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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY EDITION,
 DECEMBER 21, 2021

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Upcoming Events

Big Spring's Festival of Lights Christmas display in Comanche Trail Park, featuring more than 1 million light bulbs and Big Spring's famous lighted poinsettias on the dam, is open nightly from 6 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 25.

Enter at the north entrance on U.S. Highway 87, across from Wal-Mart.

Senior Citizens Dances are held the third Friday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center. The next dance is Jan. 21. Entry fee is \$5 and includes a snack. For more information call 517-9097.

Salvation Army needs help to reach Christmas red kettle goal

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Herald Staff Writer

Big Spring residents have always dug deep to help the local Salvation Army continue its good work in our community, but the organization's head, Major Dean Moretz, told the *Big Spring Herald* Monday that this year's Red Kettle campaign is running short this year.

Moretz said this year's goal is \$60,000, and thus far the kettles and bell-ringers have collected about \$47,000.

"Our kettles keep going until the 24th of December. That's where we're at right now. We'll have volunteers manning our kettles periodically for the next four days. They'll be at Wal-Mart and at Porter's at different times. We only have two full-time bell ringers."

Moretz said the money raised in the Red Kettle campaign each year is used to fund Salvation Army operations for the entire year.

"We have a food pantry at the Corps, feeding folks in the community. We help, depending on whether we have funding or not, with utilities and things like that,



HERALD photo/Roger Cline
The commanders of Big Spring's Salvation Army post, Majors Dean and Pam Moretz, pose in the headquarters' food pantry.

providing services for people," Moretz said. "I have to be careful how I word that because, you know, we don't have funds to help everybody. When we run out, we run out. We try to budget it throughout the year."

The local Salvation Army has several children's programs as well. "We have the Boys and Girls Club in our command, and in the summer we have summer camp and also we have summer day camp through the Boys and Girls Club," Moretz said.

Salvation Army was started by William Booth in London in 1865, according to the organization's website, "...as a means to help the suffering souls throughout London who were not willing to attend - or even welcomed into - a traditional church." In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee noticed many poor people in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he decided to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute and poverty-stricken.

See **KETTLE**, Page 3

Big Spring's two Rotary Clubs present bikes, books to perfect attendance students



Courtesy photos
The Big Spring Rotary Club (left) and Greater Big Spring Rotary Club presented dictionaries to students with perfect attendance at Forsan, Coahoma and Big Spring schools, whose names were also placed into drawings to win new bicycles. Good job on earning perfect attendance, students!



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Carriers bring news, connect readers to the world

By **CARRIE HARVELL**
 Herald Assistant Circulation Manager

Think of the world's exhilarating jobs: firefighters, safari guides, secret agents! Each day must be an action-packed escape worth front-page treatment. While these gigs are surely full of adrenaline, there is one day job that is just as full of adrenalin...a newspaper carrier!

Many people are dedicated to their jobs, but few match a dedicated newspaper carrier. Even with social media, there are still those who love to hold a newspaper in their hands.

Most people think that a newspaper carrier's job starts and ends by throwing a paper into the customer's yard; that is not the case. Delivering newspapers is not for everyone. The hours and demanding nature of the job can get to newspaper carriers from time to time.

Originally, a newspaper carrier was a boy - often an older child or adolescent - who delivered newspapers to homes, offices or businesses on a regular route, usually by walking or riding a bike. In the heyday of print newspapers in the early 20th Century, this was often a young person's first job, often done before or after school. Some very famous

people were once newspaper carriers:

- Walt Disney started delivering 600 papers a day when he was nine, and by the time he stopped at 15, he was delivering 700 papers. To get them all delivered by the time school started, he had to get up at 3 a.m.

- America's 46th president, Joe Biden, used a childhood paper route to hone his people skills. Biden had a noticeable stutter. To make small talk with his customers go better, he would anticipate the conversations to come and then rehearse some sentences.

- Bob Hope helped support his family as a paperboy. He said, "At eight, I had a paper route; at 12, I worked in a butcher shop; at 18, I was on the road singing and dancing; at 19, I was back on a paper route."

- Warren Buffet, one of the richest men in the world, got his start delivering newspapers at the age of 14. He filed his first tax return and knew he could write off the cost of his watch and various bicycle

repairs as business expenses.

Most newspaper carriers today are adults with cars; or, in the case of one of our carriers, a motorcycle. Most are doing two jobs, or are retired and trying to supplement their incomes. They are not employed by The Herald; they are independent contractors. The job pays per paper per day, therefore

See **CARRIERS**, Page 3



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Omega Ratliff Middleton



MOULTRIE, GA.- Omega Ratliff Middleton, 78, of Moultrie, passed away Dec 19, 2021, at Colquitt Regional Medical Center.

Funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, Dec 22, 2021, at Cobb Funeral Chapel, with the Reverend Josh Myrick officiating. Interment will follow in Cobb-Suncrest Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at Cobb Funeral Chapel.

Casketbearers will be Randy Milam and Danny Morris.

