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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

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Commissioners to consider lifting burn ban

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

At their meeting Wednesday, Howard County Commissioners will consider whether to lift the countywide burn ban currently in effect.

The meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in the second-floor conference room at the Howard County Courthouse.



Speaking Sept. 5, Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Mitchell Hooper said he would consider lifting the ban if the county got a

sufficient amount of rainfall between then and the meeting.

"Hopefully we get enough rain this week so that we can lift it and people can go ahead and burn some stuff off before we get the first freeze," Hooper said. "If we get enough rain this week... you know we're still kind of bad on the drought monitor and the fuel moisture. Some places like Coahoma and the east part of the county got some pretty good rain Sunday (Sept. 2); but the western and central parts of the county are still pretty dry. Although rainfall totals were not

available, Howard County has received a higher-than-normal amount of rainfall since Hooper's comments.

In other business, commissioners will:

- Consider approving the terms and conditions of a website domain name registration contract;
- Consider officially setting the tax rate for Howard County for the 2018-2019 fiscal year;
- Consider approval of the 2019 Vine Service Agreement;
- Hear a presentation by NRG for the Elbow Creek Windfarm;
- Hear a presentation by David Guin and consider possible action for an electricity provider;

• Consider approval of county policies regarding travel, purchasing, and capital assets;

• Discuss and possibly take action on the District Clerk Technology Fund and the County Clerk Technology Fund.

If you would like to address the commissioners, plan to arrive to the meeting early to fill out a short form alerting them of your intent to speak.

For more information, contact County Judge Kathryn Wiseman at 432-264-2202.

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

Young calf roper Jourdan qualifies for Junior NFR



Calf roper Gage Jourdan, 8, tosses a rope around the head of a calf at a past roping event. Gage is one of 22 children who advanced the Roy Cooper Junior NFR in Las Vegas this coming December.

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**
 Staff Writer

Youngsters these days have never had more options when it comes to playing sports. Football, basketball, softball, baseball, soccer, and more have all extended their reach to the youngest possible participants, even as young as 5 or 6 years old. In an age of sports specialization, where these kids often focus on just one activity, that activity often gets their support for life.

Rodeo is one sport that didn't have such reach, and therefore wasn't attracting many of those kids at the beginning of their athletic endeavors...until now.

Thanks to a speedy progression over the past years, the Junior National Finals Rodeo is becoming a program that attracts kids early, with a goal of making them rodeo participants for years and likely rodeo fans for life.

Gage Rhyder Jourdan is going to Las Vegas for the finals in calf roping in the Roy Cooper Junior National Finals

Rodeo come December.

"Gage has been around horses all his life, his dad, used to be the Assistant Rodeo Coach at Howard College," said Kimberly Jourdan, Gage's grandma. "He has practically been riding since he was four."

Gage is eight years old and attends Coahoma Elementary. His parents are Lester and Norma Jourdan.

"He is only 8 and completes against kids that are 10 and 11, so he really shines bright for his age," said Kimberly. "We are all so very proud of him, he was so excited when he got the news he made it to the finals."

Gage found out on Sept. 13 that he will be advancing to Junior NFR Dec. 6-15, 2018, at the Las Vegas Convention Center, South Halls.

Roy "Super Looper" Cooper produces one of the most prestigious youth calf ropings in the world during the Fourth of July week in Decatur, Texas along with the Roy Cooper Junior Invitational in Las Vegas as part of the Junior NFR program.

Roy has been dedicated to providing assistance for children and young adults who are pursuing goals in the rodeo arena as well as education. He and other members of his family started the Roy Cooper Rodeo Foundation as a means to support, inspire and

See **RODEO**, Page 3

Students learn dangers of synthetic drugs



Jerrie Pharr, pictured, and Theresa Cockhill, nurses with the University Medical Center in Lubbock, gave a presentation to Coahoma High School students and 8th graders today on the dangers of synthetic drugs. Earlier in the day, the two nurses spoke to Forsan ISD students. The presentation was brought to the county by the Howard County Texas A&M AgrLife Extension Office. Sponsors for the presentation were Adrian Calvio of State Farm Insurance, Derek Wash of Pirkle Weir Insurance Agency, the Reid family of Back-in-Motion and Howard College, according to Tommy Yeater, county Texas A&M AgriLife extension agent.

Donate to United Way and get rewarded

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**
 Staff Writer

Get ready to help make a difference for your fellow neighbor.

The United Way is asking the community to help them raise money by making a donation for a chance to win vacation tickets.

Donated by KBEST, one lucky person generously makes the set donation will receive the "San Antonio Vacation," which includes: a three-night stay at the Hilton Garden Inn, admission



for two at Six Flags Fiesta Texas, a river cruise for two on Rio San Antonio Cruises, and free admission to the Alamo.

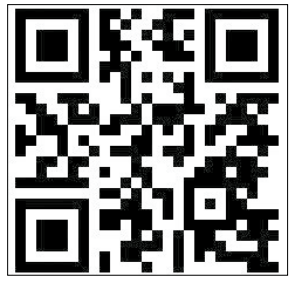
The second-place winner will receive a signed guitar by the Eli Young Band, donated by Barney Dodd.

The third place prize is a KODI Cooler, donated by H-E-B.

United Way strives to improve the quality of life within our community by supporting the health and human service organizations in

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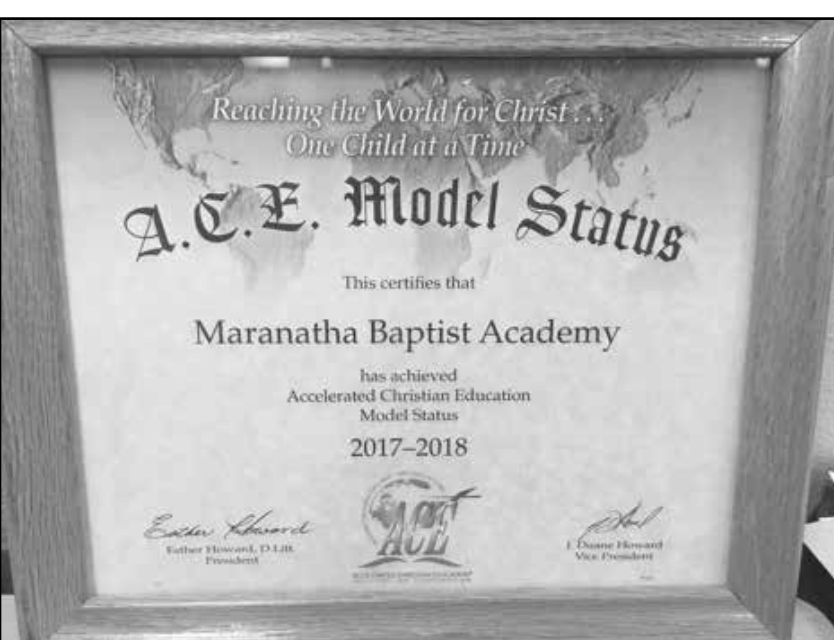
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Big Spring's Maranatha named Model School



Courtesy photo

Accelerated Christian Education Curriculum in Hendersonville, Tennessee announced today, that Maranatha Baptist Academy, located at 903 Johnson Street in Big Spring, was awarded their top award of "Model Status" for the 2017-2018 School year.

"This award is a coveted standing that we have been awarded for the past 38 years in our operating the Academy," said Dr. Lillian Bohannon, Administrator. "We service students Kindergarten through 12th grades with the best individualized curriculum in the world. Please call 432-213-1046 for information as to how you can be involved with this amazing educational Christian curriculum for the 2018-2019 school year."

Ag law workshop set for Oct. 3 in Big Spring

Special to the Herald

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offices in Howard, Martin, Midland and Andrews counties and Ag

booming around us and with the boom comes new lease agreements," said Tommy Yeater, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for Howard County.



