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# BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017

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## At least 50 killed as gunman opens fire at Las Vegas concert

By **SALLY HO and REGINA GARCIA CANO**

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A gunman perched on the 32nd floor of a Las Vegas casino unleashed a hail of bullets on an outdoor country music festival below, killing at least 50 people as tens of thousands of concertgoers screamed and ran for their lives, officials said Monday. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

More than 400 other victims were taken to the hospital, authorities said.

SWAT teams using explosives stormed the gunman's hotel room and found he had killed himself, authorities said. He had as many as 10 guns with him, including rifles, they said.

There was no immediate word on the motive for the bloodshed.

Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said authorities believe this was a "lone wolf" attack. And the U.S. Homeland Security Department said there was no "specific credible threat" involving other public venues in the U.S.

Country music star Jason

Aldean was performing Sunday night at the end of the three-day Route 91 Harvest Festival in front of a crowd of more than 22,000 when the gunman opened fire from inside the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino across the street.

The gunman was identified as Stephen Craig Paddock, 64, of Mesquite, Nevada. He had checked into the hotel room on Thursday, authorities said.

"What we are going to try to do as best we can is to get our first responders back on their feet and responding and conducting a proper investi-

gation to ensure that we have the safety of this community at heart," the sheriff said.

Aldean was in the middle of a song when the shots came rapidly: pop-pop-pop-pop. Video then showed Aldean stopping and the crowd getting quiet as if it were unsure of what had just happened.

The gunman paused and then fired another volley, the muzzle flashes visible from the casino, as more victims fell to the ground while others fled in panic. Some hid behind concession stands, while others crawled under parked cars.

Kodiak Yazzie, 36, said the music stopped temporarily when the first shots began and then started up again before the second round of pops sent the performers ducking for cover and fleeing the stage.

"It was the craziest stuff I've ever seen in my entire life," Yazzie said. "You could hear that the noise was coming from west of us, from Mandalay Bay. You could see a flash, flash, flash, flash."

Monique Dumas, of British Columbia, Canada, said she

See **SHOOTING**, Page 3

## Kountry kids strut their stuff



HERALD photo/Amber Mansfield

The audience "oohed" and "aahed" over redhead cutie Brynlee Coates on Saturday at the Howard County Fair's Kountry Kids contest. Coates went on to win 1st place in the two-year-old category in the contest.

## Isaiah 58 gives back to the community



EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth in a series of articles detailing the agencies assisted by the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

By **ERIN STEPHENS**

Staff Writer

The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is a local non-profit organization that raises funds for various health and human service agencies in the area. There are 15 local agencies that directly benefit from United Way fundraisers like the upcoming Empty Bowls event, in which volunteers make bowls to sell to the public. Money raised during events like this are then dispersed among 15 agencies chosen by United Way. Isaiah 58, a faith-based food pantry in Big Spring, is one of the many organizations that receives funds from United Way.

See **UW**, Page 3

## Broberg, BSSO, join for stellar performance

By **ROGER CLINE**

Staff Writer

Despite heavy rains causing minor flooding backstage, the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra's Fall Festival Concert, titled "Let it 'B' with the BSSO," was well-attended and went off flawlessly. Kenny Broberg, silver medalist in 2017's prestigious Van Cliburn piano competition, joined the orchestra for the show.

"It was good," said Bro-

berg after the concert. "It was a pleasure to come play, and it was a good experience."

Broberg performed Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat Major, also known as "The Emperor," with the orchestra. The pianist said the piece holds special meaning for him.

"This is the first Beethoven concerto I learned," he said. "I learned it back in high school, and brought it back for this concert to play. It's probably Beethoven's most popular concerto, and there's a reason why...it's just a wonderful piece."

A Minneapolis, Minn., native, Broberg has won prizes in international piano competitions in Hastings, United Kingdom; Sydney, Australia; Seattle, Wash.; and New Orleans, La.; as well as the Van Cliburn competition in Fort Worth. Broberg now lives in Missouri.

"I started piano when I was six years old, and basically always wanted to be a concert pianist," he said. "So I feel very lucky that I've always known what I wanted to do."

Following Saturday night's performance,

See **BSSO**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Conductor Keith Graumann and the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra stand for the adulation of the crowd at Saturday evening's Fall Festival Concert "Let it 'B' with the BSSO."



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# SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1

was at the concert, six rows from the stage, when she thought she heard a bottle breaking, then a burst of pops that sounded liked fireworks. Couples held hands as they ran through the dirt lot. Faces were etched with shock and confusion, and people wept and screamed. Some were bloodied, and some were carried out by fellow concertgoers. Dozens of ambulances took away the wounded, while some people loaded victims into their cars and drove them to the hospital.

Police shut down busy Las Vegas Boulevard, and federal and state authorities converged on the scene. Interstate 15 was briefly closed and flights at McCarran International Airport were suspended. Hospital emergency rooms were jammed with victims. "It's a devastating time," the sheriff said. Jose Baggett, 31, of Las Vegas, said he and a friend were in the lobby of the Luxor hotel-casino — directly north of the festival — when people began to run, almost in a stampede. He said people were crying, and as he and his friend started walking away minutes later, they encoun-

tered police checkpoints, armored personnel vehicles and a multitude of police cars. The dead included at least three off-duty police officers from various departments who were attending the concert, authorities said. Two on-duty officers were wounded, one critically, police said. Hours after the shooting, Aldean posted on Instagram that he and his crew were safe and that the shooting was "beyond horrific." "It hurts my heart that this would happen to anyone who was just coming out to enjoy what should have been a fun night," Aldean said. President Donald Trump tweeted:

"My warmest condolences and sympathies to the victims and families of the terrible Las Vegas shooting. God bless you!" Before Sunday, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history took place in June 2016, when a gunman opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people. Sunday's shooting came more than four months after a suicide bombing at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, that killed 22 people. Almost 90 people were killed by gunmen inspired by Islamic State at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris during a performance by Eagles of Death Metal in November 2015.