Born Mar 5, 1943, in Big Spring, Texas, she was the daughter of the late Joe Herman Ratliff and Zeldia Modene Singleton Ratliff. Mrs. Middleton was a

retired teacher from J.M. Odom School and a member of Calvary Baptist Church. She loved her family, friends and enjoyed getting together and spending time with one another. Mrs. Middleton was a wonderful schoolteacher that impacted the lives of countless students that she loved and taught.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Blanche Miller; brother, Dearvin Ratliff, John Weldon Ratliff.

Survivors include her husband, Charles Luther Middleton of Moultrie; children, Stacey Dean Middleton and wife Elizabeth, Charles Keith Middleton and wife Dena Amison-Middleton; grandchildren, Anna Marie Middleton, Melissa Middleton; brother, Edell Ratliff of Clyde, Texas.

Cobb Funeral Chapel has been entrusted with arrangements. Please sign the online guestbook at www.cobbfuneralchapel.com.

Paid Obituary

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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

• Caregivers Support Group, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are held at the Senior Citizens Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. These meetings are open for any caregiver, whether medical professional or family member. For more information, please call Becky Letz at 267-1628.

• Al-anon family group meets at 8 p.m. at 615 Settles.

• DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible? There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burham at 267-6344 for information

on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

WEDNESDAY

• Celebrate Recovery meets at First United Methodist Church Youth Hall, 400 Scurry, from 6-8 p.m. Hurts, habits and hang-ups. Leave message for Joyce Webb at 325-212-860

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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

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

• Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org, or call 432-268-3003.

• GriefShare is a biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group

discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support); there is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held three times per year on Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the GriefShare Ministry of TBC Facebook page. You can also call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

FRIDAY

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Fridays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

MONDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees It, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Take Note

• Food distribution at Three Angels Food Pantry is held every third Tuesday of the month at the Big Spring Seventh-Day Adventist Church, located at 4319 Parkway Rd. Food is provided by the West Texas Food Bank. People will need to bring ID and plastic bags, and answer a few questions to pick up food. The food pantry also has a Facebook page where they will post any updates. <https://www.facebook.com/healthynuggetsofgold44>.

• Senior Citizens Dances are held the third Friday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center. The next dance is Jan. 21, 2022. Music will be Western style. Entry fee is \$5 and includes a snack. For more information call 517-9097.

• The Big Spring Art Association is looking for community businesses to display pieces of their artwork. In an effort to build awareness for the importance of the arts and highlight local talent,

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 92 inmates at the time of this report.

• **ERICA LEIGH CERVANTES**, 43, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of theft of property more than \$100 less than \$750.

• **HOWARD FOSTER**, 45, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

• **KLARISSA ZITA FRANCO**, 22, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of Driving while intoxicated.

• **SERGIO HERNANDEZ**, 36, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container.

• **STEVEN GLEN HILDEBRAND**, 53, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of indecent exposure.

• **EDUARDO MEIJA**, 28, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **BRITTANY NICOLE OWEN**, 28, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of expired registration x3, fail to maintain financial responsibility, driving while license invalid x2, expired drivers license.

• **CALEB EDWIN PADDIE**, 29, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of fraud, violation of probation. Possession of controlled substance, possession of controlled substance less than 1g.

• **ROD LEE PUGA**, 59, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid, fail to maintain financial responsibility, driving while license invalid, evading arrest detention.

• **PATRICIA M RIOS**, 23, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of fail to maintain financial responsibility, violate promise to appear.

• **TERESA GONZALES VELA**, 44, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of theft of property more than \$100 less than \$750.

• **DAVID YBARRA JR**, 35, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid, assault causes bodily injury family.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of S 2nd St. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **PUBLIC SERVICE** was reported in the 2100 block of Val Verde Rd. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Barnes. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of W 10th St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Wood St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of S Lancaster. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **EDUARDO MESPAN**, Laredo was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **PATRICIA MERNOLAN** St was arrested on a charge of bail jumping/failure to appear/fine only, failed to maintain financial responsibility.

• **ERICA LEIGH CERVANTES**, 43, of 3805 Conally was arrested on a charge of theft of property more than \$100 less than \$750 shoplifting,

• **TERESA GONZALES VELA**, 44, of 204 NW 2nd St was arrested on a charge of theft of property more than \$100 less than \$750 shoplifting.

• **STEVEN GLEN HILDEBRAND**, 53, of 804 Andree St was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct exposing genital/anus in public.

• **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the 600 block of W 3rd.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 400 block of Tubb Loop Rd.

• **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 900 block of Willia St.

• **JIA**, 28, of 3901 Calle Tuxtedo on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **CEED RIOS**, 23, of 511 on a charge of bail jumping/fine only, failed to maintain financial responsibility.

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Rick Nunez Publisher/Advertising Mgr. Ext. 250
Dustin Pope Managing Editor..... Ext. 230
Robert Smith Circulation Manager..... Ext. 252
Angela Lance Sr. Advertising Executive.....Ext. 255

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MEMBER 2021

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KETTLE

Continued from Page 1

Wondering how to fund the feast, he remembered his days as a sailor in Liverpool, England, where there was a large iron kettle on the harbor called

“Simpson's Pot” where those passing by could toss loose change to help the poor. McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing on Market Street in San Francisco, along with a sign reading “Keep the Pot Boiling.” He soon had the money he needed for the Christmas Dinner. In just six years, the fundraising idea spread across the entire conti-

ment, including a kettle fundraiser in Boston. That year, the nationwide effort funded 150,000 Christmas dinners for the needy. Today, the Red Kettle campaign, along with the traditional bell-ringer attendants, are local Salvation Army's largest fundraisers for the year, as well as a powerful image of Christian generosity.

