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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2017



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## Senate candidate O'Rourke holds local town hall

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

A Congressman and candidate for U.S. Senate visited Big Spring yesterday morning and held a town hall meeting, speaking about his platform and qualifications for the job, and listening to questions from local residents.

Representative Robert Francis "Beto" O'Rourke (D-Texas) spoke to a crowd of about 60 people at the Dora Roberts Community Center. O'Rourke, an El Paso native, is running for Senate in the 2018 election, hoping to overtake the seat currently held by Republican incumbent Ted Cruz.

After being introduced by Howard County Democratic Party Chairperson Reina Cisneros, O'Rourke thanked residents for attending the event.

"Thank you all for coming out on a chilly morning and welcoming us to East Texas," he quipped. "No, that's an El Paso joke. We were at a meeting just like this one in Odessa yesterday, in San Angelo last night, having really great conversations about the future of our



*HERALD photos/Roger Cline*  
**Democratic Congressman Beto O'Rourke of El Paso, a candidate for Senate in 2018, held a town hall meeting Thursday morning at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Above, O'Rourke explains some of his platform before fielding questions from the audience; above right, O'Rourke visits with a few of the town hall attendees; right, about 60 people turned out to the event.**

See **BETO**, Page 3

## County commissioners change meeting schedule for 2018

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

Starting in 2018, Howard County Commissioners will change their meeting days. Instead of meeting the second and fourth Monday of each month, commissioners will meet at 3:30 on alternate Wednesdays.

The new schedule, which starts with the first meeting on Jan. 10, will coincide with the bi-weekly county payday. Commissioners had instituted a separate meeting Thursdays before payday for the sole purpose of formally approving the payroll for each pay period. The newly scheduled meetings will allow commissioners to combine regular meetings with the payroll approval meetings going forward.

Along with the new meeting schedule, commissioners approved the holiday schedule for the new year. County holidays will include:

- Jan. 1, New Year's Day
- Jan. 15, MLK Day
- Feb. 19, Presidents Day
- March 30, Good Friday
- May 28, Memorial Day
- June 29, offices close at noon (This is the day the Funtastic Fourth celebration begins).
- July 4, Independence Day
- Sept. 3, Labor Day
- Nov. 12, Veterans Day
- Nov. 22 and 23, Thanksgiving Holidays
- Dec. 24 and 25, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

In other business, commissioners approved some work at the public bathrooms at the Howard County Courthouse Annex, located across Main Street from the main Courthouse building.

"There are just some things that need touching up over there," said Maintenance Director Baldomar Cortez. "We want everything to work right and look good for the public."

Cortez said he estimated the cost of the restroom work at about \$2,800, and



See **COUNTY**, Page 3

## Monty plays the Train Car



*HERALD photo/Erin Stephens*  
**Country artist Monty Dawson of Bowie, Texas, played to an intimate crowd at The Train Car Cigar Bar Thursday night as part of "J.R.'s Showcase," a series of performances hosted by local country artist J.R. McNutt featuring other performers from around the state. McNutt also performed at the event.**

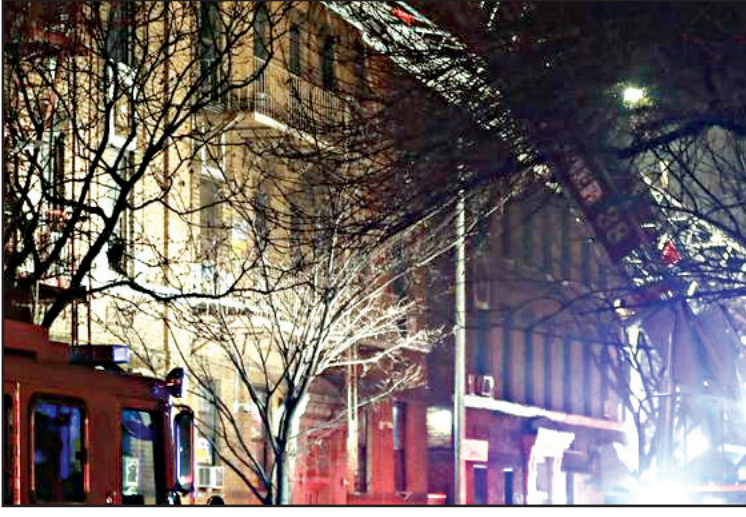
## New York City fire kills 12, including 4 children

By **JENNIFER PELTZ**  
 Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New York City's deadliest residential fire in decades spread through every floor of a Bronx apartment building within a matter of minutes, city officials said, killing 12 people — including four children — and sending other residents scrambling outside into the cold and down fire escapes to safety.

Those who died Thursday night included girls ages 1, 2 and 7, and a boy whose age was not given. Other people were still fighting for their lives, Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio said on CNN Friday morning. He said first responders saved at least 12 lives.

Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro called the fire, "historic in its magnitude," because of the number of lives lost. Excluding the Sept. 11 attacks, it was the worst fire in the city since 87 people were killed at a social club fire in the



*AP photo*  
**Firefighters respond to a building fire Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, in the Bronx borough of New York. The Fire Department of New York says a blaze raging in a Bronx apartment building has seriously injured more than a dozen of people.**

See **FIRE**, Page 2



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## Obituaries

### Jo Annette Conaway



Jo Annette Conaway died peacefully Dec. 27 in Covenant Hospice, Lubbock, Texas. Her funeral will be held at the Westbrook Baptist Church on Saturday, Dec. 30th at 10 a.m. with pastor Paul Smith of Calvary Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow in the Westbrook Cemetery.

Visitation will be on Friday, Dec. 29th from 6 p.m. to 8 pm at the Kiker Seale Funeral Home in Colorado

City, Texas.

Jo, born Aug. 2, 1949, in Hot Springs, South Dakota, moved to Big Spring, Texas, with her family when she was three years old. She was a graduate of Big Spring High School and attended Howard College. She worked for various companies and recently retired from Mitchell County Hospital after working 20 years in medical records in the Ware

Unit in Colorado City.

Survivors include her husband of forty-seven years, Travis Neil Conaway; daughter, Laura Elizabeth Conaway; her grandsons, Dakota Dwayne Bradbury and Dalton Ray Bradbury; and great-granddaughter, LillieAnn Marie Bradbury; as well as her grandsons step father, Scott David Wathen; brother, Paul Eugene Sturdevant and wife Jeanne; cousins, Virginia and Bill Sturdevant; sister-in-law Margaret Ann Conaway, and nephews and nieces.

Jo will also be fondly remembered by her family of coworkers at the Ware Unit.

Jo was preceded in death by her parents Chester Eugene Sturdevant and Mary Pauline Pitzer Sturdevant.

Jo and her husband were members of Westbrook Baptist Church.

Those wishing may leave online condolences by visiting [www.kikerseale.com](http://www.kikerseale.com).

*Paid Obituary*

## Police, Sheriff reports

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **MERCEDES GABRIELA CASTILLO**, 18, of 700 N Moss Lake Rd., was arrested on the charges failure to identify, give false information, three counts assault by contact, five warrants with other agencies, and a warrant for aggravated robbery.

- **JAMES ERIC TREVINO**, 26, of 1016 Bluebonnet Ave., was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with deadly weapon causing serious bodily injury to family member.

- **NICHOLAS BLAIR KIRN**, 27, of 1004 E 13th St., was arrested on a charge of evading arrest detention with vehicle or watercraft.

- **MELVIN WILLIMA BIDDLE**, 55, of 615 Steakly St., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **FRANCISO GENE REYES**,

26, of 9216 Kay Rd., was arrested on a warrant of assault family violence threat or offensive touch.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 800 block of S San Antonio St., and the 1600 block of S Gregg St.

- **HARRASSMENT** was reported in the 3000 block of W Hwy 80.

- **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported on 3rd and Birdwell.

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 65 inmates at the time of this report.

- **RAY ALVARADO JR.**, 19, was arrested by BSPD

- **MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE**, 55, was arrested by BSPD

- **MERCEDES GABRIELA CASTILLO**, 18, was arrested by BSPD on the charges failure to identify, give false information, three counts assault by contact,

five warrants with other agencies, and a warrant for aggravated robbery.

- **NICHOLAS BLAIR KIRN**, 27, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of evading arrest detention with vehicle or watercraft.

- **TOMI JO MCPHERSON**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on a charge for evading arrest detention.

- **FRANCISCO GENE REYES**, 26, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of assault family violence threat or offensive touch.

- **JOSHUA NATHANAEL SPIVEY**, 21, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of possession of marijuana, and on a charge of evading arrest detention.

- **JAMES ERIC TREVINO**, 26, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with deadly weapon causing serious bodily injury to family member.

## Take Note

The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

- Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.

Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade. Cash donations to allow the Lions to purchase additional books are also appreciated. Books or donations can be taken to the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., or to the home of Lions member Ken Lawhon at 1707 E. 15th St. For more information, contact Lawhon at 214-998-9716 or Lions member David Stives at 432-270-2251.

- 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, 432-935-3998.

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

- Each week Kindred offers free health checks from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Corner House Coffee Shop, 1701 Scurry St.

- 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 to eat.

Cost has dropped to \$5 per person thanks to a sponsor Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road.

- Howard County Republicans meet the second Monday of each month. Club members meet in the Cactus Room at Howard College at 11:30 a.m. for Dutch treat lunch and meeting at 12 p.m.

- The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.

- Big Spring Centennial Lion's Club meets twice a month at the Big Spring TA Truck Stop. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month at noon and the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

- The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars

meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road.

For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

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

- Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 432-271-2138.

- Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

- Membership to the Big Spring Native American Association is open to the public.

People interested in Native American culture are encouraged to find out more about the organization by calling Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125,

- Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary Group is looking to expand. Positions are available for the Auxiliary group and the Teen Volunteer program. Must be 15 years of age to take part in the teen volunteer program. If you would like to volunteer please contact Heath White at 268-4850.

## Support Groups

### FRIDAY

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

### SATURDAY

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

### SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 1 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

### MONDAY

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

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

### TUESDAY

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

## FIRE

Continued from Page 1

Bronx in 1990.

"Our hearts go out to every person who lost a loved one here and everyone who is fighting for their lives," Nigro said.

The blaze broke out on the first floor of a five-story building just before 7 p.m. and quickly tore through the roughly century-old structure near the Bronx Zoo.

Some tenants of the building, a mix of native New Yorkers and Latino and African immigrants, climbed down fire escapes. But the flames moved so fast that many never made it out of their apartments.

The cause of the fire remained under investigation.

About 170 firefighters worked in bone-chilling cold, just 15 degrees, to rescue about a dozen people from the building.

Thierno Diallo, 59, a security guard originally from Conakry, Guinea, who lives in a ground floor apartment said he was asleep when he heard banging on the door. It took him a moment to realize what was happening.

"Only when I heard people screaming, 'There's a fire in the building!'" he said. "I heard somebody, 'Oh! Fire! Fire! Fire!'"

He ran outside in his bathrobe, jacket and sandals.

Kenneth Kodua, 37, said he left his apartment to get food, leaving his roommate behind, and came back to find people fleeing in a panic.

Hours later, he was still trying to find out whether his roommate had escaped.

"I tried calling her. I tried calling. No answer," he said, still clutching his bag of uneaten food. His phone was dead.

Many questions remained in the immediate aftermath of the blaze, including how the fire spread so quickly in a brick building built after catastrophic fires at the turn of the 20th century ushered in an era of tougher enforcement of fire codes.

The building had more than 20 units. It was not new enough that it was required to have modern-day fireproofing, like sprinkler systems and interior steel construction.

Witnesses described seeing burned bodies being carried away on stretchers and young girls who had escaped standing barefoot outside with no coats.

Twum Bredu, 61, arrived in the neighborhood looking for his brother, who had been staying with a family in the building. The family, a husband and wife and four children, got out. But there was no word about his brother.

"I've been calling his phone, it's ringing, but nobody picks up," Bredu said. "He was in his room, and we don't know what happened."

The death toll surpassed the 10 who died, including nine children, in a four-story home in another part of the Bronx in 2007. That blaze had been sparked by a space heater.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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**BETO**

Continued from Page 1

state and our country, and as we remind everyone, it doesn't matter to us whether you're a Republican or a Democrat, Independent or non-voter, what's important is that you're here, that you're a Texan, that you're an American. All those things are more important than party affiliation, including for me, someone who is a Democrat serving in Congress as part of the Democratic Caucus. It matters less to me than the fact that I'm an American and I have an opportunity to serve my fellow Americans in Congress, and want to serve them going forward as part of the United States Senate."

Meeting with Texans from all walks of life is important to him, he said, adding that he has been holding town hall meetings all over the state for the past nine months.

O'Rourke introduced his family - wife Amy, and children Ulysses, Henry, and Molly - before discussing a few of the issues he feels are important.

O'Rourke serves on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and said that honoring and caring for veterans is a national obligation.

"(Veterans are) Those to whom I think we owe the greatest most solemn obligation of anyone," he said. "People who literally laid their lives down on the line for this country and did everything we asked them to do. Now when they come back, and they've earned care, support, respect, being treated with the utmost dignity, I want to make sure we're following through on that. And by and large, we're able to do that, but far too often, we don't. It's in the breach, it's in the gap when we don't deliver those services, that we need to have vigorous oversight and accountability and that's part of my job as a member of Congress and a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee."

Working together and finding common ground with Republicans is an important skill for representatives and senators to have, he said.

"It's not good enough for a Democrat or frankly a Republican to have a great idea, write a bill, introduce it, unless you can find some common ground and build consensus with folks who may not see the world exactly the way that you do," he said. "But who we are sure are just as great Americans, just as great patriots, who care just as much about the future of this country, just happen to have a different party affiliation."

The recent tax bill, passed on the strength of a bicameral Republican majority, is not the right move for America, he said. Not a single Democrat in either branch of Congress voted for the measure.

"I voted against it, and it's not a slam-dunk, easy deal to vote against the largest tax reform that's taken place in this country in more than 30 years," he said. "I desperately want to improve that tax code, to make it more simple, more fair, to ensure that more Americans, more Texans, more people here in Big Spring, are able to navigate that tax code, are hopefully paying less in taxes, and have more opportunities and more resources to do the things that we want to be able to do in our lives. To pursue a quality education, to start a small business, to save for your family and the generation that follows you. This tax bill unfortunately, really does none of those things."

O'Rourke said the bill will further harm Texans by ending the individual mandate for health insurance.

"This tax bill will knock 1 million of our fellow Texans off of their health insurance as it ends the individual mandate," he said. "We are already the least insured in the United States of America today."

Healthcare should be a universal right, O'Rourke added.

"From my perspective this is morally the right thing to do, to have healthcare as a right and not a function of luck," he said. "As a universal guarantee for every single American, for those who need it and will do better by it, but it's also the right thing for us to do as a country when you think about the fiscal stewardship, the tax dollar, and the benefit that all of us enjoy when everyone is well enough to achieve their full potential."

O'Rourke concluded his opening address by explaining how important he sees the upcoming election to be.

"If we want to stop the things that we're concerned about, if we want to move forward with the things that we're excited about, we need to have someone in that position of public trust who's going to reflect the interests and the values and the priorities of the people in this community," he said. "So I'm here to listen to you. I'm here to ask for your vote. I'm here to see if we can work together to make something extraordinary happen for Texas. Something critically important for the United States."

Following his opening remarks, O'Rourke fielded questions from the audience. One gentleman referenced incumbent Ted Cruz's recent bid for the presidency in the middle of his Senate term, and asked O'Rourke to commit to serving out his full term, if elected.

"You have my commitment that, if elected to represent the people of Texas in the United States Senate, I will serve that full term, all six years, and every single month of that six years, I will hold a public, all comers welcome, no holds barred, town hall in a public place, where I am to receive your criticism, your ideas, your suggestions, and I am there to answer your questions and be accountable and responsive to you," vowed O'Rourke. "That is something that we have not had in a long time in this state. This campaign is a preview for how we want to serve the people of Texas."

In addition, the candidate told those present that he supports term limits, and promised to serve no more than two terms in the Senate, if elected.

"I am the only Democrat that I know of in Congress, the House and the Senate, that believes in term limits," he said. "I've introduced a term limit amendment to the Constitution. Because once we're in, it's really hard to get us out. 93 percent re-election rate over the last 50 years for a member of Congress? This is not a level playing field. It's not healthy for democracy. That institution in no way reflects this room or the people in this country. You've got to get us out."

"Then you can run for president," declared the questioner.

"Amy is okay with that, as long as it's president of the Sunset Heights Neighborhood Association," O'Rourke quipped in response.

Another questioner, a local public school teacher, asked O'Rourke about the "attack on public schools" and his stance on school vouchers.

"Public education is the great equalizer, the level playing field, if funded, if overseen, and if we have the backs of our public school teachers, our therapists, our nurses, our librarians, and the administrators who make those public schools run," he said. "It amazes me, in Texas, and I think this is nationally, 90 percent of children are educated in public schools. We've got to have your back, both in what you're paid, the resources in your classroom, and the freedom to meet the calling that you responded to in the first place. The public service that you're providing. Unlocking what is, we hope, a lifelong love of learning in every one of those children in your classroom."

O'Rourke mentioned that Cruz supported a \$500

million tax program to allow parents to set aside money tax-free to send their children to private schools.

"What that is essentially doing is effectively giving people who are already wealthy an additional tax break that is borne by working Americans, who are not wealthy, who are sending their kids to public schools, and it literally functionally takes dollars out of public schools and transitions them into private schools," he said. "That is in addition to the voucher push that Ted Cruz is making at the state legislative level, where he sent a letter to every member of the state legislature urging them to move forward with school vouchers. We lose our public schools, and we lose part of the magic of what makes us Americans and what binds us together in a common way, and what hopefully gives every kid as close as we can an even shot at success. So you've absolutely got my support."

Another person in attendance asked about his ideas about encouraging young adults to become more politically aware. O'Rourke addressed what he considers a bad piece of conventional wisdom.

"Don't vote for young people, because young people don't vote," he said. "But it's kind of a catch-22. If no one's talking to young people, who can blame them for never voting? Because no one's reflecting their interests, their priorities, and their values."

Cisneros pushed further on the education issue, asking O'Rourke about the rising levels of student loans in America.

"I do think everyone in this country should take some level of responsibility for the continuing education of everyone else," he responded. "That could be the 18-year-old who graduates high school who is going to UTPB, UT-Austin, to Harvard, to community college; who is going to enter an apprenticeship, who is going to get their welding certification, who is going to become a cybersecurity expert and doesn't need to go to a four-year-university, but needs some help to pay for the training that will allow her to be competitive in that next job. To pay for the 45-year-old who just lost his job at the plant in Lubbock or in Plainview, and is going to be in that second career, but without some help, is going to be stuck at a job that pays minimum wage or maybe a little bit more, and is not enough to make ends meet for them and their families, or to put something aside."

An educated populace is in everyone's best interest, he said.

"It's in my interest that everyone's child have an education, because they're going to be more informed, be able to earn more, pay more in taxes, shoulder more of the common burden for all of us, and that means less of a burden for me," he said. "I would continue that line of thinking all the way up through higher education. No one should graduate from college or graduate school or a PhD program with a mountain of debt on their back. It's \$1.4 trillion. It's almost the exact same amount as what this tax bill just cost us, in outstanding student loan debt in this country right now, with close to a 10 percent default rate."

Cisneros thanked O'Rourke at the end of the town hall meeting.

"We'd like to definitely thank Beto for coming," she said. "We always think we're so small, nobody wants to come here, but he actually came. That really says a lot to his commitment to his people over his party."

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
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Theresa Stehling Lewis, 79, of Big Spring, died Sunday, December 24, 2017. Funeral Mass was at 10:00 AM today at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Fermin L. Florez, Jr., 67, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, December 27, 2017. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

*This Weekend-Downtown*

**MAE N' TANNER**

December 29

Hosted by Desert Flower Art Bar & Lounge

123 S. Main Big Spring, TX 79720

9 PM - 1 AM

Live music. No cover charge

**DALLAS OWENS**

December 30

Hosted by Desert Flower Art Bar & Lounge

123 S. Main Big Spring, TX 79720

10 PM - 1 AM

Live music. No cover charge

**SPECIAL GUEST**

December 31

Hosted by Desert Flower Art Bar & Lounge

123 S. Main Big Spring, TX 79720

9 PM - 1 AM

Live music. No cover charge

The Train Car Cigar Bar

located at 100 S Main St.

will be open until 2 AM on New Year's Eve

and reopen at 6 PM on New Year's Day.

**COUNTY**

Continued from Page 1

said he believed the county maintenance department could handle the work themselves rather than hiring a contractor to do it.

Commissioners also accepted a rebate check from the Texas state "BuyBoard," a state-run vendors list through which local government can purchase items.

"We purchase through the BuyBoard. That's through the state. We buy products. Like, when we go to buy a car for the Sheriff's Office. We can go through the BuyBoard and their vendors, and then we get a rebate for that.

Olson said the check received for the year was in the amount of \$3,753, which will be deposited into the county's general fund.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 27:  
**Hangar 25 Air Museum's Silver Wings Ball.**  
Hotel Settles.  
432-264-1999

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inside  
**Comanche Trail Park**  
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HOLY BIBLE

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# Reflections: God Knows You and Loves You

With all the gift giving of the past week, we have welcomed some new names into our homes: Cortana, Alexa, Siri, and Google. The computers want to talk to me. They want to recognize my voice. They want to know where I am at all times, to track my browsing and shopping history on the web, maybe elsewhere. The computers even want my finger print and they are asking for my mug shot.



BILL  
TINSLEY

It reminds me of Hal in "2001 A Space Odyssey." What are they up to? I remember when George Orwell's 1984 was science fiction. Now it is ancient history. Big brother is here, and has been here for a while. I am not sure I want to be known that well. Where does all this information go?

But then, Jesus says the very hairs of my head are numbered. This once seemed hard to believe. How could God possibly know such intimate information about every individual on the face of the earth? How many people are there? Eight billion?

Eight billion seemed like an astronomical number. But then, our understanding of numbers changed. The first time I heard of a "giga" anything was in Back To The Future, the 1985 movie in which Doc and Marty leaped through time with a few gigawatts supplied to their DeLorean. But, we blew right by gigabytes into terabytes and petabytes. We aren't familiar with exa, zetta and yotta yet. But they are out there.

A few billion is nothing in our information age. If such information capacity is possible for men with the aid of PCs and laptops, how much more is it possible with God?

The Bible says I have always been known. God said, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." God knew me before I was conceived. God knew you before you came into existence.

God always knows where I am, what I am doing, what I am thinking. "You know [when I sit down and [when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways."

(Psalm 139:2-3).

Here is a great mystery. God doesn't just know about me, like some cosmic computer, He knows me. The Apostle wrote, "Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." (1 Corinthians 13:12).

And here is a greater mystery: not only does God know me better than I know myself. He loves me. This is a cosmic leap. "I have loved you with an everlasting love." (Jeremiah 31:3). "God demonstrated His love for us in this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8).

Technology, economics and politics cannot deliver us. God alone is our deliverance and our hope.

On this Christmas and New Year, "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. Visit [www.tinsleycenter.com](http://www.tinsleycenter.com). Email [bill@tinsleycenter.com](mailto:bill@tinsleycenter.com).

## Church News

### Spring Creek Fellowship

We will not have our Classic Services (8:30 am) or Connection Groups on Dec 31st. We will have services at 10:45 am only! Hope to see you there!

Everyone is invited to our New Year's Eve Family Game Night at the church. Bring your favorite games to play for all ages! There will be a mean Domino game going on for sure!! We will start at 7 p.m. and see what happens! Please bring snacks to share!

The Women's Bible Study (previously Cheeze Nips) will not meet again until Tuesday Jan. 9th at 7 p.m. and will have a new name!! For info call Jen Hollingsworth at 432-425-5141.

We will have a new "App" after the first of the year. It should be easier to work with have more applications. More news to come!!

#### REPORTING FROM KID CONNECTION:

Though we won't actually meet this Sunday for our Bible lesson, we can study. The lesson, Stephen's Address, Acts 6:8-7:60, takes us back into the chronological order of events from The Gospel Project for Kids after having taken a couple of Sundays to focus on the greatest Gift ever given, our Savior and His birth. Follow along at [springcreek-fellowship.org](http://springcreek-fellowship.org) under the Kid Connect tab.

As Kids On Mission, we have learned that our 126 shoeboxes sent for Operation Christmas Child are headed to Panama and Ecuador to bless children with the message of Jesus' and His love!

New Connection Groups will be starting up in January. More info to come!!

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry will be open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9 to 11 starting in January. If you are in need of food, please come see us! We are in the mall. Go in the door where the movie theater is located and we are in the first spot on the left!

You may also visit our Blessing Box just outside the front doors of the church entrance to get food. Donations are needed to keep us stocked for those in need. Please consider donating on a regular basis if you are able! Everyone is welcome to take what they need and donations are greatly appreciated. If you are interested in participating with the "Blessing Box" ministry, the "Our Daily Bread Food Pantry" ministry, please contact Kay Elder.

We are updating our files and need your help to make sure we have the correct information for you and your family. Please fill out the forms left on the seats in the Sanctuary or contact the church office.

"People Caring for People" is a ministry serving widows in our area with small projects and "honey do" kinds of things. This ministry has no operating budget, so repairs are made with donations. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, either in a "hands on" way or by donation, please contact the church office.

The Spring of Siloam Christian Women's Job Corps is meeting Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Adult Connect area. Spring of Siloam provides job skills training for women in a Christian environment. For more information about serving or participating in this ministry, contact Nancy Escalante at 268-3992.

The Taylor School of Ministry is meeting in the room across from Evita's Restaurant in Spring Town Plaza. A two-year Associates Degree is offered through TSM. For more information, contact the church office.

Community Groups meet during the week in various homes and locations. These groups promote fellowship, discipleship, and service. Contact the church office for times and locations.

Our Nursery needs workers on Sunday mornings. If you have a heart for children and would like to give some of your time loving on our smallest members, please contact Donna Wennik.

Our Worship Team is fundraising for 8 wireless/in-ear monitors. If you would be interested in donating to this fundraiser, please contact Clint Bratcher.

"Let the Morning Bring", a downloadable song as well as a few other songs written and performed by our own Spring Creek Fellowship Worship Team, is now on iTunes. We hope and pray these songs will speak to you and draw you into His presence. We are so very proud of our Spring Creek worship team for stepping out and using their gifts for God and to witness to others! If you would like to get these songs, go to iTunes and look for the download at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/let-the-morning-bring-single/id1176877429>

#### Weekly Happenings:

Sunday-No 8:15 am-Classical Worship Service Dec. 24th or 31st

No Connection Groups Dec. 24th or 31st 9:15-10:15 am-Sunday School/Connection Groups. 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. "Holy Grounds Cafe" is open with snacks and fellowship. 10:45 a.m. from 12 p.m. is the Worship Service.

At 5 p.m. will be the Prayer Meeting.

Tuesday at 12 noon Narcotics Anonymous, and at 7 p.m. Women's Bible Study. Wednesday there are Community Groups at various times and places. Thursday at 7 p.m. is the Men's Bible Study. Friday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. is the meeting for Narcotics Anonymous. Saturday from

7:30 a.m. is the Weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast & Fellowship. If you would like any further information regarding any of our ministries or events, please contact the church office or visit our website at [springcreekfellowship.org](http://springcreekfellowship.org)



ing the pipe organ, Choir, trumpet, and hymns, followed by Sunday School, and then The Bridge service at 11 a.m. which features contemporary music led by a wonderful praise team.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, Pastor Derrell's message is "A MISSIONARY GOD," and the scripture is from Luke 2: 1-12. Worship services are broadcast live each Sunday at 11 a.m. on radio station KXCS-105.5 FM. You can also find the services live streamed on our Facebook page, at First United Methodist Church Big Spring. You can watch previous worship services on that Facebook page, including recordings of our Christmas program, "Our Savior."

On Sunday, Dec. 31, there will be only one morning worship service, at 10:45 a.m.

The Youth will have a "New Year's Eve Party" on Sunday, Dec. 31, at 9 p.m. in the Partee Building.

All Wednesday activities are on break through the holidays and will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018.

For more information on any activity, please visit the website at [www.fumcbs.com](http://www.fumcbs.com) or phone the church office at 267-6394.

### Midway Baptist Church

Midway Baptist Church hopes that everyone had a great Christmas and wishes everyone a very happy New Year.

We would like to welcome you to come worship with us every Sunday. We have a fully graded Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; Worship service at 11 a.m., which we offer a children's church and nursery. Sunday and Wednesday evening worship starts at 6 p.m. which Children and Youth services are also available.

Mondays we have Women's Prayer and Share, which will resume on Monday, Jan. 8 @ 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Midway Baptist Church is located at 6200 South Service Road, Big Spring. Office (432) 263-6274. Dr. Michael Seay, Senior Pastor. Glenn Zacek, Associate Pastor of Worship and Youth. We're here to serve you!

### First Baptist Church

"...But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

Join the people of FBC Sunday morning at 10:50 as they come together to thank God for His presence, love, provision, and mercy throughout 2017. In welcoming a new year, worshippers will offer praise and awe-filled adoration, along with



### First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church is located just off Gregg Street at the corner of Fourth and Scurry in downtown Big Spring. The usual Sunday Morning Schedule includes the 9 a.m. Traditions Service, featur-



Courtesy Photos

Shown in the right photo are, area residents enjoy celebrating at First Baptist Church's recent "Mingle & Jingle" event which featured fun, food, and a Christmas program. The photo on the left feature the First Baptist Church's Music Minister Alan Schantz directs choir members as they sing "Noel" during the recent evening of Christmas celebration

## CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

confident expectation, for His continuing compassionate care, guidance, and presence in 2018. Music Minister Alan Schantz will lead congregants in a selection of songs which will include: "My Soul Magnifies The Lord," "What Child Is This," "We Three Kings of Orient Are," and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman." Honoring God with a special music offering will be Hill Durham.

Pastor Mark Lindsey will bring the message titled "Life After Christmas." Drawn from Matthew 2:13-23, this passage beckons hearers to consider that even from Jesus' infancy, the evil in this unwelcoming world sought to kill Him-thus averting His eternal purpose-but through God's unceasing, attentive care Jesus is protected. Hidden in Egypt, this demonstrates that God, when He chooses, can make the worst of places serve His purposes, while verifying that those who come to Christ in faith have the same Divine connection and communion with Heaven today. If you have mobility issues use the west circle drive, and someone will be happy to assist you inside and park your vehicle. If unable to attend, you may join the service through the live stream on the church website at: fbcbigspring.org.

There will be no Sunday School, evening service, or other activities. The church offices will be closed January 1, 2018.

Tuesday Jan. 2, you're invited to join the Triple LLL(Living Longer & Loving It) group at noon in the church dining room for a tasty lunch and some great fellowship. Bring a friend and enter through the east kitchen doors.

FBC Mother's Day Out program resumes its regular schedule Tuesday January 2. The MDO program is open each Tuesday and Thursday from 9-3. Contact Tracy Boeker at 267-8223 for information about available openings for your little ones.

Wednesday evening January 3, there will be no scheduled activities.

FBC is located at 705 W FM 700. There is always a place for you at First Baptist Church. Happy New Year, and "...may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, ...guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

### Blessed Hands Deaf Church

The people of BHDC invite you to worship with them Sunday at 2 p.m. Pastor Jim Walterhouse will bring a message from God's Word, as the congregation comes together in thanks and praise of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. Currently, Blessed Hands Deaf Church meets inside First Baptist Church at 705 W FM 700. For more information about BHDC, including Wednesday evening schedule and activities, contact Pastor Jim at: jwalterhouse@gmail.com. Happy New Year!

### Forsan Baptist Church

This week the message comes from Revelation 21:5-7 and is called All Things Made New.

Wednesday youth and children's activities will

resume the week school starts back on January 10. Students from pre-k to 6th grade are provided a light snack right after school, with age-appropriate classes beginning at 4 p.m. Van rides are available at 5 p.m. IMPACT youth begins with a meal at 5:30, followed by class at 6 p.m. Van rides are available at 7 p.m.

Wednesday adult Bible study class begins at 6 p.m.

If anyone needs a ride to or from Wednesday evening activities, please call Pastor Darren Weaver at 432-213-2348.

### First Presbyterian Church

On Wednesday the Lectionary Bible Study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets at 5 p.m. in the church library. The Chancel Choir did not rehearse this week, but will resume regular rehearsals at 6 p.m. next Wednesday.

Tom and Nancy Koger lit the Advent candle for the fourth Sunday in Advent last Sunday.

Saturday, Dec. 30, at 8:30 a.m. men of the congregation are cooking for a Prayer Breakfast. Josh McKain, Corps Officer of the Salvation Army will be the speaker. All are welcome and encouraged to

bring a friend or neighbor.

Ellen Austin is in charge of Take Ten for this Sunday

The lectionary passages for the First Sunday after Christmas are Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; and Luke 2:22-40. Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The Noisy Offering will be received during the Children's Moment. There will be a Called Congregational Meeting following worship, to approve the Pastor's compensation package for 2018. Following the meeting all who can are asked to remain to take down the Advent/Christmas decorations.

Please note that our worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. for announcements and parish concerns before our radio broadcast starts at 11.

If you cannot attend worship, you may listen in on KBST 1490 AM, beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, please call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website [www.fpcbs.org](http://www.fpcbs.org). On our website, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by Rev. Craig Holstedt. We would be pleased for you to Like us on Facebook.



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## Texas coach Tom Herman's first season ends as a winner

By **JIM VERTUNO**  
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas — Tom Herman's first season at Texas ended with an on-field shimmy that had Longhorns fans fuming, and ended with an on-field shimmy that had them defending him.

Now, Herman looks to turn that shimmy into the full-blown Texas swagger that's been missing for so long.

At 7-6, there are signs it could be coming. At the very least, Herman's first team can be called a winner.

That's what made beating Missouri in the Texas Bowl so important. The Longhorns avoided a fourth consecutive losing season and Herman can legitimately say a rebuilding project is heading in the right direction.

"You can't overstate it," Herman said. "It's really important for these guys to call themselves winners."

That's a far different feeling from when Texas got thumped at home by Maryland in the season opener. And just a few weeks ago, Texas fans were wondering if Herman's locker room was in disarray after running back Chris Warren transferred and stand-

out offensive lineman Connor Williams and Thorpe Award winner safety DeShon Elliott decided to skip the bowl game to prepare for the NFL draft.

"I think tonight, coach Herman won the locker room, 100 percent," said linebacker Breckyn Hager said after Wednesday night's 33-16 victory over the Tigers.

"He now has our hearts as a team. These past three weeks, they really felt like a whole new team, a whole new atmosphere. We all bought in," Hager said. "It's like you hit the light switch and everything has changed. It's definitely up from here. I know I've said that before but for real this time. This was big time."

Texas brought in Herman after firing Charlie Strong following three straight losing seasons. The program is starved to return to contending for Big 12 championships — Longhorns fans will want national titles too, but first things first — and gave Herman a contract that guarantees him more than \$25 million.

Herman's first nine months were full of tough talk about



Texas coach Tom Herman, center, lifts the trophy next to Michael Dickson, right, following the team's 33-16 win over Missouri in the Texas Bowl NCAA college football game, Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, in Houston.

See **TEXAS**, Page 13

## Philly aims for franchise-record 14th win in Eagles vs. Cowboys



In this Dec. 24, 2017, file photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) hands the ball off to running back Ezekiel Elliott (21) during the first half of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas. The Cowboys play the Philadelphia Eagles this week. Elliott needs 120 yards rushing to reach 1,000 in only 10 games. The Eagles have the NFL's top-ranked run defense and haven't allowed a 100-yard rusher since Matt Jones ran for 135 yards in Week 6 last year.

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer  
PHILADELPHIA — Even with home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs already secured, the Philadelphia Eagles have one goal remaining.

A victory over the Dallas Cowboys (8-7) on Sunday would give the Eagles (13-2) a franchise-record 14 wins. It's motivation for guys who would rather play than rest.

"We have a chance to do something here that hasn't been done," running back LeGarrette Blount said. "It's a chance we don't want to let slip away."

The Eagles have already lost several important players to injury, including MVP candidate Carson Wentz. They can't afford to lose backup quarterback Nick Foles. But the offense struggled in the last game and Foles could use the reps with his receivers.

Coach Doug Pederson is weighing the importance of protecting players from injury and keeping them sharp.

"These guys have only worked with Nick now for a couple of weeks," he said. "We'll have another week this week, and a chance possibly through the bye to continue to work. We just got to work on keeping it fixed."

The scenario was re-performed last season when Dallas visited Philadelphia in Week 17. The Cowboys were heading to the playoffs as the No. 1 seed and chose to rest some players. Dak Prescott played two series and Ezekiel Elliott watched from the sideline. Dallas lost the game, and then lost to Green Bay in the playoffs.

"It would be a lot better going into that down time knowing we're executing our best against a good football team, so there's a lot to play for," Eagles defensive end Chris Long said.

The Cowboys, who

See **RECORD**, Page 13

## No. 13 TCU and Hill rally to beat No. 15 Stanford 39-37



TCU quarterback Kenny Hill (7) celebrates his touchdown run against the Stanford during the first half of the Alamo Bowl NCAA college football game, Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, in San Antonio.

By **JIM VERTUNO**

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — There is something about TCU and big comebacks in the Alamo Bowl. Never count out the Horned Frogs.

In 2015, they stormed back from down 31-0 to win. They did it again Thursday night, rallying from 21-3 down to beat No. 15 Stanford 39-37 behind Kenny Hill, who passed for two touchdowns, ran for another, and even caught one. Cole Bunce kicked

the winning 33-yard field goal with just over 3 minutes left after Stanford had retaken the lead.

"The bottom line is we need to start faster," TCU coach Gary Patterson joked after the game. "We fought back tonight."

Hill landed the biggest punches. He scored the Horned Frogs' first touchdown on a 6-yard scramble. His 27-yard TD catch on a throw from receiver Desmon White capped No. 13 TCU's

See **ALAMO BOWL**, Page 13

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Custodial/maintenance position available at New Hope Christian School. Must be able to pass background and drug tests. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd.

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MIGHTY WASH is now accepting applications Full /Part Time & Seasonal Stop by 1002 Scurry Street/ or online [mighty-wash.com](http://mighty-wash.com)

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JAK Application, LLC -Must be 18 years or older. 2 Temporary workers needed in Marvell, AR from approximately February 15, 2018 through October 01, 2018. Three months commercial experience on a licensed farm required. Workers will perform assigned duties as instructed by their supervisor. Duties may vary from time to time. Duties performed: drive and operate farm machinery. Workers will load the water truck with chemical and water multiple times a day and load the sprayer. Drive and operate self-propelled sprayer to spray cotton, rice, soybeans and wheat. Perform a variety of duties such as lubricating and repairing farm machinery. Cleaning and servicing sprayers and water trucks. Must be able to lift 60 lbs. Must be able to obtain a Class B CDL license within 30-90 days of hire. No minimum education required. All tools, supplies, and equipment will be provided at no cost to the worker. General Specifications and Physical Requirements of the Job: The majority of the workday will be spent outdoors. Worker must be able to withstand working in the direct sunlight and weather conditions ranging from hot and humid weather, moderate rain and cold while performing their required job duties. Hours and days of work may vary due to weather conditions. Due to possible Date of Need changes, worker is required to purchase travel insurance if available. We will reimburse the worker for transportation cost (including travel insurance) and subsistence to the employers' work site from the place of recruitment upon completion of 50 percent of the contract period. Transportation payment will be no less (and is not required to be more) than the most economical and reasonable common carrier transportation charges for the distances involved. A copy of the work contract or a copy of the ETA 790 in lieu of a work contract, and any modifications, will be provided to the worker on the day the work commences. If the employee is unable or unfit to perform the duties listed after the 14 day pretrial, the employee will receive warnings, hours may be reduced to the minimum allowed in the certified petition or terminated. Workers will be paid \$10.38 per hr, three fourth's guarantee, 35 hrs per week, housing, equipment and transportation provided at no cost to workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of each work day. Workers must have valid identification for I-9 preparation when they report to begin work. **Complete job description can be found at your local SWA/Job Enter.** Apply for this job at the State Workforce/Job Center office in your area, please call for the nearest office in your area AR 501-268-8601, LA 318-676-7705, Okla 580-323-1341, TX 432-263-8373 using job #AR2092703.

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### Items for Sale

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### Public Notice

#### NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Permian Basin Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson, Ector, Howard, Martin Counties, and portions of Borden and Midland Counties, are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning January 10, 2018. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication at 1-800-687-1212.

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#9650 December 29, 2017

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### Legals

#### RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case No. 0308160  
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 14, 2017 Status/Permit No. 831527  
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 18, 2018  
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit P. O. Box 12967 Austin, Texas 78711-2967 Fax: (512) 463-6780 Email: [SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV](mailto:SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV)

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CALLON PETROLEUM OPERATING CO, [RRC Operator No. 124828] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the lease line distance requirement because the Applicant is less than the required Rule 37 lease line distance to an unleased or non-pooled interest within the subject unit for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 33, Bk. 33 T3N, T&P RR CO Survey, A-350, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, HOWARD County, being 18.63 miles NW direction from BIG SPRING, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protester should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-exam-

### Legals

ination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512)463-6751.

**IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 18, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.**

#### THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name : WRIGHT UNIT 40-33  
Lease/Unit Well No. : 3AH  
Lease/Unit Acres : 690.0  
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 1.0  
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 646.0

Lease Lines : 823.0 F North L, 236.0 F West L  
Survey Lines : 823.0 F North L, 2404.0 F East L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres. This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 8500 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Ryan Emery, at (281) 589-5200.

#9634 December 15, 22, 29, 2017 January 5, 2018

#### RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case No. 0308161  
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 14, 2017 Status/Permit No. 831528  
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 18, 2018

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to the Decree and Order for Partition by Public Sale entered in Cause No. 7104 in the 118th District Court in Martin County, Texas, the following property will be sold by public auction:

THE SURFACE ONLY OF SECTION 43, BLOCK 37, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 233, MARTIN COUNTY, TEXAS, CONTAINING 640.81 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

Such sale will be for cash, which may also be in the form of certified funds. The public auction will 288613 take place in front of the northeast corner of the Martin County Courthouse on the 2nd day of January, 2018 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

For information about the property, please contact Brent Preston at (806) 470-0464.

### Legals

Address: Railroad Commission of Texas ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit P. O. Box 12967 Austin, Texas 78711-2967 Fax: (512) 463-6780 Email: [SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV](mailto:SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV)

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Lease/Unit Name : WRIGHT UNIT 40-33

**Legals**

Lease/Unit Well No. : 4AH  
Lease/Unit Acres : 690.0  
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 1.0  
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 639.0

Lease Lines : 793.0 F North L, 236.0 F West L  
Survey Lines : 793.0 F North L, 2404.0 F East L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1  
Penetration Point Location  
Lease Lines: 793.0 F NORTH L

236.0 F WEST L  
Terminus Location  
BH County: HOWARD  
Section: 40 Block: 33 T3N  
Abstract: 1250 Survey: T&P  
RR CO / BOYDSTON, J N  
Lease Lines: 100.0 F SOUTH

**Legals**

L  
330.0 F WEST L  
Survey Lines: 100.0 F SOUTH L  
2721.0 F EAST L

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

### When the Moon Comes Down to Earth

We all have flaws. And though most of us prefer our own shortcomings to those of others, our mistakes, once owned, do make us more compassionate toward the other imperfect humans. The Taurus moon brings us back down to earth, where we're more likely to help instead of condemn each other for our failings.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Usually clouds gather before the storm, so the aware person knows when to duck for cover or get out an umbrella, as the case may be. You'll use the analogy in the realm of emotion today.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You know who gets angriest at the small things? Beings who are even smaller. But the small things can't help what size they are, and the tiny beings can't, either. So you'll respect all and try not to judge things by scale.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It can be daunting to meet people in a broad context, but as the context gets narrower, people feel safer. While it's easier to relax around friends of friends than with the general public, today it will pay to search wider than that.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** While a dog's affection may not be conclusive evidence of a person's fine character it does feel wonderful to be sloppily, enthusiastically and unconditionally appreciated. Dogs aren't the only ones who will deliver thusly.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Today features different people, going at different paces, with different tolerance levels and definitions of "high pressure." You'll be as content as you are patient.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The good fortune will come from getting out and

### By HOLIDAY MATHIS



interacting. Tonight you may find yourself communicating differently with someone as you begin to sense this person's deepening affection.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Tending to your inner self is as essential to your existence as feeding yourself. Right now it's about paying greater attention to what you need, how you feel and, most importantly, what you have to give others.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** There's someone who's been thinking of you. In fact, yours is the first face that pops to mind in the morning and the last one that comes in clear at night. What do you wish for this person?

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Mastering anger will be the advanced skill to work on. Danger and anger are only one letter apart. While it's healthy to express your feelings, anger should only be let out in a safe context. Anger also defuses with a delay.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You're wanted and needed in new places. A group of people you're not too familiar with will readily accept you as one of their own. It will be a struggle not to over-commit your time.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Though it takes intelligence to know another person, it takes wisdom to know yourself. Wisdom often comes from the pain that accompanies mistakes, but not today. Today it comes from listening better and better.

**PISCES (Feb.**

**19-March 20).** There are questions that those who prefer the bliss of ignorance just shouldn't ask. And anyway, you're starting to get information through a kind of osmosis of feeling, so maybe asking is unnecessary.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 29).** It's like you and life are in a conversation. Sometimes it's

deep; sometimes it's silly and totally off the rails. But it's a conversation you love either way. You'll be freed of a burden in the early part of your solar return. You'll make an impression with your style. The relationships you nurture will reward you richly. Leo and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 3, 33, 38 and 13.

**COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND:** Gemini is catching the glow of the Capricorn sun and loving the attention. If it weren't also New Year's Eve weekend, these two would have a much quieter time showing their love for one another, but this air sign and earth sign mix will be the perfect blend to bring 2018 in with festive glitz and glamour. Gemini will love a fun and trendy setting, and Capricorn will keep the count-down classy.

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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Bidding quiz

**You are South,** both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone (assume you are not playing negative doubles):

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	2 ♣	?	?

**What action would you take with each of the following four hands?**

- ♠ AJ542 ♥ 63 ♦ J74 ♣ KQ8
- ♠ Q873 ♥ Q75 ♦ KJ982 ♣ 6
- ♠ K106 ♥ Q92 ♦ AJ83 ♣ KJ3
- ♠ AJ95 ♥ KQ84 ♦ KJ962 ♣ \* \* \*

**1. Double.** This is likely to produce the best result in the long run. When partner opened the bidding with one heart, you had no assurance that your side had a game. If partner has only a minimum opening bid, game is doubtful, since it usually takes the equivalent of two opening bids to make a game — and you have less than an opening bid.

The prospects for game don't change much when East overcalls with two clubs. If you were to bid two spades (forcing) and caught partner with minimum values, you'd be well on your way toward a game that's probably not in the cards.

Faced with this uncertainty, the best policy is to go for a practically sure profit by doubling two clubs. If partner has a normal opening bid and passes, East is likely to go down one or two tricks, giving you plus 200 or 500. A bid in the hand is worth two in the bush!

**2. Two hearts.** The only question is whether to bid two diamonds or two hearts. The chief objection to two diamonds is that it forces partner to bid again in a hand where there may be no game. Therefore, the slight underbid of two hearts is preferred. If partner passes, it is unlikely a game will be missed.

**3. Three notrump.** Here game is certain, so you don't bother to double two clubs, even though you have better defensive values than you had in the first problem. While you will surely defeat two clubs, you can't be certain that you will set that contract enough to make up for missing a vulnerable game. In this sequence, three notrump shows 13-15 high-card points and a balanced distribution.

**4. Three clubs.** This hand is likely to produce a slam in hearts, provided partner does not have wasted club strength. It is true that you have only 14 high-card points, but that does not begin to reflect the enormous trick-taking power of your excellent trump fit and club void. Partner could have as little as: ♠ KQ3 ♥ AJ1072 ♦ Q53 ♣ J8, and slam would be virtually certain.

The immediate cuebid implies very good support for partner's suit, sufficient values for at least a game, and possible interest in reaching a slam. An alternative call, if you play "splinter bids," would be four clubs, showing essentially the same thing.

**Tomorrow:** Slow and steady wins the race.  
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# SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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

ANSWER:

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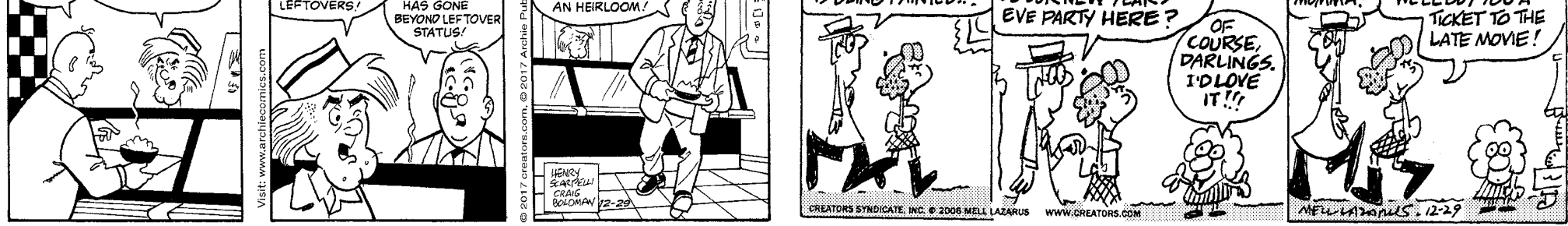
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- Business
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- National Sports

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Local 2 ABC	P. Luche	Broke Girl		Tele Noticias	News	Dr. Young	Euromaxx	Hawaii Five-0	American	Fam. Guy	Bones	American Mortgage Music City Bowl	SportsCenter		Chrisley		Gold Rush
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Enamorán-dome	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cer-rado	News	Hidden	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Bones	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Kansas at Texas.	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Gold Rush
7:PM	Shark Tank	Rey David	Hell's Kitchen (DVS)	MacGyver	Hasta que te Conoci	Law & Order: SVU	HaYesod	Inner	Griffith	iHeartRadio Music Festival Night 2	Movie: You Don't Mess With the Zohan (DVS)	Movie: The Expendables 3 (DVS)	Pregame Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic: USC vs Ohio State.	College Basketball: Kansas at Texas.	College Basketball: Kansas at Texas.	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Gold Rush: Pay Dirt
8:PM	(:01) 20/20	Mi marido tiene		Hawaii Five-0	Sangre de mi tierra	Dateline NBC	Light of Southwest	Light of Southwest	Mama's ALF									Gold Rush
9:PM	(:01) 20/20	Caer en tentación	News TMZ	Blue Bloods	Señora Acero 4		Light of Southwest	Light of Southwest	Heroes	Page Six								(:01) Gold Rush
10:PM	Local 2 ABC	Impacto	Mom	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Artists Den	C. Burnett	Seinfeld								(:01) Gold Rush
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mod Fam	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Creation	Newsline	Perry Mason	Rules								(:01) Gold Rush
12:AM	Extra	Quiero Amarte	How I Met	James Corden	Señora Acero 4	Daily	Shabbat		Tw. Zone	King	ELEAGUE: 2017 Eleague Year in Review.							(12:01) Gold Rush
1:AM	Paid Prg.	Las amazonas	How I Met	ET	Programa	News	Light of Southwest		Hitchcock	Cops								(:01) Gold Rush

**AGNES ANDY CAPP**



**ARCHIE MOMMA**



**NEST HEAD ONE BIG HAPPY**



**This Date In History**

Today is Friday, Dec. 29, the 363rd day of 2017. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 29, 1170, Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was slain in Canterbury Cathedral by knights loyal to King Henry II.

On this date: In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, North Carolina.

In 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as an estimated 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

In 1916, James Joyce's first novel, "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man," was first published in book form in New York after being serialized in London.

In 1934, Japan formally renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany dropped incendiary bombs on London, setting off what came to be known as "The Second Great Fire of London."

In 1957, singers Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme were married in Las Vegas (the marriage lasted until Gorme's death in 2013).

In 1967, Hyundai Motor Co. was founded in Seoul (sohl), South Korea.

In 1972, Eastern Air Lines Flight 401, a Lockheed L-1011 Tristar, crashed into the Florida Everglades near Miami International Airport, killing 101 of the 176 people aboard.

In 1975, a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people (it's never been determined who was responsible).

In 1986, former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan died in Sussex, England, at age 92.

In 1992, David and Sharon Schoo of St. Charles, Illinois, were arrested at O'Hare International Airport upon their return from a Mexican vacation for leaving their 4- and 9-year-old daughters at home, alone.

(The Schoos pleaded guilty to child neglect and were sentenced to probation; the children were put up for adoption.)

Ten years ago: Australian David Hicks, who'd fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan, was freed from prison in Adelaide after completing a nine-month sentence struck under a plea deal that followed more than five years' detention without a trial at Guantanamo. The New England Patriots ended their regular season with a remarkable 16-0 record following a 38-35 comeback victory over the New York Giants. (New England became the first NFL team since the 1972 Dolphins to win every game on the schedule.)

Five years ago: Maine's same-sex marriage law went into effect. Shocked Indians mourned the death of a woman who'd been gang-raped and beaten on a bus in New Delhi nearly two weeks earlier; six suspects were charged with murder. (Four were later sentenced to death; one died in prison; the sixth, a juvenile at the time of the attack, was sentenced to a maximum of three years in a reform home.)

One year ago: The United States struck back at Russia for hacking the U.S. presidential campaign with a sweeping set of punishments targeting Russia's spy agencies and diplomats; Moscow called the Obama administration "losers" and threatened retaliation. Tennis star Serena Williams announced her engagement to Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian — on Reddit. (The couple married on Nov. 16, 2017.)

Hall of Fame Jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. is 71. Actor Ted Danson is 70. Singer-actress Yvonne Elliman is 66. The president of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, is 64. Actress Patricia Clarkson is 58. Comedian Paula Poundstone is 58. Rock singer-musician Jim Reid (The Jesus and Mary Chain) is 56. Actor Michael

Cudlitz is 53. Rock singer Dexter Holland (The Offspring) is 52. Actor-comedian Mastro Clark is 51. Actor Jason Gould is 51. News anchor Ashleigh Banfield is 50. Movie director Lilly Wachowski is 50. Actress Jennifer Ehle is 48. Actor Patrick Fischler is 48. Rock singer-musician Glen Phillips is 47. Actor Kevin Weisman is

47. Actor Jude Law is 45. Actress Maria Dizzia is 43. Actor Mekhi Phifer (mih-KY' FY-fuhr) is 43. Actor Shawn Hatosy is 42. Actress Katherine Moennig is 40. Actor Diego Luna is 38. Actress Alison Brie is 35. Country singer Jessica Andrews is 34. Actor Iain de Caestecker is 30. Actress Jane Levy is 28. Singer-actor-dancer Ross

Lynch is 22.

Thought for Today: "The wise man must be wise before, not after." Epicharmus (eh-pih-KAHR'-muhs) Sicilian Greek comic poet.

**Newsday Crossword**

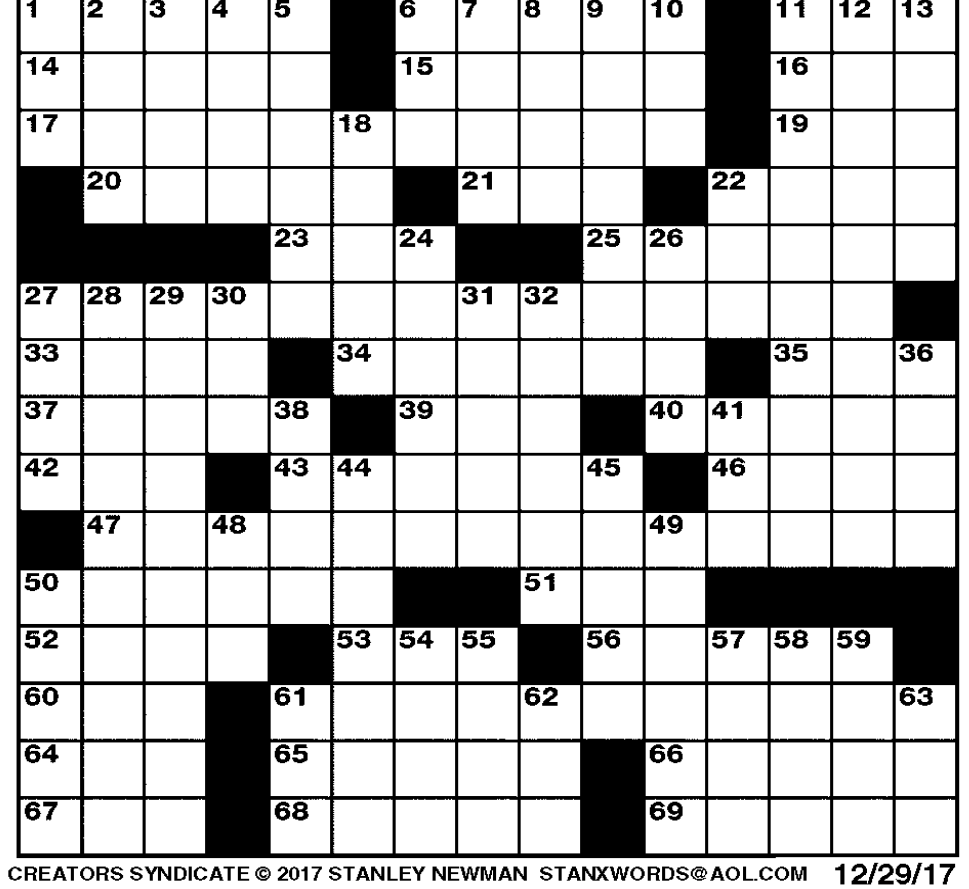
- ACROSS**
- 1 Caribbean dance
  - 6 *Sleeping Beauty* villain
  - 11 "Special" missions
  - 14 Unearthly
  - 15 Lexus alternative
  - 16 Cleanup appliance
  - 17 Start of a verse
  - 19 Age
  - 20 Something to talk about
  - 21 Trait carrier
  - 22 Vocalized
  - 23 Ft. Worth school
  - 25 Bully's comeback
  - 27 Part 2 of verse
  - 33 Youngest of the Brontës
  - 34 Formally withdraw
  - 35 Polling fig.
  - 37 They may be tossed around at work
  - 39 Troweled
  - 40 Swinelike beast
  - 42 Boundary, for short
  - 43 Sign of gratitude
  - 46 Tire track, perhaps
  - 47 Part 3 of verse
  - 50 Count every penny
  - 51 What surrounds an *île*
  - 52 Purview
  - 53 Wide, as wingtips
  - 56 Source of fleece
  - 60 Catch or confound
  - 61 End of verse
  - 64 Poetic adverb
  - 65 "... which will live in infamy"

- 66 Greeted excitedly
  - 67 Metaphor for a mess
  - 68 Hatterlike
  - 69 Visibility blocker
- DOWN**
- 1 Besmirch
  - 2 Very much
  - 3 Sushi bar
  - 4 Alert
  - 5 Available right here
  - 6 Tolstoy subject
  - 7 In the bag
  - 8 Become stale
  - 9 Flawed, as photos
  - 10 Caught or confounded
  - 11 Glut
  - 12 Biology 101 creature
  - 13 C to C, e.g.
  - 18 Sales rep's customers: Abbr.
  - 22 Regular in Popeye cartoons
  - 24 Once did regularly
  - 26 Encourage, as evil
  - 27 Town northeast of Aspen
  - 28 Tactless
  - 29 Ultimate "Here goes!"
  - 30 Pastoral place
  - 31 Penetrating, as insight
  - 32 People in power
  - 36 Fruit source
  - 38 Ark passenger
  - 41 Düsseldorf "Darn!"
  - 44 Adds on
  - 45 King David creation
  - 48 Palermo possessive
  - 49 People in power
  - 50 Learned ones
  - 54 Yellow cheese
  - 55 Bolívar's "are"
  - 57 Name on the cover of *The Wealth of Nations*
  - 58 Poet Van Duyn
  - 59 DreamWorks' first animated film
  - 61 Not very wide, as wingtips
  - 62 UK word authority
  - 63 Low digit

**VERSIFICATION 101 by S.N.**

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com



Answer to previous puzzle

IDEA PAIR CLIME  
MELT FIRE ALRONE  
ALPO ARAB SNAPS  
GIANT SEQUOIA  
ESS RED TAOISTS  
STONY ASST YAK  
AIOLI EVENLY  
GRAND ENTRANCE  
ORANGE CISCO  
HIP NEED USAGE  
ONT OAST EDU NOR  
GREAT PUMPKIN  
CAPRI LEON LANE  
URGES INON ORGS  
TEASE TIDLE PAST

# Texans, Colts try to build momentum heading into offseason



By **MICHAEL MAROT**

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Houston and Indianapolis head into Sunday's season finale facing the same plight.

With the playoffs out of reach and speculation swirling about the job status of both coaches, they know changes are coming. They're just not sure how deep they will cut.

So the Texans and Colts will spend the last day of this season trying to snap long losing streaks and take a little momentum into a potentially tumultuous offseason. And that, of course, means winning still matters.

"The main thing is you try to go finish strong and try to put great film out there, especially for the younger guys who want to continue playing, and especially for myself," said 34-year-old running back Frank Gore, who can become a free agent in March. "I just want to win, I don't care who it is."

On paper, the stakes seem minuscule.

Indy (3-12) has lost six straight, the longest skid of coach Chuck Pagano's six seasons, and is locked into a top-three draft choice. Seventeen players will finish this season on injured reserve, including Andrew Luck, who never played this season.

The season has been so challenging that many now believe a third consecutive postseason absence will end Pagano's tenure in Indy. But he has somehow managed to get Indy's undermanned roster to play hard week after week, and there's no reason to doubt they will against the Texans (4-11).

AP Photo

This Oct. 29, 2017, file photo shows Houston Texans head coach Bill O'Brien, left, talking with quarterback Deshaun Watson, right, before an NFL football game in Seattle.

See **OFFSEASON**, Page 14

## ALAMO BOWL

Continued from Page 7

first drive of the second half.

And Hill's 93-yard touchdown pass to Jalen Reagor in the fourth quarter sent a charge through an Alamodome crowd that was dominated by TCU fans.

It was the second time this season Hill had a rushing, passing and receiving touchdown, providing a memorable finale to his college career. Hill began his career at Texas A&M, where he succeeded Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel in 2014, but transferred to TCU (11-3) after a rocky first season with the Aggies.

"To come back to win (tonight) with this group of guys who accepted me from the minute I came in, means everything to me," said Hill, who had 314 yards passing and a team-high 60 yard rushing.

Bryce Love, a Heisman Trophy finalist, rushed for 145 yards for Stanford (9-5), including a 69-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

K.J. Costello threw three touchdown passes to J.J. Arcega-Whiteside, the last one giving Stanford a 37-36 lead.

Hill completed three passes on TCU's winning drive. The Horned Frogs sealed the victory with an interception by Innis Gaines with 2:01 left.

Love finished with the season with 2,118 yards rushing, setting a Stanford single-season record.

### THE TAKEAWAY

TCU: The Horned Frogs defended Love about as well as anyone this season despite the long touchdown run. Most important, they didn't let him take over in the second half, which let Hill and the offense rally. When the Stanford running game wasn't working, the TCU defense could get after Costello, who struggled under pressure after his quick start.

Stanford: The Cardinal were doomed by the big play just when they had a chance to put the game away. After pinning TCU deep, Hill found Reagor for the long TD pass early in the fourth quarter. White, who earlier had a costly fumble, then gave TCU its first lead with a punt return touchdown.

"He outkicked his coverage. I saw green and took off running," White said.

"We really want a lot of those plays back. Those long drives and a couple big plays, they caught back up really quick," Stanford defensive tackle Harrison Phillips said.

### ON TO NEXT YEAR

TCU: Coach Gary Patterson has his program humming with 40 wins over the last four seasons, and the Horned Frogs expect to remain Big 12 title contenders even as Hill moves on after his final game. The Horned Frogs will have to find a new quarterback, but Patterson's teams always play some of the best defense in the league.

Stanford: Love will have to decide his future and whether that will mean another year of school for

the biology major and aspiring pediatrician with an interest in stem cell research, or a jump to the NFL. The trend has seen top players leave early, but Love already bucked the latest fad by choosing to play in his team's bowl game as he ponders his decision.

Coach David Shaw said this week he hopes Love will return next season. If he does, pencil in the Cardinal as a Pac-12 favorite again.

"A lot of guys have some decisions to make, whether they will leave or not. But I'm so excited about what we have coming back on this football team," Shaw said. "I think we'll make a huge jump."

### UP NEXT

Stanford hosts San Diego State on Sept. 1, 2018.

TCU hosts Southern in its 2018 opener.



## RECORD

Continued from Page 7

were eliminated from the playoff chase last week in a home loss to Seattle, are playing for a second straight winning season. They haven't done that since five in a row from 2005-09.

"We're trying to do exactly what they did last year," Prescott said. "Go take that game away from us and somehow use that as motivation going into next season."

Here's some things to look for when the Cowboys visit the Eagles:

**BANGED-UP COWBOYS:** Five-time Pro Bowl left tackle Tyron Smith probably won't play after he tried for a series against Seattle, then came out with a right knee injury sustained a week earlier in Oakland. Defensive lineman David Irving is likely to join Smith on the inactive list. He has missed three straight games with a concussion. Cornerback Orlando Scandrick will be an interesting decision after breaking a bone in his back against the Redskins. He practiced last week but didn't play against the Seahawks.

Linebacker Anthony Hitchens (knee), right tackle La'el Collins (back) and wide receiver Cole Beasley (illness) also didn't practice to start the week.

**ZEKE'S QUEST:** Elliott needs 120 yards rushing to reach 1,000 in only 10 games. The Eagles have the NFL's top-ranked run defense and haven't allowed a 100-yard rusher since Matt Jones ran for 135 yards in Week 6 last year.

"If it happens, it happens," Elliott said. "It's not like you can go out there and force that, but it definitely would be nice."

**NATE'S DEBUT:** Eagles backup quarterback Nate Sudfeld should throw his first pass against the Cowboys. Sudfeld, a sixth-round pick by Washington in 2016, was inactive for 16 games his rookie season. The Eagles signed him to the practice squad in September and promoted him to the active roster on Nov. 1 after the Colts wanted to sign him.

**PLAYING FOR 2018:** Prescott and Elliott now know both sides of life in the NFL, Elliott even more so because of the six-game suspension that ended before last week's game. And that ban also

has a hand in last year's NFL rushing leader seeing this game as a chance for the dynamic rookie duo from a year ago to have a springboard into 2018.

"That's what this game is, just to solidify we had a winning season this year and just to build some momentum for the offseason going into next year," Elliott said.

**AJAYI'S HANDS:** Eagles running back Jay Ajayi caught his first career touchdown pass last week and offensive coordinator Frank Reich envisions him becoming more involved in the passing game.

"The first part of that is you've got to have a knack for protections, so we feel confident in there, and all of our backs do a great job," Reich said. "But then when it comes to the route running and knowing the spacing and the spot you've got to get to and being able to use that wiggle you have as a runner, I think all the backs are developing there. I think certainly Jay is, and I think we're gaining more and more confidence with him in the pass game."

## TEXAS

Continued from Page 7

molding a tough team, recruiting and a \$10 million locker room redesign.

The Maryland loss staggered everyone and caused the entire program to re-evaluate what would be possible this season.

"If we all thought we were going to come in here and in nine months sprinkle some fairy dust on this team and think that we've arrived, then we were wrong," Herman said after the first game.

Texas fought back behind a much-improved defense under coordinator Todd Orlando while the offense stalled more often than it started and had Herman defending coordinator Tim Beck most of the season. And frustration built over what might have been.

The defense kept the Longhorns in every game. Texas led Southern California, Oklahoma State and Texas Tech in the fourth quarter, only to lose each one. The defense will lose some of its best players in 2018. Defensive tackle Poon Ford was a force in the middle of the line as a senior and Elliott and cornerback Holton Hill are leaving for the NFL as underclassmen. Linebacker Malik Jefferson, a second-team Associated Press All-American, has yet

to announce whether he will return for his senior season.

Offensively, the Longhorns have work to do.

Quarterbacks Shane Buechele and Sam Ehlinger rotated starting duties because of injury and because neither seemed to satisfy Herman with his play.

Ehlinger's head-first running style delivered a key win against Kansas State and had Texas threatening to beat Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, but he also got a concussion injury.

Buechele started the first game, went out with a leg injury and struggled to truly command the offense when given the chance despite a record-setting passing season as a freshman in 2016.

What develops at quarterback between those two and standout recruits Casey Thompson and Cameron Rising in the spring will be the story of the offseason for the Longhorns.

Herman closed out the 2017 season with an on-field shimmy caught by TV cameras as the Texas Bowl win over Missouri ended. His moves appeared to mock an earlier celebration by Missouri quarterback Drew Lock.

The Texas fans who were quick to defend their coach on social media didn't see ridicule. They saw swag.

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# Cowboys' Bryant opens up on struggles, nixes idea of pay cut

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas — Dez Bryant didn't seem sure how to respond when asked if he would be willing to take a pay cut after perhaps the most difficult season of the Dallas receiver's career.

Once the 2014 All-Pro came to his senses, he was emphatic.

"Hell no, man," Bryant said Wednesday, three days after the Cowboys were eliminated from playoff contention with a loss to Seattle. "I believe in me."

Bryant opened up in his first lengthy session with reporters in weeks, taking responsibility for a subpar season by saying he let frustrations affect him during games. But he also said some of those frustrations were rooted in the offensive scheme, which he said he would probably address with owner Jerry Jones and coaches in the offseason.

The eighth-year pro also blamed some of his struggles on knee tendinitis, something that hadn't been revealed. Bryant was listed on the injury report for three weeks earlier in the season, including one week when he missed two practices when an ankle injury also was listed.

But Bryant didn't miss any games, and is on the verge of going all 16 without a 100-yard outing for the first time in his career unless he sits for a meaningless finale Sunday at Philadelphia. In his second season in 2011, Bryant didn't reach 100 yards in 15 games, missing one for injury.

"I consider myself a warrior," Bryant said. "If I can walk, I can move, I'm going to go out there and try to play. That's probably dumb, but hey, that's just who I am. I love this game, and I try to push it, but for the most part, yeah, I have been pretty banged up."

Injuries are part of the reason Bryant hasn't lived up to the \$70 million, five-year contract he signed after his All-Pro season. He had career lows across the board in 2015 because of foot and ankle issues that kept him out of seven games.

A knee injury knocked him out of three games last year, but he was productive otherwise and capped the season with 132 yards and two touchdowns in the top-seeded Cowboys' playoff loss to Green Bay.

Overall, though, the numbers are sobering for a player due to make \$12.5 million with a salary cap hit of \$16.5 million in 2018.

In the three years before the big contract, Bryant averaged 91 catches, 1,312 yards and 14 touchdowns per season. With a game he might not play remaining, the averages in the three years since are 49 catches, 671 yards and six TDs.

"I'm a grown man, and I should be able to sit there and have my frustrations in check, regardless of whatever the situation might be," Bryant said. "All I know is if my mind's not cluttered, I can beat whoever, whenever, anybody at any time. It's just sometimes I let certain things get to me that I shouldn't."

Offensive coordinator Scott Linehan brushed off Bryant's comments about the scheme, saying it's the same one Dallas used on a franchise-record 11-game winning streak last season during the sensational rookie years for quarterback Dak Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott.

"That whole word 'frustration,' that's what everybody's focus is on if you don't win," Linehan said. "The system hasn't changed and there's no difference. When you don't



Ap Photo

In this Dec. 17, 2017, file photo, Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant (88) runs against the Oakland Raiders during the second half of an NFL football game in Oakland, Calif. Bryant opened up in his first lengthy session with reporters in weeks, taking responsibility for a subpar season by saying he let frustrations affect him during games. But he also said some of those frustrations were rooted in the offensive scheme, which he said he would probably address with owner Jerry Jones and coaches in the offseason.

win, people aren't in as good a mood, I guess."

Bryant has by far the most targets on the team with 124, but has connected with Prescott just 53 percent of the time (66 catches). Again, Bryant pointed to the staff, which didn't seem to bother coach Jason Garrett.

"There's been a number of those that have been very positive for us this year and there are other times it hasn't been as good," Garrett said. "You always look at the things you're asking players to do, how you're asking them to do

it, when you're asking them to do it, how you're preparing for them to do it. You can always do it better."

The Cowboys could save \$12.5 million in cap room by designating Bryant as a post-June 1 cut. While Bryant dismissed as "dumb" a question about whether he wanted to

elsewhere.

"If that came about, I'm still Dez Bryant," he said. "I'm still going over the top. If it's there where I can grab it, I'm going to grab it. That's just who I am."

Bryant hasn't been that guy nearly as often the past three seasons.

## OFFSEASON

Continued from Page 13

"It's our last ride together," Pagano said, perhaps previewing his own expectations about changes. "We're going to enjoy and embrace every single second of it and get obsessed with completion. That's what successful people do — they get obsessed with completion. We need to complete this season. No better way than to go out with a win."

Houston hasn't had it any easier.

The Texans have lost five in a row, eight of nine, and don't even have a first-round draft pick in April. Houston sent its selection to Cleveland to take Deshaun Watson at No. 12 overall last spring. Watson is now recovering from a torn ACL in his right knee, and his injury coincided with Houston's subsequent collapse.

Some are calling for the ouster of coach Bill O'Brien even though players, including Watson, believe O'Brien should get another chance.

"The last couple of weeks we haven't done a good job of helping him (O'Brien) out," quarterback T.J. Yates said.

Will those lobbying efforts be enough to save Pagano or O'Brien with fan bases clamoring for meaningful wins?

Those decisions are likely to come Sunday night or Monday morning. But until then, the goal remains unchanged: win.

"They're paying us to go out there and play hard and to coach well, and you're getting handed a paycheck to go coach and play, so it's your job," O'Brien said. "It's your duty to the National Football League, it's your duty to your teammates, it's your duty to the Houston Texans to go out there and play very hard. Our guys will do that."

Here are some other things to watch Sunday:

**THE POSTGAME SPEECHES:** The first inkling Pagano, O'Brien and the players know what's coming could come during postgame news conferences. In previous years, coaches have dropped hints or gotten emotional in the aftermath of what they thought could be their final game. Expect more of that this weekend, and not just in Indv.

While the rest of the league remembers Jim Mora's "playoffs" rant, Colts fans also remember Mora punching the backdrop screen and tearing up just before he was fired following the 2001 season

**THE NUMBERS:** As the season winds down, statistical goals take on greater significance and there will be plenty of intrigue in this game.

Texans receiver DeAndre Hopkins needs four catches for his second 100-reception season. Colts receiver T.Y. Hilton, last year's NFL champion in yards receiving, is 48 yards away from his fifth consecutive 1,000-yard season.

Houston running back Lamar Miller, who ran 149 yards against the Colts early in 2016, is exactly that from his third 1,000-yard season. And Gore can become the third player in league history with two 1,000-yard seasons after turning 33 — if he finishes with at least 139 yards.

**THE SIDELINE:** Luck hasn't been seen on the Colts' sideline since early October. Everything could change this weekend.

Luck returned from his European rehab trip this week and could be back on the field, in street clothes, Sunday.

**THE AUDITIONS:** While everyone inside the organizations talk about winning, the reality is this weekend also serves as an audition for players young, old and recently signed.

Both organizations have recently added players who they may want to see in action this weekend.

"We all have to enjoy these last couple days and try to put good film out there for the other 31 teams," Gore said.

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## Rockets sign free agent Gerald Green

BOSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets have signed veteran swingman Gerald Green.

General manager Daryl Morey announced the signing Thursday a few hours before the Rockets played at Boston, where Green played 47 games last season.

Green, 31, was on the bench who were with Chris Paul straight game ductor strain.

The No. 18 overall pick in the 2005 NBA draft out of Gulf Shores Acad-

emy in Houston, Green has also played for Minnesota, Dallas, Brooklyn, Indiana, Phoenix and Miami. He was cut by the Milwaukee Bucks at the end of training camp. He has averaged 9.6 points and 2.4 rebounds in 544 career NBA games.



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