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Big Spring ISD warns: Solicitation scam making rounds

By LYNDEL MOODY

Big Spring ISD officials are warning the public of a possible scam after receiving reports of individuals collecting funds to purchase instruments for the Big Spring High School band.

"Big Spring ISD has received reports that individuals are soliciting funds for

band instruments from the public. This is a scam," according to a Facebook post on the district's page. "No organization affiliated with the Big Spring ISD is asking for money for band instruments."

George Bancroft, Big Spring ISD community relations coordinator, said he learned about the alleged scam Thursday evening.

"I received a call by one of the assistant band directors," he said. "A lady from his church contacted him about someone soliciting donations for band instruments." The band program does

solicit for instruments occasionally, Bancroft said, but only asks for used instruments, not for funds. "The band does have an in-

strument drive sometimes

but it's for instruments," he said. "They usually do that in the spring. "They don't do it every year,

but they ask for old instruments," he said. "You know, those instruments you don't play anymore and just stick in a closest somewhere."

If someone from the public has concerns regarding anyone soliciting for funds in the district's name, Bancroft encourages them to contact him personally.

"They can call me because I know who to contact to check it out," he said.

Bancroft can be reached by calling 432-816-7246 or 264-

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mailing citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

Medicare launches revamp

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Heart attacks and broken hips cause much suffering and worry as people grow older. This year, Medicare wants to start changing how it pays for treatment of these life-threatening conditions, to promote quality and contain costs. Beneficiaries and family members may notice a new approach. Hospitals and doctors in dozens of

communities selected for large-scale experiments on this front are already gearing up. The goal is to test the notion that better coordination among clinicians, hospitals, and rehab centers can head off complications, prevent avoidable hospital re-admissions and help patients achieve more stable and enduring recoveries. If results back that up, Medicare can adopt the changes nationwide.

The cardiac and hip fracture experiments are the latest development in a big push under the Obama administration to reinvent Medicare, steering the program away from paying piecemeal for services, regardless of quality and cost. It's unclear whether Donald Trump as president will continue the pace of change, slow down or even hit pause.

Trump's Health and Human Services nominee, orthopedic-surgeonturned-congressman Tom Price, has expressed general concern that the doctor-patient relationship could be harmed by Medicare payment changes seeking to contain costs. And the Medicare division that designed the experiments — the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation — is itself under threat of being abolished because it was created by President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law.

See **REVAMP**, Page 3

A winning campaign



HERALD file photo

Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan helps to kick off the Salvation Army's 2016 Red Kettle Campaign in November. Agency officials said the campaign exceeded its goal by \$2,000.

Salvation Army exceeds donations goal in kettle drive

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

2016 went out with a bang for the Salvation Army of Big Spring. According to an announcement on the church's Facebook page, the Red Kettle Campaign this year exceeded its goal by \$2,000.

"Thank you, Big Spring! We have exceeded our goal for the Red Kettle campaign by \$2,000," said the message, posted Dec. 24. "Your generous

support allows us to do what we do last year was \$35,000." throughout the year. Remember, the bells may stop ringing for now, but The Salvation Army of Big Spring continues to serve all year long. God bless you and Merry Christmas!"

Lt. Josh McKain, the local Salvation Army's corps officer in conjunction with his wife Rachel, said the church had set a lofty goal for this campaign: \$45,000.

"That's about \$10,000 more than last year," McKain said. "I think the goal

The Red Kettle Campaign kicked off its local fundraising effort Nov. 19 with an opening ceremony held at

Porter's Grocery Store. "This is our major fundraiser for the Salvation Army for the year. One hundred percent of the funds that are raised in this campaign go directly back to the community through the services and programs that we pro-

See DRIVE, Page 3



Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com



HOPE grant applications being accepted By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Applications for the HOPE (Help Our Pupils Excel) Foundation's Innovated Teaching Grants are still being taken.

The program is meant to help support Big Spring ISD teachers implement creative

ideas in the classroom by supplying financial backing to help turn those ideas into reality, according to Linda Con-

way of the HOPE Foundation. The HOPE Foundation, established in Nov. 2014, is a nonprofit corporation that awards grants to Big Spring

ISD teachers to help them

implement innovative and creative instructional activities in their classrooms that might not be possible without this funding, according to a news release from founda-

Last year was for the first

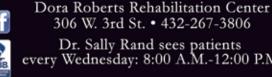
See **HOPE**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Trinidad "Trini" Arsiaga Trinidad "Trini" Arsiaga, 83, of Big Spring died

Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016, at Scenic Mountain Medi-

Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following ac-

- RODNEY MARTINEZ JR., 21, of 1103 Stanford Ave. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- LISA NICOLE GOMEZ, 29, of 212 N. Johnson St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- ANGELA CELESTE DUG-GER, 39, of 1411 Settles was arrested on warrants for bail jumping/failure to appear and theft of property (less than \$100).
- RONALD EUGENE COX, 50, of 215 NW First St. in Andrews was arrested on a charge of public intoxication. • TRAVIS IVERSON MCCOY,
- 28, of 1008 E. 12th St. was arrested on warrants for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, bail jumping/failure to appear, and possession of drug paraphernalia; and on a charge of theft of property (\$100 to \$750)/shoplift-
- MARK MATTHEW LIN-**DEM**, 39, of 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. #73 was arrested on a charge of criminal trespassing.
- **MARISA TORRES**, 29, of 1909 S. Johnson St. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- JESSIE JAY HERNANDEZ,

and Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral

Police blotter

32, of 1003 NW Second St. was arrested on warrants for driving with an invalid license, failure to appear, and assault causing bodily injury.