CARRIERS

Continued from Page 1

profits hinge on perfection, and mistakes cost the carrier. Being late is one of the reasons they may lose a customer. Most times, a carrier being late is due to problems beyond their control: a flat tire, car problems, an accident or weather. Carriers drive with vehicle windows down when it's 100+ degrees, below freezing, raining, snowing or sand blowing.

Newspaper carriers are like DJs in that they honor requests: hand deliver, porch or place in a special location. A carrier will gladly hold papers when a subscriber is going to be on vacation, when notified. Letting the subscriber know when their subscription is running out is very important to a carrier, since losing a customer, even for one day, costs the carrier. While carriers are not responsible for collecting payments any longer, most will pick up a payment for a subscriber to make it easier on them to continue to receive their newspaper.

A good route is everything, and can be passed down from generation to generation. In one story, a man on his deathbed is sensing his time is over, so he calls his family to come see him: his two sons, James and Mark; and

his wife, Lisa. He says to Mark, “As my oldest son, I bequeath to you the condos and lake houses.” To James, he says, “I bequeath the apartments to you.” Finally, he turns to his wife and says, “And to you, I leave all the houses in the suburbs.” As the family is leaving, the nurse stops the wife and says, “You are lucky to have such a rich husband who left you all that property.” And to that, the wife says, “Rich my foot! Those are his paper routes.”

Newspaper carriers don't just deliver papers; without carriers, many people would not receive the news that keeps them informed about their communities. During the current pandemic, we were on the front lines too; we wore gloves and masks and ran our routes. With Shelter In Place, we helped customers stay informed while staying in and staying safe. We deliver to individual customers, stores and racks. Carriers help keep the communities safe because we are in the same neighborhoods every day and notice when something changes or is out of place. Sometimes we are in the right place at the right time to witness a crime and report it. In 2019, 45 carriers were murdered while delivering papers...fortunately, none of them here. Also, carriers know their

customers and will call the police for a welfare check if we notice papers piling up in the yard and the customer does not answer the door. Several times, this has resulted in a senior citizen being found after a fall. For some of the older customers, their newspaper carrier is the only person they will see for days at a time. This is one reason carriers do not mind putting a paper on the porch or hand-delivering papers. One carrier here will read the headlines to his customers as he delivers them. This is because all of our customers are important to us.

Being a carrier requires organization, time management and the ability to life heavy loads. It takes muscles to lift bundles of papers that can weigh up to 35 pounds and load them in their cars. Carriers roll their own papers, usually before they start their routes. However, sometimes when papers are late, they will do what is referred to as “Roll and Go,” where they roll papers as they drive.

Gas prices are a big expense for carriers. Some carriers travel 15 to 100 miles a day. Not onl does a carrier have to deal with gas prices, but almost every carrier will go through at least one set of tires in a year – sometimes two, when there is construc-

tion in an area. Carriers have their oil changed every month and brakes at least every three months. Carriers buy their own supplies; this includes bags and rubber bands.

Christmas cards expressing a customer's appreciation mean a lot to us. The gifts, homemade goodies and special treats are always enjoyed, as are the cups of hot chocolate in cold weather and the bottles of cold water in the heat of summer.

Some may say being a newspaper carrier is a thankless job and wonder why anyone would do it. We do it because we enjoy it. We like helping our customers. We like being out in the town and in the surrounding areas, and seeing the daily changes. For some of the older carriers, they do it because they remember the glory days of being the first to see the news. Every carrier has a funny, touching or heartbreaking story to tell.

I started as a carrier 11 years ago. The last five years I have been the Assistant Circulation Manager as well as a carrier. I have been proud to be a carrier for The Big Spring Herald and enjoy visiting with my customers. I appreciate all our customers and thank them for their business. We all give our best, because being a newspaper carrier is who we are.

Take Note Cont'd

• Food distribution at Three Angels Food Pantry is held every third Tuesday of the month at the Big Spring Seventh-Day Adventist Church, located at 4319 Parkway Rd. Food is provided by the West Texas Food Bank. People will need to bring ID and plastic bags, and answer a few questions to pick up food. The food pantry also has a Facebook page where they will post any updates. <https://www.facebook.com/healthynuggetsofgold44>.

• Senior Citizens Dances are held the third Friday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center. The next dance is Jan. 21, 2022. Music will be Western style. Entry fee is \$5 and includes a snack. For more information call 517-9097.

• The Big Spring Art Association is looking for community businesses to display pieces of their artwork. In an effort to build awareness for the importance of the arts and highlight local talent, the Big Spring Art Association displays different art pieces across the community. If you would like a piece of art work displayed in your business lobby contact any member of the Big Spring Art Association.

