this year reached heights not seen since the early 1980s.

Driving the third-quarter growth were strong exports and healthy consumer spending.

Investment in housing plunged at an annual rate of 27.1%, hammered by higher mortgage rates arising from the Fed's decision to raise its own benchmark rate seven times this year.

Thursday's GDP report was the Commerce Department's third and final look at the July-September quarter. The first look at the fourth quarter comes out Jan. 26. Forecasters surveyed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia expect the economy to grow again the last three months of the year — but at a slower, 1% annual rate.

In its previous estimate of third-quarter growth, issued Nov. 30, the Commerce Department had pegged July-September growth at an annual rate of 2.9%. Behind the upgrade to Thursday's 3.2% was stronger growth in consumer spending, revised up to a 2.3% annual rate from 1.7% in the November

estimate.
 "Despite a rapid increase in interest rates, the economy is growing and importantly, households are still spending, Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said in a research note. "However, looking ahead, in 2023, we expect a slower growth trajectory.

Inflation, which had not been a serious problem for four decades, returned in the spring of 2021. It was set off by an unexpectedly strong recovery from the coronavirus recession of 2020, fueled by massive government stimulus. The Fed was slow to recognize the severity of the inflation problem and only began raising rates aggressively in March.

The job market has stayed resilient throughout, putting upward pressure on wages and prices. Employers have added 392,000 jobs a month so far this year, and the unemployment rate is at 3.7%, just off a half-century low.

Applications for jobless claims up slightly last week

By MATT OTT

AP Business Writer
 WASHINGTON (AP) — Slightly more Americans filed for unemployment benefits last week as the labor market continues to show strength even as the Federal Reserve has tried for nearly a year to slow the economy by raising its main lending rate.

Applications for jobless claims for the week ending Dec. 17 inched up by 2,000 to 216,000 from the previous week's 214,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. Jobless claims are generally viewed as a representation of layoffs.

The four-week moving average of claims, which smooths out some of the week-to-week swings, fell by 6,250 to 221,750.

About 1.67 million people were receiving jobless aid the week that ended Dec. 10, about 6,000 fewer than the week before.

Despite the Fed's attempt to fight stubbornly high inflation by raising interest rates to cool the economy, American workers are still experiencing extraordinary job security, with nearly two jobs for every unemployed person. U.S. employers added 263,000 jobs last month.

Though the U.S. economy shrank in the first half of this year — part of which came before the Fed started hiking rates — the government said Thursday that the economy grew at an unexpectedly strong 3.2% annual pace in the third quarter.

The Fed has raised its key lending rate seven times this year has projected

more in 2023 as it tries to bring down prices that are gobbling up Americans' paychecks.

Last week, the Fed raised its short-term lending rate by 0.5 percentage points, a smaller increase than the previous four increases of 0.75 percentage points. Its key rate now stands in a range of 4.25% to 4.5%, the highest in 15 years.

Fed policymakers forecast that their key short-term rate will reach a range of 5% to 5.25% by the end of 2023, suggesting the Fed is prepared to raise its rate by another three-quarters of a point and leave it there through next year.

Fed officials have said that to put a significant dent in four-decade high inflation, the unemployment rate needs to be at least 4%. Currently, the unemployment rate stands at 3.7%, just above a half-century low.

In its updated forecasts, the Fed's policymakers predicted slower growth and higher unemployment for next year and 2024. The unemployment rate is projected to jump to 4.6% by the end of 2023. That would mark a significant increase in joblessness and typically would reflect a recession, which many economists have predicted.

So far, the housing sector has taken the biggest hit, with mortgage rates more than doubling from a year ago and pushing many would-be buyers to the sidelines. Sales of previously occupied homes have fallen for 10 straight months. Online realtors Redfin and Compass have cut staff multiple times this year.

The technology sector has also gone into belt-tightening mode, with Facebook parent company Meta, Twitter, Amazon and DoorDash all announcing significant layoffs in recent months.

Amazon may breach trademark rights over fake Louboutin ads

BRUSSELS (AP) — Online retail giant Amazon could be held responsible for breaching luxury shoemaker Christian Louboutin's trademark rights over the sale of counterfeit red-soled high-heeled shoes on its platform, the European Court of Justice ruled on Thursday.

Third-party sellers on Amazon regularly advertise red-soled stilettos that are not made by Louboutin. The French designer brought cases against the company in Belgium and Luxembourg in 2019, arguing that he did not give his consent for these products to be put on the market.

Louboutin shoes' red outer sole, for which they are known, is registered as an EU and Benelux trademark.

The EU's top court said that users could mistake



only think that Amazon itself is selling shoes on behalf of Louboutin, noting that it may be the case when, for instance, Amazon displays its own logo on the third-party sellers' ads, and when it stores and ships the shoes in question.

"These circumstances may indeed make a clear distinction difficult, and give the impression to the normally informed and reasonably attentive user that it is Amazon that markets — in its own name

and on its own behalf," the court said.

The luxury house said the court's decision is "a victory for the protection of its know-how and creativity."

"It initiated these proceedings to obtain recognition of Amazon's responsibility for the offering for sale of counterfeit products on its platforms by third parties. It also brought this case to encourage Amazon to play a more direct role in the fight against counterfeiting on its platforms," Maison Louboutin said in a statement.

The EU court said it's now up to the local jurisdictions in Belgium and Luxembourg to determine whether users on the online marketplace could have been under the impression that ads did not come from third-party sellers but from Amazon itself.

RECORDS

Continued from Page 6A

- Big Spring
Barbara A. Marshall, P.O. Box 1065, Deming, New Mexico
- James Martinez, P.O. Box 269, Ft. Davis
- Rene N. Martinez, 8618 Serene Ridge, Big Spring, Texas
- Victoria Josephine Martinez, 323 S. Main St., Loraine
- Karen McCalister, 5925 Raton Ln. number 154, Ft. Worth
- O'Neal McClain, 911 17th St., Snyder
- Diana McCool, 504 Donley, Big Spring
- Ethel Laverne McVae, 4202 Parkway Rd., Big Spring, Texas
- Heriberto Palafox Mora, 1311 Mobile St., Big Spring
- Felicia Ornelas, 538 Westover Rd.
- Dana Kay Peach, 1806 N 13th, Lamesa
- Nicole Preston, 1605 E 11th place, Big Spring
- Byron Roberts, 2206 Alabama St Big Spring
- Michael Robinson, 801 Anna St., Big Spring
- Veronica Romero, 103 Becker Rd., Big Spring
- Elizabeth Salazar, 3210 Drexel, Big Spring, Texas
- Shane Skaggs, 1 Courtney Place, Apt. 301, Big Spring
- Derrick Dewayne Smith, 703 West 16th, San Angelo, Texas
- Michael Ray Watson, 1503 Tucson Rd., Big Spring
- Tamara Ruth Whitt, 1909 Morrison, 2526 Fairchild, Big Spring
- Jamie Wiggins, 1905 Wasson Rd., Apt. #28, Big Spring

Marriages

Jamie Taylor Mullinax, 52, and Susanna Elyse Vasquez, 35, both of Big Spring
 Jacob Wayne Pippin, 44, and Joanna Hernandez, 38, both of Big Spring

