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# BIG SPRING MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016



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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

# **UW's** Stewart stepping down

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

For Sandy Stewart, helming the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County's last six fundraising campaigns as the executive director was more than just a job, it was her passion.

Stewart

When she needed it most, an agency supported with United Way funds was there to help her out.

"I was a recipient of United Way funds when my kids were little," Stewart recalled. "I was a single mom and my kids were in first and third grade. I didn't have enough

money to make ends meet, and I didn't have enough money to put my kids in after school

"It was devastating," she continued. "I remember how devastating it was because you can't leave your kids alone. They need supervision and guidance and and mentoring. I went to the YMCA and found out how much it was and I remember crying and being devastated and they were like, 'We have scholarships,' which is what they do with the United Way funds."

With that help, Stewart was able to afford the after school care she so desperately needed.

"I paid a minimal amount of money, a fraction of what it was worth. They continued to go there until they were big. That is when I first knew what United Way was," she said. "It was hard for me to accept some stranger was helping me but had it not been for that, who knows where my kids would have been. My kids are phenomenal. My son is a firefighter in town. My daughter owns a funeral home in

"I have great kids and it is due to the mentorship they got from after-school care that I would not have been able to pay for," she continued. "So that's when I realized what the

See UW, Page 3









6 shopping days to Christmas

H&R BLOCK

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# Gifts for the angels



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody Big Spring Intermediate School student Taylor Partlow plays Christmas carols on her saxophone outside Beals on Saturday afternoon while Chelsea Sandridge and Trenton Sandridge ring the bell for the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign. Trenton, a member of the Boy Scouts, was representing the

Salvation Army officials thankful for donations to Angel Tree drive

### By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Some of the "angels we have heard on high," are thanking Big Spring residents for a merry Christmas.

Big Spring's Salvation Army concluded its annual Christmas Angel Tree campaign Saturday by distributing presents and food donated by area people and organizations to needy families and seniors. Names and needs of individuals were written on ornaments and hung on Christmas trees at locations around town, where those wanting to give a little extra this holiday season adopted them and shopped for gifts.

"These families are the ones who signed up in the month of October. Today is the day of distribution, where they come pick up the gifts which were adopted by members of the community as well as organizations in the communities, said Salvation Army Corps Officer Lt. Josh McKain on Saturday. "They shopped for these individuals and they returned the gifts to us. Now the families are here picking up these gifts and picking up a food box for the Christmas

See ANGEL, Page 3

### Have your bear and name it, too

# Animaland setting up shop at Comanche Trail Festival

### By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

organization.

Why wait for Santa to bring you a teddy bear when you can do the job yourself?

Visitors to this year's Comanche Trail Festival of Lights will have an opportunity to do just that this week, when Animaland toys will be for sale.

Animaland, provided by the Heritage Museum, gives people the chance to buy their own teddy bear, or monkey, or tiger, or any manner of toy animal. The major difference between these toys and store-bought is that you do the

For \$29.99, you can purchase one of more than 25 different animals. In addition, your child will receive a birth certificate for the animal, a "make a wish" star to place in their new furry friend, and a Christmas sweater and carry bag for the toy.

Outfits and other accessories

will be sold separately.

Animaland will be at the Belaski Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. starting tonight and running through Fri-

For more information on the Animaland toys, contact the Heritage Museum at 267-8255.

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

### Texas gas prices rise by more than 5 cents

### Special to the Herald

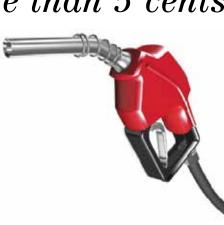
Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have risen 5.5 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.04 a gallon, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 gas outlets in Texas.

This compares with the national average that has increased 3.1

cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.24 a gallon, GasBuddy.com

Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices yesterday were 24.2 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 12.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 10.2 cents per gallon during the last month and

See GAS, Page 3





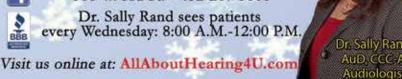
Enjoy improved hearing during every moment with friends and family this holiday season.

Call Today for Your Pre-Holiday Hearing Evaluation.



306 W. 3rd St. • 432-267-3806

Dr. Sally Rand sees patients every Wednesday: 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.





Edith Knous, 88, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, in a local nursing home.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016, at the Trinity Memorial Park Peace

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2016, at the Funeral Home.

Edith was born March 17, 1928, in Lubbock, Texas, and married Verlin Knous Aug. 16, 1947, in Big Spring, Texas. He preceded her in death Nov. 6, 2002.

She worked for both Hemphill Wells and Dunlaps department stores in Big Spring. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, Eastern Star, and the Social Order of the Beauceant.

Edith is survived by three sons, Richard Knous and wife Beverly of Big Spring, David Knous and

wife Gail of The Colony, Texas, and Jerry Knous and wife Debbie of Midland; seven grandchildren, Melanie Harris and husband Dwayne, Heather Morris and husband Doug, John Knous and wife Cheryl, Rodney Knous and wife Melanie, Nickole Keenan, Jeremy Knous and wife Mickie, and D'Lynn Price and husband Cooper; nine greatgrandchildren; and one sister, Dorthy Shanks and husband Wade. In addition to her husband, she was preceded

LOCAL

in death by her parents, Lewis Edward and Edna (Montgomery) Christian; and one brother, Allen

The family suggests memorials be made to the Shriners Hospital, www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/donate

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

Paid obituary

### **Sheriff**

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 89 inmates at the time of this re-**MARTINA** 

**JUANITA ARANJO**, 52, was booked by DPS on warrants for no driver's license and failure to appear for theft of service.

• BRADY BALDWIN III, 36, was booked by BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention and possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).

• CINDY LOU DENNIS, 46, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for theft of property (less than \$2,500).

• DESMOND RAY DELOACH, 25, was booked by BSPD on charges of interfering with emergency request for assistance, and burglary of a habitation.

• DAVID LYNN DOW, 33, was booked by BSPD on charges of burglary of a building and public intoxication. • JAMES CLIFTON ED-

WARDS, 62, was booked by BSPD on a charge of driving with an invalid license, and on a capias warrant for expired motor vehicle inspection.

• JOEL ADRIAN FLORES, 34, was booked by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

The Salvation Army of Big Spring is seeking

volunteers to ring a bell for their Red Kettle pro-

gram this Christmas season. Each year, more than

25,000 Salvation Army volunteers raise money

through the program to help serve more than 3 mil-

lion people in need during the holiday season from

Thanksgiving to Christmas. All money raised in

the Red Kettle program stays in the communities

where it is raised. For more information call 432-

352-2005. If you don't have time to ring a bell, you

can visit RedKettleReason.org to create an online

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to

start sacking food for Big Spring elementary stu-

dents who do not receive adequate food over the

weekends. Members of the community can be a

part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes

a couple hours of your time and the work is very

rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time

and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-

The next sacking session will be at 5:30 p.m. Jan.