## Howard County Fair quilt winner



Courtesy photo

Pictured above is Christina Battering, the winner of the 2017 Howard County Fair quilt.

## BSSO

Continued from Page 1

Broberg said he's headed to California. "I am going to Bakersfield, Calif., to play a Ravel G-major concerto," he said. Big Spring Symphony Orchestra conductor Keith Graumann said he's proud of the performance the orchestra gave. "We had a wonderful time," he said. "I think the orchestra did very well, and we had an appreciative audience. Kenny Broberg, our soloist, did a magnificent job in the first half on the Beethoven. A really difficult piece,

but we managed to pull it off, with only a little rehearsal time, so we're pretty proud of that. We're very happy again, Kenny is just a magnificent performer, and we're so happy to have him come." The orchestra began the concert with the Star Spangled Banner, followed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Overture to 'Cosi fan tutte.'" Next came the Beethoven concerto with Broberg as soloist, followed by intermission. The second half of the evening was all BSSO, performing Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 in A Major, also known as "The Italian Sympho-

ny." Next up for the orchestra is the Nutcracker in December. Graumann said that, despite a popular misconception, the Nutcracker is not just for kids. "We're so fortunate in December to have the Nutcracker Ballet with the Midland Festival Ballet," he said. "That's an adult fantasy, it's not just for children, so we look forward to everyone coming out for that." Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at reporter@big-springherald.com.

# Islamic State claims Las Vegas mass shooting

By SAMY MAGDY  
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The Islamic State group on Monday claimed responsibility for the mass shooting in Las Vegas, saying the perpetrator was "a soldier" who had converted to Islam months ago, without providing any evidence to support the claim. The group's Aamaq news agency released two brief statements hours after the shooting at a country music concert that killed at least 50 people and wounded at least 400. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. IS did not name the suspected shooter, but said he had "executed the operation in response to calls to target countries of the coalition" battling the extremist group in Iraq and Syria. Police have identified the shooter as Stephen Craig Paddock, 64, of Mesquite, Nevada, and have said he killed him-

self after the shooting. Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said authorities believe it was a "lone wolf" attack, and the U.S. Homeland Security Department said there was no "specific credible threat" involving other public venues in the U.S. The IS group often claims attacks by individuals inspired by its message but with no known links to the group. However, it is not known to have claimed any attacks that were not at least loosely linked to it. Before Sunday, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history took place in June 2016, when a gunman opened fire at a

gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people. The gunman, Omar Mateen, had pledged allegiance to IS and it claimed the attack. The extremist organization has suffered a string of major setbacks in Iraq and Syria, where it has lost much of the territory it once claimed as part of a self-styled Islamic caliphate. However, the group remains active in recruiting followers on social media, and has repeatedly called for attacks in Western nations.

## UW

Continued from Page 1

"We hand out groceries to needy families and our criteria is based on wages and family size," said Isaiah 58 President Shawn Cooley. Food pantries like Isaiah 58 rely on food and monetary donations from the community, individuals, and organizations. The largest part of the food supply that Isaiah 58 receives comes from West Texas Food Bank with offices in both Midland and Odessa, TX. In addition to the previously mentioned sources of food for the pantry, local farmers will sometimes donate fresh produce. "Our pantry is set up like a grocery store where people can pick

and choose what they want," said Cooley. "The amount people can take is based on size of the family. We have things like frozen food, produce, bread, vegetables, milk, and eggs." For community members in need of the services provided by Isaiah 58, they can simply show up to the building located at 809 Scurry as a first-time client. Clients will be given grocery bags by members of the pantry and these bags are to be used for future visits. Hours of operation for the pantry are Monday through Tuesday from 4 p.m to 6 p.m. "We have several volunteers but 91 year old Erma Dunn, our founder, has been among the most dedicated to this cause since it opened in

1998," said Cooley. We have 5 volunteers on a regular basis and about 10 to 12 altogether." Local businesses and organizations like the Boy Scouts of America Big Spring chapter, V.A. Medical Center, and Encore Electric are a few that regularly donate to Isaiah 58 but the pantry is always in need of more volunteers, particularly ones who are able to work full-time. "If anyone is interested in donating food, money, or their time, please call 432-270-7521 for more information," said Cooley. Contact Staff Writer Erin Stephens at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at citydesk@big-springherald.com.



HERALD photo/Erin Stephens

The Xplosion Dance hip hop group warms up before their big performance at the Howard County Fair this past weekend.

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Melba Chavez, 68, died Wednesday. Funeral service was at 10 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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## Air monitored after ammonia leak in Texas supply line

HOUSTON (AP) — A company says the air has been monitored following a leak last week in an ammonia product supply line in rural Southeast Texas.

Alison Jahn, spokeswoman for Houston-based Ascend Performance Materials, said Sunday that the flow of ammonia was turned off after the leak Thursday. Ascend, which owns the supply line, said in a statement that the leak occurred in an undeveloped, publicly inaccessible area of Brazoria County.

The company says the air is at safe levels.

Jahn says the company suggested residents of three farmhouses evacuate out of caution in case ammonia levels got too high. She says it's advised they remain out of their homes until the repair is complete.