- JASON HARVEY BED-**FORD**, 32, of 2513 Dow Drive was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and soliciting/peddling without a permit.
- DERRICK DIAMOND WIL-BERT, 36, of 1207 Lamar Ave. was arrested on a charge of evading arrest or detention. TRACEY DAWN JUAREZ,
- ed on warrants for driving with an invalid license and bail jumping/failure to appear. BRANDON SEVERIANO BAIZA JR., 28, of 1208 S. Benton

25, of 901 W. Third St. was arrest-

- St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant. • CODY ALAN WINGO, 28, of 2403 Runnels was arrested on an
- outstanding warrant. MARCUS EMORY STUR-**GILL**, 27, of 1008 N. Gregg St. was arrested on charges of public intoxication, criminal trespassing, and assault/family violence
- JOAN MARIE TATUM, 56, of 1409 S. Runnels St. was arrested on a charge of assault against elderly or disabled individual.

(threat or offensive touch).

 MARISSA YVETTE PHIL-LIPS, 22, of 510 S. Douglas St. was arrested on a warrant for criminal trespassing.

- LYNDON TRENT FRALEY, 56, of 1506 Stadium was arrested on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- DISTURBANCE was reported in the 700 block of North Service Road, and at the intersection of Maple and Mesquite. THEFT was reported in the
- 200 block of West FM 700, the 900 block of Willia, the 2300 block of Wasson Road, the 1200 block of East 11th Place, and the 800 block of East Interstate 20.
- MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported at the intersection of Fourth and Birdwell.
- **DISTUR-DOMESTIC BANCE** was reported in the 100 block of Northwest Ninth Street, the 1200 block of Lamar Avenue, the 1500 block of West Fifth Street, and the 600 block of State Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHI-**CLE** was reported in the 700 block of West 16th Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITA-**TION** was reported in the 3500 block of East Interstate 20.
- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 3600 block of West

Membership to the Big Spring Native American

in Native American culture are encouraged to find

out more about the organization by calling Richard

The Scenic Mountain Medical Center volunteer

program is in need of volunteers. A variety of op-

portunities are open for members of the commu-

nity. For more information, call Anita Cline at 268-

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Ser-

vices Council is in need of volunteers to fill a va-

riety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Ap-

plications to become a volunteer can be picked up

at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through

Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big

Spring State Hospital Community Relations De-

partment, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a

variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale

"Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125,

Volunteer opportunities

Rosalia Barraza

Rosalia Barraza, 97, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, at a local hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home.

Linda Diane Willadsen

Linda Diane Willadsen, 71, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016, at her home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home.

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.

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

 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.

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

community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

· Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-

www.BigSpringHerald.com

Rich History, Big Possibilities — Big Spring, Texas

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Take Note

• Coahoma Junior High School 8th Graders will sons are welcome. be hosting a Pizza Inn Dough-Raiser to help raise funds for their upcoming trip to Washington D.C. The fund raiser will be held from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Association is open to the public. People interested Monday at Pizza Inn, 700 E. FM 700.

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-

The next sacking session will be at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 2 and 3 at the old Lakeview High School gym located 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. Delaney turns into Seventh Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

• Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live

bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want

Cost is \$8 per person.

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808

• Order of the Eastern

Star Big Spring Chapter

67 meets the third Tues-

day of each month at 219

Main St. Dinner begins

at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meet-

ing begins at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome.

For more information,

contact Jimmy Ruth at

Staked Plains Mason-

219 ½ Main St. All Ma-

271-2176.

Scurry Street.

- 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.
- care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to

- visit patients. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 264-7599 or 432-967-0901. Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery
- drivers. If you would like to donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Maria at 816-6474.
- Victim Services is a non-profit independent

Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient



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News in brief

IS claims New Year's attack on Istanbul nightclub

ISTANBUL (AP) — The Islamic State group on Monday claimed responsibility for the New Year's attack at a popular Istanbul nightclub that killed 39 people and wounded scores of others. The IS-linked Aamaq News Agency said the at-

tack was carried by a "heroic soldier of the caliphate who attacked the most famous nightclub where Christians were celebrating their pagan feast."

It said the man opened fire from an automatic rifle and also detonated hand grenades in "revenge for God's religion and in response to the orders" of IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The group described Turkey as "the servant of

the cross" and also suggested it was in retaliation for Turkish military offensives against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. "We let infidel Turkey know that the blood of

Muslims that is being shed by its airstrikes and artillery shelling will turn into fire on its territories," the statement said.

For Trump, the 1980s still hold relevance

NEW YORK (AP) — Bobby Knight. Don King. Sylvester Stallone.

Many of President-elect Donald Trump's cultural touchstones, which he'd frequently name-drop at campaign rallies and on Twitter, were at their peak in the 1980s — the decade Trump's celebrity status rose in New York, Trump Tower was built, "The Art of the Deal" was published and he first flirted with running for public office.

The "Go Go 1980s" of New York were spurred by Wall Street's rise. It was a brash decade in which excess was the norm and ostentatious displays of wealth and power were celebrated in pop culture and among Manhattan's elite. And while much of what defined the 1980s has since gone out of style, Trump has seemingly internalized its ethos, which is reflected in the decor of the Trump Tower lobby and the celebrities he stood alongside during the campaign. An outer-borough New York developer trying to

prove himself across the East River, Trump always sought approval of Manhattan's ruling class and was eager to make a name for himself, according to those who tangled with him during that formative decade. "He would relentlessly promote himself in the

newspapers or on TV. He knew how to get press and squash his enemies," said Geoge Arzt, press secretary for former New York City Mayor Ed Koch, who served from 1978 to 1989.

The me-first attitude that defined the 1980s "has long been a part of who Trump is," Arzt added.