• Drive-through COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics are held from 3-6 p.m. each Thursday afternoon at Whatley Plaza, located on the northwest part of the Scenic Mountain Medical Center campus, 1601 W. Martin Luther King Boulevard, also known as 1601 W. 11th Place. The vaccination is free. For more information, visit www.scenicmountainmedical.org/vaccine.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you. For more information, call 432-263-4155; Michelle Worthan at 325-227-3911; Kay Smith at 432-213-1153; or Ruby Bruns at 432-664-1943. The November featured artist/special speaker will be Denise Malm. The next meeting is Nov. 20.

• The Big Spring Symphony is celebrating 40 years. Shows remaining this season include: Jan. 22: 'The Music of Queen' at Big Spring High School; Feb. 19 “Winter Wonderland”; and Spring Pops Concert on April 23. Venues for the February and April concerts will be announced at a later date. Tickets can be purchased in sea-

son passes or per concert. For updates and general information, follow The Big Spring Symphony Facebook page or go to www.bigspringsymphony.org.

• The Great Courses history video lecture series is taking place each Wednesday in the Theater Room in the First Presbyterian Church, located at 701 Runnels Street. No charge for the lectures.

• Howard County Community Health Center is offering the Moderna – a two dose and Janseen – a single dose, Covid-19 vaccine to those over the age of 18. Businesses, churches, groups or organizations of 10 members or more who would like the vaccine can schedule a time to have a mobile vaccine clinic. The staff will to the business, church, or organization to administer the vaccine. For ore information, call 806-894-7842 ext 178 or 124 or e-mail Covid19@sprhs.org

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for new members. If you have a heart for serving people, have at least four hours a week to spare, SMMC Auxiliary might be the fit for you.

Duties include working in the gift shop, delivering newspapers to inpatients, hospitality services, popcorn and more. To find out more about opportunities available with the SMMC Auxiliary, contact Amy Miramontes at 268-4809 or April Arms at 268-4907.

• St. Vincent de Paul food distribution will take place the second Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and other assistance will take place the third Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Both distributions will take place at 1009 Hearn at SVDP Building.

• Interim HealthCare is looking for volunteers. Those who would like to find out more about becoming a volunteer can call 432-263-5999.

• VFW Post 2013 meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. New members are being sought. The Post is located at 500 Driver Rd. Qualified veterans, those who have served in a foreign war, who are interested in joining the VFW are

encouraged to attend a meeting to find out more information.

• DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible? There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

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Donald Wallace, 65, died Saturday. Graveside will be Wednesday 11 a.m. at Trinity Memorial Park

Terry Beeler, 66, died Saturday. Memorial service will be Monday, December 27 at 11 a.m. at Hillcrest Baptist Church

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Full Set.....\$597
Queen Set.....\$697
King Set.....\$997

WOW - Pedic Plush
Twin Set.....\$647
Full Set.....\$697
Queen Set.....\$797
King Set.....\$1,097

WOW - Pedic Euro Top
Twin Set.....\$697
Full Set.....\$797
Queen Set.....\$897
King Set.....\$1,197

Memory Foam
Queen Set.....\$547



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Within 100 Miles

Lady Steers basketball team struggles in loss to Seminole



Courtesy Photos/ Tony Claxton

Top Left: Lady Steer Katelyn Haynie goes up for the rebound. Top Right: Alex Enriquez battles to try and get to the rack but is fouled. The Steers played tough all game long. Seminole was just the better team on this particular day, as the Lady Steers fell to Seminole 80-15.

Cousins throws for 2 touchdowns as Vikings beat Bears 17-9

By ANDREW SELIGMAN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — The Minnesota Vikings have little margin for error and plenty of room to improve as they try to secure a playoff spot.

Not that Kirk Cousins needed a reminder. Or, for that matter, coach Mike Zimmer.

Cousins threw two touchdown passes, and Minnesota beat the struggling and short-handed Chicago Bears 17-9 on Monday night.

The Vikings (7-7), part of a tight pack of teams vying for one of the NFC's seven playoff spots, were in line for their most lopsided win before Justin Fields threw a touchdown pass to Jesper Horsted on the game's final play.

That score aside, Minnesota withstood several scoring threats by Chicago down the stretch coming off a win over Pittsburgh in which the Vikings nearly blew a 29-0 lead.

"I think we have work," Cousins said. "I think there is a lot to improve upon. We're playing three really good opponents up ahead. We're probably going to need everyone, so there is not a lot of room for error and we have to tighten the screws here and play our best football down the stretch."

The Vikings' final three games are at home against the Los Angeles Rams and at NFC North champion Green Bay before they host Chicago in the finale. The result in this one was hardly a surprise given the state of the Bears (4-10).

Chicago lost for the eighth time in nine games, and with 14 players on the reserve/COVID-19 list, that seemed inevitable. Receiver Allen Robinson was on it, as was the starting secondary.

The health issues also hit the coaching staff, with all three coordinators testing positive for the coronavirus during the week. Defensive coordinator Sean Desai was cleared to return hours before

kickoff. Offensive coordinator Bill Lazor was not cleared, so Nagy called plays. And special teams coordinator Chris Tabor was out.