Deeds

- Warranty Deed With Vendor's Lien
Grantor: Mariano Granados and Henry Granados
Grantee: Booth Group LLC
Property: Lot 21, lk 4, Douglass Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County
Date: Dec. 12, 2022
- Warranty Deed With Vendor's Lien
Grantor: Foixiest Resources Inc.
Grantee: ACC Properties LLC
Property: Lot 3, blk 12, McDowell Heights Addition, City of Big Spring
Date: Dec. 12, 2022
- Warranty Deed
Grantor: Laura Thomas
Grantee: Yucca Sunset Property Solutions LLC
Property: Lot 5, blk 6, Hillcrest Terrace, a Subdivision of the City of Big Spring, Howrd County
Date: Dec. 12, 2022
- Warranty Deed With Vendor's Lien
Grantor: CDR Investments Inc.
Grantee: Casey Kilpatrick and Taylor Kilpatrick
Property: Lot 12, blk 6, Monticello Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County
Date: Dec. 13, 2022
- Warranty Deed With First and Second Vendor's Lien
Grantor: Rusella Rue Homan and Michelle Renee Homan Seghier
Grantee: Luis Eduardo Palacios Gonzalez Sr.
Property: Lot 13, blk 3, Kentwood unit 1 addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County
Date: Dec. 14, 2022
- Warranty Deed
Grantor: Justin Kaczyk
Grantee: Adre Harris and Jason

McAfee

- Property: Lot 1, blk 4, Porters Addition to the City of Big Spring, Howard County
Date: Dec. 14, 2022
- Warranty Deed With Vendor's Lien
Grantor: J Hopper Homes Inc.
Grantee: Tommy Tune and Donna S. Tune
Property: N/2 of sec 8, blk 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey, Howard County
Date: Dec. 15, 2022
- Warranty Deed With Vendor's Lien
Grantor: Annual Holdings LLC
Grantee: Amanda Brook Allen Nall
Property: Lot 2, blk 34, Cole and Strayhorn Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County
Date: Dec. 15, 2022
- Warranty Deed With Vendor's Lien
Grantor: Annual Holdings LLC
Grantee: Debrah Buchanan
Property: Lot 1, blk 34, Cole and Strayhorn Addition to the City of Big Spring, Howard County
Date: Dec. 15, 2022
- Warranty Deed With Vendor's Lien
Grantor: 2610 Cindy Ln. Series of Bridge Mountain LLC, a Nevada limited liability company
Grantee: Controlled Consulting LLC, a Wyoming limited liability company
Property: Lot 18, blk 4, Kentwood, an Addition to the City of Big Spring, Howard County

Date: Dec. 15, 2022

- Warranty Deed
Grantor: Tommy Russell and Catie Russell
Grantee: Sherole Hodnett
Property: SW sec 57, blk 20, Lavaca Navigation Co. Survey, Howard County
Date: Dec. 15, 2022
- Warranty Deed With Vendor's Lien
Grantor: Sherole Hodnett
Grantee: Tommy Russell
Property: SW Sec 57, blk 20, Lavaca Navigation Co. Survey, Howard County
Date: Dec. 15, 2022
- Warranty Deed With Vendor's Lien
Grantor: Curtis L. Bruns and Pamela L. Bruns
Grantee: Nicholas Chase rodriuez and Bree Melin Rodriguez
Property: Lot 9, blk 2, Jordan Park Estates #1, a subdivision out of sec 45, blk 32, T-1N, T&P Ry Co. survey, an addition to the City of Big Spring, Howard County
Date: Dec. 16, 2022
- Warranty Deed With Vendor's Lien
Grantor: Mateo G. Lozano and Mary J. Lozano
Grantee: L9 Holdings LLC
Property: Lot 12, blk 3, Wasson Place Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County
Date: Dec. 16, 2022

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NIL casts cloud over college football's early signing period

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Football Writer

The early signing period for college football opened Wednesday and in many ways it looked the same as usual.

There were surprising last-minute flips by blue-chip recruits, pick-a-hat commitment ceremonies held at high schools across the country and Alabama signing the nation's top-rated class.

Hanging over it all, though, was the impossible to quantify but hard to ignore influence of NIL money impacting players' decisions.

This was second signing class since the NCAA lifted a ban on college athletes being able to earn money for the use of their names, images and likenesses. There still there are no clearly defined, detailed and uniform rules regulating how third parties can pay athletes.

"I think there's major concerns with what's going on in college football," said Penn State coach James Franklin, who emphasized he supports athletes being able to cash in on NIL opportunities. "Right now, there's really no guardrails. There's not a whole lot of guidance, and there's not a whole of governance."

Penn State has a recruiting class ranked in the top 15 in the country, according to 247 Sports' composite rankings.

It is still against NCAA rules to use NIL payments as a recruiting inducement or offer pay-for-play deals. But with money and NIL deals flowing to athletes through booster-funded collectives, it seems nearly impossible for the NCAA to enforce those rules.

"We all want something if we can get it" said new Nebraska coach Matt Rhule, who returned to the college game after three years in the NFL. "You can see (NIL is) being misused and mishandled in a lot of places."

While coaches complain about bad actors, nobody names names and NIL is now part of the recruiting conversation, whether coaches like it or not.

"The reality is this day and age you have to make decisions on how you're going to handle this," Southern California coach Lincoln Riley said.

Riley said he believed USC lost recruits to other schools because of NIL deals, but he added that "everybody did."

Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said of NIL deals: "If that's the only reason they want to come to Notre Dame, we're not going to be the right place for them."

The Fighting Irish were on the short end of two surprising flips pulled off by Oregon.

The Ducks received commitments from five-star defensive back Peyton Bowen of Texas and four-star running back Jayden Limar from Washington. Both had been committed verbally — and very much nonbinding — to Notre Dame.

Oregon coach Dan Lanning and his staff also flipped four-star defensive back Daylen Austin from an LSU pledge and four-star quarterback Austin Novosad from a Baylor commitment.

"I think it's great to be in a place where you can be innovative and ahead of the curve, but I think anybody that really knows college football right now

knows there's a lot more to recruiting than NIL," Lanning said. "Nobody picks the place just because of those factors ... it goes back to relationships."

Oregon also signed five-star Matayo Uiagalelei, who picked the Ducks over Ohio State and Southern California. The California linebacker is the brother of former Clemson quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei.

The Ducks secured the top-rated class in the Pac-12 — and top 10 in the nation — despite losing out on five-star quarterback Dante Moore earlier in the week. Moore, from Michigan, was a late flip to UCLA.

Not every coach is leaning into NIL.

"We built this program on NIL. We really did," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. "It's probably different than what you're thinking, though. We built this program on God's name, image and likeness."

TIDE ON TOP

NIL might be changing recruiting, but the leaderboard of best classes looks familiar.

The Crimson Tide landed two five-star defensive linemen, Qua Russaw and James Smith, from the same Montgomery high school to lock up a class that will challenge the 2022 Texas A&M signing class for the highest score ever generated by the 247 composite.

Alabama also pulled off a late flip, getting five-star offensive lineman Kadyn Proctor from Iowa to renege on a longtime commitment to the Hawkeyes.

At a signing ceremony at his high school, Proctor told reporters he felt as if he was settling with Iowa and that NIL deals were not the deciding factor.

"It's not about the money because if people knew about the money situation, they wouldn't be talking about it," Proctor said, according to the Des Moines Register. "But I wanted to go play football at a prestigious school. (There's) a lot of competition down there and ultimately it's going to make me better."

There is more recruiting left to be done. What used to be the traditional signing day during the first week of February has now become secondary, with a few blue-chippers still on the board and the majority of scholarships already filled.

But Alabama can be declared the recruiting champions for the 10th time in the last 13 years.

LIKE A HURRICANE

Mario Cristobal's first season as Miami's coach was a 5-7 dud, filled with ugly losses.

That had no effect on the Hurricanes' first signing class with Cristobal having had a full year to recruit. If this is a glimpse of what's to come, the U. might be back soon.

Miami's class slides in behind Alabama and Georgia in the top five. It is also right there with Texas, which landed quarterback and No. 1 overall recruit Arch Manning, the nephew of Peyton and Eli Manning.

Cristobal, the former Miami offensive linemen, signed two five-star offensive tackles in Francis Mauigoa and Samson Okunlola.