"The Howard County Crop and Range Committees recommended putting this program together to inform area landowners

Workers Insurance will co-host an Ag Law Workshop Oct. 3 at the G.C. Broughton Jr. Ag. Complex, 2411 Echols St., Big Spring.

The program will open with a meal from 5-6 p.m., followed by the speakers from 6-8 p.m. There will be no fee, but those planning to attend must RSVP by Oct. 1 to the AgriLife Extension office in Howard County at 432-264-2236 or enchandra.mendoza@ag.tamu.edu.

of their rights and what current prices are for lease agreements and damages," he said.

Guest speakers will be Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, AgriLife Extension agricultural law specialist in Amarillo, and Joe Will Ross, attorney in San Angelo. They will discuss landowner rights, pipeline agreements and damages, followed by a question and answer session.

"The oil and gas industry is

DONATE

Continued from Page 1

Howard County. Their purpose is to encourage, advocate and fundraise for our partner agencies who in turn serve the needs of every facet of our community without discrimination.

The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County relies on volunteers like you to come a put in donation to participate in events like these. Volunteers and community partners work together to make a lasting and positive change. Take a look at volunteer opportunities within the United Way and contact us if you would like to know how to become involved.

"Help us reach our 2019 Goal. We need people to come buy these tickets for the opportunity to win

the prizes, and help us reach our goal of \$300,000," said Christian Fair, executive director of the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County. "It benefits our agencies who then impact our community! So it's a win/win. Remember what's raised here, stays here."

"The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is a charitable cornerstone in our community with the ability to reach so many people," Fair said. "We provide financial support and advocacy for our health and human service Partner Agencies in Howard County, while being a platform for encouraging philanthropy and economic development in the community."

Contact Staff Writer Amber Mansfield at 432-263-7331 ext. 234, or by email at life@bigspringherald.com.

National Hispanic Institute launches West Texas recruiting initiative for 2019 summer program

Special to the Herald

KERRVILLE, Texas – The National Hispanic Institute, which will commemorate 40 years of developing leaders for the global Latino community in 2019, is announcing a West Texas recruiting initiative — which includes Big Spring — for its six-day 2019 Texas Star Great Debate program at Schreiner University next summer, scheduled for June 25-30.

The Texas Star Great Debate program, originally created for high school students with leadership potential who live outside Texas's major metro areas, annually brings more than 100 high-performing students from around the state who see their potential to take on leadership roles in their communities once they've graduated from college.

The program, which moved to the Kerrville University this summer in part to serve West Texas and South Texas students, is part of the National Hispanic Institute's slate of summer programs, geared for high school students who want to develop their voices, learn about the public policy process, prepare for the college application process, and become intro-

duced to an inquiry-based learning process which has the potential to guide them through their lives.

"We are searching for forward-thinking 9th graders who are looking to enroll in college, and are looking beyond college with a dream to lead and make their communities better," said NHI founder and president Ernesto Nieto. He notes that the organization has a long history of working with students from small towns.

"While it might be more common for military recruiters than college recruiters to come to small towns, we know from firsthand experience that West Texas students can and do excel at the college level and beyond. Small towns need leaders just as big cities do. The sooner high school students can see themselves taking on those responsibilities as adults, and the sooner we can work with them and help them find like-minded students to build life-long bonds with, the better."

At the Great Debate program, students are introduced to modern-day Latino community themes and topics, research them, form teams, and are trained to compete in speech and debate contests — all within an immersive, six-day pro-

gram which doubles as an introduction to college life.

"The training, the rehearsals, and the entire scenario are set to strengthen the student's capacities to think in the abstract and manage language effectively," said NHI Senior Vice President Julio Cotto. He noted that many NHI students show improved academic performance in school, increased self-confidence and self-reliance, and an increased willingness to invest in their own development after going through an NHI program.

A number of school districts provide financial support to students to fully or partially cover the \$675 tuition cost, which covers food, housing, facilities, training staff, program materials, supplies, and administrative support services. The program is staffed by a team of adult and college-age staff members, in partnership with Schreiner University.

For more information on the Six Day Great Debate at Schreiner University, or the National Hispanic Institute, contact Cotto at Jcotto@NHImail.com or 512.357.6137, or visit:

www.nationalhispanicinstitute.com.

GOP vying for upset to replace convicted Texas state senator

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Republican Pete Flores is trying to upset Democrat Pete Gallego (gah-YEY'-goh) and nab a reliably blue state Senate seat vacated by a former lawmaker sentenced to 12 years in prison on federal fraud charges.

San Antonio Democratic Sen. Carlos Uresti resigned in June. His term expires in 2020, and the district stretches from San Antonio to the Big Bend.

Gallego, a former congressman and state representative, and Flores, an ex-game warden who lost to Uresti in 2016, advanced to a runoff after none of the eight candidates captured a majority of the total ballots cast during a bipartisan opening round of voting in July.

Uresti was convicted of 11 felonies stemming from being partial owner of an oilfield service company that prosecutors say operated a Ponzi scheme that defrauded investors.

RODEO

Continued from Page 1

demonstrate the values which enable their success.

For Gage to show so much potential at a young age, he has a great future ahead of him. Good luck!

Contact Staff Writer Amber Mansfield at 432-263-7331 ext. 234, or by email at life@bigspringherald.com.

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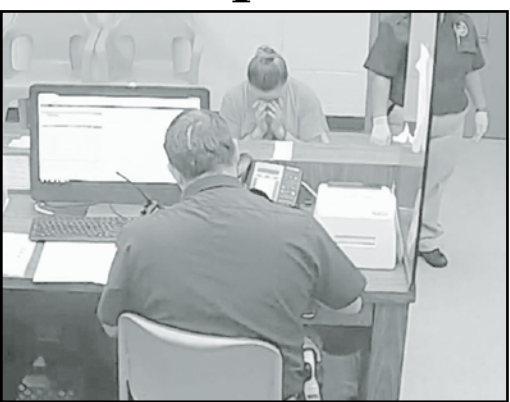
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Dallas officer arrested in slaying moves out of apartment



This photo from video released Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, by the Kaufman County Sheriff's Office in Kaufman, Texas, shows Dallas police Officer Amber Guyger getting booked after turning herself in Sunday, Sept. 9 following the fatal shooting of Botham Jean in his own apartment.

DALLAS (AP) — A white Dallas police officer has moved out of the apartment complex where she shot and killed her black neighbor inside his own home.

TV station WFAA reports that apartment staff informed other residents in the building of Amber Guyger's move in a Sunday email. It is unclear if she left of her own accord or was evicted.

Guyger, who lived in the unit directly below 26-year-old Botham Jean, reported she mistook his apartment for her own on Sept. 6 and thought she had encountered a burglar. She was booked on a preliminary manslaughter charge.

Demonstrators on Sunday, including some who rolled empty coffins, marched outside AT&T Stadium ahead of a Dallas Cowboys game to protest Jean's death and a separate police shooting in Arlington that killed a black man.

Day care owner accused of keeping babies tied to car seats



This photo provided by the Dallas County Jail shows Rebecca Anderson. Anderson, the owner of a Dallas-area in-home day care center, has been jailed on child endangerment charges after she was accused of keeping infants and toddlers tied to their car seats for hours.

MESQUITE, Texas (AP) — The owner of a Dallas-area in-home day care center has been jailed on child endangerment charges after she was accused of keeping infants and toddlers tied to their car seats for hours.

An arrest warrant affidavit alleges that Rebecca Anderson kept the small children tied up in car seats for at least seven hours a day at her Mesquite, Texas, day care center, Becky's Home Child Care. The affidavit also says the 60-year-old woman yanked a 6-month-old child by the bib around his neck, tying laces around the young children's necks to limit their movement and giving them acetaminophen to quiet them.

She's booked Sunday night into the Dallas County jail on nine counts of child endangerment with bonds totaling \$45,000. Jail records list no attorney for her.