Cousins, who struggled last week, didn't exactly dominate in this one. He was 12 of 24 for 87 yards with an interception and got sacked four times. The two-time Pro Bowler also connected with Justin Jefferson for a 12-yard touchdown in the first quarter and threw a 7-yarder to Ihmir Smith-Marsette in the third.

Dalvin Cook ran for 89 yards, after going for 205 against Pittsburgh in a sooner-than-expected return from a dislocated shoulder.

D.J. Wonnum had a career-high three sacks and the Vikings recovered three fumbles on the way to their second straight win after back-to-back losses.

"It's not just playing better, it's getting better," Zimmer said. "It's getting better in the run defense, getting better in the pass coverage, it's getting better in protection. It's getting better in running the ball. It's all those things. We're trying to get better so we can get to that spot where we've got to get to."

For the Bears and their fans, it was another frustrating outing.

Fields threw for 285 yards and ran for 35 in his second game back after missing two with broken ribs. The rookie completed 26 of 39 passes playing behind a line missing both starting tackles, with right tackle Larry Borom on the COVID list and left tackle Jason Peters out with an ankle injury.

Robert Quinn and Akiem Hicks each had two sacks. Quinn has 16 this year, leaving him just shy of Hall of Famer Richard Dent's franchise record of 17 1/2 in 1984.

But Chicago committed nine penalties for 91 yards in a sloppy performance that had fans again booing at times and making their feelings about coach Matt Nagy known, chanting "Fire Nagy!"

"That's been the story, that's been the story of the

year," Fields said. "It's just us shooting ourselves in the foot. Once we eliminate those penalties, sacks on my part where I should just throw the ball away, throw the ball down to the ground — once we eliminate those, we start seeing more points come up on the board and have more success. I thought our whole defense played great tonight and put us in a position to win."

NAGY FLAGGED

A riled up Nagy got called for unsportsmanlike conduct between the first and second quarters, when he made his feelings clear to the officials about a penalty against safety Deon Bush.

The penalty against Bush happened near the end of the opening quarter when Cousins tried to connect with Tyler Conklin down the middle. The pass incomplete and Bush got called for a late hit on the tight end.

Referee Scott Novak told a pool reporter Nagy was penalized for "inappropriate language towards the official." He wouldn't reveal what the Bears' coach said.

"When it crosses a line and it's inappropriate, then that's when we throw a flag," Novak said.

Nagy's penalty gave the Vikings a first down at the Chicago 12 to start the second quarter. They settled for a field goal, making it 10-0.

EJECTED

Minnesota's Eric Kendricks got ejected in the fourth quarter for a helmet-to-helmet hit on a sliding Fields.

INJURED

Vikings: No injuries were reported.
Bears: WR/PR Jakeem Grant Sr. (concussion) exited in the first half.

UP NEXT

Vikings: Host the Rams on Sunday.
Bears: Visit Seattle on Sunday.

Carlson FG gives Raiders 16-14 win vs COVID-ravaged Browns

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — The Raiders didn't appreciate the NFL postponing their trip. They made sure their post-season canceled as well.

Daniel Carlson's 48-yard field goal as time expired sent Las Vegas to a 16-14 win on Monday night over the COVID-19-depleted Cleveland Browns in a game pushed back two days by the NFL amid an uptick of virus cases across the league.

Down by a point, quarterback Derek Carr patiently drove the Raiders (7-7) into Cleveland territory in the final two minutes.

Then Carlson shrugged off being iced by the Browns to boot his winner, keeping Las Vegas in the playoff mix. The Raiders had been upset with the league's decision to delay the game from Saturday until Monday, with owner Mark Davis saying the delay was a "competitive disadvantage" for his team.

That all seemed to be forgotten as the Raiders danced off their sideline when Carlson's kick went through at the Dawg Pound end of FirstEnergy Stadium.

"It's been a long time coming to win a game like that in the end," said Raiders interim coach Rich Bisaccia, who has led the team through a turbulent season. "We understand the situation we're in and what the playoff race looks like."

The loss was devastating for the Browns (7-7), who would have vaulted into first place in the AFC North with a win. Instead, they fell into last place in the tightly packed division with three games remaining.

Due to a virus outbreak, the Browns were without quarterback Baker Mayfield, coach Kevin Stefanski and several other prominent players, including top receiver Jarvis Landry and edge rusher Jadeveon Clowney.

Cleveland third-string quarterback Nick Mullens had brought the Browns back from a 10-0 deficit in the third quarter and given them a 14-13 lead by throwing a 6-yard touchdown pass on fourth down to Harrison Bryant with 3:45 left.

And after Greedy Williams intercepted Carr, it appeared the Browns were on their way to taking their roller-coaster season to new heights. But Cleveland couldn't come up with a first down and gave the ball back to Carr with 1:50 left.

"After that interception, I told the guys 'Please, I promise we'll win it, just get the ball back,'" Carr said.

He then led a 51-yard drive, completing two long passes to Zay Jones to set up Carlson's kick that kicked new life into a team that has dealt with adversity and drama all season, including the resignation of coach Jon Gruden in October.

Carr understood why his teammates were so upset with the league's decision to move the game.

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Applicants must have reliable transportation with mileage reimbursement and reside or be willing to relocate in Howard County.