Under 3 weeks left: Obama in closing stretch of presidency HONOLULU (AP) — His last presidential vaca-

tion behind him. Barack Obama is entering the closing stretch of his presidency, an eleventh-hour push to tie up loose ends and put finishing touches on his legacy before handing the reins to Presidentelect Donald Trump. Obama returns to Washington midday Monday

from Hawaii with about two-dozen work days left. His final days will largely be consumed by a bid to protect his endangered health care law, a major farewell speech and the ongoing handover of power In an email to supporters on Monday, Obama said

he'll deliver a valedictory speech on Jan. 10, following a tradition set in 1796 when the first president, George Washington, spoke to the American people for the last time in office. The speech will take place at McCormick Place, a giant convention center in Obama's hometown of Chicago. "I'm thinking about them as a chance to say

thank you for this amazing journey, to celebrate the ways you've changed this country for the better these past eight years, and to offer some thoughts on where we all go from here," Obama said.

Yemen's children starve as war drags on

ABS, Yemen (AP) — As the first light of dawn trickles in through the hospital window, 19-yearold Mohammed Ali learns that his two-year-old cousin has died of hunger. But he has to remain strong for his little brother Mohannad, who could be next.

He holds his brother's hand as the five-year-old struggles to breathe, his skin stretched tight over tiny ribs. "I have already lost a cousin to malnutrition today, I can't lose my little brother," he says.

They are among countless Yemenis who are struggling to feed themselves amid a grinding civil war that has pushed the Arab world's poorest nation to the brink of famine. The family lives in a mud hut in northern Yemen, territory controlled by Shiite Houthi rebels, who are at war with government forces and a Saudi-led and U.S.-backed The coalition has been waging a fierce air cam-

paign against the rebels since March 2015, trying unsuccessfully to dislodge them from the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north. A coalition blockade aimed at preventing the Houthis from re-arming has contributed to a 60-percent spike in food prices, according to an estimate used by international aid groups.

During the best of times, many Yemenis struggled to make ends meet. Now they can barely feed themselves.

Armless Syrian boy thrives in US, hopes family can join him

SHARON, Mass. (AP) — Ahmad Alkhalaf has had a busy year.

He attended Democratic President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address as a special guest of a congressman. He learned to bike and rollerblade, took martial arts and gymnastics classes and spent his summer playing soccer and swimming in a lake at a day camp in the Boston suburbs. And he received his first pair of prosthetic arms

after his were blown off three years ago in a refugee camp bomb blast that also killed three of his But as the 11-year-old Syrian boy looks to another

vear in his adopted home, he says his dream is to be reunited with his mother and four surviving siblings, who are living in Istanbul.

"I want my mom to come here," he said on a recent Saturday. "I feel like I'm losing her."

US Sen. Warren seeks to pull pot shops out of banking limbo BOSTON (AP) — As marijuana shops sprout in

cal stumbling block — lack of access to the kind of routine banking services other businesses take for granted. U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat, is leading an effort to make sure vendors working with legal marijuana businesses,

states that have legalized the drug, they face a criti-

from chemists who test marijuana for harmful substances to firms that provide security, don't have their banking services taken away. It's part of a wider effort by Warren and others to bring the burgeoning \$7 billion marijuana industry in from a fiscal limbo she said forces many

targets for criminals. She joined nine other senators in sending a letter to a key federal regulator, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, calling on it to issue additional guidance to help banks provide services to marijuana shop vendors.

shops to rely solely on cash, making them tempting

\mathbf{HOPE}

Continued from Page 1

time recipients received funding. One of those grants was given to the Big Spring High School culinary arts program to help kick start the program.

Conway said grants go toward sup-

does in our community

and every community,'

said Big Spring Mayor

Larry McLellan. "'Do-

ing the most good.'

That's a true statement.

They do the most good.

It's not just at this time

of year when they feed

the hungry and take

care of the kids during

the holiday season, but

For more informa-

tion about the Salvation

it's year-round."

Salvation Army

the

enhance the classroom setting, not to replace lost state funding or the district's operating budget. More information about the grant application process can be found at www.hopefoundationbigspring.

porting programs. The

foundation is meant to

foundationbigspring@ yahoo.com. The deadline to apply for an Innovated Teaching HOPE Foundation

grant is March 1.

org or by emailing hope-

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by emailing citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Trinidad (Trini) Arsiaga, 83, died Saturday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 AM Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

DRIVE

Continued from Page 1

vide," said McKain. "That includes the Boys and Girls Club, our after school program; that includes services like the food pantry, prescription assistance, utility assistance. Everything that comes in goes back

REVAMP

Some outside groups,

including AARP, wor-

ry that Medicare may

be moving too fast and

that focusing on cost

containment could lead

to beneficiaries being

shortchanged on rehab

Innovation center di-

rector Patrick Conway,

who also serves as Medi-

care's chief medical of-

care.

Continued from Page 1

McKain said the Red Kettle campaign originated with Salvationist Joseph McFee in San Francisco 126 years ago.

"He was trying to raise money to serve the population there, and he was trying to think of ways to raise money to feed the homeless," McKain said. "So it took him back to his sailor days when he was on the ferryboat docks

In the experiments,

doctors, hospitals, and

rehab centers get paid

the regular Medicare

rates. But hospitals are

for overall quality and

cost, measured against

Medicare. If the hospi-

tal meets or exceeds the

benchmarks

responsibility

set

a sailor having a pot out front where people could throw change to be able to do the same thing, to feed his sailors. So he got a pot and he created a sign above it that said 'Keep the Pot Boiling' so that people could throw money in it for the soup that he was going to feed the homeless population there."

where he remembered

The Salvation Army

recently concluded their Angel Tree program, providing Christmas gifts and food for about 140 local families. The Army also recently served up Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to hundreds of Big Spring residents during their annual Community Thanksgiving and Community Christmas

109,000 have surgery for broken hips. Around the country,

hospitals in 98 metro areas will be involved in the cardiac experiment. The hip surgery experiment involves 67 areas that are also part of Medicare's ongoing test with hip and knee replacements.