"Miami used to dominate the (NFL) draft. Dominate," Cristobal said. "Signing days result in better draft days."

Titans sign 3rd QB with Tannehill nursing sprained ankle

By **TERESA M. WALKER**

AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Titans appear set to find out just how much rookie quarterback Malik Willis has grown since his previous NFL start.

With veteran Ryan Tannehill one of 17 Titans on their lengthy injury report, they also may wind up learning if the rookie can help extend their streak as AFC South champs.

Tannehill, who needed a walking boot after first spraining his right ankle Oct. 23, proved his toughness by taping up that same ankle yet again after being carted to the locker room last week and returning to finish the game. He said after the loss to the Chargers the pain he felt was at the "top reading on the pain scale."

The veteran missed both a second straight practice Wednesday and his regular session with reporters.

The Titans (7-7) signed Joshua Dobbs off the Detroit practice squad Wednesday, giving them a fourth quarterback with Kevin Hogan on the practice squad. Coach Mike Vrabel said Dobbs gives the Titans a chance to strengthen and add depth to the quarterback position.

"Obviously, with what Ryan in his situation, we'll still monitor that and try to make sure that he's doing everything he can to try to get to the game," Vrabel said. "And if not, that we have guys in here that can they'll be able to help us and develop in our system."

The Titans' lead atop the division they've won the past two seasons has dwindled to one with a four-game skid. They host the Houston Texans (1-12-1) on Saturday — the same team Willis made his first NFL start against Oct. 30 in a 17-10 win against Houston.

That day, the third-round draft pick out of Liberty threw only one pass in the second half. Derrick Henry, the two-time NFL rushing champ, led the way, running for 219 yards and two touchdowns on 32 carries. The Titans finished with 314 yards rushing — the second-best total in franchise history.

Willis also started a 20-17 overtime loss to the Chiefs in prime time in Kansas City. He came off the bench last week and was 3 of 4 for 20 yards while running once for 8 yards while Tannehill got his ankle taped up. If he gets to start against a team he's already faced, Willis said it would be a "really cool opportunity."

"I mean, yeah, my first start was against them, but not too much though matters," Willis said. "It's a little bit in the past. It's about going out there and preparing for them this week. They've been playing hard games against these last few teams they've been playing and you just got to respect them."

Offensive coordinator Todd Downing said Willis, the 86th pick overall in April, has been growing weekly in his confidence and command of the huddle. Willis has been running the scout team all season as Tannehill's backup, and Downing said he's very pleased with the progress Willis has made.

The Titans likely will need Willis' mobility Satur-

day as they try to stay ahead of Jacksonville (6-8). Houston is last in the NFL defending the run, and Willis ran for 2,131 yards and 29 touchdowns combined between stints at Auburn and Liberty.

Willis says going against a Titans' defense has helped him grow. He also says they can't expect the Texans to defend them the same way as the previous game.

Houston coach Lovie Smith warns his Texans "can't chase too many ghosts" even as they know the skillsets of both Willis and Dobbs.

"Their offense goes through their tailback no matter who the quarterback will be," Smith said.

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HERALD photos: Roger Cline
A few more photos from last weekend's Big Spring Symphony Orchestra Holiday Spectacular concert. Clockwise from left, Concertmaster John Webb leads the violins; the orchestra's low strings prepare for the concert; Conductor Dr. Keith Graumann takes a bow at the close of the show; tenor soloist Lawrence Thibeault sings The Christmas Song during the concert.



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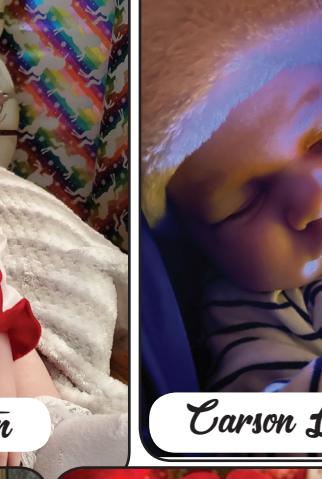
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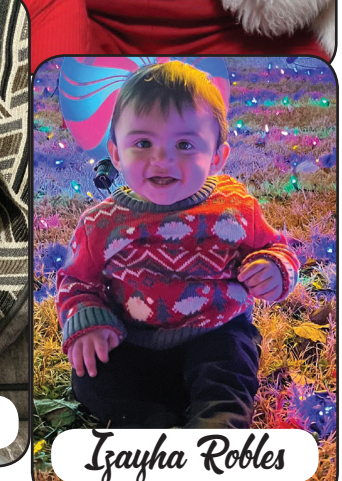
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Santa And The Grinch Meet For Breakfast At Alberto's



HERALD photos/Angela Lance
What could be better than snowman pancakes with M&M buttons on a chilly winter morning in Big Spring Texas? A visit from Santa Claus would be nice. The chubby old elf with his bag of goodies is always welcome in my book. The customers at Alberto's recently got a double treat when not only did Santa stop by, but he had help from the famously reformed Grinch from the beloved children's book "How The Grinch Stole Christmas," by Dr. Seuss. The duo entertained guests and distributed treats to patrons. Alberto's is now located at its new address 2401 S. Gregg. Merry Christmas to everyone from the Herald family.



Want this spot?
Call us today!
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"Yes, Virginia. There is a Santa Claus"

The Sun

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1897.

Is There a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN:

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says 'If you see it in 'THE SUN' it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

"VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

"115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would

be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank GOD! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

The above editorial, by Francis P. Church, first appeared in The [New York] Sun.

This reproduction of the iconic Christmas editorial submitted by The Sun in 1897 is courtesy of Newseum.com
The Big Spring Herald wishes everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Voilà! 'Emily In Paris' returns, with surprises in store

PARIS (AP) — "Emily in Paris" fans will get a few surprises in their Christmas stockings, when the third season of the hit show arrives on Netflix this Wednesday.

Even the cast were shocked by the number of cliffhangers in the new series when they first read the scripts.

"I'm like, how are we going to film all — like, what?" says Lily Collins, who portrays the titular American marketing executive making her social media presence felt in France.

"But it was a real ride. It was a real rollercoaster to shoot. And it was really fun too," she adds.

Season three provides more career choices, designer dilemmas and romantic revelations for the fashionable female lead character.

Although Lucas Bravo — who portrays Emily's full-time neighbor and sometime love interest, the chef Gabriel — reckons that she isn't the only one wrestling with problems this series.

"Before it was only Emily's chaos," says Bravo. "Now everybody has his own story with his own chaos. And it's a big soup of chaos and drama."

Season one arrived in October 2020, followed by a second last December. Three years into playing their characters, the cast members are keen to point out where their roles start and finish.

Collins — who is also an executive producer — says that she has always fit in better than Emily in France

because she actually knows the language and culture.

Which, with Emily's questionable French pronunciation, leads to tongue twisters.

"It's a little bit difficult to pretend like you don't know how to say something," Collins explains. "To mispronounce it over and over and over again, it's like ... I just want to answer it fully in French. So it is tricky."

Kate Walsh plays Emily's American boss Madeline and would like everyone to know that she has very different taste in clothing from her brash and brightly colored character.

"I would never dress like that. But I love it because it's critical to the character," Walsh says.

Likewise, Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu claims there's a stark difference between her and her role of Sylvie, Madeline's trop chic Parisian business rival.

Leroy-Beaulieu says she's nowhere near as snobbish, even though Sylvie's arrogant attitude is "so much fun."

But Bravo, in a twist, reckons that all the actors are more like their characters than they realize: "What's so good about (showrunner) Darren (Star's) casting is that he always finds, you know, actors that are the essence of the characters. So there's always a part of us in every character."