2 and 3 at the old Lakeview High School gym locat-

ed at 1107 N.W. Seventh St. To get there, take Gregg

Street north and turn left on Delaney, which is the

block just past the Salvation Army retail store. Del-

kettle to raise funds for the program.

935-3998.

aney turns into Seventh

Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left.

If you want additional

information about get-

ting your child on this

program please contact

Seniors and mature

adults are invited to a

dance on the first, third

and fifth Friday of each

month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30

p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol

your child's school.

- JORGE ORNELAS FRANCO JR., was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- FABIAN GARCIA, 58, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for assault/family violence.
- LAQUITA LASHAY GRAY, 38, was booked by BSPD on warrants for failure to appear and theft (less than \$100).
- MICHAEL SHAE JACK-MAN, 31, was booked by DPS on a motion to revoke probation for possession of methamphetamine: and by HCSO on warrants for failure to yield at a stop intersection, speeding, and driving with an invalid license.
- DALTON COLE KAYE, 22, was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- MOBEY CORDELL LEWIS, 24, was booked by HCSO on a motion to adjudicate for possession of a controlled substance.
- JUAN RENE MARTINEZ, 34, was booked by DPS on charges of possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.) and possession of a controlled substance (4 to 400 • LILY RODRIQUEZ OLIVAS,
- 34. was booked by HCSO on warrants for defective or no stop lamps, failure to maintain financial responsibility, driving with an invalid license, and failure to
  - SHAWNY DELRAY RICH-

TER, 27, was booked by BSPD on warrants for displaying expired license plates of registration, and child passenger not adequately secured by a safety seat system. JOVITA JOVITA RODRI-

- **GUEZ**, 37, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for theft of services (\$750 to \$2,500) LOLITA ALVAREZ SALA-
- **ZAR**, 47, was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- SHERRIE ANN THOMP-SON, 32, was booked by HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for evading arrest or detention.
- HERLINDA ALVAREZ VIL-LA, 53, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for theft of property (\$100 to \$750)/shoplifting, and on a capias warrant for theft of property (\$20 to \$500) by check.
- DARIN WITTEN, 29, was booked by BSPD on warrants for hindering a police officer and failure to appear.
- **DOROTHY MICHELLE** WOODARD, 45, was booked by BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a danger-
- RHETT **BENJAMIN** WRIGHT, 33, was booked by BSPD on warrants for no driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, and failure to appear.

### Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- BRADY BALDWIN III, 36, of 3127 Nebraska St. in Dallas was arrested on charges of evading arrest or detention and possession of marijuana (less than LOLITA ALVAREZ SALAZAR, 47, of 1320 Utah
- was arrested on a charge of public intoxication. • SHAWNY DELRAY RICHTER, 27, of 1113
- Lloyd Ave. was arrested on outstanding warrants. • DAVID LYNN DOW, 33, no address given, was arrested on a charge of burglary of a building.
- LAQUITA LASHAY GRAY, 38, no address given, was arrested on warrants for failure to appear/ felony, and theft of property (less than \$100).

CINDY MILLS DENNIS, 46, of 1101 W. Bustin

• HERLINDA ALVAREZ VILLA, 53, of 604 19th St. in Snyder was arrested on a warrant for theft of property (\$100 to \$750)/shoplifting, and on another outstanding warrant.

in Brady was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

- SHERRIE ANN THOMPSON, 32, of 5209 N. Service Rd. was arrested on a warrant for evading arrest or detention.
- DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1500 block of Chickasaw Street.
- THEFT was reported in the 2000 block of South Gregg Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.

### Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL CALL was reported at the intersection of South Highway 87 and Hue Road. MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1600 block
- of Lancaster. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center. MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 800 block
- of Highland.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 300 block of Veteran's Boulevard. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 1500 block of

### **Support Groups**

### **MONDAY**

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

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

### **TUESDAY**

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

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

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

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

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(includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly

### Take Note

### **Meetings**

- The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.
- The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.
- The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.
- Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 271-2176.
- Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219  $\frac{1}{2}$  Main St. All Masons are welcome.



at (432) 213-0672





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or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat. Cost is \$8 per person.

Edith Knous

### News in brief

### Electoral College meets amid effort to deny Trump presidency

WASHINGTON (AP) — And you thought Election Day was in November.

Electors are set to gather in every state on Monday to formally elect Donald Trump president even as anti-Trump forces try one last time to deny him the White House. Protests are planned for state capitals, but they

are unlikely to persuade the Electoral College to dump Trump. An Associated Press survey of electors found very little appetite to vote for alternative candidates. Republican electors say they have been deluged

with emails, phone calls and letters urging them not to support Trump. Many of the emails are part of coordinated campaigns.

"The letters are actually quite sad," said Lee Green, a Republican elector from North Carolina. 'They are generally freaked out. They honestly believe the propaganda. They believe our nation is being taken over by a dark and malevolent force."

### Trump aides: Democrats' complaints are sour grapes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sour grapes. That's how Donald Trump's closest advisers see Democrats' complaints that Moscow hacked their private emails this election season in a bid to sow discord among their supporters and sway the election toward Republicans.

The pushback comes ahead of the Electoral College vote, which was expected to make official Trump's election win and pave his way to take of-

"Let's assume it's true," Reince Priebus, Trump's incoming chief of staff, said Sunday of Russian interference in the election. "There's no evidence that shows that the outcome of the election was changed because of a couple dozen John Podesta emails that were out there."

The number of leaked emails by Podesta, Hillary Clinton's campaign manager, was actually closer to tens of thousands. And it'd be difficult to prove exactly what influenced voters.

But Democrats said it was a personal attack and a

threat to democracy.

### Buses resume taking remaining civilians, rebels from Aleppo

BEIRUT (AP) — A fragile cease-fire was back on in Syria on Monday, as buses resumed evacuating those still remaining in eastern Aleppo following days of delays and others departed with the sick and wounded from two rebel-besieged Shiite villages in the country's north.

At the United Nations, the Security Council was expected to vote within hours on a resolution seeking to deploy U.N. monitors to Aleppo immediately in order to prevent what France has warned could be "mass atrocities" by Syrian forces and allied pro-government militias as they assume control of all of the rebel enclave. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human

Rights and the pan-Arab Al-Mayadeen TV said that 10 buses left with civilians from the two Shiite villages long besieged by rebels — Foua and Kfarya - and were on their way to government-controlled areas on Monday. According to the deal, more than 2,000 sick and

wounded are supposed to leave the villages. The Observatory and the pan-Arab TV said 15 additional buses entered the two villages to bring out more people.