Send resumes to Dustin Pope at editor@bigspringherald.com.

Public Notice

Invitation To Bid Howard County RFB 2022001 "2022 Sealcoat"

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 AM on January 6, 2022. This bid requires prequalification with Howard County Road and Bridge Department, specifications may be obtained at that office, 3604 Old Colorado City Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720. The work is to supply labor, materials and equipment to sealcoat various county roads.

Bids may be mailed to the Howard County Auditor, at P.O. Box 1949, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1949 or delivered to the Auditor's Office, Room 202, Howard County Courthouse. **Mark Sealed Envelope "RFB2022001"**

Bids will be presented to the Commissioner's Court at 3:30 PM January 10th for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jackie Olson-Howard County Auditor

#11167

Invitation To Bid Howard County RFB 2022002 "Inverted Prime"

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 AM on January 6, 2022. This bid requires prequalification with Howard County Road and Bridge Department, specifications may be obtained at that office, 3604 Old Colorado City Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720. The work is to supply labor, materials and equipment to invert prime various county roads.

Bids may be mailed to the Howard County Auditor, at P.O. Box 1949, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1949 or delivered to the Auditor's Office, Room 202, Howard County Courthouse. **Mark Sealed Envelope "RFB2022002"**

Christmas Deadlines

- Friday 12/17 by 3pm
- Wednesday 12/15
- Weekend 12/18-19 by 3pm
- Thursday 12/16
- Monday 12/20 by Noon(12pm)
- Friday 12/17
- Tuesday 12/21 by 5pm
- Friday 12/17
- Wednesday 12/22 by 9am
- Monday 12/20
- Thursday 12/23 by Noon(12pm)
- Monday 12/20
- Friday 12/24 by 5pm
- Monday 12/20
- Weekend 12/25-26 by 12pm
- Tuesday 12/21
- Monday 12/27 by 5pm
- Tuesday 12/21

Public Notice

Bids will be presented to the Commissioner's Court at 3:30 PM January 6th for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jackie Olson-Howard County Auditor

#11166

Invitation To Bid Howard County RFB2020023 GRH CR 29

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Bids may be mailed to the Howard County Auditor, at P.O. Box 1949, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1949 or delivered to the Auditor's Office, Room 202, Howard County Courthouse. **Mark Sealed Envelope "RFB20200xx"**

Bids will be presented to the Commissioner's Court at their regular meeting 3:30 PM January 10th for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jackie Olson - Howard County Auditor

#11163

Invitation To Bid Howard County RFB2020024 GRH CR

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 AM on January 6, 2022. This bid requires prequalification with Howard

Public Notice

County Road and Bridge Department, specifications may be obtained at that office, 3604 Old Colorado City Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720. The work is to supply labor, materials and equipment to rehabilitate CR 31 from CR 34 to FM 846. Work includes reshaping ditches, widening subgrade, additional base, scarifying and shaping roadway, inverted prime & surface treatment.

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Bids will be presented to the Commissioner's Court at their regular meeting 3:30 PM January 10th for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jackie Olson - Howard County Auditor

#11164

Invitation To Bid Howard County RFB2020025 GRH CR 36

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 AM on January 6, 2022. This bid requires prequalification with Howard County Road and Bridge Department, specifications may be obtained at that office, 3604 Old Colorado City Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720. The work is to supply labor, materials and equipment to rehabilitate CR 36 from CR 31 to FM 669. Work includes reshaping ditches, widening subgrade, additional base, scarifying and shaping roadway, inverted prime & surface treatment.

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Public Notice

County Courthouse. **Mark Sealed Envelope "RFB2020025"**

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5 :AM	Big 2 Good Morning Basin	Como dice el dicho	FamFeud Business	CBS7 Wake Up	Al rojo vivo (SS)	Newsweek 9	Shepherd Dr. Wil	Cat in the Hat	Paid Prg.	Paid Prg.	Matters	Charmed	SportsCenter	Keyshawn, JWill and Max	Ab Squat Ideal	NCIS: Los Angeles	Jeremiah Joyce M.	Hunting Atlantis
6 :AM		jDespierta América!	Les Feld Robison	CBS7 Wake Up	Hoy dia (SS)	Newsweek 9 Sunrise	Families News	Peg & Cat	Patemity Court	Highway Thru Hell	George	Charmed	SportsCenter	NHL Hockey: Wild at Stars		NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	Hunting Atlantis
7 :AM	Good Morning America		Good Morning Basin	CBS Mornings		Today	Light of Southwest	Luna Tiger	CBS7 Wake Up	Divorce Jerry	George	Charmed	Get Up	SportsCenter		NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	Hunting Atlantis
8 :AM			FamFeud Wom				Light of Southwest	Sesame Elinor	CBS7 Wake Up	Maury	Broke Girl	Charmed		SportsCenter	Focused	NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	Dirty Jobs
9 :AM	The 700 Club		Wendy Williams	Kelly and Ryan	Caso cerrado (SS)	Today 3rd Hour	The Is News	Clifford Dinosaur	Kelly Clark Show	Steve Wilkos Show	Friends	Supernatural	First Take	Get Up	OU Football	NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	Dirty Jobs
10 :AM	The View	Como dice el dicho	The Real	The Price Is Right	Caso De siones	Today-Hoda	Words of China	Go Luna Curious	Drew Barrymore	Maury	Friends	Supernatural			World Poker	NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	Dirty Jobs
11 :AM	Jeopardy News	Noticiero Nosotr.	Tamron Hall	Young & Restless	Más sabe Noticias	The Dr. Oz Show	The Gath Israel	Nature Xavier	The Doctors	Nick Cannon	Friends	Supernatural	SportsCenter	First Take	NHL Hockey: Wild at Stars	NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	Dirty Jobs
12 :PM	GMA3: What	Hoy (SS)	TMZ Live	News Bold	Pasión de gavilanes	Days of our Lives	Hidden Hero	Molly	Dateline	Hot	Friends	Supernatural	SportsCenter			NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	Dirty Jobs
1 :PM	General Hospital	Amor eterno	The People's Court	The Talk	En casa con	Blast Paid Prg.	House for the Pink	Cyber	The First 48	Relative	Friends	Supernatural	This Just In	Daily Wager	High School Football	NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	Dirty Jobs
2 :PM	Rachael Ray	La madrastra	Judge Mathis	Let's Make a Deal	(1:58) Suelta la sopa	Ellen DeGeneres	Light of Southwest	Elinor	Monk	Jerry	Friends	Movie: Dirty Grandpa	NBA	This Just In		NCIS (DVS)	Storage	Airplane Repo
3 :PM	Jdg Judy	El gordo y la flaca	FamFeud	Kelly Clarkson	(2:58) Al rojo vivo	Dr. Phil	Light of Southwest	Donkey Curious	Chicago Fire	Divorce	Friends		College Football: Famous Idaho Potato Bowl - Kent State vs Wyoming.	NFL Live	Spotlight	NCIS (DVS)	Storage	Airplane Repo
4 :PM	You Bet Jeopardy!	Primer impacto	Two Men	CBS 7 News	En casa con	News Inside Ed.	Retro Creation	Almas Xavier	25 Words	Steve Wilkos Show	Sheldon	(.45) Movie: Superbad, Christopher Mintz-Plasse	Around Pardon	Polaris Snow	NCIS (DVS)	Storage	Airplane Repo	
5 :PM	Big 2 ABC	Noticiero	Big Bang	CBS 7	Tele	News	MMTV	Molly	King	Nick Cannon	Sheldon		SportsCenter	P1 APBA Offshore	Movie: xXx: Return of Xander Cage	Storage	Airplane Repo	
6 :PM	News	¿Qué le pasa a	Sheldon	CBS 7	Por amor o por	News	Freedom	Wild Kratt	Last Man	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Tip-Off	SportCtr	Women's College Basketball	Spotlight	Storage	Bering Sea Gold	
7 :PM	The Bachelorette (DVS)	Rosa de Guadalupe	Fantasy Island (DVS)	FBI	Hercal: amor y venganza (SS)	American Grand	Our Mess Eye on	Odd	Chicago Fire	Beebo Saves	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Wizards at Nets	College Football: Tropical Smoothie Café Frisco Bowl	College Basketball: Kansas at Colorado.	Mavs Pre. NBA Basketball: Timberwolves at Mavericks	WWE NXT	Storage	Bering Sea Gold
8 :PM		Vencer el pasado		Adele One Night Only		Saturday Night Live	Light of Southwest	Arthur	Chicago Fire	Countdown	Big Bang		College Basketball: Kansas at Colorado.		(.08) Movie: xXx: Return of Xander Cage	Shipping	(.03) Airplane Repo	
9 :PM	The Bachelorette	La de-salmada	FOX 24 News at 9		Malverde: el santo		Light of Southwest	Cyber Pink	News Gold	Big Bang Last O.G.		NBA Basketball: Suns at Lakers	SportsCenter	NFL Live	Mavs Mavericks	Storage		
10 :PM	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Burgers	Last O.G.		SportsCenter	UFC Archival	Epic Sports	Law & Order: SVU	Storage	Bering Sea Gold
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	Noticiero	Pawn	Late Show-Colbert	Noticias	Tonight Show	Words of Jesus IS	Elinor Donkey	Friends	Burgers	Sheldon		SportsCenter	Around Pardon	NBA Basketball	Law & Order: SVU	Storage	Gold Rush WW
12 :PM	Nightline	Contacto deportivo	Mod Fam	James Corden	Parientes a la fuerza	Seth Meyers	Creation On the	Tiger Almas	Minute Holly	black-ish Creek	George	Inside the NBA	SportsCenter	Don't Ever Give Up		Law & Order: SVU	Shipping	(.03) Airplane Repo
1 :AM	Extra	Las tantas no van	Mom	Drew Barrymore	Sin Senos Si	Programa	Today-Hoda	Light of Southwest	Molly Jerry Springer	Liquidator Gold	George	NBA Basketball: Suns at Lakers	College Football	SportsCenter	Mavs Snow	Law & Order: SVU	Storage	
2 :AM	World News Now	Vecinos	Seinfeld	(.07) CBS Overnight News	Pelicula: La camioneta gris	Minute	A Prom	Odd	Paid Prg.	Paid Prg.	Misery	Bones	College Football	SportsCenter	Shogun Fights	Law & Order: SVU	Clean air Oxygen	Last Frontier
3 :AM		El gordo y la flaca	Law & Order: SVU		Noticias	Early Tdy	Gr8	Odd	Paid Prg.	Emeril	Misery	Bones	College Football	SportsCenter	Polaris	Law & Order: SVU	Paid Prg.	Last Frontier
4 :AM	Morning	Noticiero	Funny	News	Programa	Early Tdy	The Gath	Arthur	Paid Prg.	Brain Fog	Matters	Bones	College Football	SportsCenter	Daief	Law & Order: SVU	Prince	

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
The right play at the right time

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 7
♥ J
♦ K J 9 4
♣ A K Q 8 5 2

WEST
♠ K 2
♥ A 9 7 2
♦ 10 8 5
♣ 10 6 4 3

EAST
♠ A J 10 9 8 4 3
♥ 4
♦ 6 3 2
♣ 9 7

SOUTH
♠ 6 5
♥ K Q 10 8 6 5 3
♦ A Q 7
♣ J

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♣ 3♠ 4♥

Opening lead — king of spades.
Assume you're West defending against four hearts following the auction shown. You lead the king of spades, which holds as East plays the jack, and the question is what you should do next. Remember, all you see is your own hand and the dummy.

Tomorrow: Nowhere to hide.
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Time to Address Table Manners

Dear Annie: We need help in handling a family situation that arose during a Thanksgiving visit. My brother-in-law has no table manners.

He generally forgoes silverware and eats whatever he thinks appropriate with his hands. He does this both at home and in restaurants. Fork food is shoveled onto the fork with his fingers rather than a knife. Picture that -- with turkey and gravy. Then he wipes his hands on his pants. The napkin is reserved for blowing his nose after he eats.

My sister watches in apparent disgust but doesn't say anything. They have been married for more than 40 years. Nobody wants to sit opposite him as he shovels food into his mouth. How do we handle this behavior? -- Disgusted

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Disgusted: It's shocking that after 40 years of marriage, your sister has not said anything and still watches in disgust. His behavior at the table is awkward and unappetizing for everyone. You have to speak with your sister about it. If he is invited to Thanksgiving and is going to sit down with the family, he must use a knife and fork, and under no circumstances can he use the napkin to blow his nose at the table. If he cannot behave, you might put him at the kids' table, though his atrocious manners would set a terrible example for children.

Tell your sister that unless he shapes up his table manners, he is going to have to sit out of dinner. Maybe he can come over for drinks before dinner, but he will lose his right to sit with the family at dinner. He might not even know that what he is doing is so bad. That

is why it is up to your sister (his wife) to tell him!

Dear Annie: This is regarding "Seeking Opinion," the senior woman who was debating whether to ask for a ride to her church.

I think there was a missed opportunity to engage the church to help. Churches that I've attended readily stepped up by providing a ride, which also served to create and build a connection between the rider and the "chauffeur."

I would have recommended contacting the pastor of her church and asked for help arranging a ride. If he didn't eagerly respond, I'd recommend finding a new church that did. A lack of response indicates that church is not her "tribe" -- time for something better. -- Exploring Options

Dear Exploring Options: What a great

suggestion! Thank you for sharing this keen insight, and it sends a powerful reminder message to pastors everywhere.

Dear Annie: This year, I am grateful to have hosted a meal and love with two other family units who were far from their own families (in several ways).

You can't choose your family, but you can choose your friends -- and show them the caring you wish all biological families would have. -- Friends Are Family

Dear Friends Are Family: Thank you for sharing.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book -- featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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Celebrate a popular chocolate dessert

It is hard to determine who created the brownie, but dessert devotees no doubt appreciate that individual's now beloved creation.

Brownies are one of North America's favorite baked treats. They actually are classified as a bar cookie rather than a cake, and the dessert earned its name from the deep, brown color of its main ingredient.

There have been many variations on the brownie through the years, and the lively debate whether crunchy end pieces or chewy middle slices are preferred continues.

There may be less debate about how

flavorful it can be to mix cheesecake with brownies, which is just what happens in this recipe for "Marbled Chocolate Cheesecake Brownies" from "Chocolate" (Love Food), by the editors of Parragon Books, Ltd.

Marled Chocolate Cheesecake Brownies Makes 12

- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
- 1 cup superfine sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- Cheesecake mix:
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 3 tablespoons superfine sugar
- 1 egg beaten

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease an 11 x 7-inch cake pan and line with parchment paper.

Melt the butter in a medium saucepan, remove from the heat, and stir in the unsweetened cocoa and the sugar.

Beat in the eggs, then add the flour, and stir to mix evenly. Pour into the prepared pan.

For the cheesecake mix, beat together the ricotta, sugar and egg, then drop teaspoonfuls of the mixture over the chocolate mixture.

Use a metal spatula to swirl the two mixtures tightly together.

Bake for 40 to 45 minutes, until just firm to the touch. Cool in the pan, then cut into bars or squares.



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