Areas in the cardiac test include Boston, as well as Akron, Ohio; Charleston, South Carolina; Fort Collins, Colorado; Utica, New York; and Yuma, Arizona. A smaller group of communities will be involved in a related experiment that pays hospitals for coordinating rehab care for heart patients. Although the benefits of cardiac rehab are widely recognized, only a small share of patients receives it. The hip fracture test

includes the Miami, New York, and Los Angeles metro areas, as well as Austin, Texas; Bismarck, North Dakota; Flint, Michigan, and New Orleans. Hospitals are not hap-

py with the changes, though doctors have generally been supportive. A big concern for hospitals is that Medi-

"I'm so proud of what care requires mandatory participation by all the facilities in areas selected for these tests. But Conway says that's likely to lead to even better results. The idea is that hospitals will watch each other's performance closely, and the ones that have room

to improve will try to

catch the high achiev-

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and knee replacement, as well as care for cancer patients undergoing

chemotherapy.

ficer, is plowing ahead nonetheless. "Delivery system reform and paying for better care are bipartisan issues," Conway said. And quality ranks ahead of cost savings in evaluating any results, he added. The cardiac and hip fracture experiments focus on traditional Medi-

care, which remains the choice of nearly 7 in 10 out of Medicare's 57 million beneficiaries. The cardiac experiment involves both heart bypass and heart attack patients. The trials join

similar ongoing tests involving surgery for hip

goals, it earns a financial bonus, which can be shared with other service providers. If the hospital falls short, it may have to pay the government money. "Now your doctor and

hospital are working together to make sure they are well coordinated," said Conway. Under the old system, if a patient was dis-

charged from the hospital after a heart attack, "they might hand you a piece of paper that said please follow up with your primary care doctor," Conway continued. "In this model, the hospital is going to have a strong incentive to make sure you follow up."

Medicare beneficiaries are treated for heart attacks in a given year, while 48,000 undergo heart bypass surgery for clogged arteries and

Overall, about 168,000



BIG HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 4 Monday, January 2, 2017

Romo looks sharp; Dallas regulars rest in loss to Philly

successful cameo like it was no big deal.

Romo threw his first touchdown pass in nearly 14 months and the playoff-bound Dallas Cowboys played it safe in a 27-13 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

"You expect to go out there and do something well," Romo said. "It felt normal."

The Cowboys (13-3) locked up the No. 1 seed and homefield advantage throughout

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — the NFC playoffs when the Tony Romo shrugged off a Eagles (7-9) beat the Giants on Dec. 22. So Dak Prescott played only two series and Ezekiel Elliott watched from the sideline.

Romo finished 3 for 4 for 29 yards in his first regularseason game since Thanksgiving 2015 when he broke his left collarbone for the second time in less than three months.

"It's enjoyable to have a little success, but I kind of do that at practice each day,"

Romo said. "Ultimately, you are going to be defined by what you do on Sunday, but in my experience, if you're not doing it throughout the week, Sunday is going to be difficult."

Carson Wentz tossed two TD passes to Zach Ertz to help Philadelphia finish with a two-game winning streak.

Prescott was 4 for 8 for 37 yards before giving way to Romo, the league's most expensive backup. Romo broke a bone in his back in the third preseason game against Seattle this season, paving the way for Prescott to have one of the best years by a rookie quarterback in NFL history.

"I want the football every possession, but it was fun to watch Tony make it look so easy," Prescott said.

Prescott's 104.9 passer rating surpassed Robert Griffin III's rookie mark of 102.4 in 2012 for Washington. Prescott also had the lowest interception percentage by a rookie QB at .9 (4 picks in 459 at-

Romo overthrew Terrance Williams on a deep pass on his first play. His first completion was a 16-yarder to Williams on third-and-12. After Dez Bryant drew a pass interference penalty on a deep pass at the Eagles 3, Romo connected with Williams for his first TD pass since Nov. 22, 2015 against Miami.

"If you're going to play, might as well be aggressive

See ROMO, Page 10

Let's do it again



AP photo

Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson (4) is pursued by Ohio State cornerback Marshon Lattimore (2) during the first half of the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal, Saturday in Glendale, Ariz.

Alabama, Clemson set for CFP title rematch

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) As with any sequel, Alabama-Clemson II will have some new characters and fresh plot lines.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide and No. 3 Tigers will meet in Tampa, Florida, on Jan. 9 in the College Football Playoff national championship game. Last year they played a wild 45-40 game won by 'Bama. It gave Nick Saban a fourth national title with the Tide and fifth overall.

The rematch is a chance for Saban and Alabama to add to an already unprec-

edented run of four national championships in seven years. For Clemson coach Dabo Swinney, it is another opportunity to beat his beloved alma mater and snap a title drought for the Tigers that stretches back more than three decades.

Deshaun Watson is back. The Clemson quarterback was so good last season against the Tide that Saban was comparing him to Cam Newton.

O.J. Howard returns for Alabama, the tight end who had a career game in last year's final. Both teams

once again feature fearsome defensive lines, even though some of the stars have changed.

But there's plenty new

this time around: **HURTS SO GOOD**

Alabama's Jalen Hurts is a victory away from becoming the first true freshman quarterback to lead a team to a national championship since Jamelle Holieway did it with Oklahoma in 1985

. Last season Jake Coker was the Tide's quarterback, a more conventional dropback passer who threw for 335 yards on 16 completions, including five for 208 to Howard.

With Hurts, the Tide has become far more reliant the quarterback running game. Hurts is still a work in progress in the passing game. He went 7 for 14 for 57 yards in Alabama's 24-7 victory against Washington in the Peach Bowl on Saturday. He did run 19 times for 50 yards and on the season he is up to 891 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Hurts is a more talented player than Coker, but if Al-

See CFP, Page 10

Texans have QB question

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Houston Texans are heading into the wild-card round not sure which quarterback is starting and with one of the worst offenses for any playoff team in nearly 40 years. Brock Osweiler came off the

bench after Tom Savage was diagnosed with a concussion, and he threw a touchdown and ran for another score Sunday as the Texans lost 24-17 to the Tennessee Titans Even with Osweiler's TDs, the Texans finished with only 25 touch-

downs this season. That is the fewest TDs scored by a team heading into the playoffs in a 16-game season since 1978 when Atlanta had just 27, according to Pro Football Reference.