Jahn says a section of road blocked off as the air was monitored should reopen by Sunday night.

## Harvey exposes shortcomings at Houston Fire Department

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Fire Chief Samuel Pena says he already sees where he could have done things differently during Hurricane Harvey, including calling in about 500 extra firefighters, as an internal review of his department's response to the storm's floods is underway.

Pena also tells the Houston Chronicle the department needs more boats and high-water rescue vehicles.

The newspaper says its review of internal reports and emails in addition to interviews with firefighters and others found firefighters in late August were hobbled by a lack of resources, old equipment and a shortage of manpower.

Pena defends the response and commends firefighters, who performed 7,000 rescues and answered more than 15,000 calls for help in the storm's first five days. But he also acknowledges Harvey exposed shortcomings in the department's fleet and training.

## Boy, 8, fatally shot while shooting at tin cans in Texas

LIBERTY, Texas (AP) — Authorities in Southeast Texas say an 8-year-old boy has died after being shot in the chest while shooting at tin cans with family members.

The Liberty County sheriff's office said Sunday that they're still investigating the Saturday night shooting and haven't yet determined exactly how it happened or who was involved.

Officials said the boy, his 35-year-old father and the father's nephew had been taking turns using a .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle with no trigger guard to shoot at tin cans near a wood pile. The boy's father told an investigator that when he turned his back he heard a gunshot and his son had been shot. The boy was pronounced dead at a Houston hospital.

Authorities say no charges have been filed at this time.

## Parents arrested after child, 4, is fatally mauled by dogs

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Two El Paso women have been arrested on charges of injury to a child for the fatal mauling of their 4-year-old boy by a pack of family dogs in July.

El Paso police say 27-year-old Brittany Brooks and 29-year-old Ashley Brooks are each jailed on \$75,000 bond. Authorities say both also have multiple traffic warrants.

Police in July found the body of Jacob Brooks in the backyard of his home. At the time, police said one of the women had left the child in an enclosed trampoline. It wasn't clear how long he was there or whether he was inside alone with the four dogs. Animal control officials have said the dogs had been starving and were aggressive.

The two women were arrested Friday evening at a relative's home.

# Month after Harvey, debris piles show recovery takes time



In this Sept. 7, 2017 file photo, flood damaged debris from homes lines the street in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Houston. One month after Harvey dumped record rainfall in the Houston area, many neighborhoods and suburbs of the nation's fourth largest city continue cleaning up after the storm. While the larger shelters have closed and much of the city has gone back to normal, huge piles of debris still line streets in numerous neighborhoods as many residents try to salvage their homes.

By **JUAN A. LOZANO**

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — It has been a month since Hurricane Harvey brought devastating wind and flooding to the Texas coast and Houston area, and while the water has receded and businesses have reopened, huge debris piles in front of thousands of homes serve as a constant reminder that there's still a long way to go in the recovery process.

Chris Slaughter, 39, whose house in the Houston suburb of Kingwood was flooded by 5½ feet of water, said he hasn't let his family see their home as it undergoes repairs because he didn't want his children "seeing their memories piled up in five feet stacks in the front yard."

Troy Randle, one of the more than 1,300 people still living in shelters, said his life remains on hold as he waits for the federal government to process his request for help so he can find more permanent housing.

More than 60,000 displaced people are still living in hotel rooms paid for by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and many businesses say

they expect revenues will continue to suffer over the next six months. But people remain hopeful they will rebuild and find their way back to normal.

"Harvey knocked us to our knees," said Aransas County Judge Burt Mills, Jr., whose coastal county had 35 percent of its buildings destroyed after Harvey made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane on Aug. 25. "The next day we got on our feet and every day it gets a little better."

In Houston, where thousands of people needed rescuing during the storm, traffic is again flowing and kids have returned to school. But there are piles of ruined furniture and other debris in front of homes in the worst-hit areas that serve as a continuing reminder of Harvey's wrath. The storm is estimated to have damaged or destroyed more than 176,100 homes in Texas. In Harris County, which includes Houston, officials say at least 136,000 homes and other structures were damaged.

"Until we get back to normal life, then I think this event is just going to continue to be a sore wound on the whole county," said

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett.

Officials estimate that Harvey could produce 200 to 300 million cubic yards of debris in Texas, which would double or triple the estimated 100 million cubic yards that Hurricane Katrina left behind in all states it hit.

Marcela Magaña, whose home in suburban Houston in Fort Bend County flooded, said seeing the debris every day is "very overwhelming" for her and her husband, Eli. Like everyone else in their situation, they wonder when it will be picked up. Public officials are asking for patience, saying it will likely take months.

The two large shelters in Houston have closed, including one at the convention center which held 10,000 people. Several smaller ones remain open in the Houston area and other southeast Texas cities, though, and for those still living in them, the frustration is mounting.

"I don't feel like I'm accelerating at no point. I feel like I'm stagnant," said Randle, 44, who is disabled and is still waiting for FEMA to process his request for help. He is staying at a Houston shelter opened

at a previously shuttered Macy's store. "I need housing."

More than 834,800 people in Texas have registered for FEMA assistance and more than 298,000 have so far been approved.

"A lot of people ... are going to be wiped out financially," said Eli Magaña. "People are trying to remain hopeful to see if they can get ... help."

One-third of the nearly 400 Texas business executives surveyed in September by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas said they expect losses from Harvey to continue over the next six months.

Mills said he remains focused on quickly cleaning up and rebuilding because the economies of many Aransas County cities depend on tourism and without hotels and restaurants "we're sunk."

Becky Ames, the mayor in Beaumont, which had 2,000 households flood, said her southeast Texas city's recovery is going well and it is now focused on being a "good neighbor" and helping surrounding smaller cities hit hard by Harvey that have fewer resources.



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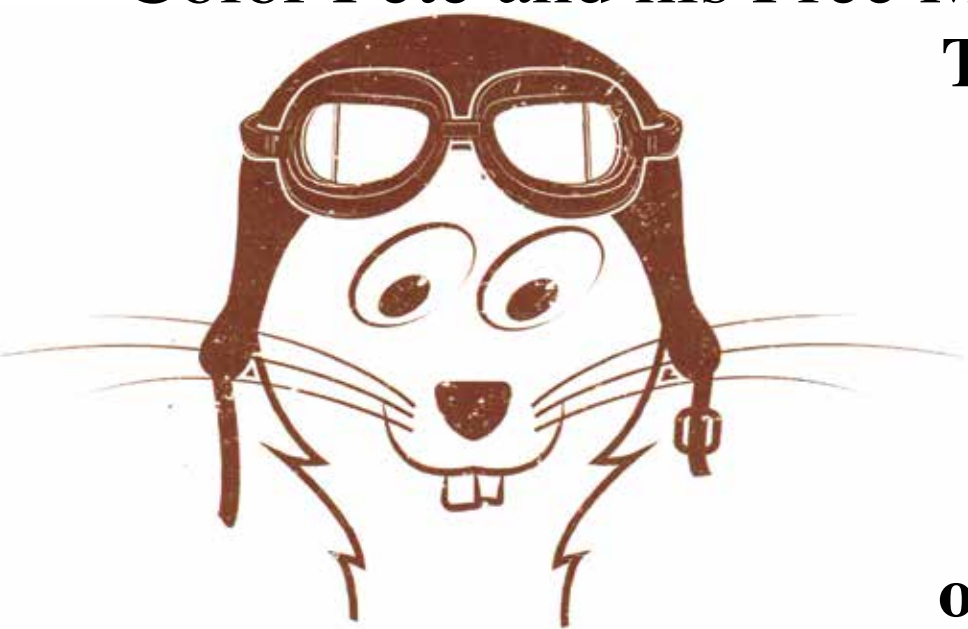
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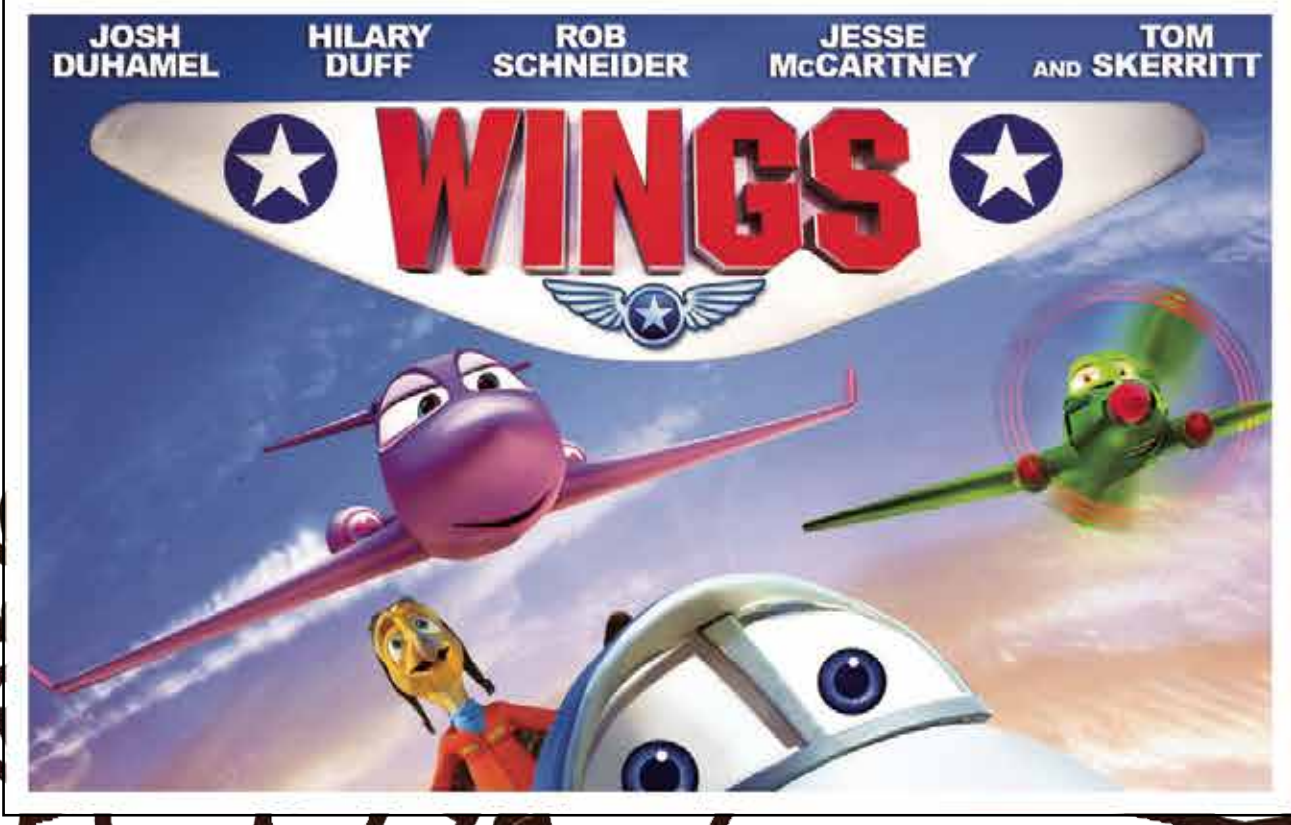
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### Mustang cross country update

#### Special to The Herald

Listed below are the Sands XC Results from the Sundown XC meet. The Mustangs have one more non-district meet this Saturday in Lamesa, and then their district opener will be on Tuesday, October 10th.



#### JH Girls - 5th place team

Landry Morrow 1st  
Bianca Plata 2nd  
Lili Porras 5th  
Yesenia Reyna 83rd  
Lakyn Reedlin 104th  
Alexa Plata 116th

#### JH Boys - 9th place team

Elijah Ruiz 27th  
Rodolfo Juarez 28th  
Trandon Edmonson 79th  
Kaleb King 82nd  
Cash Walker 99th  
Jesus Porras 136th

#### JV Boys

Hunter Rich 24th

#### Varsity Girls - 10th place team

MeA Gonzalez 8th  
Mayra Diaz 72nd  
Maria Garcia 76th  
Cassie Brooks 99th  
Mattie Grumbles 106th

#### Varsity Boys

Riley Webb 49th  
Landon Morrow 81st  
Anthony Aguilar 105th  
Layne French 119th

## Broncos defeat Mustangs on homecoming night 72-28

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**

Sports Editor

It was a tough night for the Sands Mustangs on Friday as they hosted Meadows for their homecoming game and got dominated 72-28 in their first loss of the season.

The Broncos' offense delivered through both the ground and the air as they racked up 249 rushing yards on 32 carries, and 195 receiving yards on 12 catches to give them a grand total of 444 offensive yards. The Mustangs were pretty balanced on the offensive side of the ball as well with 150 rushing yards on 37 attempts and 119 receiving yards on six catches, but their grand total of 269 yards wasn't near enough.

Both fourth down conversions and Turnovers also played a big role. Bronco quarterback, Ruben Moya, had a perfect game as he went 9-9 for 170 yards and 6 touchdowns. Both Meadows and Sands quarterbacks threw zero interceptions, but Sands lost two of their three fumbles as Meadow didn't turn the ball over once.

The Mustangs struggled to get it done in clutch situations as they only converted two of their nine fourth down conversion attempts. The Broncos converted on all five of their attempts.

#### Mustang Rushing Leaders

Hunter Reese: 24 rushes for 91 yards and 1 TD

Ryston Archuleta: 7 rushes for 41 yards and 1 TD

Chris Ybarra: 5 rushes for 16 yards

#### Passing Leaders

Landon Morrow: 3-5, 91 yards, 1 TD

Ryston Archuleta: 2-2, 17 yards, 1 TD

#### Receiving Leaders

Landry Connell: 3 receptions, 91 yards, 1 TD

Chris Ybarra: 2 receptions, 17 yards, 1 TD

Hunter Reese also had a big kick-off return for 56 yards.



Courtesy photo

The Mustangs storm the football field carrying American flags before their game vs. Meadow on Friday, September 29, 2017.



Courtesy Photo

Pictured above is Sands Mustang, Hunter Reese, carrying the football and dodging defenders in their game vs. Meadow on Friday, September 29, 2017.

## Houston's gets boost with Fuller's return in 57-14 win

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — DeAndre Hopkins was confident that the return of Will Fuller would help open things up for him and improve Houston's offense.

The veteran receiver was right, as Fuller had two touchdown receptions in his season debut and Hopkins had his first 100-yard game of the season to help the Texans (2-2) score the most points in franchise history in a 57-14 win over the Tennessee Titans (2-2) on Sunday.

Fuller returned after missing the first three games after breaking his collarbone early in camp. The first-round pick in 2016 had touchdown receptions of 16 and 10 yards for the first multi-touchdown game of his career.

"Will can open up the field," Hopkins said. "He's a big part of this offense scoring 50-something points the way we did. You can't just key in on me. You have to obviously watch Will down the field every play because he has the speed that you can't coach."

Hopkins, who had dealt with near-constant double teams through the first three games, faced more single coverages on Sunday and finished with 10 receptions for 107 yards and a score.

Rookie quarterback Deshaun Watson, who threw for four touchdowns and ran for another score, agreed that the addition of Fuller helped him as well.

"Being able to have all of the weapons on the field, it just makes my job easier," he said.

Fuller finished with four catches for 35 yards, but was also part of another big play that led to a Texans' score. The Titans had cut the lead to 10 points on a TD run by Marcus Mariota in the second quarter when Fuller beat rookie Adoree' Jackson badly and Jackson threw him down in the end zone, drawing a 45-yard pass interference penalty. Watson scored on a 1-yard run on the next play to extend

Houston's lead to 30-14.

Some things to know about Houston's huge win over the Titans.

#### MARIOTA'S HEALTH

Mariota injured his hamstring on his second touchdown run before halftime and did not return. Matt Casse took over and struggled, throwing two interceptions and losing a fumble in the second half. Tennessee coach Mike Mularkey said they'd know more about Mariota's injury after he had an MRI on Monday.

Mariota warmed up after halftime but they decided that he should sit out the rest of the game.

"I said to him: 'I'd like to be smart about it. There's a lot of football still to go,'" Mularkey said.

#### ANOTHER STANDOUT ROOKIE

While Watson got most of the spotlight on Sunday for his big performance, the Texans also got a good game from another rookie. Linebacker Dylan Cole, who joined the team as an undrafted free agent, returned an interception 25 yards for a touchdown to extend Houston's lead to 54-14 in the fourth quarter. Cole also had five tackles and a sack to become the first rookie in NFL history to have five or more tackles, a sack and an interception return for a touchdown in the same game.

"He's just stepped up and played," defensive end Jadeveon Clowney said. "He's been real big and nobody suspected that out of him this year. But the guy can run, he's got good vision. He knows what's going on out there and he just plays nonstop."

#### PICKS ON PICKS ON PICKS

Houston's big day on offense was helped by a defense that forced five turnovers.

See **TEXANS**, Page 12



Courtesy Photo

Pictured above are seniors Nick Garcia and Sunny Kuykendall, who were named the Sands Homecoming King and Queen and were crowned during halftime of their game vs. Meadow on Friday, September 29, 2017.



AP photo

Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson (4) runs for a touchdown against the Tennessee Titans during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, in Houston.







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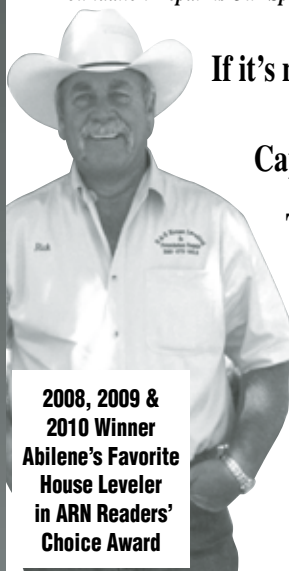
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Annie's Mailbox

not in your budget?" I couldn't believe she'd be so rude as to say something like that in front of our other friends (digitally, at least). At that point, I just went off and told her she was being selfish. Things devolved from there, and eventually the text conversation ended for the night.

The next day, I felt anxious and regretted the fight. I still wanted to go on this trip, and for the sake of smoothing things over, I sent her a private message apologizing. I expected she would apologize as soon as I did. But to my amazement, all she said was, "It's OK."

"It's OK"? As if I had

been in the wrong! Everyone ended up settling on a local place to celebrate our friend's birthday, and it turns out I can afford to go -- but now I'm so angry with Brianna that I don't even want to. Who was wrong, Annie? -- Sorry Not Sorry

**Dear Sorry Not Sorry:** You're both wrong for not picking up the phone and calling the second things got tense. Text fights are for people who don't want to find solutions.

But your false apology takes you down another peg. "Sorry" is like "I love you"; you should never say it just to hear it back. It's

emotionally manipulative. It's also prone to backfiring. Just look at your predicament. You've painted yourself into a corner, one you can't get out of without looking like a fool and making an even bigger mess. I say swallow your pride on this one and digest the lesson.

**Dear Annie:** This is in response to the letter from "Unsure in Ithaca." The loss of "Unsure's" sister's unborn child is very real. Yes, she wants to move on. However, the pain is real, and she is hurting.

My sister miscarried a child. From her experience, here's what not to say. (Believe it or not, these things were

said to her.) "It was a blessing the baby died." "You can try again and have another." (They already had hopes, dreams and aspirations for the baby they lost. A new baby isn't a replacement.) "The baby was deformed." "There was something wrong with the baby, and it's better off dead." "You didn't deserve that baby, so God took it."

As far as ways to cope, my sister bought a fairly large angel centerpiece for her dining room table. It's her reminder that she has her own angel in heaven.

It's there for all the big celebrations. She also bought an angel Christmas tree ornament. It is hung every year, along with "baby's first Christmas" ornaments. -- Big Sister

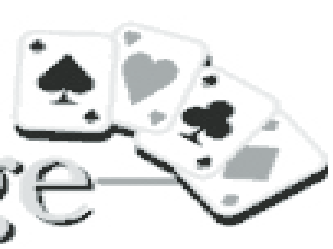
**Dear Big Sister:** Thank you for sharing.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto: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.com](http://www.creators.com).  
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'Omg im so angry'

**Dear Annie:** My friend "Brianna" and I recently got into a fight via text messaging. She was trying to plan a surprise girls trip for our friend's 30th birthday. She was texting a couple of other friends and me suggestions of places we might go, with links to vacation rentals. The places she was suggesting were out of my price range, though, and I politely said so. We went back and forth on this point for a bit, and then she said, "Well, are you sure you should even go on this trip if it's just

# Contract Bridge



By Steve Becker

## Famous Hand

North dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q J 9 3  
♥ 6 4  
♦ J 10 6 4  
♣ 9 6 5

**WEST**  
♠ A 6 4  
♥ 9 8 7  
♦ A Q 9 7 5  
♣ A 8

**EAST**  
♠ 10 8 5 2  
♥ K J 2  
♦ K 3 2  
♣ K 7 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 7  
♥ A Q 10 5 3  
♦ 8  
♣ Q J 10 4 2

The bidding:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 1♥ Dble  
Pass 1♣ 2♣ Pass  
Pass Dble Pass

Opening lead — ace of clubs.

**Partscore hands** are not usually as dramatic as games or slams, but they provide at least as many opportunities for skillful play. Here is an exceptionally well-defended hand from an intercity match many years ago between Los Angeles and New York.

**The L.A. South** opened one heart, West (Howard Schenken) doubled, and East (George Rapee) responded one spade. Rapee's hand was much stronger than his one-spade bid suggested, but he judged it not quite good enough for a jump-response.