Police: Border agent targeted victims for vulnerability

By **SUSAN MONTOYA**
BRYAN and MATT SEDENSKY

Associated Press

LAREDO, Texas (AP) — A U.S. Border Patrol supervisor charged in the killings of four women knew the victims and targeted them for their vulnerability, authorities said Monday, as some feared more deaths at the hands of the agent remained undiscovered.

Though investigators didn't detail Juan David Ortiz's history with the women, who were believed to have been sex workers, they said he knew them before killing them and leaving their bodies by rural Texas roadsides during a 10-day string of violence.

"He had the trust of most of the victims that were involved in this killing," said Chief Deputy Federico Garza of the Webb County Sheriff's Office. "So he took that opportunity to commit this crime."

Authorities said Ortiz grew convinced police were closing in on him, amassing weapons at his home for a possible confrontation. In the end, officers attempted to apprehend him at a gas station, but he fled to a nearby hotel parking lot. They said Ortiz tried to make his cellphone appear like a weapon in hopes of being shot by officers, but he was captured without incident around 2 a.m. on Saturday.

Garza said he was confident "the killings will stop" because they had nabbed the right suspect. But he was less



This image provided by the Webb County Sheriff's Office shows Juan David Ortiz, a U.S. Border Patrol supervisor who was jailed Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018, on a \$2.5 million bond in Texas, accused in the killing of at least four women. Ortiz was nabbed early Saturday after a string of violence against female sex workers in Laredo, Texas, where he is a supervisor with the Border Patrol.

just going to keep showing up."

Garza said Ortiz "mentioned the dislike for the community ... the victims represented" — presumably a reference to a comment made under police questioning. But even as additional details of Ortiz's alleged crimes

See **AGENT**, Page 5

sure that no other victims of Ortiz, who had worked for Border Patrol for a decade, would be discovered.

"We're not confident of that," he said, but assured the public investigators were scouring Ortiz's history in case any other crimes may be linked.

Fear of additional victims is particularly haunting for sex workers, including Christa Daring, executive director of Sex Workers Outreach Project-USA. Daring said the organization routinely hears stories of women preyed on by law enforcement officers and that it seemed plausible there were other victims of Ortiz.

"Typically somebody who has this kind of access to really vulnerable populations is active for more than two weeks," Daring said.

Victims' families echoed that concern.

"I believe that it's just kind of like a small piece of it," said Alberto Luera, a second cousin of 42-year-old Claudine Anne Luera, who was discovered shot on a rural roadside Thursday. "I would imagine that things are

Floating nuclear plant to be dismantled in Texas



In this Feb. 9, 2005, file photo, the Savannah rests beside the Sturgis barge, right, which are both anchored near Newport News, Va. The Sturgis is a 440-foot-long World War II Liberty ship that the Army converted into a floating nuclear power plant in 1966.

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — Crews in Galveston have completed work on a World War II-era military cargo ship that previously served as a barge-mounted nuclear reactor.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Friday that crews deactivated the former USS Sturgis' nuclear reactor and removed more than 1.5 million pounds (0.68 million kilograms) of radioactive waste, The Galveston County Daily News reported.

The Sturgis was converted into a floating nuclear power plant in the 1960s. The U.S. Department of Defense decided in 2012 to dismantle the ship.

The Sturgis had been stored in Virginia for decades before moving to Texas, where it's been moored at the Port of Galveston since 2015.

"Environmental monitoring has been continuous since prior to the arrival of the St-

urgis in Galveston and no evidence of radioactive material, lead or increased radiation exposure from the Sturgis has been documented outside of the reactor containment area at any point during the project," said Brenda Barber with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The ship will be towed to Brownsville later this month and then scrapped.

The project was originally expected to take 18 months to complete, but was delayed when larger cranes were needed to be brought in to lift material from the vessel. The original contract estimated the project would cost about \$35 million, but the delays and additional equipment increased the cost to \$51 million.

The Sturgis project had a \$20 million positive economic impact in Galveston, Barber said.

Wounded US soldier, injured military dog together in Texas



Army Spc. Alec Alcoser wipes away tears as he is reunited with his dog Alex at Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital, Friday, Sept. 14, 2018, in San Antonio, Texas.

By **SIG CHRISTENSON**

San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO — Six weeks ago, Army Spc. Alec Alcoser and his working dog, Alex, turned the corner of a narrow street outside Bagram Airfield just after dawn and saw a young Afghan coming toward them.

The San Antonio Express-News reports two Afghan and three Czech soldiers moved between Alcoser and the civilian to conduct a search while he called the dog back and bent down to get a cigarette.

See **TEXAS**, Page 5



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Federal lawyers: Gulf oil leak spills much more than thought

By **JEFF AMY and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**

Associated Press

Federal government lawyers say a 14-year-old leak is releasing much more oil each day into the Gulf of Mexico than officials previously claimed, and it may be getting worse.

A Friday court filing in a case involving Taylor Energy Co. says 10,000 to 30,000 gallons (37,000 to 113,000 liters) daily is leaking from multiple wells around a drilling platform toppled by 2004's Hurricane Ivan.

That estimate is far above the 16,000 gallons (60,500 liters) of oil that the U.S. Coast Guard estimated in 2015 had been spotted in slicks over seven months.

The government cites a report it commissioned from a scientist who has studied satellite images of persistent oil slicks and sampled floating oil at the site about 10 miles (16 kilometers) offshore. That report also suggests that while the amount of leaking oil decreased after some

wells were plugged in 2011, the leak may be getting bigger again.

"There has been an uptrend of the areas of the slick during the last two years," wrote Oscar Pineda-Garcia, who runs a company that maps oil spills and is an adjunct professor at Florida State University.

New Orleans-based Taylor said only 2 to 3 gallons was leaking daily out of mud on the seafloor. Spokesman Todd Ragusa said the company disputes the government's new estimate and will respond in court.

"The government's recent filing is completely contrary to the comprehensive, sound science acquired by world-renowned experts, including those regularly relied upon by the government," Ragusa wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

A 2015 AP investigation revealed evidence that the leak was worse than the company, or government, had publicly reported during their secretive response. Presented with AP's findings that year, the Coast Guard provided a new leak estimate that was about 20 times larger than

one cited by the company in a 2015 court filing.

Friday's court filing also says Taylor and the Coast Guard met in August and discussed plugging more wells as part of an effort to eliminate the persistent oil sheen seen at the site. The wellheads are more than 400 feet (120 meters) underwater and buried under 60 to 100 feet (20 to 30 meters) of mud.

Taylor sued the government in January 2016 to recover millions of dollars it set aside for work to end the leak. The suit claims regulators violated a 2008 agreement requiring the company to deposit approximately \$666 million in a trust to pay for leak response work. The company argued the government must return the remaining \$423 million. The government's lawyers disagree, though, saying no change to the agreement has been made and the money should remain on deposit until the work is done.

"The trust requires — and has always required — that Taylor complete all of its decommissioning

obligations before the trust can terminate. The United States' denial of Taylor's request for a release from its existing obligations does not constitute an imposition of a new obligation," the lawyers wrote.

Waves whipped up by Ivan triggered an underwater mudslide that buried a cluster of oil wells under treacherous mounds of sediment. In 2011, the company finished drilling a series of "intervention wells" to plug nine of the wells.

Using Coast Guard pollution reports, West Virginia-based watchdog group SkyTruth estimated in December that between roughly 855,000 gallons (3.2 million liters) and nearly 4 million gallons (15.1 million liters) of oil spilled from the site between 2004 and 2017.

Garcia writes in his report that the oil is thick enough that people need to wear respirators because of fumes. He says bubbles of not just oil, but natural gas is reaching the surface, while his report shows pictures of thick, brown oil emulsions in some places.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 4

Suddenly, they were enveloped by a bright flash. Alex yelped. Alcoser went down. The dusty, smoky air turned yellow and orange and a firefight broke out. The dog stayed at his side.