"I don't know what the differences are. I think I would own up to my mistakes a bit more than Gabriel. But we're

very similar in many ways in terms of vulnerability, femininity and sexiness in general," he jokes.

The third season will encompass 10 episodes.

"If you like chaos, you'll be served," Bravo

Spain kicks off festivities with 'El Gordo' bumper lottery

By CIARÁN GILES

MADRID (AP) — Spain kicked off the winter holidays with its huge Christmas lottery known as "El Gordo," and an unemployed Peruvian woman was among the winners of The Fat One's top 400,000-euro (\$425,000) prize Thursday.

The winning ticket number was announced in Madrid's Teatro Real opera theater, where the woman, who was identified only by her first name, Perla, was immediately surrounded by reporters during the nationally televised event.

The woman said she lost her job at a café two years ago and had bought lottery tickets "everywhere I have visited this year." She revealed she purchased the 20-euro ticket with the number 05490 that led to Thursday's win in Spain's northern Asturias region.

"I felt (the prize) it would strike me here today," she told reporters excitedly while stand-

ing beside her two children.

The woman said she planned to use her lottery proceeds, which amount to some 325,000 euros after taxes, to buy an apartment in Madrid, where her children attend primary school and to make a donation to an unspecified church.

The incredibly popular El Gordo dishes out a total of 2.5 billion euros (\$2.7 billion) in prize money, much of it in hundreds of smaller amounts. Purchasing and sharing tickets, known in Spanish as "décimos" (tenths) in the run-up to Christmas is a tradition among families, friends and co-workers, and in bars and sports and social clubs.

For weeks beforehand there are queues, even in the cold and rain, outside lottery offices, especially those which have sold prize-winning tickets in the past. Ticket sales begin months ahead - this year as early as July.

The Dec. 22 lottery began in 1812. From the beginning, children from Madrid's San Ildefonso school have called out the winning numbers.

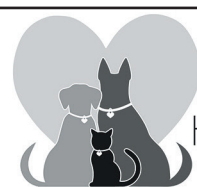
The children pick up balls showing ticket numbers and their corresponding prizes from two giant rolling drums. They sing out both figures with a rhythmic cadence that is known to everyone in Spain.

Other lotteries have bigger individual top prizes but Spain's Christmas lottery, held each year on Dec. 22, is ranked as the world's richest for the total prize money involved.

Spain established its national lottery as a charity in 1763 during the reign of King Carlos III. Its objective later became to shore up state coffers. It also helps several charities.

As in other years, the lottery produced jubilant street and bar scenes of winners laughing, dancing and singing with uncorked bottles of sparkling wine.

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Shelter Pet Spotlight



• C4 (0007) "Shimmer"

Hi, my name is Shimmer. I am a 3-year-old, female, long haired cat. I have been at the shelter since Dec. 7, 2022. I am a very pretty girl and I love, love, love attention.

Take me home and I can be the light in your life that you have been missing.



• K29 (0959) "Loki"

Hi, my name is Loki. I am a 3-year-old, male, husky.

I have been at the shelter since Sept. 7, 2022. I currently weigh 50 pounds.

I am very friendly and always want to play. I also have lots of energy.

My only downfall is that I am food aggressive and need to be fed away from other animals.

I am just waiting for my forever home.

The Big Spring Animal Shelter, 3605 E. 11th Place, is open from 1 to 4 p.m. To adopt an animal, new pet parents will need to travel to the Big Spring Police Department, show a valid driver's license, and pay any fees associated with adoption. For more information contact the shelter at 432-264-2372.

Migrants at US-Mexico border await ruling on asylum limits

By MORGAN LEE, ELLIOT SPAGAT and GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO

Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Francisco Palacios waited for four hours with his wife and 3-year-old daughter at a border crossing between Tijuana and San Diego early Wednesday before going to a nearby hotel for a three-hour nap. They came back, bags packed, only to be disappointed again.

But the family from the western Mexican city of Morelia is prepared to wait for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide whether and when to lift pandemic-era restrictions that have prevented many from seeking asylum, said Palacios.

"We don't have a choice," Palacios said in Spanish, explaining that his family arrived in Tijuana two weeks ago to escape violence and gangs that extorted them for years for a chunk of their income selling fruit from a street cart.

They're among thousands of migrants gathered along the Mexican side of the border, camping outside or packing into shelters as the weather grows colder. The limits on border crossings had been set to expire Wednesday before conservative-leaning states sought the top court's help to keep them in place. The Biden administration asked the court to lift the restrictions, but not before Christmas. It's not clear when the court's decision will come.

The Texas National Guard took up positions in El Paso, while volunteers and law enforcement officers worried that some migrants could succumb to the cold. Nighttime temperatures have been in the 30s and will be even colder in coming days. The Roman Catholic diocese of El Paso, where nighttime temperatures are forecasted to be in the 20s this week, plans to open two more shelters for up to 1,000 people at area churches.

Jhorman Morey, a 38-year-old mechanic from Venezuela, warmed his hands by a campfire with a half-dozen other migrants on the southern side of the Rio Grande. He said he was waiting for a decision on the restrictions before attempting to cross into the U.S. Other migrants waded through shallow waters toward a gate in the border fence.

"I want them to decide" on the public health rule known as Title 42, said Morey, who arrived six weeks ago in the Mexican city of Juarez, across the border from El Paso. He now rarely eats after exhausting his savings.

Hundreds of migrants remained in line in Juarez. Others slept along the concrete embankments of the Rio Grande. A nearby shelter reached its capacity Tuesday night, stranding many outside.

As crowds gathered on the banks of Rio Grande, 1st Sgt. Suzanne Ringle said one woman went into labor and was assisted by Border Patrol agents. She added many children were among the crowd.

In Tijuana, which has an estimated 5,000 migrants staying in more than 30 shelters and many more renting rooms and apartments, the border was quiet Tuesday night as word spread among would-be asylum-seekers that nothing had changed. Layered, razor-topped walls rising 30 feet (9 meters) along the border with San Diego make the area daunting for illegal crossings.

Under the restrictions, officials have expelled asylum-seekers inside the United States 2.5 million times, and turned away most people who requested asylum at the border, on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Immigration advocates have said the restrictions go against American and international obligations to people fleeing to the U.S. to escape persecution, and that the pretext is outdated as coronavirus treatments improve. They sued to end the use of Title 42; a federal judge sided with them in November and set the Dec. 21 deadline.

Conservative-leaning states appealed to the Supreme Court, warning that an increase in migration would take a toll on public services and cause an unprecedented calamity that they said the federal government had no plan to deal with.

In response, Chief Justice John Roberts issued a temporary order to keep the restrictions in place.

The federal government then asked the Supreme Court to reject the states' effort while also acknowledging that ending the restrictions abruptly will likely lead to "disruption and a temporary increase in unlawful border crossings."

States filed a response early Wednesday, arguing that letting the restrictions expire while the court reviews the lower court decision would cause "immediate, severe, and irreversible harms" to the states.

Though the Wednesday expiration date had been set weeks ago, the U.S. government asked for more time to prepare — while saying that it has sent more

resources to the border and maintaining that the solution is not to extend the rule indefinitely.

About 23,000 agents are deployed to the southern border, according to the White House. The Biden administration said it has sent more Border Patrol processing coordinators and more surveillance and has increased security at ports of entry.

Should the Supreme Court act before Friday, the government wants the restrictions in place until the end of Dec. 27. If the court acts on Friday or later, the government wants the limits to remain until the second business day following such an order.

With a decision pending, pressure has built in communities along both sides of the border.

In El Paso, Democratic Mayor Oscar Leeser warned that shelters across the border in Juarez were packed to capacity, with an estimated 20,000 migrants prepared to cross into the U.S. El Paso rushed to convert large buildings into shelters, as the Red Cross brings in 10,000 cots.