**Tomorrow:** The worst-case scenario.  
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# SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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

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

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

ANSWER:

Tomorrow's Horoscope

By HOLIDAY MATHIS



**Empathy Moon**

Observations come at a cost; it's why movie tickets, art exhibits, sporting events and theme parks ask for money upon entrance. But it's not just special events; everyday life is costly to see, too. Seeing comes with a responsibility to act on what you observe. The moon in Pisces lends greater powers of empathy to assist in the matter.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The logical assumption is that someone has to be driving the relationship, though right now the relationship is like a self-driving vehicle. You're both able to take care of your own business, and it's actually staying on the road.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The win-win solution isn't always possible. In that case, you'd rather opt out of the whole deal than see another person lose to you. It's not the competitive spirit so many around you have, but it will work best for you now.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The world is constantly telling you what to want. You may not really want most of the stuff the world is trying to sell you, yet it's hard to hear what your real desire is through all of the pretty noise.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** First it seemed impossible; then merely daunting. Now that it's done, you know it's doable -- not easy and perhaps not anything you'd want to go through again but doable -- which is good to know.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You have the sneaking suspicion that the task at hand is not something you'll be good at right off the bat or maybe ever. But what if it's something you'll eventually be great at? You won't know if you don't start.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You want what someone else has, and it's something you can have, too. There's room for many to be successful in this realm, and the world will be better for the successful multitudes.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-**

**Oct. 23).** It may be the case now that the very best way to say something is to do something. Action speaks louder while eliminating the need for speaking altogether.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** "Leap and the net will appear," said essayist John Burroughs. Many acrobats and tightrope artists in training are alive because they didn't expect such magic. Observe the difference between optimism and foolishness.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You can feel when you're clicking with someone and when you're not. This kind of chemistry is a thing you can't predict or control; you just have to get in there and meet different people to know.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Some people lower their energy level to avoid participating fully in life. Beware of those who use tiredness as a defense. Avoid those who wear exhaustion like an armor.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It's true that a bold choice will open unforeseen opportunity down the road. So will any choice, actually. In today's case, consequences will happen more quickly than usual.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There are some who test the limits to know where they are. In polite society, alarm bells won't sound when the boundaries have been crossed. Reactions are more nuanced. This is tricky stuff. Is it really worth the risk?

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 2).** You'll finally hear the words you longed to -- beautiful music! Before the end of the year, you'll heed a calling. You've the courage to ask the hard questions in January. Answers will guide a new pursuit. You'll

become increasingly self-sufficient through 2018. You'll be part of a new team in March. Aquarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 50, 2, 12 and 45.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "When I turned 18, my mother told me the story of how she graduated high school, took a summer vacation to an exotic location and, upon her return, found out that she was pregnant. The person I call 'Dad' isn't technically my father. To make matters more complicated, I don't get along so well with the dad I grew up with. Something was always off, and I could never figure it out. Now I know. I do have to respect him for loving my mom and taking care of her even though she was already pregnant with someone else's child. Now I really don't know what to do -- to find my birth father or to just let things be. Even though we don't always get along, I don't want to make my dad mad. Signed, Confused Cancer."

This is about you and your history. Your dad may have feelings about your finding your birth father, but you can't let his baggage be the deciding factor in this very personal quest. Cancer is an intuitive sign, easily hurt but also fiercely courageous. You'll know if the time is right for you to find out about your birth father. Honor your inner wisdom.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Whether he's learning the lute or doing arrangements of rock songs with a 50-piece symphony orchestra, Sting will never stop exploring, learning and surprising his audience in delightful ways. Libra is the sign of art and harmony. Sting's natal Libra luminaries include the sun, the moon, Mercury, Saturn and Neptune. Grace, diplomacy and sophistication are also among Libra's many gifts.

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# Gurley, Rams continue strong start, rally past Cowboys 35-30

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Todd Gurley can help make Jared Goff's second go-round in the NFL much more enjoyable than the first.

What better way for the Los Angeles Rams running back to show it than to lead a win over last year's dynamic rookie duo of Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott and 2016 NFL rushing leader Ezekiel Elliott?

Gurley scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 53-yard catch-and-run while generating 215 total yards, Greg Zuerlein kicked a career-high seven field goals and the Rams beat the Cowboys 35-30 on Sunday.

Gurley finished with 121 yards rushing and 94 receiving as the Rams overcame two first-half touchdowns from Elliott the day before a federal appeals court hearing related to the star running back's blocked six-game suspension over a domestic incident in Ohio.

"Me being able to step up takes a lot of stress off everybody, and we obviously have a lot of guys that can do a lot of things, just being able to have diversity on offense," Gurley said.

The Rams (3-1) rallied from 11 points down late in the first half and matched their start from a year

ago, when they went 1-11 the rest of the way as Goff, the No. 1 overall pick, was sitting and later lost the first seven starts of his career.

Goff showed more poise in first-year coach Sean McVay's offense, throwing for 255 yards and two touchdowns without an interception. He has seven TD passes and one interception this season.

The Cowboys (2-2) are already a loss shy of their total from last season when Prescott, the 135th pick in Goff's draft, was the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year for the top-seeded team in the NFC.

And Prescott is already one interception away from last year's total of four after a play that

was originally ruled a fumble was changed to a diving pick by linebacker Mark Barron at the Dallas 29. Zuerlein's sixth field gave the Rams 19 straight points and a 32-24 lead.

"We're not going to lose confidence," Prescott said. "We feel like we're getting better. Even in a loss, we're going to find a way to get better."