"I would yell at him and his ears would twitch, but he wouldn't look at me," said Alcoser, 22, of San Antonio. "I think he was in a state of shock. He didn't growl, he didn't bark, he didn't cry. He stayed right there."

On Friday, they were together once more, this time at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System's Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. It was an emotional reunion, with the Harlandale High School graduate wiping tears from his eyes at one point and Alex licking his face.

It was the first time they had seen each other since both were in Washington, D.C., where each received the Purple Heart. And if all goes well in rehab over the next few months, they'll be together for good, buddies until the end.

They were close in Afghanistan, where Alcoser was 6½ months into a nine-month deployment when they got hurt. They were together pretty much everywhere Alcoser went, except the dining hall. On his days off, they slept in the same bed together, rising late and enjoying the leisure time.

On duty days, they had rituals. "On a day with a mission, we'd wake up, I would give him a doggie treat and I would have some ice cream before we went out, and when we got back, we usually slept," Alcoser recalled.

"That was a normal day for me and Alex out there," he said, adding that a taste for sweets was born of his association with troops in special operations forces. "It was kind of their thing to eat a sweet because you never

know if that's going to be your last when you go out."

The Aug. 5 suicide bomber's blast left Alcoser with shrapnel wounds and broken bones. He also had a mild traumatic brain injury, but his physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist, Dr. Blessen Eapen, said Alcoser escaped the explosion without any loss in cognitive ability.

Alex lost his left rear leg near his hip. Both are learning to get around again. Snapshots show Alex reluctantly settling in an underwater treadmill at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Alcoser took shrapnel in about 30 percent of his body — most of it in his lower extremities. Some of it continues to come out, slowly, in an often painful process. The list of broken bones is long and includes both arms and legs. He walks with a cane or a walker. Alex sometimes limps around but occasionally moves as quickly as a dog with all four legs.

"When we say 'polytrauma,' he's got multiple injuries, multiple fractures. He's pretty hurt," Eapen said.

There are goals to reduce Alcoser's dependence on opioids and in time get him well enough to start work at the Center for the Intrepid at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

They're estimating about four to six months, and so I'm already a month and almost half in, and I'm already walking, so I think I'm going to beat that time," he said.

"Either way, the doctors say I have a pretty good chance of making a full recovery, and that's all that matters. I've got to get back to my dog. That's the important part."

There have been too many surgeries to remember, but they're over for Alcoser. A good deal of rehab lies ahead for both him and Alex, but an interesting thing happened Friday afternoon to the 8½-year-old German shep-

herd, who is headed to a medical retirement from the Army.

It seems he's trying to get back on the job. Trained to detect explosives and corner suspects who try to run and hide, Alex tried to search a car after arriving at Audie Murphy VA Hospital.

"When they're old and retired, they still don't know they're not supposed to work," said Regina Johnson, a retired Army dog handler who works in the Defense Department's DoD Military Working Dog Breeding Program at Lackland.

"They still have the same drives. They still want to search, they still want to find the same toy, they still want to be praised."

Ask Alcoser if he finds the process of learning to walk again frustrating, and he'll wave off the notion. He has a wife, Misty, and a 6-month-old son to look after, and then there is his mom. Ann Marie McGrew lives in Houston and drives to see him at the hospital every weekend.

Alcoser hopes to return to work as a soldier, in time returning to his post, Fort Drum, New York, and eventually get promoted to sergeant.

Give him the chance, and he'd go back to the war zone. Alcoser has fallen brothers to honor. Those Afghan and Czech soldiers standing between him and the man with the suicide vest absorbed the worst of the blast. The Afghans survived. The Czechs were killed instantly.

"I don't have any frustrations, I just take it day by day, that's all I can do. There's no point in being mad or sad or anything like that. I've got to live through the people who died for me, so they give me a lot of strength," he said.

"And Alex ain't complaining, so I don't think I should, either. His injuries are a little worse than mine," Alcoser said. "A lot of people call him a dog, but I think he's a little more than that. He's a soldier."

AGENT

Continued from Page 4

trickled out, authorities were still scouring for clues that would give a better understanding of what motivated the killings.

"The question that's out there is, 'Why did he do this?'" Webb County District Attorney Isidro Alaniz said. He later added: "We are trying to get into the mind of this killer."

Before being hired by Border Patrol, Ortiz served in the U.S. Navy for nearly eight years, until 2009, holding a variety of medical posts as well as a three-year detachment with the Marines. A Navy spokeswoman declined to answer questions about the nature of the suspect's discharge or whether he'd been disciplined.

The Border Patrol said there was nothing in Ortiz's background suggesting he was capable of such crimes. At a news conference, a representative of the agency said he had a minor incident in his background, but they gave no details on it.

Ortiz, 35, was being held in Laredo on four counts of murder in the deaths, as well as aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and unlawful restraint linked to a fifth woman who escaped, Erika Pena. After running off, that woman found an officer. Her tips helped police zero in on Ortiz.

According to affidavits, Ortiz confessed to the killings after he was taken into custody Saturday. He was being held on \$2.5 million bond.

Besides Luera, police also identified Melissa Ramirez, 29, among the slain. A third victim was a 28-year-old transgender woman who authorities at a news conference identified as having the birth name Humberto Ortiz, but who reportedly was known as Janelle. The fourth victim's name wasn't released.

The suspect was believed to have acted alone. Jail records don't list an attorney for him.



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Water will haunt Carolinas after Florence

By JENNIFER KAY

Associated Press

MIAMI — Like hurricanes Harvey and Katrina before it, Florence will be remembered for unleashing a staggering amount of water over a vast area. The flooding unfolded just as forecasters expected, but many residents in the Carolinas still seemed caught off guard as they were plucked off a vehicle's roof or pulled by boat from their flooded homes. Whether they were just stubborn, short of resources to leave or believed they had already seen worse devastation, all will be haunted by what the water has swept away.

BY THE NUMBERS

—Storm deaths: Florence is being blamed for at least 32 deaths in three states, and Typhoon Mangkhut has killed at least 74 people in the Philippines and China.

—Heavy rains: Nearly 36 inches (91 centimeters) of rain has fallen over Elizabethtown, North Carolina, and other towns have seen roughly 30 inches (76 centimeters) of rainfall since Thursday

—High water: The Cape Fear River is set to crest at 62 feet (19 meters) on Tuesday

—In the dark: About 320,000 outages, mostly in North Carolina

—Damage estimates: \$17 billion to \$22 billion in lost economic output and property damage, according to economists at Moody's Analytics

—Evacuations: Tens of thousands ordered out of communities along North Carolina's steadily rising rivers, while over 2.4 million people in southern China's Guangdong province were warned to escape Mangkhut

—To the rescue: Over 1,000 search-and-rescue personnel with 36 helicopters and over 200 boats

were working in North Carolina, and the Defense Department assigned 13,500 military personnel to help relief efforts

—Safe now: North Carolina's governor says 2,600 people and 300 animals had been rescued

—Blocked: 1,200 North Carolina roads closed, including 357 primary roads

—City underwater: 4,300 homes in New Bern, North Carolina, inundated by flooding, or one-third of the entire number of homes in the city

Officials in the Carolinas are worried about what deaths are still to come amid the swelling rivers and flooding from Florence's crawl across both states. So far, several people have died after being swept up in the stormwaters, and falling trees have killed two small children.

TYPHOON MANGKHUT

A Philippine police officer says residents of a mining camp in a mountain village refused to leave ahead of the powerful typhoon, believing their chapel and nearby bunkhouses were on stable ground. Now dozens of people are missing after a massive landslide buried the structures.

WILMINGTON GETS SUPPLIES

One of North Carolina's largest cities still is mostly cut off by floodwaters, so food, water and tarps are being brought into Wilmington by big military trucks and helicopters. More than 60 percent of homes and businesses were without power, and crews have completed about 700 rescues in the county where Wilmington is located.