### China disputes US claim it's top source of synthetic drugs

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. assertions that China is the top source of the synthetic opioids that have killed thousands of drug users in the U.S. and Canada are unsubstantiated, Chinese officials told the Associated Press.

Both the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy point to China as the main source of fentanyl, fentanyl analogs and fentanyl precursors that end up in North America. Such statements "lack the support of sufficient

numbers of actual, confirmed cases," China's National Narcotics Control Commission told DEA's Beijing field office in a fax dated Friday.

In its letter to the DEA, which the commission

also sent to AP, Chinese officials urged the U.S. to provide more evidence about China's role as a source country.

#### Gunmen kill 10, including Canadian, in attacks on police KARAK, Jordan (AP) — Gunmen assaulted Jor-

ing seven officers, two local civilians and a woman visiting from Canada, officials said. Several armed men barricaded themselves inside the castle for hours, hemmed in by special forces soldiers. At least 34 people, including two foreign nationals, were wounded in the day's violence, which

danian police in a series of attacks Sunday, includ-

ing at a Crusader castle popular with tourists, kill-

was one of the bloodiest attacks in Jordan in recent Security officials announced late Sunday, several hours after reports of the first shooting, that the operation had ended and that four gunmen were

killed. They said troops continued to search the The officials said large amounts of weapons had been seized. They made no reference to local media reports that at one point, the attackers had held

### Trial starts for confidante of impeached S. Korean president

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The jailed confidante of impeached South Korean President Park Geun-hye denied on the first day of her trial Monday that she used her ties to Park to extort money from big companies.

The hour-long hearing at the Seoul Central District Court was the first public appearance in weeks for the woman at the heart of a scandal that led to Park's impeachment after millions took to streets in protests.

Choi Soon-sil, Park's friend of 40 years, wore white prison clothes and bowed deeply to the three judges before her lawyer, Lee Kyoung-jae, denied that Choi conspired with Park and her presidential aide to pressure companies to donate tens of millions of dollars last year to foundations controlled by Choi.

### $\mathbf{ANGEL}$

Continued from Page 1

occasion. These food boxes were adopted by different churches. Within each food box Porter's has given a ham to every family, and Gale's Bakerv has made sure everv box has cookies in it."

McKain said about 140 families, comprising around 450 individuals, received gifts through the program, which went off without a hitch.

"It's been very smooth. The support of the community and the volunteers that have been here today have been monumental in making sure things are going smoothly," he said. "We have organizations

here like the Boy Scouts, who are carrying bags out and the boxes of food out for the individuals. Many them have a lot of stuff and they can't carry it," he added. "That's been very helpful.

Parking has been limited, but I don't think we've had any issues so far. People have come in and gone out very quickly. We haven't had any fights. This has been just great. No complaints." Local residents stepped up

and make sure each angel received plenty of "merry" for Christmas. "I'll tell you, it's special. It's

quickly to fill in some gaps

something very special just to witness and see," McKain "My wife posted on the Big

Spring Issues Facebook page

and said that we were miss-

that night they were all filled by members of the community. My wife reached out on the same page this morning and said, 'Bread! We need bread.' Within an hour, we had all the bread we needed. And it was all because of members of this community stepping in and filling in the gaps that needed to be filled."

ing 19 senior angels, and by

hostages.

Toy drives held by local organizations - the Car Cruisers, Back In Motion Chiropractic, the Chamber of Commerce, and Sid Richardson Carbon Plant - plugged some gaps in the fun department, he added.

"Those toys go to fill in where we're lacking. We try to give each child three toys and some clothes that fit them," he said.

"When angels come in that only have one toy - some don't have any toys, just clothes and shoes - we fill that in with the toy drives that have been done for us by various organizations." For more information contact the Salvation Army at 267-8239.

Continuede from Page 3

United Way was, and how important it was, and I wanted to give back."

And she has.

"It's best the thing I've ever done besides havlike I am helping the the new executive direccommunity," Stewart tor. said.

Although Stewart has stepped down from her position, she continues to volunteer part-time to see the last campaign through to the distribution of funds and to help

It simply was time

for someone to come in with a new perspective, Stewart said. "Change is always

good," she said.

Although the official campaign is over, Stewlast push to hit the campaign's goal of \$330,000. Currently the campaign is sitting at a little less than 70 percent of its goal.

"Only 1 percent of the money raised in the leaves." community Stewart stressed.

support programs that bring meals to home bound elderly, after school programs, help to victims of violent crimes, and many other services, Stewart pointed out. Even when this last campaign is in the books and money has

United Way helps to been distributed, Stewart said she will continue to give a hand as long

# **GAS**

Continued from Page 1

stands 24.5 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago. Historical data, shows

gasoline prices on December 19 in Texas have ranged widely over the last five years: \$1.80 a gallon in 2015, \$2.21 a gallon in 2014, \$3.01 a gallon in 2013, \$3.02 a gallon in 2012 and \$3.05 a gallon in 2011.

Areas near Texas and their current gas price climate:

• Midland Odessa -\$2.08 a gallon, up 9.4 cents per gallon from last week.

• San Antonio — \$1.96 a gallon, up 1.2 cents per gallon from last week.

• Austin — \$2 a gallon, up 1.8 cents per gallon

from last week. "With West Texas Intermediate crude oil holding over \$50 per barrel for the last several weeks, gasoline prices have moved higher in a majority of the country," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for Gas-Buddy. "Some 39 states saw average gasoline prices rise last week, and this week may see a similar fate at the pump as retail gasoline prices

continue to play a game of catch up to the three week rally in oil prices.

"Meanwhile, it was just a year ago when the national average gas price fell under \$2 per gallon for the first time since 2009, a feat unlikely to be repeated anytime soon, thanks to November's crude oil production cuts from OPEC, joined by production cuts from non-OPEC countries shortly thereafter," DeHaan added. "In fact, we're on par to see the largest December increase in gasoline prices nationally since 2010 due to the uptick in oil prices.

However, those looking for respite from rising gas prices will be happy to know that prices will likely fall, at least temporarily, starting in mid-January through Valentine's Day as refiners begin discounting excess inventories of winter-grade fuel."

COWBOYS STEAKHOUSE AND RESTAURANT \$1.00 Off Adults

50¢ Off Children **Sunday Only** 11-3 Buffet or I Any Entree \$9.00 or above I 1 Coupon Per Person

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as she can.

"I am going to help the new executive director as long as they need me to," she said. "I love the United Way and what they do."