"I think our offense, passing game, at times, has looked pretty good," Houston coach Bill O'Brien said. "Not good enough obviously."

The Texans (9-7) came into the regular-season finale averaging just 17.5 points per game — 29th in the NFL. They managed just 34 yards in the first half of a 12-10 win over Cincinnati in clinching the AFC South on Dec. 24. Osweiler had struggled so that O'Brien yanked him during a 21-20 win over Jacksonville on Dec. 18, giving the starting job to Savage.

Before the Texans host Oakland (12-4), O'Brien plans to evaluate his quarterbacks. Sunday was the first time Houston had lost to Tennessee (9-7) since the 2013 season finale.

Some things to know about the Texans and Titans:

SAVAGE'S CONCUSSION

Savage started his second straight game but was sacked on the opening series and stripped of the ball. Savage went to the sideline after sneaking for a first down on the first play of the second quarter with the Texans announcing he was be-

See **TEXANS**, Page 10

Hawks down Spurs in overtime

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta coach Mike Budenholzer finally has his first win over Gregg Popovich, his longtime former boss in San Antonio.

It took career and seasonhigh points from Tim Hardaway Jr. and Paul Millsap, respectively, to make it hap-

Hardaway matched his career high with 29 points, including a tying 3-pointer with 3.3 seconds remaining in regulation, and the Hawks beat the Spurs 114-112 in overtime on Sunday night.

Budenholzer, in his fourth season as Atlanta's coach, had been 0-6 against San Antonio. Millsap scored a season-

high 32 points and had 13 rebounds for the Hawks, who snapped a string of 11 straight losses to San Antonio since 2010.

"It's great to get this win against a really good team and it's good to get it for Bud."

Millsap said. "He's happy to have it under his belt."

Budenholzer spent 19 years with the Spurs, the last 17 as an assistant. He downplayed his personal motivation.

"You know, I was there for a long time," Budenholzer said. "A lot of things we've tried to bring here ... but at the end of the day it's a game for our players."

Popovich knew the win meant more than Budenholzer revealed.

"If we're going to lose, it's good to feel somebody on the other end was made happy," Popovich said.

It was only San Antonio's third loss in 19 road games.

Hardaway scored nine points in overtime, including the go-ahead free throw with 10.8 seconds remaining. He missed the second free throw but Millsap grabbed the rebound. Dennis Schroder also made only one of two attempts with 3.9 seconds remaining.

Kawhi Leonard missed a last-second layup for San Antonio in overtime. Leonard also had a potential winning short jumper spin around the rim before falling out to end regulation.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points to lead San Antonio.

The Hawks couldn't hold a 110-104 lead in overtime. Leonard's 3-pointer tied it at 112-all.

TIP-INS

Spurs: Tony Parker had 22 points, and Gasol had 18. ... The loss ended a four-game winning streak. ... Manu Ginobili had 10 points but other backups combined for only 13 as the bench was outscored by Atlanta's reserves 49-23.

Hawks: Atlanta's last win over the Spurs was a 119-114 overtime victory on March 21, 2010. ... F Mike Scott was assigned to the Long Island Nets of the NBA Development League



Atlanta Hawks forward Kris Humphries (43) shoots as San Antonio Spurs center Dewayne Dedmon defends during the first half of their NBA basketball game Sunday.

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HOLIDAY **MATHIS**

Moon Prays From **Pisces**

The moon offers up a prayer from Pisces, and tomorrow Venus will follow. "Breathe," they'll say. And though it seems it should go without saying, there's a point to the instruction. Stressed people take shallow breaths, depriving themselves of the very oxygen they need to process life. To breathe through it is to breathe power

into it. ARIES (March 21-April 19). About that you-to-you meeting. Don't put it off for a later date; it needs to happen now. In a few moments of being honest and realistic with yourself, you'll uncomplicate a knotty little part of your life.

20-May 20). Your memories color your world, and the world colors your memories. There's a strong optimism flowing through this day, and the prevailing emotional colors will be as spectacular as a sunrise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It probably won't be easy to ward off social intrusion, and it may be futile to try. Chances are that the interruptions will bring something just as good as, if not better than, what you were trying to do originally.

CANCER (June **22-July 22).** You've an excellent sense about what people will find value in. The next person may not get the same thing out of it, but if you found usefulness there, chances are the others will, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have some stellar advisers in your life these days, and you're willing to listen to all they have to say. And as long as this is exactly what you were going to do in the first place, you'll readily apply it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you chase the dream, it

Tomorrow's Horoscope

will always stay ahead of you. Instead, meet it at the destination. "I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been." -- Wayne Gretzky

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You already know the answer but wish that you didn't. No one wants to do the hard thing, but when it also happens to be the right thing, there's really no choice but to psych yourself up and go for

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To the young, not going is a tragedy, a source of regret and worried wondering about what might have been (SET ITAL)if only(END ITAL)... To the old, not going is a relief, a delight, a privilege.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Between all the skills you're building, the layers of meaning you're sorting out and the difficult day-to-day decisions you're making with increasingly greater ease -- without even realizing it, you're becoming more complex.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You have a big heart, and you've opened it to many. Being the excellent host you are, you really can't help but accommodate those who live inside

AQUARIUS (Jan. **20-Feb. 18).** You'll weigh your words and speak up when you have something insightful or funny to add. As for your friends who have far less of a filter, you'll be the diplomatic gloss that helps everyone get along anyway. PISCES (Feb.

19-March 20). You have many talents, and sometimes it's challenging to know which one you should focus on. Choose what you love the most these days. Set a goal, and stick to the path until it's done. **TODAY'S BIRTH-**

DAY (Jan. 2). You have no idea how remarkably capable you are. When you do what you can, you'll find it's more than was asked, expected or contributed by others. In February, greater self-control kicks in, and suddenly, you're en route to a big goal. Lovebirds sing in April. A lucky win in June

Teads you to see new parts of the world. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 40, 33, 39 and 41.