SAVE HOMES OR A HIGHWAY?

A wall of concrete barriers and plastic sheets is being built along U.S. Highway 501 to save the main road into Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, from going underwater. Residents in the nearby town of Conway worry that's going to send water from the rising Waccamaw River to flood their homes instead.

DAM HAZARDS

At least one North Carolina dam has breached so far under the strain of Florence's flooding, but officials say no homes were affected. False alarms about dam failures have caused panic in a state where there is a lot of concern about whether many



Farm buildings are inundated with floodwater from Hurricane Florence near Trenton, N.C., Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018.

—Grounded: about 200 U.S. flights canceled Monday, down sharply from the 3,500 canceled from Wednesday through Sunday

IMAGES FROM THE GROUND

Images captured by Associated Press journalists show flooding caused by Florence in the Carolinas and Typhoon Mangkhut in the Philippines.

FLORENCE'S VICTIMS

AP photo

Hurricane

See WATER, Page 7

5 ways Trump's tariffs on \$200B in China goods could be felt



In this Sept. 13, 2018, photo, a container ship sails past the city skyline of Qingdao in eastern China's Shandong province. The Trump administration announced Monday, Sept. 17, 2018, that it will impose tariffs on \$200 billion more in Chinese goods starting next week, escalating a trade war between the world's two biggest economies and potentially raising prices on goods ranging from handbags to bicycle tires.

By JOSH ROAK

AP Economics Writer

BALTIMORE — By imposing taxes on an additional \$200 billion in Chinese goods, President Donald Trump has intensified a battle of wills between the world's two largest economies — and the outcome is far from certain.

No one knows how long the tariffs announced Monday might last. No one knows if Beijing will yield as pressure builds or instead stiffen its resolve and keep retaliating. No one knows if a politically divided United States will serve to undercut Trump's aggressive tactics.

But what's clear is that the latest fight in the escalating trade war is likely, one way or another,

to affect consumers, companies, markets, the economy and the political landscape.

And how all that plays out could determine whether Trump's negotiating gamble proves a triumph or a failure. Here is a look at 5 potential consequences:

CONSUMERS

Unlike the first two rounds of tariffs totaling \$50 billion, the new taxes launched by Trump would more directly hit American consumers. As counterintuitive as it might seem, the president sees this fact as ultimately helping U.S. workers. In the end, he calculates, some short-term pain will lead to new trade policies and accords that will prove more favorable to American com-

panies and individuals.

"As president, it is my duty to protect the interests of working men and women, farmers, ranchers, businesses, and our country itself," Trump said in a statement.

Starting Monday, the United States is to begin charging a 10 percent tax on thousands of Chinese imports — tires, windshield wipers, baseball gloves, bicycles, snake-skin pants, backpacks, trombone cases, refrigerators and wooden furniture, among others. The list runs 194 pages.

Unless the administration reaches a truce with Beijing, Trump's import tax will jump to 25 percent in 2019. What's more, if Beijing retaliates, Trump says he's ready to impose tariffs on an additional \$267 billion in Chinese goods.

The result could be higher prices for American consumers, because most

companies are expected to pass on the cost to their customers. After Trump announced tariffs on washing machines toward the start of 2018, the price for laundry equipment shot up 16 percent between February and May, according to an analysis by Mark Perry, an economics professor at the Flint campus of the University of Michigan and a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank.

The tariffs could put a dent in consumer spending, though many economists think the impact on the overall economy will be minimal.

"The mere talk of tariffs on all

See TARIFFS, Page 7

Allegations against Kavanaugh pose test for #MeToo movement



AP photo

In this Sept. 6, 2018, file photo, President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh waits to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee for the third day of his confirmation hearing, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

By DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Nearly a year old and still making headlines almost daily, the #MeToo movement faces a dramatic test of its impact and staying power in the sexual assault allegations against U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

Leaders of the movement suggest that Kavanaugh's accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, might have never found the courage to come forward publicly about an alleged assault from

her high school days without the examples set by women worldwide who've spoken out about past encounters with sexual assault and harassment.

"Time and time again, people have been inspired by the people who came before them," said Fatima Goss Graves, president of the National Women's Law Center. "They are willing to take on the risk of retaliation."

Goss Graves is heartened by the fact that

See TEST, Page 7

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10 Things to Know for Today

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. SHOWDOWN BETWEEN KAVANAUGH, ACCUSER SET

Their sworn testimony next week will offer a campaign-season test of the political potency of a #MeToo movement.

2. WHAT KIM SAYS ABOUT TRUMP

The North Korean leader reportedly tells the visiting South Korean president that June's summit with the U.S. president stabilized the regional political situation.

3. FLORENCE TURNS WILMINGTON INTO A VIRTUAL ISLAND

Mostly cut off by

floodwaters from the Category 1 hurricane, officials prepare to begin distributing food, water and tarps to the coastal North Carolina city's residents.

4. ISRAEL BLAMED FOR DOWNING OF RUSSIAN PLANE

A reconnaissance aircraft brought down by a Syrian missile over the Mediterranean killing 15 was caught in the crossfire with Israeli fighter jets, Russian officials say.

5. MEXICO CITY REELING A YEAR AFTER DEADLY QUAKE

Of about 411 buildings marked for demolition, only 62 have been taken down, and almost 1,000 more that were seriously dam-

aged have yet to be reinforced.

6. 'TO INSPIRE THE DREAMER IN ALL OF US'

Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa plans to blast off on the first-ever private commercial trip around the moon on a SpaceX rocket in 2023.

7. CHINA VOWS TO RETALIATE IN ESCALATING TRADE WAR

Beijing says it will take "counter-measures" to Trump's decision to raise tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports.

8. NEW ERA IN VR PROVING THERAPEUTIC

Virtual reality therapy can help people with phobias like fears of flying, heights, spiders or dogs by exposing them gradually to their greatest terrors.

9. WHO WON BIG AT EMMYS

Amazon's "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" becomes the first streaming series to win top Emmy comedy honors and HBO's "Game of Thrones" recaptures the best drama series award.

10. BEARS 'D' FIRST WIN

Khalil Mack had one of six sacks against Russell Wilson and Chicago beat Seattle 24-17 to give Matt Nagy his first career victory.

TEST

Continued from Page 6

numerous senators of both parties say Ford deserves a chance to be heard on Capitol Hill — in itself, she said, an indication of the #MeToo movement's staying power.

The movement exploded worldwide in October 2017, sparked by detailed allegations of sexual misconduct against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. Across the U.S., and in many foreign countries, it has toppled powerful men in a wide range of fields — entertainment, journalism, politics and high tech, among others. Celebrity chefs, TV hosts and members of Congress are among those who have lost their jobs.

Almost from the start, it also fueled a backlash among those who felt the movement sometimes led to excesses and injustice. Ford's allegations have rekindled that resentment.

Conservative actor James Woods, in a subsequently deleted tweet, depicted hers accusations as one of numerous "#MeTooLynchings." The Wall Street Journal ran an editorial Monday titled "The #MeToo Kavanaugh Ambush."

"Letting an accusation that is this old, this unsubstantiated and this procedurally irregular defeat Mr. Kavanaugh would also mean weaponizing every sexual assault allegation no matter the evidence," the editorial said. "It will tarnish the #MeToo cause with the smear of partisanship."

Actor Sean Penn chimed in, suggesting it would be good for #MeToo "to just slow down."

Even aside from the Ford-Kavanaugh showdown, this has been a tumultuous season for the #MeToo movement. Among the most recent developments:

—Two of the most powerful men in the U.S. television industry lost their jobs at least partly due to sexual misconduct allegations. Les Moonves stepped down as head of CBS Corp. and the network fired "60 Minutes" executive producer Jeff Fager. Both men have denied the accusations.

—A video of Harvey Weinstein aired on TV showing him propositioning a woman who later accused him of rape, repeatedly touching her and stroking her arm and back during what was supposed to have been a business meeting.