#### **MYERS & SMITH** FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson

267-8288 Edgar Ray, 83, died

Wednesday. A Celebration of Life will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chape

### **FOUR SEVENS OPERATING CO., LTD**

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Marcy Place

Do you have an interesting sports item or

# Cowboys bounce back, top Bucs 26-20

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Ezekiel Elliott ran faster after he crossed the goal line than he did looking for a hole to get in the end zone from the 2-yard

Dallas' rookie sensation and NFL rushing leader had his eyes on an oversized Salvation Army red kettle in front of the stands. He jumped in, then disappeared when he crouched down.

Elliott rushed for a career-high 159 yards and that short score and the Cowboys closed in on home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs with a 26-20 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday night.

The Cowboys (12-2) bounced back after their franchise-record 11-game winning streak

ended, hanging on after what looked to be a festive night following Elliott's antics turned tense when Jameis Winston rallied the Bucs from a 17-3 deficit to a 20-17 lead.

"One of the words we talked about right from the outset this week was 'response,'" Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said. "We did a good job early in the ballgame to get a lead and they started throwing the ball a lot early in the second half and they went ahead.

"And again, that word 'response' came back to the forefront."

Making his debut in the Sunday night spotlight, Winston threw for 247 yards and two touchdowns but had four including turnovers, an interception that led

See DALLAS, Page 10



Dallas Cowboys' Ronald Leary (65) provides protection against Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Clinton McDonald (98) as Dak Prescott (4) scrambles out of the pocket in the first half of an NFL football game Sunday in Arlington.

NCAA volleyball:

### Stanford defeats **Texas** for title

COLUMBUS, (AP) — Stanford coach John Dunning expected big things from his latest recruiting class.

Just maybe not this

Inky Ajanaku had 18 kills, Kathryn Plummer added 16 and Stanford — led by four freshman starters — beat Texas 25-21, 25-19, 18-25, 25-21 on Saturday night in the NCAA women's volleyball final.

The Cardinal (27-7) won 16 of their last 17 matches to complete an unlikely championship run with four freshman starters — Plummer, Audriana Fitzmorris, Jenna Gray and Morgan

"You know, it's overwhelming," coach John Dunning said. "You put so much into this, and this is just a group that's just fun to be with. And I love being around them."

The Cardinal have the most losses of any championship team in Division I women's volleyball history. Ajanaku, the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, leaves Stanford as a champion just a year following a devastating right knee injury that sidelined her for the entire 2015 season.

Stanford began the season 10-5 overall and 4-3 in the Pac-12. Then Dunning moved senior Kelsey Humphreys to defensive specialist and handed the setting duties to Gray. The Cardinal were the hottest team in volleyball from that point on.

After losing the third set, Stanford jumped out to a 6-0 lead and continued to dominate the net. Plummer received a bump set from Humphreys and registered the winning kill off of the Texas block to secure the program's first

national title since 2004.

13 turnovers and shot 49 percent from the field. Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker, who combined to form "The Big

Three" with Duncan, combined for 28 points, seven assists and five re-

bounds.

Aldridge made the Spurs' first. They had 18 all of last season.



AP photo

Houston quarterback Tom Savage, right, throws a pass during the Texans' 21-20 win over Jacksonville Sunday.

### Reserve QB leads Texans past Jags

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans maina quarterback controversy with a win over Jacksonville on Sunday.

The Jaguars lost their

Tom Savage threw for 260 yards after Brock Osweiler was benched in the second quarter, and Lamar Miller scored Houston's only touchdown with less than three minutes remaining as the Texans rallied for the 21-20 victory. The defeat cost Gus Bradley his job in Jacksonville.

Houston coach Bill O'Brien wouldn't say who would start next week.

"We're always going to make decisions in the best interest of the team," O'Brien said. "We'll regroup here tonight. We've got a short week and we'll make decisions on anybody, any starter that we have. We make decisions on that every week."

The Jaguars fired Bradley after Jacksontained control of the ville's ninth straight AFC South and gained loss. He went 14-48 since taking over in 2013.

"It is unfortunately evident that we must make a change," Jaguars owner Shad Khan said in a statement. "I thought it would be best to do it immediately after today's result so Gus can step away, relax and regroup with his family during the Christmas and holiday season."

The win was Houston's 10th straight in the division and left the Texans (8-6) tied with Tennessee for the AFC South lead. But Houston controls its playoff future with a 5-0 mark in the division.

Osweiler threw interceptions on consecutive drives in the second quarter to help Jacksonville build a 13-0 lead. O'Brien had insisted all season he hadn't thought about benching Osweiler, but he'd seen enough after that

See QB, Page 10

## Spurs celebrate Duncan, beat Pelicans

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points and the San Antonio Spurs paid tribute to Tim Duncan on his jersey retirement night with a fundamentally strong performance in a 113-100 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Sunday.

San Antonio won its fourth straight overall and fourth consecutive at home after a slow start at the AT&T Center.

The Spurs retired Duncan's jersey after the game. The franchise cornerstone retired in the offseason after winning five championships and two MVPs in 19 seasons, all with San Antonio.

Duncan's style of play led to the nickname "The Big Fundamental," and the Spurs honored him with their own rather seamless performance against the Pelicans.

San Antonio had six players score in double figures, had 31 assists on 42 baskets, committed just

points on a 20-foot jumper. San Antonio signed Aldridge to play alongside Duncan last season and eventually replace him as a dominant force at power forward.

Aldridge shot 6 for 15 from the field in 26 minutes.

Alexis Ajinca led New Orleans with 16 points. Anthony Davis was limited to 12 points on 5-of-12 shooting.

**TIP-INS** 

Pelicans: F Solomon Hill missed the game to be with his wife after the birth of their first child. Quincy Pondexter has not played this season after having arthroscopic surgery on his left knee in March 2016. ... The Pelicans are 13-41 against the Spurs in franchise history, including just four wins in 28 games in San Antonio.

Spurs: San Antonio retired Duncan's jersey following the game. Among his former teammates in attendance to honor Duncan were David Robinson, Bruce Bowen, Sean Elliott, Malik Rose, Antonio Daniels and Will Perdue. ... The Spurs are 10-0 this season when Tony Parker scores in double figures. ... San Antonio has 30 alleyoop dunks in 26 games this season.



San Antonio center Pau Gasol (16) grabs a rebound during the Spurs' 113-100 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans Sunday in Sar Antonio.