ASTROLOGICAL

QUESTIONS: "My

neighbor recently had a birthday party for her son and invited only the boys in the neighborhood. My daughter wasn't invited. She's a 4-year-old Scorpio, and she couldn't understand because she had invited all of the girls and boys in the neighborhood to her party and they all had come. The birthday party was outside, and she sat at the window and watched until I couldn't take it anymore and I drove her to the pizza parlor. Prior to this, we knew it was the little boy's birthday and picked out a present for him. Now my daughter wants to give him the present, but I think it would be inappropriate and awkward. What should I do? I'm a Libra."

Your attention to etiquette and sensitivity to everyone's feelings are so typical of your Libran sun sign. Let your Scorpio daughter give the

present if she wants to. The water signs -- which are Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces -- are among the most sensitive of the zodiac, especially when it comes to such things as parties and invitations, and contributing her gift will help her process this whole incident. Her intention is pure, and so is yours. The gift is likely to be received in the spirit it is given.

CELEBRITY **PROFILES:** Gorgeous Capricorn actress Kate Bosworth is currently filming "The Domestics," a survival love story set in a post-apocalyptic world. A star since age 14, Bosworth has learned to navigate the celebrity world, keep it separate from her personal life and simplify that balance. Her secret: "I keep everything that's private private." Spoken like someone born with Saturn in Scorpio!

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Pressured to Have Another

TAURUS (April

Dear Annie: My son just turned 6 months old, and he is my entire world. I love him to pieces, and I love being a mom more than I thought was possible. I also work full time as a science teacher and softball coach at the local middle school. When I get home, I am beyond tired.

My husband and I live very close to where we grew up -- we are from the same town but didn't meet till after college -- and our families are close by. This is super helpful when it comes to last-minute baby-sitting needs, hand-me-down toys and just being around supportive people. But being this close to our families is creating an

Lately, my motherin-law won't stop asking me when I'm going to get pregnant again. When I say that we're in no rush, she asks pointed questions. For example, "Don't you love being a mom?" "Don't you want your son to grow up with



By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North-South partscore of 40 East-West partscore of 60 NORTH ♦ K Q 10 6 2 **♦** J 7 3 ♦A985 **♣**AQ1032 SOUTH

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

♥AKQJ109742 The bidding:

North East 2 **4** 3 **4** Pass Pass Pass Pass 4 NT 5 ♥ Dble Pass Dhle king of spades.

This deal from a rubber-bridge game was reported by the distinguished French writer Jose Le Dentu. With everybody vulnerable and on score, South started with a whimsical notrump bid

The bidding then proceeded at a doubled. West was apparently taken in by all the pyrotechnics and doubled five hearts. East-West could

have made six spades West led the spade king and continued with the queen. Declarer saw he was faced with a two-trick defeat. since he had a spade, a diamond and two clubs to lose. But he also saw there was no harm in trying to steal the contract, so he discarded his diamond on the queen of spades. West, failing to appreciate the significance of this play, led another spade, and the fat was now in the fire.

Declarer ruffed with the nine of

hearts, led the seven of trumps to the eight and played the king of dia-monds, covered by East with the ace. South ruffed high and led the four of hearts to dummy's five. He then discarded a club on the queen of diamonds and trumped a diamond high again, felling West's jack and establishing dummy's 10-6. The heart deuce to dummy's three then allowed South to discard his remaining club loser on the diamond ten, and the contract was made.

We hold no brief for West's failure to shift to a club at trick three. He should have known what was going on and discontinued spades. Obviously, declarer had to have a singleton diamond, because it would make no sense for him to discard a dia-mond if he held two, three or more diamonds. But a full measure of praise is bestowed on South, who gave West a chance to go wrong and reaped the maximum reward.

Tomorrow: Brilliant defensive play.

Annie's Mailbox ®

siblings?" Of course I do! And I do want more children, but, Annie, I'm so drained all the time. And I didn't know the strain that a baby would put on my relationship with my husband. I'm barely holding on as is, and I want to take the time to enjoy being with my son. How do I get my mother-in-law to back off without offending her? I don't want to have another fight. But I'm not ready for another kid, either. --Tired in Tulsa

Dear Tired: Your mother-in-law's pointed questions are best met with a soft -- but clear -- response. You might say something like, "I am overjoyed by how excited you are to be a grandma. Thank you so much

for the help you've given your son and me. We definitely want siblings, but I'm not nearly ready to think about that yet. When I am ready, I promise you'll be the first to

know." If she continues scanning the sky for storks and giving you the third degree, enlist your husband for support. He can get away with being more blunt. After all, he is her baby boy.

Dear Annie: You advised someone ("Sudden Loss for Words in TN") how to discuss a recent death, a suicide, with someone who misses the decedent greatly. I can tell you what I did and how it turned out.

In the early 1960s, the mother of a chum

died suddenly of a condition that was very seldom fatal. Her widower, son and daughters were shattered, but they coped, being all strong people. I was about 20 years old and knew the woman only tangentially, but I wrote a letter of condolence. I stressed that I remembered my chum's mother and would for the rest of my life. Last month, I had a rare visit from my friend, who is now a hale septuagenarian like me. He remembered my letter and my vow to remember his mother and said that he had felt comforted by the simple fact that I remembered her.

Of course, I have many family members to remember now, as

well as more than a few chums, but I, too,

am strong, and I cope. I think you might advise your correspondent in Tennessee to report that she remembers the absent friend and will do so steadfastly. That declaration might encourage the grieving family members who hear it. Dead people who are remembered are still

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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"Daddy, will you be joggin' by a store that sells batteries?