"We will continue to be prepared for whatever is coming through," Leeser said.

Texas said it was sending 400 National Guard personnel to the border city after local officials declared a state of emergency. Guard members used razor wire to cord off a gap in the border fence along a bank of the Rio Grande that became a popular crossing point for migrants who waded through shallow waters to approach immigration officials in recent days.

Title 42 allows the government to expel asylum-seekers of all nationalities, but it's disproportionately affected people from countries whose citizens Mexico has agreed to take: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and, more recently, Venezuela, in addition to Mexico.

Angela's
Brutally Honest Truth
Blog... Post... Column...
Whatever!



Morning Routine

Before kids, I'd wake up a measly thirty minutes before I was due to arrive at work. I'd do my makeup on the way, (yes, driving... Yes! I know it's not safe.) and still make it on time. Man...life was easy!

After my firstborn, I knew that thirty minutes needed to change, so I added another half-hour to my morning routine. I no longer applied makeup driving (you're welcome), I made sure there was enough time to do that at home, along with fixing my hair. As my oldest was still an infant, she was easy to get ready, too! Change her diaper, change her clothes, slap on a cute matching headband 'cuz the poor little thing didn't have any hair yet, and head out the door! You see, back then, I was super organized and prepared. I had everything packed in the diaper bag the night before, kept extra formula containers filled and within reach, and stayed stocked up on everything. But the older she got, the more that easy-going process changed.

As we approached, what most people know it as "terrible two's," and her own spunky personality grew, she had her own wardrobe rules. The one I specifically remember as the worst was her socks. If they didn't feel right, didn't fit right, didn't look right, we were NOT leaving. Period. The "two's" weren't terrible though. Three's came along and she became picky about her pants. Don't dare let any kind of pants hang off her legs. They were to suction to her calves like a leech, such as leggings or jeggings. She still prefers that type today.

Then along came my second child. There's actually a pretty good story behind the "making" of this one, but to make it short, we were trying for a boy to carry on the last name, but were gifted a spicy little red-headed girl instead! This one changed the entire morning routine. Heck....she changed the whole daily routine!

My oldest slept through the night from about four months old. This little one? She didn't sleep an entire night until after her second birthday! Morning routine? What morning (yawn) routine?

As my little one is now almost 4, (and thankfully she's a better toddler than she was as a baby) I still do not wake both girls up at the same time. Even though they're 5 1/2 years apart, they argue and fight from the time they wake up 'til the time they go to sleep! So, here's how my morning routine goes with two girls:

6:00 am - Wake up
6:05 am to 6:10-6:15 - tell my 9-year-old several times to get up and get ready.

6:10 am - attempt to start getting myself ready
6:15 am to 7:00 am - continue to tell my oldest every step of what to do, or she'll stand around talking or playing with some inanimate object.

6:45 am - wake up my wild child and get her dressed, brush her teeth, and head out the door.

...Just kidding. It's not that easy.

Rewind to 6:45 am and brushing the youngest girl's teeth. I just invested in a Sonicare toothbrush for both of my girls. The cute pink model that has interchangeable stickers and vibrates while brushing your teeth. And yes, invested, because those things cost a pretty penny! Anyway, some days she brushes her teeth herself. On the other days, she wants me to do it for her, in which she thinks her mouth is the most ticklish part of her being. You know the water misters that spray out a mist of water in the summer? That's what happens when I brush her teeth, but it's toothpaste misting out of her giggly little mouth. After that mess is cleaned, we brush hair and put on shoes and hope there's not a fight there!

Somewhere in between those busy periods of time, I manage to do the very minimal makeup and fight internally with myself about what I'm going to wear. Maybe now it's time to head out the door. But wait! Everyone thinks they need pre-breakfast snacks on the way to school! Who does that?! "Come on, GIRLS! We've got to go!" *Sigh*

Are my kids the only ones that act like turtles when you need them to be speedy? No? Thank goodness! Needless to say, by this time, I'm already exhausted and it's not even 8am! But I'm sure there's several parents out there nodding their heads and saying, "Yep! I feel that!" So in the midst of your own morning frustrations, just know you're not alone! And...I've been told that *it gets better*. Which I'm not quite sure I believe!

Texas man pleads guilty to romance scam of Missouri woman

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A Texas man pleaded guilty Monday to participating in a romance scam that bilked a Missouri woman out of \$1.2 million, federal prosecutors said.

Rotimi Oladimeji, 37, pleaded guilty to two counts of mail fraud, two counts of wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit

mail fraud and wire fraud.

As part of his plea, Oladimeji admitted that he and others persuaded a St. Louis woman to send money to a man she was communicating with online, who claimed to be a Belgian national living in St. Louis.

The scammers claimed the man needed money because he was

not being allowed to leave the United Arab Emirates, where he had gone for a business deal.

The victim sent or attempted to send \$931,000 to her scammers, prosecutors said. She also sent about \$314,000 to two men in Texas who were given the funds in exchange for a cut of the money, according to the plea.

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Announcements

Homemade stock trailer picked up in middle of Centerpoint and CR 29 N. No VIN, no plate. Picked up on 12/8/2022. Must have proof of ownership.

Help Wanted



We are looking for an outgoing, ambitious individual to fill a FULL TIME POSITION at the Big Spring Herald!

Responsibilities and Duties:
Selling newspaper advertising, magazine and digital products in-person, by phone and/or email.

Qualifications and Skills:
Computer, digital and social media knowledge, organization, creativity and strong people skills is a plus. Must have reliable transportation, liability insurance, and a valid driver's license.

Bring resume to Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry or email angela@bigspringherald.com

City of Jayton hiring for Water/Wastewater operator. Licensed is desired but not required to start. Call city hall at 806-237-3822.

Items for Sale



For Sale: Lighted Christmas Poinsettias, Cactus, Trees, and more decorations of all sizes. Call 432-935-5307 or 432-816-2922 or come by 1433 Hilltop Rd.

Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent of Administration for the Estate of Retha Taylor, Deceased were issued to Belinda Kay Hall on November 3, 2022 in Cause No. P15361, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Big Spring, Texas, to Belinda Kay Hall of San Angelo, Texas.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All claims should be addressed in care of the Dependent Administrator's attorney, Rae Leifeste, at 123 S. Irving Street, San Angelo, Texas 76903.

DATED this the 19th day of December 2022.

Rae Leifeste, Attorney

/s/ Rae Leifeste

ATTORNEY FOR BELINDA KAY HALL, DEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF RETHA TAYLOR, DECEASED

Public Notice

Notice of Application For Fluid Injection Well Permit

Rover Petroleum Operating, LLC, 1255 West 15th Street, Suite 700, Plano, TX 75075 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject water into a formation productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation, into the Kloh Lease, Well no. 54, combining the upper and lower completions. The proposed injection well is located 13 miles North of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock (Consolidated) Field in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000' TO 2600' TVD.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information should be submitted in writing within 15 days of publication to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capital Station, Austin, TX 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792)

Vehicles

Three vehicles for sale: 2004 GMC Envoy 124,000 miles - \$4,500 obo 2007 F-150 with 180,000 miles - \$4,500 obo 1996 Dodge F-250 with 160,000 miles - \$3,500 obo Call (432) 816-6839 for more information.

Legal Notice

Notice of Public Sale to satisfy Landlord's Lien. Sale to be held online at www.selfstorageauktion.com. Facility is located at 409 E 23rd. St, Big Spring, TX 79720. Bidding will conclude January 15, 2023. Cleanup Deposit required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at anytime before sale. Unit items sold as is to higher bidder.

Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenants:

Justin Stilwell, Unit 189 - Furniture, General Household Goods

Victoria Yvonne Armstrong, Unit 177 - Furniture, General Household Goods

Victoria Yvonne Armstrong, Unit 49 - Furniture, General Household Goods

Rebecca Smith, Unit 46 - Medical Equipment, Storage Containers

Mona Baker, Unit 28 - Clothing, Furniture, General Household Goods

Lavista Palms, Unit 214 - Furniture, General Household Goods

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Bring resume to Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry or email angela@bigspringherald.com

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MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

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Three vehicles for sale: 2004 GMC Envoy 124,000 miles - \$4,500 obo 2007 F-150 with 180,000 miles - \$4,500 obo 1996 Dodge F-250 with 160,000 miles - \$3,500 obo Call (432) 816-6839 for more information.

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Today in HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2022. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 24, 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast.

On this date:

In 1814, the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 following ratification by both the British Parliament and the U.S. Senate.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tennessee, that was the original version of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1906, Canadian physicist Reginald A. Fessenden became the first person to transmit the human voice (his own) as well as music over radio, from Brant Rock, Massachusetts.

In 1913, 73 people, most of them children, died in a crush of panic after a

false cry of "Fire!" during a Christmas party for striking miners and their families at the Italian Hall in Calumet, Michigan.

In 1914, during World War I, impromptu Christmas truces began to take hold along parts of the Western Front between British and German soldiers.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written specifically for television, was broadcast by NBC-TV.

In 1990, actor Tom Cruise married his "Days of Thunder" co-star, Nicole Kidman, during a private ceremony at a Colorado ski resort (the marriage ended in 2001).

In 1992, President Bush pardoned former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and five others in the Iran-Contra scandal.

In 2013, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II granted a posthumous pardon to code-breaker Alan Turing, who was convicted of homosexual behavior in the 1950s.

In 2020, Bethlehem ushered in Christmas Eve with a stream of joyous marching bands and the triumphant arrival of the top Catholic clergyman in the Holy Land, but few people were there to greet them as the pandemic and a strict lockdown dampened celebrations. Just a week before the deadline, Britain and the European Union struck a free-trade deal that would avert economic chaos on New Year's and bring a measure of certainty for businesses after years of Brexit turmoil.

Ten years ago: An Afghan policewoman walked into a high-security compound in Kabul and killed an American contractor, the first such shooting by a woman in a spate of insider attacks by Afghans against their foreign allies. An ex-con gunned down two firefighters in Webster, New York, after luring them to his suburban Rochester neighborhood by setting a car and a house ablaze, then took shots at police and committed suicide as seven homes burned down. Death claimed actors Charles Durning, 89, and Jack Klugman, 90.

Five years ago: Peru's president announced that he had granted a medical pardon to jailed former strongman Alberto Fujimori, 79, who had been

serving a 25-year sentence for human rights abuses, corruption and the sanctioning of death squads. In Christmas eve remarks, Pope Francis likened the journey to Bethlehem by Mary and Joseph to the migrations of millions of people today who are forced to leave homelands for a better life, or just to survive.

One year ago: Around the world, the surging coronavirus dampened Christmas Eve festivities for a second year, with travel plans disrupted and churches canceled or scaling back services. Airlines canceled hundreds of flights as the omicron variant jumbled schedules and drew down staffing levels at some carriers during the busy holiday travel season. Drummers and bagpipers marched through Bethlehem to smaller than usual crowds after new Israeli travel restrictions aimed at slowing the highly contagious omicron variant kept international tourists away. Pope Francis celebrated Christmas Eve Mass before an estimated 2,000 people in St. Peter's Basilica, going ahead with the service despite the resurgence in COVID-19 cases that had prompted a new vaccine mandate for Vatican employees.

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SUNDAY

	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLT 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	KWWT 14 Odessa	KOSA2 16 Midland	WTBS 33 Atlanta	TNT 34 Atlanta	ESPN 35 Sports	ESPN2 36 Sports	BSN 38 Sports	USA 55 New York	A&E 58 New York	DISC 60 Discovery		
5 :AM	Paid Prog.	Los González	Open House	Paid Prog.	Programa	Whacked	Light of the Southwest	Mister Rogers	Paid Prog.	Identity Theft	Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	(4:00) A Christmas...	SportsCenter	Don't Ever Give Up	MyBiotin	Law-SVU "End Game"	Paid Prog.	Seasons		
5 :30	Paid Prog.	Los González	Animal Rescue	Paid Prog.	Programa	Film Flickers	Light of the Southwest	The Cat in the Hat Kn...	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	(4:00) A Christmas...	SportsCenter	Last Dan. Episode 7	Outdoors	Law & Order: SVU	Potter	World Today		
6 :AM	Charles Stanley	Programa	Texans	Paid Prog.	Programa	Texas Politics	Light of the Southwest	Let's Go Luna	Hollywood	Paid Prog.	Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	(4:00) A Christmas...	SportsCenter	Last Dan. Episode 7	Football	Law & Order: SVU	Triple Digit Flip	Destroyed Elite		
7 :AM	Good Morning America	Como dice el dicho	Insight: Fay Faith Avenue	1st Baptist Midland	Programa	Parade Midland	The Essentials	Designing Tomorrow	Homeowner	Charles Starley	Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	(4:00) A Christmas...	SportsCenter	Last Dan. Episode 8	Texans	Law-SVU "Runaway"	Triple Digit Flip	Destroyed Ocean Legacy		
8 :AM	Leading	Despierta América en domingo	FOX News Sunday	CBS News Sunday Morning	Programa	Sunday Today	HaYesod	Nature Cat: A Nature Carol	Real Green	Key of David	Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	(4:00) A Christmas...	SportsCenter	Last Dan. Episode 9	Paid Prog.	(:55) Law-SVU "Lead"	Triple Digit Flip	Dirty Jobs		
9 :AM	Disney Parks Magical Christmas Day Parade	Aquí y ahora	Faith	Around Texas	Programa	Meet the Press	On Wings o	Our Messiah is	Wild Kratts-Creature	Traveler	Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	(4:00) A Christmas...	SportsCenter	Last Dan. Episode 10	Mavericks	Cowboys	(:50) Law & Order: SVU	Zombie House Flipping	Dirty Jobs	
10 :AM	NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at New York Knicks	Republika deportiva	La rosa de Guadalupe	Postgame	The NFL Today	Movie: A Dog's Journey ('19) Kathryn Prescott, Betty Gilpin.	To Be Announced	Update News	R. Booker Way-Master	Nutraker Reimagined	Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	(4:00) A Christmas...	NBA Countdown	E60	Texans	Texans 360	(:45) Law & Order: SVU	Zombie House Flipping	Dirty Jobs	
11 :AM	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Dallas Mavericks	República deportiva	La rosa de Guadalupe	Postgame	The NFL Today	Movie: A Dog's Journey ('19) Kathryn Prescott, Betty Gilpin.	To Be Announced	Update News	R. Booker Way-Master	Nutraker Reimagined	Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	(4:00) A Christmas...	NBA Countdown	E60	Texans	Texans 360	(:45) Law & Order: SVU	Zombie House Flipping	Dirty Jobs	
12 :AM	NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Golden State Warriors	Amor en Navidad	La rosa de Guadalupe	College Basketball DePaul at Creighton	NFL Football Denver Broncos at Los Angeles Rams	Movie: A Dog's Journey ('19) Kathryn Prescott, Betty Gilpin.	To Be Announced	Update News	R. Booker Way-Master	Nutraker Reimagined	Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	(4:00) A Christmas...	NBA Countdown	E60	Texans	Texans 360	(:45) Law & Order: SVU	Zombie House Flipping	Dirty Jobs	
1 :PM	NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets	Maria de Todos	Noticiero	Pawn Stars	TMZ's Merry Eflin' Christmas	60 Minutes	Exaltón Estados Unidos: All-Stars	(:15) NFL Football Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Arizona Cardinals	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Movie: The Wizard of Oz ('39)	(:15) Movie: The Wizard of Oz ('39)	Movie	College Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
2 :PM	NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets	Maria de Todos	Noticiero	Pawn Stars	TMZ's Merry Eflin' Christmas	60 Minutes	Exaltón Estados Unidos: All-Stars	(:15) NFL Football Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Arizona Cardinals	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Movie: The Wizard of Oz ('39)	(:15) Movie: The Wizard of Oz ('39)	Movie	College Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
3 :PM	NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets	Maria de Todos	Noticiero	Pawn Stars	TMZ's Merry Eflin' Christmas	60 Minutes	Exaltón Estados Unidos: All-Stars	(:15) NFL Football Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Arizona Cardinals	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Movie: The Wizard of Oz ('39)	(:15) Movie: The Wizard of Oz ('39)	Movie	College Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball
4 :AM	Magnum P.I.	Vecinos	Big Bang	CBS 7	Noticias T	News	Creation	McCarthy	Reporter	On The Walls	Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	(:15) Movie: A Christmas Story ('83)	SportsCenter	30 for 30	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Ghost"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	
5 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
6 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
7 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
8 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
9 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
10 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
11 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
12 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
1 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
2 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
3 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	
4 :AM	ABC World News Now	Como dice el dicho	The Simpsons	(:05) CBS Overnight News	Movie: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure	The Rookie "Manhunt"	Light of the Southwest	Midwife "Holiday Special"	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	(:15) Movie: Alice Through the Looking Glass ('16)	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU "Lead"	(:05) Customer	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	