Dallas held the Rams to 131 yards in the first half, but the absence of All-Pro linebacker Sean Lee (hamstring) showed up after halftime. After punting on their first possession of the second half, the Rams scored five straight times, including Gurley's long TD catch.

The Cowboys, meanwhile, punted on their first three possessions of the second half after scoring on all four first-half drives. Prescott's interception came on the fourth possession after halftime against a defense led by former Cowboys head coach Wade Phillips.

"Just had little corrections we had to fix here and there," said All-Pro Aaron Donald, who had Prescott wrapped for a sack in the first half before losing his grip as Prescott ducked and spun away on an 18-yard throw to Dez Bryant. "Once we did that we were solid."

Prescott was 20 of 36 for 252 yards with three touchdowns, including a 10-yarder to Elliott. Bryant had five catches for a season-high 98 yards.

MINI-ME, MINI-ME TWO

Gurley had 30 touches: 23 carries and a team-high seven catches. Receiver Tavon Austin had six carries for 48 yards and at one point had 40 yards rushing to Gurley's 41. "Tavon, I guess he's the mini-running back now and I'm the mini-receiver," Gurley said.

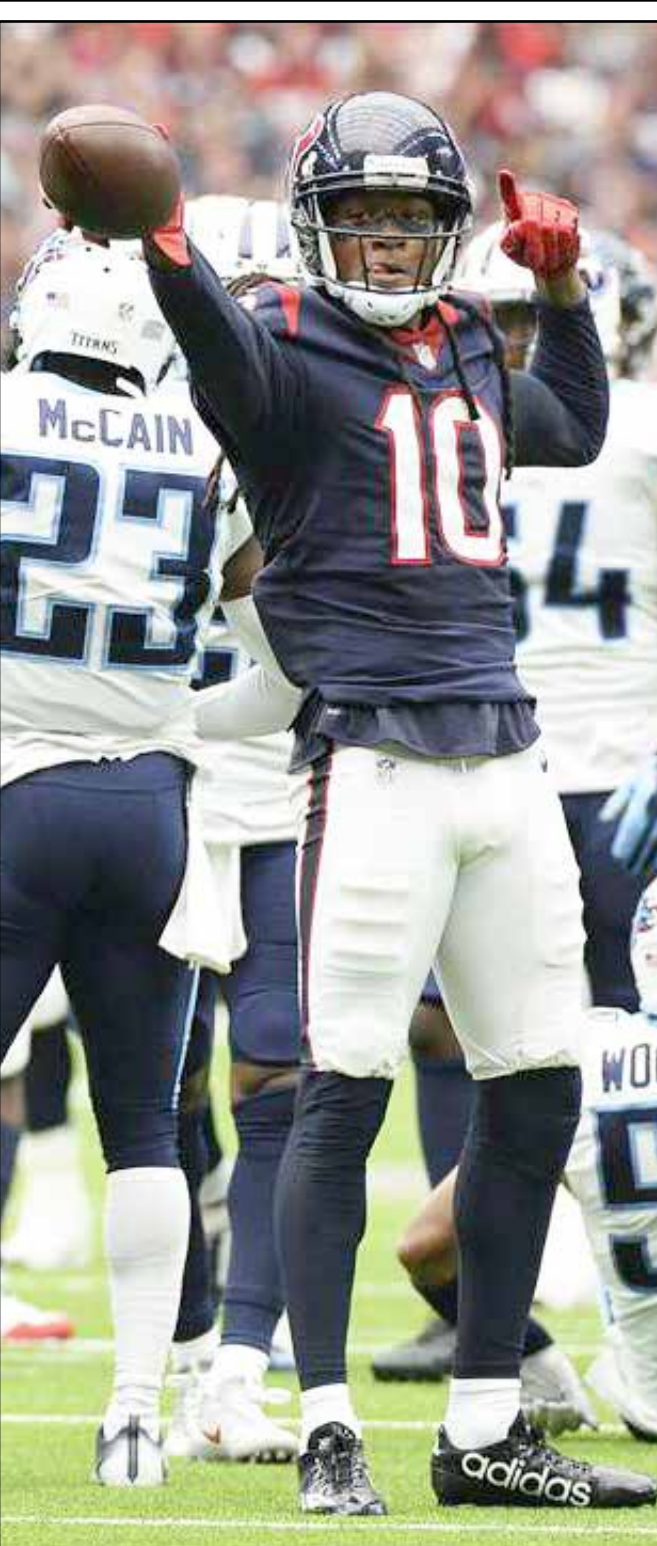
SUB-100 AGAIN

Elliott had 85 yards on 21 carries for his third straight sub-100-yard game, matching the longest such streak from last season. Backup Alfred Mor-



AP photo

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) throws a pass in the second half of an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.



AP photo

Houston Texans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) celebrates a catch for a first down against the Tennessee Titans during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, in Houston.

## TEXANS

Continued from Page 6

Houston finished with four interceptions to tie a franchise-record, after picking off Mariota twice and intercepting Cassel two more times. Andre Hal led the way, grabbing two of the interceptions, including one on Tennessee's first possession of the game.

"Every day in practice I'm catching balls after practice," Hal said. "Last year, I dropped a lot, so this year I'm not drop-

ping any interceptions."

BOUNCING BACK

Mularkey hopes that Sunday's lopsided loss made his team angry and is looking for the Titans to respond on next Sunday when they visit the Dolphins. As bad as Sunday's loss was, the Titans still have plenty to play for and are tied with the Texans and Jaguars with the AFC South's best record at 2-2.

"I would think they would take it personal," Mularkey said. "I would definitely think that."

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