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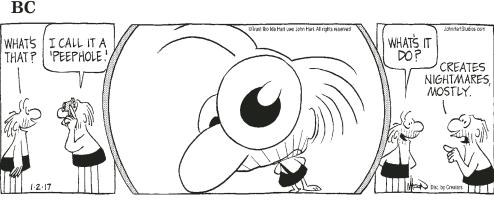


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FOR SOME HOT CHOCOLATE?

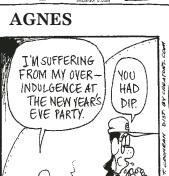


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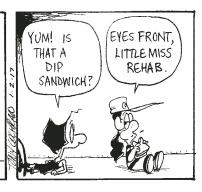


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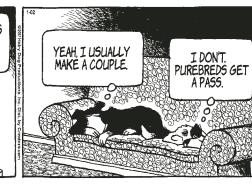
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SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

Today is Monday, Jan. 2, the second day of 2017. There are 363 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 2, 1942, the Philippine capital of Manila was captured by Japanese forces during World War II.

On this date:

In 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1792, the first classes began at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

In 1893, the U.S. Postal Service issued its first commemorative stamp to honor the World's Columbian Expedition and the quadricentennial of Christopher Columbus' voy-

In 1900, U.S. Secretary of State John Hay announced the "Open Door Policy" to facilitate trade with China.

In 1921, religious services were broadcast on radio for the time as KDKA first Pittsburgh aired the regular Sunday service of the city's Calvary Episcopal Church.

In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann went on trial in Flemington, New Jersey, on charges of kidnapping and murdering the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was found guilty, and executed.) In 1955, the president of

Cantera, was assassinated at a racetrack. In 1967, Republican Ronald Reagan took the oath of office as the new governor of

California in a ceremony that

took place in Sacramento short-

Panama, Jose Antonio Remon

ly just after midnight. In 1974, President Richard Nixon signed legislation requiring states to limit highway speeds to 55 miles an hour as a way of conserving gasoline in the face of an OPEC oil embargo. (The 55 mph limit was effectively phased out in 1987; federal speed limits were abolished in 1995.) "Singing cowboy" star Tex Ritter died in Nashville at age 68.

In 1981, police in Sheffield, England, arrested Peter Sutcliffe, who confessed to being the "Yorkshire Ripper," the serial killer of 13 women.

In 1991, Sharon Pratt was sworn in as mayor of Washington, D.C., becoming the first black woman to head a city of Washington's size and prominence.

In 2006, a methane gas explosion at the Sago (SAY'-goh) Mine in West Virginia claimed the lives of 12 miners, but one miner, Randal McCloy, Jr., was eventually rescued. The roof of a skating rink collapsed in the German town of Bad Reichenhall (bahd RYK'-ehn-

hahl), killing 15 people. Ten years ago: The state funeral for former President Gerald R. Ford began with an elaborate service Washington National Cathedral, then moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. New York City commuter Wesley Autrey Sr. saved Cameron Hollopeter, a 19-year-old film student who'd fallen onto subway tracks, by leaping down and pulling the teen and himself into the trough between the tracks as a train passed over them. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey opened a school for disadvantaged girls in South Africa. (The school became embroiled in allegations of abuse; Winfrey apologized and promised an over-

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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 College official 5 Counterfeit coin
- 9 Frighten
- 14 Trade show, for short
- 15 Cone-bearing tree
- 16 Dish-drying cloth 71 Tenants
- 17 Sidewalk edge 18 Give off
- 19 "Guilty" and
- "not guilty" 20 Garfield's
 - pooch pal
- 21 Conspicuous 23 Shouted 25 Numerical fact,
- for short 26 Football throw
- 28 Part of Congress
- example
- 36 Plumbing tube 39 Storybook
- monster 40 Short skirt
- 41 Songs 42 Cutlet meat
- 43 The Wizard
- 44 Annoys
- 45 Slender stinging
- insects
- 46 Starting hr. for
- many jobs 48 Makes a knot in
- 50 Not as expensive
- 53 Liquid collected by bees 57 Do some
- snooping
- 62 Approximately 63 General
- vicinities 64 Pleasant 65 Mexican food in

a shell

- 66 Inquire again
- 67 Like __ of bricks
- 68 "How are you?"
- reply 69 Terra
- (pottery material) 70 Take a break
- dwellings: Abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Hunter's wooden

duck

- month 4 Prestigious
- **5** Pays out
- 33 Bar graph, for

14

17

- 2 Radiate, as charm
- 3 Tax deadline
- "Peace" award
- for short

 - 7 Storage rentals
- 6 Chauffeured car,
- 31 Mouse-catching device

15

18

32 Snakelike

30 Matures

29 Eastern

- 33 "We gotta get
- going!'
- 34 LP player
- swimmers

8 "Understand?"

for short

12 Genuine

13 If not

10 Coke or Pepsi

27 Cowboy-boot

Canadian

province

attachment

9 Tampa neighbor,

(be untruthful)

- 49 Start a new 22 Detective's assignments paragraph 24 Have a meal 51 Ship's tracking

JUST SAY UH-UH by Gail Grabowski

11 Weave __ of lies 41 Stopwatch or

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Abbr.

38 Nuisance

35 Author unknown:

37 Ballpoint liquid

hourglass

47 Nome's state

45 Very small

- device 52 Hotel's deluxe booking
- 54 Hobo 55 Fancy tie
- 56 Chess corner pieces
- **57** Antidrug cop 58 Three-tier
- cookie
- 59 Couch or bench
- 60 Toward sunrise
- 61 Sgts. and cpls.

16

19		

1/2/17

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Continued from Page 4

abama needs to trade scores with Clemson again, can the 18-vear-old make the plays in the passing game that Coker did last year? Then again, Hurts' mobility will come in handy against a Clemson pass rush that ranks right up there with Alabama's.

TOP TARGET

Welcome to the national title game, Mike Williams.