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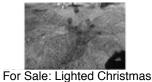
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19, DECEMBER, 2016 20, DECEMBER, 2016 TAMI L. DAVIS **ASSISTANT CITY SECRET-**

#9259 December 19 & 20, 2016

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AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING. TEXAS, AMENDING ORDIN-ANCE NUMBER 034-2016 WHICH ADOPTED THE AN-NUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTO-BER 1, 2016 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 BY INCREASING THE GENER-AL FUND BUDGET BY AC-**CEPTING A TIFMAS GRANT** TO BE USED FOR ADDI-TIONAL TRAVEL/TRAINING **EXPENSES PROVIDING** FOR REPEAL OF ORDIN-ANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECT-IVE DATE.

19, DECEMBER, 2016 20, DECEMBER, 2016 TAMI L. DAVIS **ASSISTANT CITY SECRET-ARY** 

#9260 December 19 & 20, 2016

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION TO SWR 26/27 SURFACE COMMING-LING PERMIT:

Notice is hereby given that Diamondback E&P LLC (RRC P-5 #217012) has filed with the Texas Railroad Commission the following P-17 Application for the Exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle production from oil and gas leases: Phillips-Hodnett Unit wells 1LS, 1WA, 1WB (Lease #47858), and ASRO 13 Unit wells 1LS (DP #814224), 1WA (DP #814221), and 1WB (DP #814216). All wells are in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field in Howard County, Texas. This application is for off lease storage, common separation, common storage and casinghead gas metering by allocation by well test. Production will be allocated by W-10 Tests. Any royalty or working interest owners or offset operators who have not received written notification. please consider this your Notice of Application. If you have objections to the issuance of this permit, you may submit a letter to P-17 Department, Railroad Commission of Texas, PO Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. Unless the Railroad Commis-

### **Public Notice**

sion receives a protest to this application, the Commission may issue a permit within 21 days following the date of last publication.

#9244 November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2016

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**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**. It's not always the case, but you're better off assuming that the outcome mostly depends on what you do. Your internal locus of control will give you a great deal of confidence that you can steer your fate.

**TAURUS (April** 

20-May 20). Unreliable environments are breeding grounds for criminal behavior. Add structure to your surroundings. Rules, rewards and punishments will help you succeed, even if they are largely self-invent-

**GEMINI (May 21-**June 21). Sartorial decisions could strongly affect the outcome, so do put some thought into what you're going to wear. Go with the proven, comfortable choice that you look great in and that matches the formality level of the occasion.

**CANCER** (June **22-July 22).** Inclusiveness is class. To choose the person who is most important to you and interact solely there would be a mistake -- and a rookie one at that. Whether you're pitching, presenting or just mingling, include everyone in the room.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sooner or later, the subject of money will come up. Later is better. Lead with dollar figures and you'll miss the exciting dance of seduction that is such an import-

### Tomorrow's Horoscope

ant part of every great deal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). This is not a good day for sharing much news, especially not if it's confidential, controversial or sensitive in nature. Would you like to see it on the front page of the paper? If not, don't tell it to anyone today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're a treasure hunter in search of precious bounty. You've the patience to search for clues, the intelligence to put them together and the tenacity to keep going until you get the price.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There have been times when you've felt more emotion for a fictional person than for anyone you really know, and that's the power of alternative worlds.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Many cellphones can get a full battery charge in an hour or so, but you still need five to 10 hours to feel fully rejuvenated. The most drastic life improvement you could make centers around getting a good amount of sleep.

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19). This is not a time to play hide-and-seek

**CAPRICORN** 

with your feelings. It shows more confidence to be straightforward. This will in no way ruin the game now. In fact, it will make it more interest-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a good day when life fuses your curiosity and interest with the job at hand. But when your Google history tells one story and your life tells quite another, well, it's a sign that it's time for a change. PISCES (Feb.

19-March 20). Excitement is needed to keep the days from going by too slowly. Serenity is needed to keep the years from going by too fast. What activities could vou add or subtract to stay in the sweet spot of time?

**TODAY'S BIRTH-**DAY (Dec. 19). You'll finally get the thing you were unable to afford before, yet you'll find that your life energy shines best through the things you

create, not the things you buy. March brings love and promotion. A deal will be finalized in April. The loving words you'll hear in July could lead to a move. Leo and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 44, 11, 28 and 13.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION:** "Will my boyfriend marry me or not? He's a Virgo, and I'm a Cancer. One day he's talking about us as a couple and the things we'll do when we are married, and the next day he says he needs his space. I'm 40 years old. I don't want children, but I'd like to know what my future is going to be like."

As a Cancer woman, you thrive when your concept of home is nailed down. You want to know where you're going to live, what it's going to look and feel like and who is going to be living there with you. Virgo men have their own ideas about home life and can be meticulous in their demanding their personal space. It may be easier than you realize to accidentally violate your

man's personal space rules. Your best bet is to give him a wide berth. That may require you to take the marriage issue off the table. Build your own home, space and life as though you couldn't care less whether he is involved. It may seem cold to you, but in fact, there will be nothing warmer or more attractive to him than a woman who is comfortable in her own groove.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES**: Jake Gyllenhaal is the child of a director and a screenwriter, so it's no wonder he and his sister, Maggie, have turned their talents toward the big screen since childhood. With four luminaries in the high-energy sign of Sagittarius, confidence, charisma and luck are constant companions. A witty Gemini moon makes

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Gyllenhaal the life of

the dinner party.

### A Here-and-There Father

**Dear Annie:** My now-ex-husband and I got married and had a baby right after high school. We had a beautiful baby girl, "Sophia." Caring for a newborn while all my friends were going off to college was challenging, but I would not trade the experience for the world. Sophia is my light and

The problem is with her father.

He felt a great deal of resentment at having to care for a baby when he was only 19. He preferred going out with the guys to spending time at home with Sophia and me. The tension and resentment built until one day, he left us, saying it was too much for him. He said he would be going to community college to start over. I was devastated. He didn't want any major responsibilities, so I was awarded sole custody.

Now Sophia is 5 years old. As hard as it is for me, I know that he is her father, so I allow him to see her when he has time.



By Steve Becker

### Famous Hand

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable NORTH **♥**Q 10 WEST **EAST ♦** 10 7 6 5 **♥**764 The bidding:

North West East South Pass Pass Opening lead — five of spades.

This deal occurred in the quarterfinal match between Italy and the United States at the 2004 world team championship in Istanbul. The Italians defeated their longtime rivals by the slender margin of 12 IMPs in the

The Italy-U.S. confrontation was an up-and-down affair, with the lead changing hands many times. Today's deal helped put the Americans into the lead at the end of the second 16board segment.

The bidding shown took place when Norberto Bocchi and Giorgio Duboin were North-South for Italy Duboin ruffed the opening spade lead and had to decide how to broach

the trump suit. West's four-spade bid indicated a distributional hand with few high cards, so it would seem that declarer would do best by leading a low dia-mond from his hand to see whether West had a singleton honor. In the actual case, this would have resolved the issue immediately. If an honor did not appear, declarer would play the king, and if it lost to the ace, he would have to decide whether to finesse East for the jack when the suit was next led from dummy.

Instead, Duboin crossed dummy with a club at trick two and led a diamond to the queen. When this lost to the singleton ace, he had to go down one. At the other table, Bobby Levin

and Steve Weinstein of the U.S. also reached six diamonds and got a spade lead. Here, too, the Italian West had bid four spades at his first turn. Weinstein considered his first

play in the trump suit very carefully and found the winning line by leading low from his hand at trick two. The appearance of West's ace gave the Americans a 16-IMP pickup on

**Tomorrow:** The rationale of good defense. ©2016 King Features Syndicate Inc

#### Annie's Mailbox ® Dear Confused:

Last week, he picked her up to go to the movies. She came back with stars in her eyes from getting to spend the afternoon with Daddy. The problem is that she wants to see him every weekend. When I told him this, he said he iust doesn't have the time and can't commit to every Saturday or even every other

Saturday. I hate to see her so disappointed each Saturday when I have to tell her that Daddy won't make it today. His inconsistency is breaking her heart. I have allowed him to come and go as he pleases because I don't want her to have zero relationship with her father. Is this type of inconsistency OK for a child, or should I just cut him off entirely? -- Confused Mom

This man is giving you only crumbs while you and your daughter deserve the whole cake. What he's doing to Sophia -- and to you -is terrible and selfish, and no, this kind of inconsistency is not

OK for a child. It's time to sit him down for a long, serious heart-to-heart and lay it all out. Express your concerns about the effect his unpredictability is having on your daughter. Ask him whether he could pledge to see Sophia for one Saturday a month without any ifs, ands or buts. That commitment should be small enough even for his stunted sense of responsibility, and your daughter would at least have one Saturday a month that she could safely look forward to.

But also let him know upfront that if he were to stand her up even once, that would be it. Sophia's little heart deserves to be treasured, not broken.

Dear Annie: | have just read the letter from "Appalled," who is disgusted by men wearing hats while indoors, along with your response. I strongly suggest that you educate yourselves. My husband is a Vietnam veteran, and like many of those who served in Vietnam, he has photophobia (severe light sensitivity), a condition that increases in severity with age. The jury is still out, after decades, as to whether this condition is caused by exposure to Agent Orange; it is most definitely known to be a symptom of traumatic brain injury.

He wears a baseball cap indoors at all times; the only other option is to keep his eyes closed. If your reader and you are so disgusted and appalled by his indoor hat, my suggestion is simple: Don't look at him. -- Donna

**Dear Donna:** You're on the mark. I hadn't considered the medical reasons for why someone might wear a hat indoors. Thank you for writing.

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

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

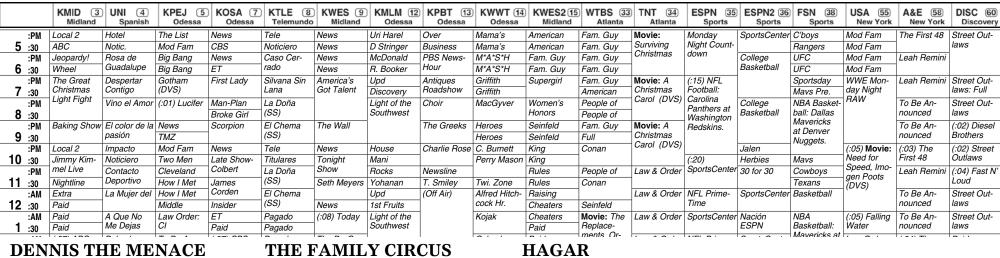
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"Now THAT'S a happy tree! Right, Mommy?







**BLONDIE** 





was sworn in as the 41st vice



BC











WIZARD OF ID



WHAT WOULD I HAVE TO DO?



**AGNES** 







HI AND LOIS





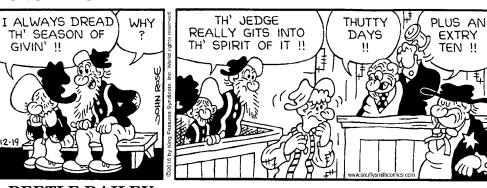
THE OTHER COAST







### **SNUFFY SMITH**



BEETLE BAILEY





### This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 19, the 354th day of 2016. There are 12 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 19, 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French. On this date:

In 1777,

Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to camp for the winter.

In 1813, British forces captured Fort Niagara during the War of 1812. In 1843, "A Christmas Carol,"

by Charles Dickens, was first published in England. In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal mine explosion in Jacobs

Creek, Pennsylvania. In 1932, British the Broadcasting Corp. began transmitting overseas with its

Empire Service to Australia. In 1957, Meredith Willson's nusical play "The Music Man" opened on Broadway.

In 1961, former Ambassador Ρ. Joseph Kennedy Sr., 73, suffered a debilitating stroke while in Palm Beach, Florida.

In 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller

president of the United States in the U.S. Senate chamber by Chief Justice Warren Burger with President Gerald R. Ford looking on.

In 1975, John Paul Stevens was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1986, the Soviet Union

announced it had freed dissident Andrei Sakharov (AHN'dray SAHK'-ah-rawf) from internal exile, and pardoned his wife, Yelena Bonner. Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed independent counsel to investigate the Iran-Contra affair. In 1996, the television indus-

try unveiled a plan to rate programs using tags such as "TV-G" (suitable for all ages), "TV-Y" (suitable for all youngsters) and "TV-M" (for mature audiences only). Actor Marcello Mastroianni died in Paris at age 72. In 1998, President Bill

Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice (he was subsequently acquitted by the Senate).

Ten years ago: A Libyan court convicted five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor of deliberately infecting 400 children with HIV and sentenced them to death. (The six later had their death sentences commuted, and were transferred to Bulgaria, where they were pardoned and set free.)

Five years ago: North Korea announced the death two days earlier of leader Kim Jong II; North Koreans marched by the thousands to mourn their "Dear Leader" while state media proclaimed his youngest son, Kim Jong Un, a "Great Successor." Paroled American Lori Berenson, who had stirred international controversy after being convicted of aiding Peruvian guerrillas, left Lima on a flight to the United States for her first visit back home since her arrest in 1995.

One year ago: Democratic presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton debated in Manchester, New Hampshire, where they engaged in a pointed but polite discussion of national security, Americans' heightened terrorism fears and the economy.

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# Answer to previous puzzle

### 12/19/16

### **Newsday Crossword**

### **ACROSS**

- 1 Christmas songs 65 Half of a quart
- 6 Sleep in a tent
- 10 Scientists' workplaces
- 14 Become, eventually
- 15 Truant soldier's offense: Abbr.
- 16 Shirt-pressing
- appliance 17 Shorthand pro
- **18** Bat's
- home 19 Where Lima
- is capital
- 20 Too nervous to speak
- 22 Performed a
- ballad 23 Angry mood
- 26 Initial stage
- at a frat 33 Chicken mein
- 34 A Great Lake
- 37 Escape from

- 41 Shah's onetime
- 42 Less humid
- 45 Attended an event
- 48 Worries
- **51** "Scat!" 53 Angel's topper
- 62 Triple-decker

- 66 Spruce up an
- 67 Fuel-carrying
- ship **68** Wide belt
  - 69 Nevada casino city

- underground

- **24** "Golly!"
- 29 Barrel tapped
- (Chinese food)
- 38 Husband or wife
- 39 Wandered
- aimlessly
- domain
- 44 Error in printing
- 46 Dwellings with leases
- 50 Day before Fri.
- 56 Constant talker
- cookie 63 Played a trumpet

- 64 Banquet host
- article
- - 70 Get to one's feet 25 Wide-footwear

### **DOWN**

- 1 Bird's home in a tree
  - 2 Not fooled by 3 Eve's garden
  - 4 Breathing organ
  - 6 Spiny desert
- 7 Anticipate, as
- 8 Change one's residence

14

- an arrival

- 5 Husband or wife
- plants

- 31 Dutch cheeses 32 Heredity carrier

desserts 29 Voicemail tone

**30** 24-\_\_ gold

- 33 Naval rank
- below capt.

woods

(qullible)

21 Enroll for a

contest

letters

- vine

15

- 36 Wall-climbing
- 35 Goes bad

- - school cheer 47 Wood used for
- homebuilding 13 Warm and cozy
  - 52 Book category for do-itvourselfers
  - 54 Opera solo
    - Tea Shoppe
  - campus, for
  - 61 Cattle group
  - 10 12

17 18 20 22 21 23 24 25 27 30 31 32 35 | 36 34 38 40 42 45 46 48 49 51 52 54 56 58 59 60 61 63 64

68 69 70 CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2016 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/19/16

#### ORAL EXAM by Sandy Fein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

### 9 Solemn promise 40 "That'll \_\_ now"

- ("That's enough") **10** Insincere support 11 Neck of the 43 Old-fashioned \_ yesterdav
  - 49 Lover boys 51 Tavern mug
- 26 Chicago airport 53 Moves like a 27 Out of the office kangaroo
- 28 Love of sugary 55 Telescope glass Ye
  - 58 Fail to include 59 West Coast
  - short **60** Adolescent

  - 16 19
- 53 62 65 66 67

### **DALLAS**

Continued from Page 4

to Dan Bailey's 38-yard field goal that gave Dallas a 23-20 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Tampa Bay (8-6) had its five-game winning streak snapped and fell a game behind Atlanta in the NFC South.

Dallas stayed two games ahead of the New York Giants in the NFC East and needs a win without any help to clinch the home field for the postseason.

Elliott had NFL career rushing leader and former Dallas star Emmitt Smith and plenty of his teammates laughing when he jumped into the kettle - a staple in the end zones from Thanksgiving on every year with one of the Cowboys' most visible charities.

Garrett wasn't quite as amused, mostly because the move cost the Cowboys a 15-yard penalty on the kickoff.

"He was actually talking about that pregame, should he do it, will they fine him," said fellow rookie Dak Prescott, Elliott's quarterback. "I didn't know he was actually going to go down and come back up slow. Got a good laugh out of it, him coming up real slowly. It was funny."

Prescott bounced back from his worst game as a pro, going 32 of 36 for 279 yards a week after completing less than 50 percent of his passes in a 10-7 loss to the New York Giants.

He also set a franchise record for rushing touchdowns by a quarterback on a wide-open 2-yarder up the middle on a draw. His sixth rushing score of the year topped Don Meredith's previous club record from 1966.

Elliott had 76 of his yards with Dallas trying to control the clock on its final two possessions, but Winston still had a chance in the final 2 minutes after second-half scoring tosses to Adam Humphries and Cameron Brate gave the Bucs a brief lead.

Tampa Bay's last chance ended on downs at its 20, and the Bucs' got just one first down on their final three pos-

COOLED-DOWN DEFENSE

The Bucs' streak of five straight games of holding opponents to under 21 points — their longest since 2009-10 ended, with Dallas gaining 449 yards, second-most this year against Tampa Bay. Elliott was the second 100-yard rusher of the season.

# Brady leads Pats past Broncos

DENVER (AP) — Tom Brady brought a power run game and a sturdier offensive line with him to the Mile High City this

They helped him walk away a winner for just the third time in 10 trips to Denver.

Brady overcame both a slow start and another dazzling performance by Denver's defense in New England's grinding 16-3 win Sunday that secured a first-round bye in the playoffs. It also dealt a crushing blow to the Broncos' playoff hopes.

He was equally pleased with the rare win in Denver as he was with his avoidance of another beating like the one he suffered in the AFC championship last January, when the Broncos hit him a careerhigh 23 times.

This time, they only got to him seven times — the same amount Von Miller had in the conference championship. Miller didn't get his hands on Brady at all Sunday.

Brady missed his first six passes for just the second time his career — the first was way back on Oct. 12, 2003, against the Giants but he came back to lead the Patriots (12-2) to a record eighth consecutive division title.

This time, it was the Broncos' hopes of defending their Super Bowl title that took a beating.

The Broncos (8-6) lost for the third time in four games and were supplanted by the Dolphins for the sixth and final playoff spot in the AFC race with two weeks remaining.

half of his 32 passes for 188 vards with no touchdowns and no interceptions for a passer rating of 68.2. That was actually worse that Broncos' QB Trevor Siemian, who was 25 for 40 for 282 yards with an interception for a rating of 73.1.

Those numbers alone belied the Patriots' allaround dominance of their nemesis. Brady's first completion

was a 17-yarder to Julian Edelman a minute into the second quarter, igniting a drive that ended with LeGarrette Blount powering his way in from the 1 . That was his 15th rushing touchdown, which set a single-season franchise record and broke a 3-3 tie.

The Patriots put the ball on the ground twice on that drive. Brady was

Brady completed just sack-stripped on the first snap with left guard Joe Thuney pouncing on the fumble, and Lewis recovered his own fumble at the Denver 1 just before Blount scored.

Unfathomable is how Aqib Talib described losing a game in which the Broncos held Brady to 16 points and 16 completions.