—"The Tonight Show" canceled an appearance by comedian Norm Macdonald after he told The Hollywood Reporter he was "happy the #MeToo movement had slowed down a little bit." Among other comments, Macdonald suggested there should be "forgiveness" for fellow comedian Louis C.K., who was accused of sexual misconduct and recently has taken steps to return to the limelight. Louis C.K.'s recent surprise appearance at a comedy club unleashed torrents of criticism from women's advocates who said he had not properly atoned for his transgressions.

—Comedian Bill Cosby is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 24 on three felony sex assault charges. He was convicted in April of drugging and molesting a woman at his home in 2004, and faces up to 10 years in prison on each of three felony counts.

As these cases indicate, much of #MeToo's high-profile impact has been in the entertainment and media world. Noreen Farrell, executive director of San Francisco-based Equal Rights Advocates, said more work is needed to persuade employers in other sectors to crack down on sexual misconduct.

"While we have seen some celebrity-level public shaming over serial harassers and enablers, employers seem to be digging in and resisting change," said Farrell, noting that the business lobby in California has been fighting hard against proposed anti-harassment legislation.

Among the many women in politics who have embraced the #MeToo movement is Gayle Goldin, a Democratic state legislator in Rhode Island who has campaigned against sexual misconduct.

She said the Ford-Kavanaugh case will be an important indicator of how public attitudes have changed since 1991, when Anita Hill was treated dismissively by senators of both parties when she leveled sexual misconduct allegations against Clarence Thomas during his Supreme Court confirmation hearings.

Reflecting back to the 1990s, Goldin added, "The #MeToo movement is not one moment in time, it is the culmination of pain by generations of women."

"People are seeking justice, but that is not necessarily about the individual," she said. "We are ultimately talking about culture change."

TARIFFS

Continued from Page 6

remaining Chinese imports is of serious concern to retailers since tariffs of that magnitude would touch every aspect of American life," said Matthew Shay, chief executive of the National Retail Federation, a trade group for retailers.

COMPANIES

Many companies have warned that Trump's tariffs threaten to disrupt their businesses and depress their revenue.

The monthly manufacturing index by the Institute of Supply Management noted that some companies have expressed concern about tariffs despite an otherwise robust U.S. economy. One food and beverage firm in the ISM survey said, "Suppliers appear to be bracing us for cost increases, given increased talk of tariffs and inflation."

Trump's tariffs, with their uncertain duration, make it difficult for companies to plan for the future. Ted Murphy, a trade lawyer and a partner at Baker McKenzie, said the president is signaling that many companies will need to rethink their operations.

No longer can they ignore tariffs, which were low and mostly headed lower before Trump took office. They now need to rethink the supply chains they've built across countries and calculate where best to deploy workers.

"They're definitely going to move jobs," Murphy said. "What Trump is doing is increasing the cost, and he's introducing uncertainty into

trade relations. Businesses can deal with costs. It's the uncertainty they can't deal with."

FINANCIAL MARKETS

So far, at least, the stock market has taken the threats of tariffs in stride. Share prices have dipped, only to then resume their growth, in part because of deep corporate tax cuts that took effect this year and a solid U.S. economy in its 10th straight year of expansion.

But the new round of tariffs risks triggering a more alarming response by investors. The additional taxes suggest that the two countries are struggling to make progress in settling their differences. The issues include Chinese companies' theft of U.S. intellectual property and a widening trade gap as U.S. consumers have become more dependent on comparatively cheap Chinese imports.

"It's definitely a setback for the market that they can't seem to get to the table," said J.J. Kinahan, chief market strategist for TD Ameritrade.

Kinahan said technology companies seem especially vulnerable to retaliation from Beijing, which could include tariffs on components as well as restrictions on access to websites and services.

GLOBAL ECONOMY

A prolonged trade war between the United States, the world's largest economy, and China, the second-largest, would ripple through the rest of the globe, potentially affecting economies from Buenos Aires to Istanbul.

Tariffs could translate into less trade, which could hinder growth in smaller nations. The U.S. dollar has already begun to rise in value as trade tensions have mounted. This has insulated the United States from higher prices.

But the higher-valued dollar has also diminished the value of the Turkish lira

and the Argentine peso, among others. This trend has weighed heavily on their economies. In the meantime, the value of the Chinese yuan has dropped relative to the dollar, making it easier for Beijing to withstand U.S. tariffs.

Many emerging economies depend on shipping commodities to China. If the Chinese economy slows under the weight of U.S. import taxes, the global economy might also stumble, according to Stephanie Segal, deputy director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

POLITICS

The Republicans' control of the House and the Senate is at stake in the midterm congressional races in November. Trump has portrayed the import taxes as a winning electoral issue because they're forcing other countries to compromise with the United States.

But public opinion suggests that his tariffs could prove a vulnerability. A poll released Aug. 24 by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 61 percent of Americans disapproved of the president's handling of trade negotiations.

If Democrats win, it would possibly repudiate Trump's approach. But if many Republicans retain their seats, it could vindicate Trump's choice to announce tariffs so close to the elections.

Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp clearly regards the new Trump tariffs as potentially helping her in a tough re-election contest in North Dakota. She immediately denounced them Monday night as crushing farmers whose crop is to China.

"Many family farms are afraid they won't be able to pay the bills if this misguided trade war continues," Heitkamp said in a statement. "There are smart ways to deal with China's cheating on trade, but stepping on our farmers is not one of them."

WATER

Continued from Page 6

dams already in poor condition will hold as rivers keep rising.

EAGLE-EYED GOVERNOR

South Carolina's governor was doing a fly-over of Florence's flooding in his state when he spotted two men stranded atop a flooded pickup truck. After watching the rescue, Gov. Henry McMaster said water in that part of Chesterfield County rose at least a foot (30 centimeters) after the men initially were spotted.

EXPLAINING THE DANGER

Experts say people likely got complacent about Florence because of a scale that only categorizes hurricanes by wind strength. Water is responsible for the vast majority of deaths in hurricanes and tropical storms, but that hazard isn't included in the system forecasters used when they described the storm as a "Category 1 hurricane" at landfall.

RECALCULATING

Relying just on a smartphone to steer out of a disaster zone is not a smart idea. After some navigation apps or in-car map directions sent people in North Carolina onto roads that got flooded or blocked by debris, Google-owned Waze said it was working with local governments and its own community of volunteer map editors to mark closures of more than 1,300 roads in North Carolina and hundreds more in South Carolina and Virginia.

MORE ABOUT MARIA

President Donald Trump said the aftermath of last year's hurricanes in Puerto Rico has been an "incredible, tough situation" but he added, "we fought, and we are winning that one big." Trump said almost 20,000 military personnel and federal workers were deployed to help with the aftermath of Florence in the Carolinas and the Mid-Atlantic, and they would "do whatever it takes to keep the American people safe."



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Prescott, Dallas D lead Cowboys to 20-13 win over Giants

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dak Prescott accepted the challenge.

The Dallas quarterback threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Tavon Austin and the Cowboys sacked Eli Manning six times in a 20-13 victory over the New York Giants on Sunday night.

The Dallas defense was strong again, just as in an opening loss at Carolina, as the Cowboys (1-1) avoided the first 0-2 start in seven seasons under coach Jason Garrett.

Manning and the Giants have started 0-2 for the fifth time in the past six seasons.

After saying "challenge accepted" during the week to Giants safety Landon Collins' suggestion that New York had a better chance by forcing Prescott to throw, the 2016 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year hit Austin in stride behind cornerback Ja-



Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott (21) is grabbed by New York Giants cornerback Curtis Riley (35) as he runs during the second half of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018.

AP photo

noris Jenkins. The speedy receiver cut back to his right before trotting across the goal line at an angle.