Today in HISTORY

Today is Sunday, Dec. 25, the 359th day of 2022. There are six days left in the year. This is Christmas Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 25, 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey, during the American Revolutionary War.

On this date:

- In A.D. 336, the first known commemoration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.
- In 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned King of England.
- In 1818, "Silent Night (Stille Nacht)" was publicly performed for the first time during the Christmas Midnight Mass at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.
- In 1926, Hirohito became emperor of Japan, succeeding his father, Emperor Yoshihito.
- In 1946, comedian W.C. Fields died in Pasadena, California, at age 66.
- In 1977, comedian Sir Charles Chaplin died in Switzerland at age 88.

In 1989, ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo) and his wife, Elena, were executed following a popular uprising. Former baseball manager Billy Martin, 61, died in a traffic accident near Binghamton, New York.

In 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

In 1999, space shuttle Discovery's astronauts finished their repair job on the Hubble Space Telescope and released it back into orbit.

In 2003, 16 people were killed by mudslides that swept over campgrounds in California's San Bernardino Valley. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv) survived a second assassination bid in 11 days, but 17 other people were killed.

In 2009, passengers aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253 foiled an attempt to blow up the plane as it was landing in Detroit by seizing Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (OO'-mahr fah-ROOK' ahb-DOOL'-moo-TAH'-lahb), who tried to set off explosives in his underwear. (Abdulmutallab later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2020, a recreational vehicle parked in the deserted streets of downtown Nashville exploded early Christmas morning, damaging dozens of buildings, causing widespread communications outages and grounding holiday travel at the city's airport; investigators later determined that the bomber, a 63-year-old Nashville-area man, was killed in the explosion.

Ten years ago: In his Christmas message to the world, Pope Benedict XVI called for an end to the slaughter in Syria and for more meaningful negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, while encouraging more religious freedom under China's new leaders. Chicago mobster Frank Calabrese Sr., 75, died at a federal prison in North Carolina.

Five years ago: In his traditional Christmas message, Pope Francis called for a two-state solution in the Middle East, and prayed that confrontation could be overcome on the Korean Peninsula. Harsh winter weather gripped much of the country on Christmas, with bitter cold in the Midwest and a blizzard moving into New England. Russian election officials formally barred opposition leader Alexei Navalny from running for president, prompting him to call for a boycott of the March, 2018 vote.

One year ago: NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, the world's largest and most powerful space telescope, rocketed away from French Guiana in South America on a quest to behold light from the first stars and galaxies and scour the universe for hints of life. Airlines canceled hundreds of flights as staffing issues tied to COVID-19 disrupted holiday celebrations during one of the busiest travel times of the year. Pope Francis used his Christmas Day address to pray for an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

Today's Birthdays: Author Anne Roiphe is 87. Actor Hanna Schygulla (SHEE'-goo-lah) is 79. R&B singer John Edwards (The Spinners) is 78. Actor Gary Sandy is 77. Singer Jimmy Buffett is 76. Pro and College Football Hall-of-Famer Larry Csonka is 76. Country singer Barbara Mandrell is 74. Actor Sissy Spacek is 73. Blues singer/guitarist Joe Louis Walker is 73. Former White House adviser Karl Rove is 72. Actor CCH Pounder is 70. Singer Annie Lennox is 68. Reggae singer-musician Robin Campbell (UB40) is 68. Country singer Steve Wariner is 68. Singer Shane MacGowan (The Pogues, The Popes) is 65. Baseball Hall of Famer Ricky Henderson is 64. The former chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, Christina Romer, is 64. Actor Klea Scott is 54. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is 51. Rock musician Noel Hogan (The Cranberries) is 51. Singer Dido is 51. Rock singer Mac Powell (Third Day) is 50. R&B singer Ryan Shaw is 42. Country singer Alecia Elliott is 40. Pop singers Jess and Lisa Origliasso (The Veronicas) are 38. Actor Perdita Weeks is 37. Rock singer-musician Lukas Nelson (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 34.

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Biden tells Zelenskyy: 'It's an honor to be by your side'

By **ZEKE MILLER, LISA MASCARO and E. EDUARDO CASTILLO**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy paid a defiant wartime visit to Washington on Wednesday to thank U.S. leaders and “ordinary Americans” for their support in fighting off Russia’s invasion and pledged there would be “no compromises” in trying to bring an end to the war. President Joe Biden and Congress responded with billions in new assistance and a pledge to help Ukraine pursue a “just peace.”

Biden welcomed Zelenskyy to the Oval Office, saying the U.S. and Ukraine would continue to project a “united defense” as Russia wages a “brutal assault on Ukraine’s right to exist as a nation.”

Zelenskyy, on his first known trip outside his country since Russia invaded in February, said he wanted to visit earlier and his visit now showed the “situation is under control, because of your support.”

“For me as a president, ‘just peace’ is no compromises,” Zelenskyy told reporters. He said the war would end once Ukraine’s sovereignty, freedom and territorial integrity were restored, as well as the “payback for all the damages inflicted by Russian aggression.”

The highly sensitive trip was taking place after 10 months of a brutal war that has seen tens of thousands of casualties on both sides and devastation for Ukrainian civilians.

Zelenskyy’s visit was meant to reinvigorate support for his country in the U.S. and around the world, amid concerns that allies are growing weary of the costly war and its disruption to global food and energy supplies. Just before his arrival, the U.S. announced its largest single delivery of arms to Ukraine, including Patriot surface-to-air missiles, and Congress planned to vote on a spending package that includes about \$45 billion in emergency assistance to Ukraine.

Russia, Biden said, is “trying to use winter as a weapon, but Ukrainian people continue to inspire the world.” Later, in a joint news conference, he said Russian President Vladimir Putin has “no intention of stopping this cruel war.”

Biden said it is “important for the American people, and for the world, to hear directly from you, Mr President, about Ukraine’s fight, and the need to continue to stand together through 2023.”

After the White House meeting, the Ukrainian president was scheduled to give an address to Congress in the evening, which Vice President Kamala Harris would attend.

Zelenskyy headed abroad after making a daring and dangerous trip Tuesday to what he called the hottest spot on the 1,300-kilometer (800-mile) front line of the war, the city of Bakhmut in Ukraine’s contested Donetsk province. He praised Ukrainian troops for their “courage, resilience and strength” as artillery boomed in the background.

Poland’s private broadcaster, TVN24, said Zelenskyy crossed into Poland early Wednesday on his way to Washington.

The station showed footage of what appeared to be Zelenskyy arriving at a train station and being escorted to a motorcade of American SUVs. TVN24 said the video, partially blurred for security reasons, was shot in Przemysl, a Polish border town that has been the arrival point for many refugees fleeing the war.

Officials, citing security concerns, were cagey about Zelenskyy’s travel plans, but a U.S. official confirmed that Zelenskyy arrived on a U.S. Air Force jet that landed at Joint Base Andrews, just outside the capital, from the Polish city of Rzeszow.

Biden told Zelenskyy, who wore a combat-green sweatshirt and boots during their Oval Office meeting, that “it’s an honor to be by your side.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in her invitation to Zelenskyy to speak to lawmakers, said “the fight for Ukraine is the fight for democracy itself” and that they were looking forward to “hearing your inspiring message of unity, resilience and determination.”

U.S. and Ukrainian officials have made clear they do not envision an imminent resolution to the war and are preparing for fighting to continue for some time. The latest infusion of U.S. money would be the biggest yet — and exceed Biden’s \$37 billion request.

Biden has repeated that while the U.S. will arm and train Ukraine, American forces will not be directly engaged in the war.

Biden and Zelenskyy first discussed the idea of a visit during a telephone call on Dec. 11, with a formal invitation following three days later, according to a senior U.S. administration official.

Zelenskyy accepted the invitation on Friday and it was confirmed on Sunday, when the White House began coordinating with Pelosi to arrange the congressional address.

The White House consulted with Zelenskyy on security, including the risk of Russian action while he was briefly out of the country, said the official, who declined to detail the measures taken to safeguard the Ukrainian leader.

The official briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the visit.

The \$1.85 billion U.S. military aid package will include, for the first time, a Patriot missile battery and precision guided bombs for its fighter jets, U.S. officials said. It represents an expansion in the kinds of advanced weaponry intended to bolster Ukraine’s air defenses against what has been an increasing barrage of Russian missiles.

Russia’s Foreign Ministry has said the delivery of the advanced surface-to-

air missile system would be considered a provocative step and that the system and any crews accompanying it would be a legitimate target for Moscow’s military.

It was unclear when the Patriot battery would arrive on the front lines in Ukraine, given that U.S. troops will have to train Ukrainian forces. The training could take several weeks and is expected to be done in Germany.

The visit comes at an important moment, with the White House bracing for greater resistance when Republicans take control of the House in January and give more scrutiny to aid for Ukraine.

GOP leader Kevin McCarthy of California has said his party will not write a “blank check” for Ukraine.

Biden and Zelenskyy frequently have talked by phone, with Biden praising Ukraine for remaining steadfast against the Russians and Zelenskyy thanking the U.S. president for support.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer opened the chamber’s session by saying that passage of the aid package and confirmation of the new U.S. ambassador to Russia, Lynne M. Tracy, would send a strong signal that Americans stand “unequivocally” with Ukraine. Tracy was confirmed later on a 93-2 vote.

Schumer, a New York Democrat, said Zelenskyy arrives not only as a president but an “ambassador to freedom itself.”

The Senate’s top Republican, Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, said “the most basic reasons for continuing to help Ukraine degrade and defeat the Russian invaders are cold, hard, practical American interests.” He said “defeating Russia’s aggression will help prevent further security crises in Europe.”

Russia’s invasion, which began Feb. 24, has lost momentum. The illegally annexed provinces of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia remain fiercely contested.

With the fighting in the east at a stalemate, Moscow has used missiles and drones to attack Ukraine’s power equipment, hoping to leave people without electricity as freezing weather sets in.

In a video released by his office from the Bakhmut visit, Zelenskyy was handed a signed Ukrainian flag and alluded to delivering it to U.S. leaders. “We are grateful for their support, but it is not enough,” he said. “It is a hint — it is not enough.”

Volodymyr Fesenko, head of the Kyiv-based Penta Center think tank, said Zelenskyy’s visit to the U.S. “should determine the course of the war — Zelenskyy for the first time dared to leave Ukraine and is counting on being able to maintain, and possibly even strengthen, U.S. military and economic assistance.”

Hanna Danylovyh, 43, who lives in Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, and works as a scientist, welcomed the prospect of additional military supplies, saying “there is a great desire and dream to speed up the removal of Russian evil from our land.”

Putin on Wednesday told his country’s military leaders that Russia will achieve its stated goals in Ukraine and use the combat experience to strengthen its military.

His defense minister, Sergei Shoigu, said Russia’s military must be expanded from the current 1 million to 1.5 million during the fighting in Ukraine.

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SANDY COMICS

Agnes

by TONY COCHRAN

GRANDMA... DO YOU LIKE YOUR GIFT?

I LOVE IT.

IT WAS ONCE A FOOT MASSAGER... BUT I COULD NOT GET IT TO WORK.

OH... WHAT IS IT NOW?

I CALL IT A DUAL TROUGH CEREAL BOWL.

WOW... THE CORD IS A PERFECT SPOON TETHER!

Archie

HO! HO!

... OH!

HERE COMES ARCHIE!

OH, NO!

I KNOW HE'S GOING TO CREATE SOME SORT OF DISASTER!

HI, EVERYBODY! I... WHOOPS!

BUMP! CRASH! CLATTER!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, ARCHIE!

DADDY! YOU'RE NOT ANGRY?

HOW CAN I BE MAD AT ANYONE WHO LOOKS SO FESTIVE?

ONE BIG HAPPY

ANDY CAPP

WHAT DID THOSE KIDS WANT EARLIER, FLO?

THEY ASKED FOR A TOMATO TO USE AS A NOSE FOR THE SNOWMAN THEY ARE MAKING

DURHAM STREET

LOOK AT ALL THE PRESENTS!

WOW!

A GIFT FOR YOU AND MOM...

AND SOME FOR WILLIE!

SANTA HID GIFTS ALL OVER THE PLACE!

A PRESENT FOR JAMES... AND MORE FOR US!

LOOK WHAT I FOUND DOWNSTAIRS!

WHY DID SANTA DO IT THIS WAY?

I KNOW WHY!

HE'S GOTTEN KIND OF CHUBBY AND NEEDS THE EXERCISE!

SHH!

I'VE PUT THE CHRISTMAS BOOZE OUT FOR TODAY, ANDY

VERY NICE, FLO. I'LL CHECK IT OUT

LOOKS GOOD, PET. BUT WHAT ARE OUR GUESTS GOING TO DRINK?

MOMMA

by MELL LAZARUS

GOOD EVENING, SONYA HOBBS! I'VE CHECKED MY RECORDS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR...

?

-AND IT SEEMS YOU RUINED MARYLOU'S PLANS TO MOVE IN WITH ONE OR ANOTHER OF HER BOYFRIENDS YOU CAN'T STAND.

YOU ALSO DRAGGED YOUR YOUNGER SON - KICKING AND SCREAMING - TO NO LESS THAN TWELVE JOB INTERVIEWS.

1a-25

YOU ALSO EMBARRASSED YOUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW INTO CLEANING HER KITCHEN ON FIVE SEPARATE OCCASIONS...

-AND YOU BADGERED YOUR MARRIED SON NOT TO WASTE HIS HARD-EARNED MONEY ON HIS WIFE'S STUPID TENNIS LESSONS!...

-ALL OF WHICH MOVES ME TO GIVE YOU THIS PERFECT GIFT...

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MRS. HOBBS!

...SIGH... THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS!

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by Ralph Hagen

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