"It's football," Talib said. The Broncos outgained

New England by more than 100 yards in the first quarter, but Siemian made two bad decisions that thwarted promising

His throw to Emmanuel Sanders from the New England 14 was both poorly timed and poorly placed. Cornerback Ryan Logan picked it off and returned it to midfield, setting up Blount's TD run.

### Mavericks steamroll Sacramento, 99-79

DALLAS (AP) — Even after scoring a season high in points, Dorian Finney-Smith wanted to talk about his defense.

The rookie had 17 points, leading six Dallas players in double figures as the Mavericks beat the Sacramento Kings 99-79 Sunday.

The Mavericks, who lost to Sacramento by 31 points at home 11 days ago, started fast. They made 11 of their first 15 shots and never trailed.

Later, some of his teammates teased him for passing up open shots.

"When I get a hand on a ball or a tip, it gets me going," Finney-Smith said. "I try not to lose focus on what I bring to the table, and that's defense. If I'm making shots, that's a

Deron Williams, Harrison Barnes and Wesley Matthews each scored 15 for Dallas.

DeMarcus Cousins scored 33 for Sacramento. The Kings were minus second-leading scorer Rudy Gay, who missed his third consecutive game because of a strained right hip flexor.

A 10-0 Mavericks run early in the second quarter opened a 38-26 lead and the Kings never got closer than nine for the remainder of the game.

"We've got to come out and be the aggressor, that's just plain and simple," Cousins said. "We can't get off to slow starts. We can't let a team gain confidence. We've got to

be the aggressors every night."

It was barely 30 degrees in Dallas and the start time was moved up three hours to 3 p.m. — that avoided a conflict with the Cowboys, whose home game against Tampa Bay was originally scheduled for the daytime and later switched to night.

Following a 120-89 home loss to the Kings on Dec. 7, the Mavericks called a team meeting. They've won three of four at home since then and are 3-3 overall.

"We remember (the loss), but the biggest thing is that our demeanor has to be like this every night," Matthews said.

TIP-INS

Kings: Cousins had 23 of

the first half. ... Ty Lawson was the only other Sacramento player in double figures, with 10 points.

Sacramento's 44 points in

Mavericks: The Kings scored just 14 points in the third quarter, a season low for a Mavericks opponent. ... Williams had seven assists and passed current Dallas television analyst Derek Harper for 21st place on the NBA's alltime assists list with 6,584.

HARRIS A HERO

Devin Harris had a season-high 14 points and seven rebounds for the Mavericks. He made a three-point play and a four-point play to cap a 12-2 Dallas run that gave the Mavs a 76-56 lead with 2:33 left in the third quar-

Continued from Page 4

and brought in Savage . The move was met with a huge ovation from the home crowd that had been booing Osweiler for most of the day.

Houston trailed by nine entering the fourth quarter and Nick Novak made his fourth field goal before Miller bulled in for the goahead touchdown. The Jaguars were flagged for pass interference twice on that drive to set up the score.

The Jaguars (2-12) got the ball back twice, but they failed on a fourthdown conversion the first time and Blake Bortles was intercepted the second time.

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Bortles addressed his level of frustration.

"I think it's about as high as it can get," he said. "I don't know, really, for anybody in this locker room how much more frustrated you can be. We had all the opportunities in the world, chances in the fourth quarter to score, and we just don't do it."

Osweiler has struggled in his first season in Houston after signing a \$72 million contract to join the Texans from Denver. He has 16 interceptions and 14 touchdown passes. Osweiler was 6 for 11 for 48 yards before he was pulled.

"We don't make decisions on how much a guy gets paid," O'Brien said. "We make decisions on what's the best way to win a game. That was

the decision we made today and I thought today, it worked out OK."

It was the first regular-season appearance since Dec. 14, 2014 for Savage, who missed all of last season with a shoulder injury.

The Texans cut the lead to five with a field goal in the third quarter. The Jaguars quickly padded it when Marqise Lee returned the ensuing kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown to make it 20-8.

Another field goal for Houston cut the lead to 20-11 late in the third quarter.

Earlier, a high pass by Osweiler was deflected by Will Fuller, intercepted by Jalen Ramsey and returned 35 yards. Jacksonville's offense couldn't move Jason Myers made a 50-yard field goal for a 6-0 lead in the second quarter.

Osweiler was picked off again on the next drive and Jacksonville cashed in when Bortles ran for a 1-yard touchdown to push the lead to

"You're disappointed because you feel like you let them down, but then at the same time you're happy because this football team found a way to win," Osweiler said.

The Texans first points came late in the first half when Jacksonville was called for holding in the end zone on a punt, giving Houston a safety to make it 13-2.

Houston's Nick Novak added a field goal for a 13-5 halftime score.

NO. 1 FAN

Houston star defen-Houston's sive end J.J. Watt was on the sideline Sunday for the first time since having season-ending back surgery in September. Last NFL Defensive Player of the Year cheered and clapped throughout the game after getting a round of applause when he was shown on the

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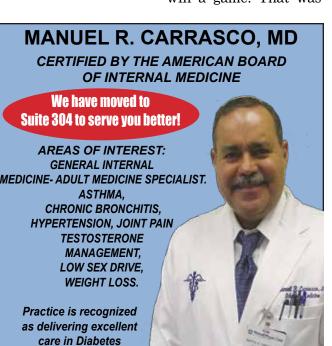
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started. **CLOWNEY'S** CON-TRIBUTION

Jumbotron just before it

defense was led by Jadeveon Clowney, who had a sack, three tackles for losses and two quarterback hits. The top overall pick in the 2014 draft has a career-high five sacks this season.

"I heard him say in an interview after practice one of the days this week: 'I'm a good football player," O'Brien said. "And you know what? He's (darn) right about that."



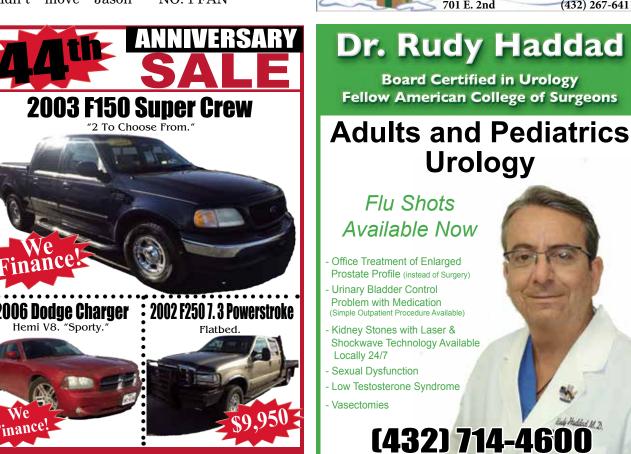
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