Clemson's top wide-receiver is 6-foot-3, 225 pounds and a few months away from be-

coming an NFL millionaire. He missed just about all of last season while recovering from a neck injury and returned this year to become Watson's favorite target.

Alabama has NFL-caliber talent everywhere, of course, but Williams is a matchup nightmare even for good corners such as Marlon Humphrey and Anthony Averett. Williams had six catches for 96 yards against Ohio State in a 31-0 victory Saturday night. He has 90 receptions for 1,267 yards and 10 touchdowns on the season.

The Tigers will also add Deon Cain to its receiving

corps this time around. As a freshman last year, he was suspended for the championship game. He has been a big-play guy for Watson with nine touchdowns and a 19.4yard average on 32 catches. MEN IN THE MIDDLE

The newest defensive line terror for Clemson is also the biggest. Freshman Dexter Lawrence checks in at 6-5 and 340 pounds and he has played like an All-American this season. He did not record a tackle against Ohio State but the Buckeyes seemed to shy away from even running in the middle of Clemson's

defense because of Lawrence

and second-team All-America Carlos Watkins.

At least partially responsible for moving Lawrence will be 319-pound center Bradley Bozeman, who stepped in for first-round pick Ryan Kelly this season to lead Alabama's offensive line.

The Tide has not lost much at center with Bozeman, but Clemson's line and Lawrence in particular, will be his toughest test.

BO-DOZER

That huge tailback wearing a single-digit jersey number for Alabama probably reminds you of Derrick Henry.

The Heisman Trophy win-

ner who ran for 158 yards and three touchdowns on 36 carries against Clemson last season is gone, but Bo Scarbrough, listed at 6-foot-2 and a questionable 228 pounds, does a pretty good Henry impersonation.

The Tide unleashed Scarbrough on Washington for 19 carries and 180 yards. Technically, he is Alabama's third option in the backfield. Damien Harris leads the team with 1,013 yards rushing and a 7.2 average per carry and freshman Josh Jacobs has 551 yards and 6.6 average. None of them carried the ball last season against Clemson.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 4

ing evaluated for a concussion before being cleared.

He came out to kneel down on the final play of the first half with O'Brien telling team radio that he planned to keep Savage in the game.

But Savage was reevaluated at halftime diagnosed with a concussion. Osweiler finished the game throwing for 253 yards while sacked three

Savage was 5 of 8 for 25 yards before his concussion. Asked if Savage will start if cleared, O'Brien said there will be an evaluation after Osweiler, who signed a \$72 million deal to leave Denver, did a good job.

"I would absolutely love to start this playoff game," Osweiler said.

TEXANS' HEALTH Houston deactivated six starters against Tennessee, and O'Brien said quarterback Brandon Weeden was the only healthy player in that bunch. O'Brien said running back Lamar Miller, who has missed the last two games, should be available for the playoffs. The others scratched included defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, linebackers

TITANS' AROUND

The Titans matched

the biggest single-season turnaround in franchise history with a sixwin improvement from 3-13 in 2015. The then-Houston Oilers also improved by six wins in 1967 and 1974, and Titans coach Mike Mularkey tied Sid Gillman for the biggest win improvement in his first full season. But they

team in this division," Titans tight end Delanie Walker said. "But we didn't get the job done." MEMO-

PLAYOFF RIES

The Texans are itching for a chance to host another wild-card game after being routed 30-0 by Kansas City in this game a year ago. "This has been in our mind cornerback A.J. Bouye

that last time."

MURRAY'S FOOT

Titans running back DeMarco Murray wound up leading the AFC and finished third in the NFL with 1,287 yards rushing, and he said after his worst performance this season that he had been playing with a torn plantar plate in his right foot. Murray said his foot hurt enough he needed medication just to prac-

Murray didn't miss a game and turned in the second-best season of his career and seventhbest in franchise history.

\mathbf{ROMO}

Continued from Page 1

with the reads," Romo Mark Sanchez re-

placed Romo and threw two interceptions to Jordan Hicks in the second quarter. The Eagles took advantage of the second one at the Cowboys 49. Wentz tossed a 6-yard TD pass to Ertz to tie it at 10 going into halftime.

Wentz fired a 20-yard TD pass to Ertz in the third quarter to give Philadelphia a 17-13 lead. Wentz ran over to Ertz, grabbed the ball, jogged over to two-time AL MVP Mike Trout and handed it to him. Trout grew up in nearby Millville, New Jersey and has season tickets for the Eagles on the field behind one of the goal posts.

"You have to have fun out there," Wentz said. "This is still a kid's game they are paying us way too much money to play."

Terrell Watson ran in

from the 1 for his first career TD to extend Philadelphia's lead after a blocked punt late in the fourth quarter.

RESTED

Three Cowboys starters were inactive: LT Tyron Smith, CB Morris Claiborne, DE Tyrone Crawford. LB Sean Lee dressed but didn't play.

SETTING RECORDS Wentz broke Sam Bradford's record for most completions by a rookie. Bradford had 354 completions in 2010 after St. Louis selected

him with the No. 1 over-

all pick. Wentz finished with 379 complete passes. ... Caleb Sturgis set a franchise record with 34 field goals in a season.

ZEKE FALLS SHORT Elliott finished with 1,631 yards rushing, 178 yards shy of breaking Eric Dickerson's singleseason rookie record. Elliott is the NFL's rushing champion.

UP NEXT

Cowboys: First-round bye and a home playoff game on Jan. 14 or 15.

Eagles: A long offsea-

went 2-4 in the division, since last year when John Simon and Brian it happened," Texans a tiebreaker that cost them the division title Cushing and cornerback Johnathan Joseph. and kept them out of the tice. postseason for a seventh Cushing said he still "We'll have to figure out who's ready to play,' straight season. thinks about that loss. O'Brien said. "It's just a bad feeling "The only way to erase to stomach after this that is to go out there and get a win and play game knowing we were way better than we did probably the better



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