"We definitely hear that," Prescott said. "I kind of said the challenge accepted, I said I accepted it. But I can tell you I wasn't the only one who accepted that challenge. This team accepted it. That offense accepted it. We wanted to go out there and just show you guys."

Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott outgained Saquon Barkley in the first meeting in the pros between the former college rivals and high NFL draft picks. Elliott, who starred at Ohio State, rushed for 78 yards with a touchdown. Barkley, from Penn State, had just 28.

Even Prescott outrushed Barkley, finishing with a career-high 45 yards on the ground while throwing for 160.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 14

Dolphins sitting in 1st place in AFC East with 2-0 start



New York Jets' Jamal Adams (33) closes in on Miami Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill (17) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018, in East Rutherford, N.J.

AP photo

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.

AP Pro Football Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Sure, it's just two games in and early over-reactions can look silly fast. But the Miami Dolphins are 2-0 for the first time since 2013 and sitting in first place in the AFC East.

It's a promising start for a squad that had plenty of questions entering the season.

"What we're doing out there is close to what we're looking to do," coach Adam Gase said. "We just have to do a few things better."

Ryan Tannehill threw two touchdown passes, Kenyan Drake ran for a score and the Dolphins took advantage of several mistakes by Sam Darnold and the New York Jets for a 20-12 victory Sunday that kept Miami undefeated.

"It started for us in April," Gase said. "It's just nobody else realized that, so we'll just keep getting better and keep surprising people."

New York dropped to 1-1 with the loss, the same record as New England after the Patriots fell to Jacksonville. Meanwhile, Buffalo is off to an 0-2 start.

Miami will look to improve to 3-0 next Sunday at home when it takes on Oakland.

"I'm not surprised at all," wide receiver Albert Wilson said of Miami's start. "I have high expectations, especially for the offense."

Tannehill finished 17 of 23 for 168 yards and TDs in Wilson and A.J. Derby. He also ran for 44 yards on eight carries for the Dolphins, coming off a win in the longest NFL game since 1970 merger by outlasting Tennessee in 7 hours, 8 minutes last Sunday.

After sitting out all of last season with a knee injury, Tannehill has shown he is fully healthy now.

"I think he's doing great," Wilson said. "I think we can do a little more around him to clean things up, but I think he's doing his job."

The same could be said of the Dolphins' defense, which got interceptions from T.J. McDonald and Xavien Howard.

"They're getting turnovers and getting the ball in our hands," Tannehill said. "You can't ask for anything more from the defense. ... But as an offense, we have to turn our level of play up."

Mahomes throws 6 TDs, Chiefs hold off Steelers 42-37



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) plays in the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018, in Pittsburgh.

AP photo

By WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Tyreek Hill turned to face the cameras when the hottest quarterback in the NFL looked up, saw a potential traffic jam and urged his Kansas City Chiefs teammate to conduct his business elsewhere.

"Don't do that here," Patrick Mahomes said with a laugh.

Hill responded by shuffling a few steps clear of Mahomes' stall.

Good idea. There's little doubt who is calling the shots now in Kansas City. It's the first-year starter with the big arm.

Mahomes tied a franchise record with six touchdown passes and the Chiefs held off the Pittsburgh Steelers for a 42-37 victory Sunday that showcased why Kansas City traded away veteran Alex Smith in the spring and put the team in the hands of a 22-year-old with all of one career start under his belt.

Mahomes, who turns 23 on Monday, finished 23 of 28 for 326 yards. His 10 touchdown passes through two weeks are the most ever by a quarterback through two games in NFL history. Heady stuff for a player who spent almost all of last season on the bench watching Smith guide the Chiefs to a fourth playoff berth in five years.

"You never expect to have 10 touchdowns at this point in the season,"

Mahomes said. "But I knew with this offense and the weapons that we have and the scheme coach Reid has drawn up that we had a chance to be really, really good and the possibilities are endless."

It sure looked that way while Mahomes spread the ball to seven different teammates, five of whom reached the end zone. Travis Kelce caught seven passes for 109 yards and two scores. Tyreek Hill, Chris Conley, Kareem Hunt and Demarcus Robinson also hauled in touchdown passes as the Chiefs (2-0) recovered in the second half after blowing an early 21-point lead.

Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger shook off an achy right elbow that limited him in practice during the week, completing 39 of 60 passes for 452 yards and three touchdowns. The 36-year-old also leapt into the end zone for a 3-yard score with 1:59 to go that got the Steelers (0-1-1) within five.

Rather than attempt an onside kick, Pittsburgh sent it deep. Two runs by Hunt gave Kansas City a big first down and Steelers linebacker Tyler Matakevich was flagged for roughing the punter, allowing the Chiefs to run out the clock and put the two-time defending AFC North champions at a crossroads just two weeks into the season.

Texans look to clean up mistakes to avoid falling to 0-3

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans committed mistake after mistake in their loss to Tennessee.

Now they must figure out a way to fix these problems, so they don't fall into a 0-3 hole when they meet the New York Giants on Sunday.

"That's probably the biggest thing," coach Bill O'Brien said. "We have to eliminate those things. We have to coach it better, we've got to practice better. That's probably the biggest thing that we can need to improve on, that we have too many mistakes in all three phases."

Houston had 11 penalties for 88 yards in Sunday's 20-17 defeat against the Titans. There were false starts, a clipping penalty and Jadeveon Clowney, who was inactive with an elbow injury, incurred one from the sideline for taunting.

It's rather rare for a player not in-



Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson takes a long look at the field after an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn. The Titans won 20-17.

involved in the game to get a penalty. O'Brien said he didn't have many details on what happened, but that he wasn't surprised that the call was made.

"The taunting rule is a big emphasis ... that's a good crew," he said. "Pete Morelli does a good job. They saw it, they called it."

Clowney declined comment when asked about it in the locker room on Monday.

While the penalties were certainly a problem for Houston on Sunday, there were plenty of other issues that kept the team out of the win column. A big problem for Houston this season has been pass protection.

While their revamped offensive line has been so good in run blocking that the team leads the NFL in yards rushing, the group hasn't been nearly as successful in protecting Deshaun Watson.

See **TEXANS**, Page 14

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Legals

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THE STATE OF TEXAS
 NOTICE OF DEFENDANT:

Legals

"You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you."

To: Krystal Lyn Drake,
 Defendant, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday October 22, 2018, before the Honorable 118th District Court of Howard County, at 312 Scurry Street in said County in Big Spring, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 1st day of May, 2018, **cause number 52718** in the entitled cause styled

PNC Mortgage vs Krystal Drake

Legals

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit:

This is a suit for declaratory judgment and the alternative equitable subrogation. On or about September 2, 2005, Reo Management 2004, deeded real property and improvements commonly known as 423 Westover Rd., Big Spring, Texas 79720 (the "Property") via a special Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien to Sonya Drake and Charles Drake, wife and husband. On information on belief, Sonya Drake's former husband, Charles Drake, died on or about April 24, 2007. No probate proceeding was ever opened for Charles Drake. On information and belief, Sonya Drake and Charles Drake had only one child during their marriage-Krystal Drake. On information and belief, neither Sonya Drake nor Charles Drake had any children outside of their marriage. On or about May 27, 2014, Sonya Drake executed a Texas Home Equity Security Instrument in favor of Royal United Mortgage, LLC (the HESI) as

Legals

a single woman. Subsequently, the HESI was assigned to Plaintiff. In connection with 2014 transaction, Royal United Mortgage, LLC paid off a prior lien on the Property held by BBVA Compass Bank in the amount of \$43,977.71. Plaintiff seeks a declaration that the HESI is a valid security interest against the Property, and is enforceable per its term. In the alternative, a declaration that the HESI is equitably subrogated to a lien position with the rights and security set forth in pri or lien that was paid off.

Other as is more fully shown by the Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand seal of said court at office on this the 5th day of September, 2018.

COLLEEN BARTON District Clerk of Howard County, Texas

By: Jury Padron, Deputy
 #9895 September 18 & 25, October 2 & 9, 2018



By Steve Becker

East dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ K Q 7
 ♥ K Q 3
 ♦ A Q J 9 8 3
 ♣ 5
WEST
 ♠ 10 9 6
 ♥ 8 7 4
 ♦ 6 5 4
 ♣ A 8 6 2
EAST
 ♠ A J 4 3
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ K
 ♣ K Q J 9 7 3
SOUTH
 ♠ 8 5 2
 ♥ A J 10 9 6
 ♦ 10 7 2
 ♣ 10 4

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

Opening lead — ace of clubs.
Although declarer usually cannot be absolutely certain which cards an opponent might hold, there are times he knows for sure which cards he cannot hold. This knowledge often proves very useful in determining how to play a particular hand.
Take this case where South wound up in four hearts after East had opened the bidding with one club. West led the ace of clubs and shifted to the ten of spades, covered by the queen and ace. East returned a spade, West's

nine forcing the king. Declarer led a heart to the nine, ruffed his remaining club with the queen and overtook the king of hearts with the ace. A third round of trumps was drawn, after which South paused to take stock.

He had already lost two tricks, and still had a spade loser and a potential diamond loser to take care of. If a diamond finesse was attempted and lost, East would cash the jack of spades to set the contract.

Declarer did not know exactly what either opponent's hand looked like, but he did know that West could not have the king of diamonds. Had he held that card along with the ace of clubs he led at trick one, he surely wouldn't have passed his partner's opening bid.

South therefore played for the one possibility that would allow him to make his game — that East had the singleton king of diamonds. So he led a diamond to the ace, and when the king fell, he had the rest of the tricks.

Of course, South was very lucky to find the diamond king unguarded with four cards missing in the suit, but his was the kind of luck that is associated with winning players. While the outcome might have been lucky, the decision-making process that preceded it was 100 percent skill.

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Annie's Mailbox

Heavy-Handed Neighbor

Dear Annie: I live in a neighborhood with two non-state-maintained roads. One is a long, straight, steep hill with about 20 residences. My neighbor "Sally" lives in the middle of the hill. She lets her pets roam free in her yard and has toddler grandchildren. People driving up her hill need to maintain speed to get up. It is hard to go 25 mph where it is steep. Her cat was hit and killed by an unaware driver. Sally will go into the road to challenge anyone she thinks is going too fast. I have told her the law says her pets should not be loose. My road has three residences, with no kids and no pets running free. We have no trouble with speeders. Sally bought big road signs for about \$80 each that say, "Children and pets. Slow down." She gave me one of these signs and wants me to put it up on our

quiet street. My three neighbors see no reason for us to post a sign. We did not ask for this sign. How do I diplomatically tell Sally that we're not interested and that she should have talked to us before she bought expensive road signs? -- Wants to Keep the Peace on Our Peaceful Road

Dear Wants to Keep the Peace:

First, yes, the onus is entirely on your neighbor here. She shouldn't be letting her pets roam loose beside a country road that many people zoom down, and it doesn't sound like a great place for her toddler grandchildren to be playing, either. You're within your rights to simply tell her you have had no trouble with speeders and don't want to put up the sign. But I have to ask, Why not just do it? I don't see any downside to urging drivers to be a little more careful. Even if you're taking every possible safety precaution

at home, sometimes pets get out the front door. You might end up being glad for the sign.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Mind Your Manners, Please," who wrote about dealing with a screaming child in a public place. She gave some suggestions, and I would like to offer up another suggestion. How about instead of judging and shaming parents presumably trying to do their best, she and others like her offer compassion, kindness and love? Let's give the parents with the screaming children in the public store the benefit of the doubt. Let's assume the parents are doing the best they can. Though those parents' best may not be what the writer would do in a similar situation, it is nonetheless how they are dealing with the child in the moment. Instead of giving them the side eye and shaming them, let's offer to help, give encouragement or simply be

thankful that we are not the ones with the screaming child. -- Sticking Up for Parents Everywhere

Dear Sticking Up: I'm printing your letter because I agree: There's always room for more sympathy in the world, and we should always err on the side of giving one another too much of the benefit of the doubt rather than too little.

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

Cosmic Conundrums

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Today is an effect of our past and yet maybe we wouldn't have predicted it. Today is the cause of our future, though we can't tell how. The cosmic conundrums come to mind courtesy of a conflict between Mars and Uranus. Accuracy in forecasting requires us to remove bias, dash assumptions and think as clearly as possible.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Emotional bumpers can



go up like air bags, preventing injury but also closeness. These protective cushions have their drawbacks and need only be employed in extreme situations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You and yours will agree about the big-picture items though there will be some major differences of opinion on the topic of how to go about bringing that vision to life. Luckily, it's a fine day for finding compromise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). For complicated reasons, you're more easily unsettled today than most days. While there's nothing wrong with this, it could be uncomfortable for you. Consider buffering your emotional core with extra self-care

and kindness.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Creativity takes courage. By definition, it's doing something new, which means uncertainty, which is the birthplace of fear. Give yourself credit for your creative bravery.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You like to think of yourself as spiritually more evolved than a lot of the ego-gratification-based desires that people around you seem to be chasing. And yet a certain status symbol still appeals to you. Embrace it. You're human.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). This represents a window of time when you feel strongly about your choices. Next week you'll see other options and even more open up after that. In this light, flexible and short-term contracts are favorable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's one of those days in which it will be easy to tell others what to do and hard to implement your own plans for your life. Therefore, skip the former and focus all of your energy on the latter, where it will do the most good.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes you get to live life on your own terms. Enjoy it fully, realizing that, as a rule, life (being considerably bigger than any individual) doesn't make a habit of acquiescing to any particular person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). How do you know what's true? That's the question of the day, and you'll be sure of many true things by sundown. One test of truth: It remains unchanged by weather or moods.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You're really trying to be better than you were yesterday in one particular regard, and you will be. Trust that it happens naturally, whether you try so hard or not.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll stand and face a thing. It's a small bit of unpleasantness you could have easily blown off, but you won't. And this minor act of courage speaks to something major about your character. You're a quality person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As the sign that rules the feet, you realize the importance of being where your feet are. And as the sign of imagination, you don't always follow the dictum, but you'll bring yourself fully to the present moment when it counts.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 18). Though you're not striving for it, you'll still net a fair amount of extra money by the end of the year and do something great with it, too. Other highlights of this solar year include: a voice from the past becoming a figure in your future, a brush with fame that becomes a fun story and a love connection growing powerfully. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 1, 22, 41 and 28.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Cancer who loves to be on stage or in front of the camera, but I don't audition well. Do Cancers have the star power it takes to make it in show business?"

In addition to acting class, take a class that specializes in auditioning. Auditioning is an art form in and of itself and

may have little to do with your actual ability to nail a role. In regard to your star power, you aren't prone to declaring yourself before the world in a roaring manner like your Leo friends, but despite temporary eclipses of self-doubt, you emerge with new strength and vision to bring into whatever spotlight is upon you. You love publicity and you hate it, vacillating constantly about how much or little to reveal about yourself. At times you want to be available to the public, signing autographs or shaking hands. At other times you prefer to shut yourself away, letting others do your talking for you even over the phone. No matter your mood, however, when you are on stage the audience sees your art in motion, the character you've so lovingly crafted and the beating heart of creative joy. Note that plenty of Cancer people have "made it" including cinematic treasures Meryl Streep and Tom Cruise.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Aisha Tyler added "filmmaker" to her long list of hyphens with her feature film directorial debut, "Axis." Tyler was born when the sun, Mercury and Mars were in detail-oriented, hard-working Virgo. Venus, Jupiter and Neptune in Scorpio indicate an intuitive artist who easily senses what is going on beneath the surface of things -- a quality that is as helpful to Tyler as an actress as it is to a poker player.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com.
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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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

ANSWER:

