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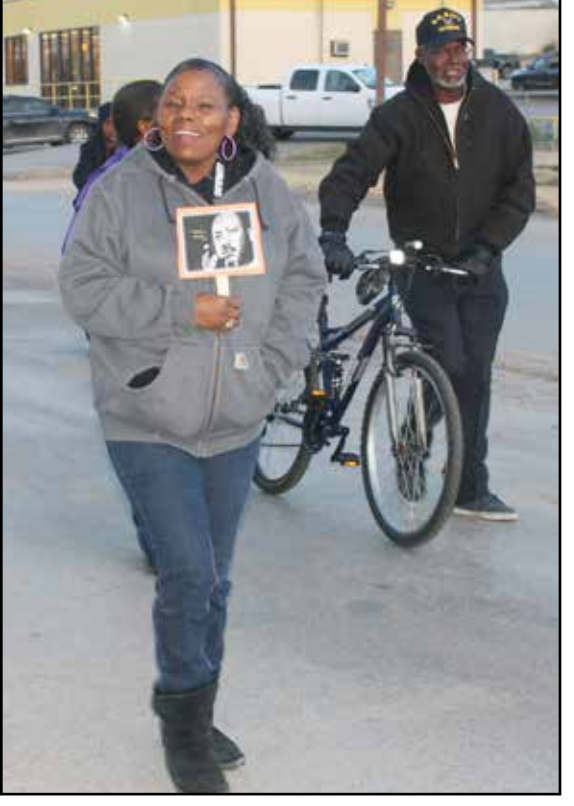
HERALD

BIG SPRING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018



VOLUME 114, NUMBER 69 COPYRIGHT 2018 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Walking for a dream



HERALD file photo
 The photo above shows participants marching down Gregg Street during a previous MLK Walk, an annual event hosted by Mt. Bethel Baptist Church to honor Martin Luther King Jr. This year, the event will take place on Monday, January 21, and will begin at 6 p.m.

By AMBER MANSFIELD
 Staff Writer
 One church in Big Spring will continue their long-time tradition in celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. and all that he stood for with a march on the third Monday of January. Mt. Bethel Baptist Church (MBBC) is inviting and encouraging all members of the public to join them as they honor King with their annual MLK commemorative walk.
 Martin Luther King Jr. was the most important voice of the American civil rights movement, which worked for equal rights for all, which is what MBBC hopes to keep alive in everyone.
 "The walk is a great way of making sure King's dream doesn't die," said Ida Hambrick, a four-year member of the church. "When I joined MBBC, I was looking for a church that gives back, a church that's involved with the community and whatever is going on."
 The MLK Commemorative Walk will be

See **MLK**, Page 3

Big Spring Herald's Christmas Countdown



Noah says
 "Only 4 Days 'til Christmas!"
 (Noah Marques, Grandson of Sandra Green, Ad Designer)

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Searching for Christmas event tonight and tomorrow

By AMBER MANSFIELD
 Staff Writer
 The First Church of the Nazarene church here in Big Spring will be holding, "Searching for Christmas" for the first time this Christmas season. Searching for Christmas is an interactive walk-through journey in search of the true meaning of Christmas. Those attending the event, scheduled for Dec. 21 and 22 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., can stay after for a winter wonderland experience with free cider, hot chocolate, and treats. This will be a great time to spend with family celebrating what really matters this Christmas.
 "Christmas is a special time but it also a busy time. In all the business and busyness of life during this season we can often lose sight of



Courtesy photo
 The photo above shows New Hope Christian School, the site of the Searching for Christmas event, located at 118 Cedar Road here in Big Spring.

what really matters during Christmas, it happens to all of us," Josh Cisneros, Pastor of NazFamily on Cedar Rd. "The goal of NazFamily in Searching for Christmas is to help families rediscover Jesus this Christmas. The interactive walk-through places families in familiar situations (shopping, holiday parties, traveling, decorating contests)

See **EVENT**, Page 3

Los Intocables aims to make a difference

HERALD photo/Anna Gutierrez
 Recently, the Los Intocables Motorcycle Club held a toy drive to try and accumulate as many toys as they could to make the holidays brighter for those in need. On Thursday, Los Intocables delivered all of those toys they were able to collect to the Salvation Army so that they can be distributed to local children. Justin Edwards, president of the motorcycle club, hopes this will be the first of many fundraisers that this newly formed motorcycle group will hold to better the community. "Even though we may a bit rough around the edges, we are a brotherhood," said Edwards. "We work together, and we hope to be able to help the community."



Girl Scouts decorate winning Christmas tree

HERALD photo/Amber Mansfield
 Each year at the Big Spring Heritage Museum, participants in the Christmas Tree Forest decorate beautiful and individualized trees that are seen by many during the holiday season. This opportunity is used to showcase a business, organization or even just local talent, and then the trees judged based on a people's choice vote on who they think is the winner of the best overall tree. The winners were announced on Thursday, Dec. 20, which happened to be the Girl Scout Troop #3382. They received a prize of \$100! Be sure to check out the Girl Scout Troop's winning tree along with all of the other participants' gorgeous trees on display at the Heritage Museum. The last day for viewing will be Saturday, Dec. 22.

Santa congratulates coloring contest winners



HERALD photos/Anna Gutierrez
 Back In Motion recently held a coloring contest for local kids, along with a toy drive that also gave individuals an opportunity to take a snapshot with Santa Claus. The judging of the coloring contest took place on Thursday and the winners were finally announced. One boy, Oscar Aiden Buentello, and one girl, Haylea Elliott, were named the winners of the coloring contest and received a new bike from Santa! Shown on the right, Santa sits next to the toys collected in the drive as he proudly displays the art colored by the two winners, Buentello and Elliott. On the left, Santa presents Buentello with his new bike. (Elliott was unable to attend.) Congratulations to the winners!



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Obituaries

Odys Riley Woodall



Odys Riley Woodall, 76, of Ira died, Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018, in a local nursing home.

Odys wished not to have a funeral service or a memorial service.

A visitation will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018, at the First Presbyterian Church.

Odys was born to Homer and Martha Woodall May 30, 1942 in Warren, Arkansas. He married Marilyn Phillips on June 29, 1962, in Big Spring.

He served in the United States Air Force from 1960-1964. Odys was a member of the Elks Lodge 1386 where he served as a past Exalted Ruler. He was also a member of the Methodist Church. He worked at the Fina Refinery for 32 years as a pump mechanic. He retired in 2000.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn Woodall of

Ira; two daughters, Rhonda Holcomb and husband, David of Dallas and Karen Schaedel and husband, Ken of Big Spring; a son, Odys Dewayne Woodall and wife, Selena of Aransas Pass; eight grandchildren, Joshua Holcomb and wife, Ariel of Englewood, Colorado, Alexander Holcomb of Parker, Colorado, Rendi Hernandez and husband, Eric of Abilene, Courtney Liston and husband, Blake of Howe, Rebecca Holcomb of Macomb, Illinois, Kelli Schaedel of San Angelo, Katie Woodall of Aransas Pass and Alexandria Crawford of Minot, North Dakota; three great grandchildren, Garret Kelsey, Felicity Dewitt and Cody James Liston; sisters, Margaret Crowson, Dorothy Gladden and Linda Ann Johnson and a brother, Jimmy Wages

The family suggests in lieu of flowers donations be made to a favorite charity.

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

Paid Obituary

Gary Phillips

Gary Phillips, 71, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Felipe "Israel" O'Guin



Felipe "Israel" O'Guin, 20, of Big Spring, died Sunday Dec. 15, 2018. A memorial service will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, 2018, at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Felipe was born Jan. 10, 1998, in Lake Elsanor, California to Leticia Diaz O'Guin and Esaw O'Guin.

Felipe is survived by his spouse, Brittanie Clay and their son of Big Spring, Aziah O'Guin; his mom Leticia Diaz O'Guin of Houston; father, Esaw O'Guin of Lubbock; two brothers, Ismael O'Guin of Big Spring and Carsel Bester of California; two sisters: Raquel O'Guin of Houston and Sherease O'Guin of California; his aunt: Martha Beck of El Paso; his honorary family: Sebastian Calderon, Eric Ortega, Jerrel Williams, and Thomas Williams, his honorary mother, Tina Williams Dutchover, all of Big Spring, and K.J Davenport of Ft. Worth.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Gracie Marie "Nanny" Fonville Porter



Gracie Marie "Nanny" Fonville Porter, 77, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018. Grave-side services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, 2018, at Howard Cemetery in Desdemona, Texas.

Gracie was born April 14, 1941, in Breckenridge to Lydia Murrell Rainy Fonville and Zelvin Fonville and lived in Big Spring for 42 years.

Gracie is survived by two daughters, Vickey Weaver and her husband Mike of Big Spring, and Tina Hanson of Mitchell, South Dako-

ta; two brothers, Burl Fonville and his wife Mary of Azle, and Charlie Fonville and his wife Paula of Selden; three sisters: Eunice Morris of Weatherford, Marilyn Carroll of Dublin and Linda Harkins of Pennsylvania; thirteen grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, one great great grandson, and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by two sisters, Oneta Melton and Zula Ferguson; two brothers, Bud Fonville and Billy Jack Fonville, and one great grandson Carson Ray Lemmons.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Laura "Pat" Nichols



Laura "Pat" Nichols, 81, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018, at her residence. Private services are planned at a later date.

She was born Feb. 21, 1937, in Big Spring.

Survivors include four children, Kathy Blackman, Jimmy Trawick, Dewayne Trawick and Darrell Trawick; two sisters Brenda Rolo and Donnie Massey.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **FRANKLIN KYLE CASEY**, 57, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **MICHAEL SHAE JACKMAN**, 33, was arrested on a charge of unauthorized use of vehicle, and on a warrant of parole

violation.

- **DAVID ERNEST WHEELER**, 60, was arrested on a charge of walk on highway with traffic.

- **ACCIDENT MAJOR** was reported in the 2400 block of S Gregg St.

- **BURGLARY OF BUILDING** was reported in the 5700 block of Nichols Rd.

- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 200 block of W FM 700.

- **UNATTENDED DEATH** was reported in the 1400 block of N Hwy 87.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of W FM 700.

- **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium Ave.

Take Note

- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help.

If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

- Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

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- Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for new members. If you have a heart for serving people, have at least four hours a week to spare, SMMC Auxiliary might be the fit for you.

Duties include working in the gift shop, delivering newspapers to inpatients, hospitality services, popcorn and more.

To find out more about op-

portunities available with the SMMC Auxiliary, contact Amy Miramontes at 268-4809 or April Arms at 268-4907.

- The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

- The Howard County Democrats will meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 pm. at the Howard County Democratic Headquarters, 1408 Scurry, behind Prosperity Bank .

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Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

- **CHRISTOPHER LEE ALLRED**, 44, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant of escape while arrest.

- **FRANKLIN KYLE CASEY**, 57, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **MICHAEL SHAE JACKMAN**, 33, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of unauthorized use of vehicle, and on a warrant of parole violation.

- **VICTOR RAUL LOZANO JR.**, 27, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of possession of controlled substance less than one.

- **DAVID ERNEST WHEELER**, 60, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of walk on highway with traffic.

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.

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Mattis resigning as Pentagon chief after Trump disagreements



AP photo

In this Nov. 9, 2018, file photo, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis waits outside the Pentagon.

By **ZEKE MILLER** and **LOLITA BALDOR**

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis resigned after clashing with President Donald Trump over the abrupt withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria and after two years of deep disagreements over America's role in the world.

Mattis, perhaps the most respected foreign policy official in Trump's administration, will leave by the end of February after two tumultuous years struggling to soften and moderate the president's headline and sometimes sharply changing policies. He

told Trump in a letter that he was leaving because "you have a right to have a Secretary of Defense whose views are better aligned with yours."

Mattis went to the White House on Thursday with his resignation letter in hand to meet with the president and spoke to Trump for about 45 minutes, according to a senior U.S. official familiar with the incident but speaking on conditions of anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

There was no confrontation between the two men, the official said, and there was no one issue that caused the resignation. However, the official said, Syria likely was the last straw for Mattis.

His departure was immediately lamented by foreign policy hands and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, who viewed the retired Marine general as a sober voice of experience in the ear of a president who had never held

political office or served in the military. Even Trump allies expressed fear over Mattis' decision to quit, believing him to be an important moderating force on the president.

"Just read Gen. Mattis resignation letter," tweeted Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. "It makes it abundantly clear that we are headed toward a series of grave policy errors which will endanger our nation, damage our alliances & empower our adversaries."

Mattis did not mention the dispute over Syria in his letter or proposed deep cuts to U.S. forces in Afghanistan, another significant policy dispute. He noted his "core belief" that American strength is "inextricably linked" with the nation's alliances with other countries, a position seemingly at odds with the "America First" policy of the president.

The defense secretary also said China and Russia want to spread their "authoritarian model"

and promote their interests at the expense of America and its allies. "That is why we must use all the tools of American power to provide for the common defense," he wrote.

The announcement came a day after Trump surprised U.S. allies and members of Congress by announcing the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Syria, and as he continues to consider cutting in half the American deployment in Afghanistan by this summer. The news coincided with domestic turmoil as well, Trump's fight with Congress over a border wall and a looming partial government shutdown.

Trump's decision to pull troops out of Syria has been sharply criticized for abandoning America's Kurdish allies, who may well face a Turkish assault once U.S. troops leave, and had been staunchly opposed by the Pentagon.

Mattis, in his resignation letter, emphasized the importance of standing up for U.S. allies — an implicit criticism of the president's decision on this issue and others.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. WHY US DEFENSE SECRETARY MATTIS STEPPED DOWN

Jim Mattis resigned after clashing with President Donald Trump over the abrupt withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria and after two years of deep disagreements over America's role in the world.

2. TRUMP'S DEMAND FOR WALL PUSHES GOV'T CLOSER TO SHUTDOWN

The federal government was careening toward a partial shutdown after Trump's quest for a border wall left Congress without a clear plan to keep the government running.

3. 'WHO CALLED WHO 'ARROGANT AND SELFISH'

China lashed out at the U.S. after it charged two Chinese citizens with stealing trade secrets and other sensitive information from American government agencies and corporations.

4. NEW ALLEGATION FILED AGAINST NISSAN'S GHOSN

Japanese prosecutors added a new allegation of breach of trust against Nissan's former chairman, dashing his hopes for posting bail quickly.

5. AFTER YEAR OF THE WOMAN, 2020 BUZZ SO FAR FOCUSES ON THE MEN

A year defined by the political power of women is ending with men enjoying much of the attention as Beto

O'Rourke, Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders are emerging as early favorites in the opening phase of the 2020 campaign.

6. WHO IS BEING OPTIMISTIC ABOUT NORTH KOREAN DENUCLEARIZATION

The Trump administration's special envoy for North Korea expressed optimism about the diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear crisis.

7. TOYS R US CLOSURE HITS TOYS FOR TOTS HARD

The toy giant's decision to close its stores this year left some huge holes for the annual charity drive to fill.

8. RESORTS OFFER PERKS FOR HANDING OVER PHONES

A growing number of hotels are offering perks, like snorkeling tours and s'mores, to guests who manage to give up their phones for a few hours.

9. ALBINO ORANGUTAN RETURNED TO JUNGLE

Alba, the world's only known albino orangutan was released into a remote Borneo jungle more than a year after conservation officials found her starving and dehydrated in an Indonesian village.

10. GYMNASTICS MAKES MOVES ON FREE-SPIRITED PARKOUR

The funky street sport that has spread globally from the suburbs of Paris is talked about as a possible new Olympic discipline but is also the focus of a heated custody battle as its popularity and marketing potential grow.

EVENT

Continued from Page 1

and helps us rediscover the true meaning of Christmas; Jesus our Savior is born.

After the walkthrough, we transformed our courtyard into a winter wonderland where families and friends can enjoy hot cider, hot chocolate, and treats."

Searching for Christmas will be held at 118 Cedar Rd. (New Hope Christian School).

"The NazFamily is hosting this event for the first time. It was our aim to do something unique

this Christmas for our community. We understand the business of the season and didn't want to add another program," said Cisneros. "We want to provide Big Spring with a chance to laugh, rest, and enjoy this time together. Also we wanted provide a time away from the worry and stress about all the things that have to be done, a time to focus on Jesus and family."

Cisneros also stated those who would like more information can get it on the NazFamily Facebook page.

"Everyone is invited to this free event. It is

our gift to the community and a great event to bring family and friends to," said Cisneros. "You won't want to miss this event, it is a great chance to really prepare to truly celebrate. Christmas is not a time of rushing, shopping, and cooking. Christmas is a time to celebrate life and to celebrate Jesus, take a moment with us to truly celebrate."

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

MLK

Continued from Page 1

on Jan. 21, MLK Day, at 6 p.m. The walk will start at the corner of Gregg St. and Martin Luther King Blvd. Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home is offering its parking lot to those who come for the walk.

"Kids and adults can either walk or ride skateboards, bikes, rollerblades, whatever," said Hambrick. "This is a community event. We want all members of the community to come and walk together to show honor to the man and represent his dream."

Mt. Bethel hopes that the MLK walk will continue to benefit society the way King would have wanted. In addition to hosting the walk, Mt. Bethel will also be hosting their Inaugural MLK Breakfast for the community at 630 Sgt Paredes St.

"The brotherhood of the church thought of this and organized a free breakfast for everyone to come and enjoy and visit with each other," said Hambrick. "The breakfast will be at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church in the Glenn and and Essie Person Fellowship Hall. Stay tuned to our Facebook for when this event will take place. This is just a way for the brotherhood and the church to give back to the community, and to celebrate King."

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Gracie Marie "Nanny" Fonville Porter, 77, died Wednesday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. today at Howard Cemetery in Desdemona, Texas.

Felipe "Israel" O'Guin, 20, died Sunday. A memorial service will be at 6 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Nease Crosby, 59, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Gary Phillips, 71, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



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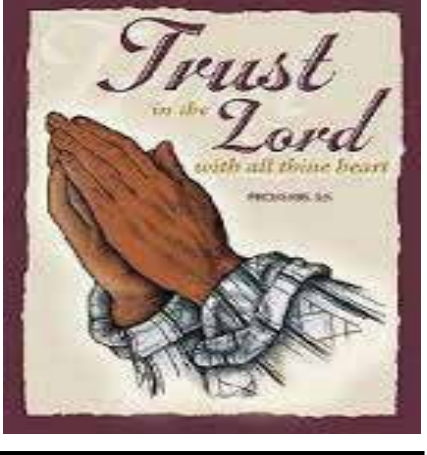
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Matthew 4:23

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Love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us.
1 John 4:18



Love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us.
1 John 4:18



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The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them. I will satisfy them with a long life and give them my salvation."
Psalm 91: 14-16

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Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem! Rejoice in the Lord your God! For the rains he sends are an expression of his grace. Once more the autumn rains will come, as well as the rains of spring.
(Joel 2:23)

God's love supply is never empty. "For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth."
(Psalm 103:11)

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Reflections: Finding Christmas

Christmas is upon us! Entire streets sparkle with multi-colored lights. Last-minute shoppers pack the aisles. Christmas music echoes in the malls. Traditional performances inspire us: The Messiah, The Nutcracker; A Christmas Carol; White Christmas along with children's pageants at school and church.

What would Christmas be without 6 and 7 year-old magi, shepherds and angels retelling the story while parents capture it all on video?

Holiday movies dominate our screens, big and small: It's A Wonderful Life!; Miracle on 34th Street; The Grinch Who Stole Christmas; The Santa Clause and the new Netflix blockbuster, Christmas Chronicles, which I have seen 3 times with my 7 and 5 year old granddaughters, at their request. (Somehow we have to sort through all the fantasy and fact.) We search for Christmas in the spectacular: the spectacular event,

spectacular lights, the spectacular gift. We want to re-create the perfect Christmas moment that we wish exemplified our lives.

The first Christmas had little resemblance to our contemporary traditions. The birth of Christ occurred in the chaos of the common and the ordinary: a common stable surrounded by common animals in a common village. Few took notice. There was no extravaganza staged in the cities. The angels' announcement occurred in a remote region with only a few simple shepherds present. The Magi, who observed the star in the east, came and went almost unnoticed.

It was for the common and the ordinary that Christ came. He grew up in a carpenter's shop in the remote village of Nazareth. He owned no house

and had no possessions.

He had no place to lay his head. And, after a brief public ministry in which he healed and taught thousands, he died upon a common cross outside Jerusalem and was buried in a borrowed tomb. In birth, life and death, Jesus redeemed the common and the ordinary and elevated each of us to an extraordinary relationship with God.

The first Christmas was an "out of control" event for Mary and Joseph. The tax summons that took them to Bethlehem could not have come at a worse time. The baby was due.

She was in no condition for such a long and arduous journey. When they arrived, the town was a bedlam of people. No one wanted to be there. They had come because they

were obligated under Roman law.

Of course, it was not out of God's control. What appeared to be an onerous obligation and an inconvenient time was actually a fulfillment of prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Perhaps God planned it this way to teach us that His intervention must be experienced in the common and the ordinary chaos of life.

When we look for Christmas in the spectacular, we can only experience it once a year.

But when we discover Christmas in the common and the chaotic, it can change our life every day.

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. Visit www.tinsleycenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com



BILL TINSLEY

Church News

First Tabernacle Ministries

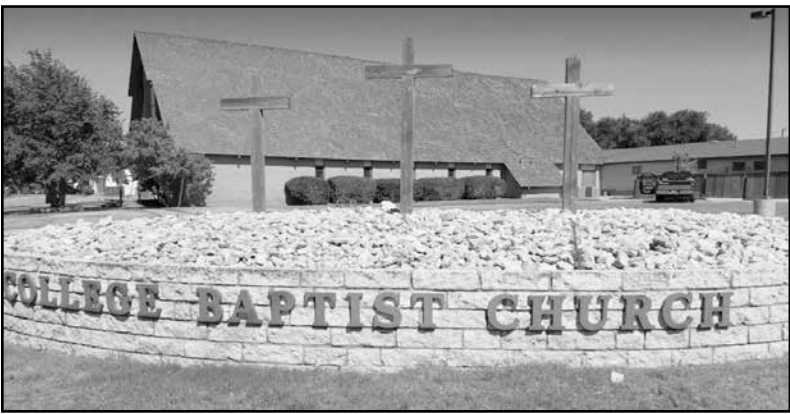
After having had our doors closed for two years First Tabernacle Ministries are reopening the Church Jan. 6, 2019, at 10 a.m. for our first Sunday morning service.

The Lord has put it in our hearts and by His leading is what we want to do.

First Tabernacle Ministries is located at 1209 Wright St. For more information call 432-263-0544.

College Baptist Church

CELEBRATE the birthday of our King of kings and Lord of lords. If you want the "perfect" Gift, all you have to do is ask. His Name is Jesus. Don't forget to tell Him "Happy Birthday." God is on the move at College Baptist Church, and we would love



to meet with you as our visitors and friends on the corner of 11th Place and Birdwell Lane.

This Sunday Morning at 10:45 for Worship Bro. Randy Cotton will be bringing us the Word from the Word of God. Don't forget your part in the Lot-tie Moon Christmas offering. Our service Wednesday, King's Kids, Wee singers, and prayer and Bible study for Youth and Adults all meet at 7 p.m. As we move into the Christmas season, remember Jesus is the reason for ANY season.

Remember to SAVE THE DATE event on February 23rd and 24th. We are planning a College Baptist Church reunion. All former members are welcome to attend this community event. Please continue in prayer so we can reach our "Jerusalem" and beyond for Jesus. As a church we are involved in many ministries that come together with those in Howard County to meet the needs of our community. Come celebrate the joy with us in worship as we praise the Mighty God we serve. Please call: 432-267-7429, for more information about this great Church.

First Presbyterian Church

On Wednesday the Lectionary Bible Study, led by Tom Koger and Mike Robinson, meets at 5 p.m. in the church library. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Important Announcement: The Christmas Eve Service, formerly listed as beginning at 6 p.m., has changed to 7:30 p.m. This is the traditional service of readings, carols, and candles. It is a Communion Service. Everyone is invited.

The monthly Saturday Breakfast is set for 8 a.m. on Dec. 29 in Fellowship Hall. Marj Carpenter is the speaker for this month. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend.

Vicki McLean will provide refreshments for Take Ten this week. Lector is Buddy Cochrane. Ushers last Sunday were Louise Hitch, Dave and Susan Wilson, and Susan McDaniel. Last Sunday Rip and Claudie Patterson lit the third Advent candle during worship.

During the season of Advent, the Children's Sunday School is presenting a Living Advent Calendar for the Children's Moment in each Sunday's worship service.

The lectionary passages for the Fourth Sunday in Advent are Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45(46-55). Rev. Taylor Todd will deliver the sermon. The Chancel Choir opens the service musically with the Introit, "People, Look East," (first four verses) based on a Traditional French Carol. Gabe Martinez, organist, will play "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" for the offertory.

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. Please Like us on Facebook.

Coahoma First United Methodist Church

Our tree is up, Advent wreath decorated, and candles stand ready. This Sunday is a very special for us. Our children will be blessing us with their wonderful talents. There will be readings, solos and songs galore. Not to mention a puppet or two.

This Sunday we will be celebrating Jesus' birthday. Come and join us. We also have birthday gift bags for everyone. Service starts at 11 a.m. The only gift you need to bring is you. Or maybe a friend or two. See you on Sunday.

Spring Creek Fellowship

Everyone is invited to our Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m. Don't forget the Cookie Run immediately after! We take cookies to those who have to work Christmas Eve to show them we appreciate them. Please bring cookies packed by the dozen in zip top bags. We always need as many cookies as we can get! Please share with your favorite cookie recipe!

KID CONNECT/GOSPEL PROJECT FOR KIDS Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018, JESUS WAS BORN, Isaiah 9; Luke 2

Lesson point: Jesus was born to bring peace between God and people.

All men are invited to the weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturdays at 7:30 am at Evita's Restaurant in the mall. Please join us!

"Our Daily Bread" Food Pantry is taking donations to sponsor turkeys and hams to give to families in need for the holidays. Just \$5 will help! Contact Kay Elder for more information.

Volunteers are needed for "Our Daily Bread" Food Pantry to unload trucks on Wednesdays before they are open on the weekend. Hours are on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 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! If you are interested in volunteering with the "Blessing Box" ministry or the "Our Daily Bread Food Pantry" ministry, please contact Kay Elder.

Children's Church is a great place for your child to learn and play while you enjoy Worship! We are excited about this new ministry for children ages K through 4th grade! We will be building on our Kid Connect lessons. Please bring your children for the fun and learning!

There is a new sisterhood for widows in our community. This group is called "PUP" which stands for "Picking Up Pieces." All widows in Big Spring and the surrounding areas are welcome! Meetings will be held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6:00 pm and dinner will be served. We would love to see you there! For address or more info, please contact the church office.

The Taylor School of Ministry is now in session. This session will address "How to Study the Bible." If you are interested, please contact Derrick Loney or the church office.

The Pain Management Class meets Tuesdays at 6 p.m. If you have chronic pain and would like to learn how to manage it, please attend this class. It meets in Room 4 of the Adult Connections Classrooms in the Mall.

Our Van Ministry is growing and needs licensed drivers to help pick up those that need a ride to church. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, contact the church office.

Donations are needed for our Blessing Box placed outside in front of the church. This ministry is separate from "Our Daily Bread" and is supported completely by donations of nonperishable foods. Please consider donating nonperishable food items on a regular basis if you are able! Everyone is welcome to take what they need and donations are

greatly appreciated.

"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.

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 Lauren Bratcher.

We have an "App" for your convenience. It is easy to work with and has many applications. Go to your App Store, search for "The Church App" and download. Then search for "Spring Creek Fellowship Texas." That should take you to our Home Page.

Weekly Happenings:

Sunday-9:15-10:15 a.m.-Sunday School/Connection Groups

10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.- "Holy Grounds Café" is open with coffee, drinks and fellowship.

10:45 a.m.-noon-Worship Service

10:45 a.m.-noon-Children's Church

5 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Tuesday-

6 p.m.- Pain Management Class-Room 4

7 p.m.-Women's Bible Study-Beautiful Outlaw

Wednesday-

Community Groups-various times and places

Thursday

7 p.m.-Men's Bible Study-Kingdom Disciples

Saturday

7:30 a.m.-Men's Prayer Breakfast. Breakfast at Evita's Restaurant in the mall and prayer at the church.

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

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the Spring Town Plaza at 1801 E. FM 700 in Big Spring, Texas. Contact us at (432)714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org

"Every Member a Minister"-1 Peter 4:10 NKJV

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's Episcopal Church welcomes all to participate in our services. We are located North of the High School on Goliad Street (1001 S. Goliad), and would love to have you visit.

Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by brunch in the Parish Hall. On Wednesday's we have Bible study and coffee in the morning at 10:30 a.m. and evening we have Evening prayer, dinner, and book study starting at 5:30 p.m.

What a great opportunity to have meaningful fellowship and develop relationships with people who have a common interest, following the steps of Christ.

Please come and join us for a time of worship and fellowship in a place that welcomes all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Happenings for December

**Christmas Eve service will be on Monday, December 24th at 10:30 p.m. Please come and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

First Baptist Church

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace good will toward men." Luke 2:10-14.

Sunday at 10:50 am, join the family of First Baptist Church as they thank God for, and worship the Gift of God, Jesus Christ. Music Minister Alan Schantz will lead worshippers in a selection of seasonal songs of the faith, and contemporary praise and worship music.

Threatened By A Baby?

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12

What do you think about when you think about God? Is it painful? Do you think about His wrath? Do you think about the fact that God cannot be in the presence of sin? Do you think about the judgment? Do you think about hell? Do you feel condemned? Do you think about a God who is more than will-

ing to kick this sinful world to pieces?

Well, think again. Think - baby.

After 400 years of silence, the first words to come from God were - Fear Not. And these words were the introduction to a baby. Yes, a baby who was to be the only hope for vile, weak, foolish, despised, serial sinners.

Are you afraid of God? Are you afraid that He will not accept or bless you unless you are pure, faithful, wise and strong? There is a reason why Emmanuel was first manifested as a helpless, cute little baby. God

sent His only begotten Son as a baby because He came not to condemn sinners, but that sinners through Him might be saved. In this baby, all threats of condemnation disappeared.

On this day, the shepherds saw the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. How threatened did they feel? Did they feel condemned? Did they feel judged or fearful? Did they feel hopeless? Did they feel lost?

When was the last time you felt threatened in the presence of a baby?



TOM SLOAN

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

Pastor Mark Lindsey concludes the sermon series "The Colors of Christmas" with the morning message titled "A White Christmas." Drawn from Luke 1:28-29, listeners will reflect on Jesus' miraculous conception, and make note that man's unbelief doesn't stop the work of God which was to bring His salvation to all people. If you need assistance accessing the sanctuary due to mobility issues, use the west circle drive, and someone will be glad 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: fcbigspring.org. (Click on 'MORE' tab, then 'SERMONS')

At 9:30 Sunday School groups meet throughout the building with children gathering in the Good News Garage on the first floor, and teens, college students, and adults meeting in second floor classrooms. Greeters are available to help you find your class.

There will be no Sunday evening activities December 23.

Monday December 24 at 6 p.m., the community is invited to the Christmas Eve service. Plan now to attend this special time of honoring God and praising Him for giving all mankind The Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

Mother's Day Out is closed for the Christmas holidays, and will reopen after the new year.

There are no Wednesday evening activities December 26, and the church office will be closed Christmas Day. FBC is looking for a secretary/receptionist to work in the church office. If you are interested in applying, or know someone who might be interested, please call the church at 267-8223, or see Pastor Mark for more information.

To find out more about what's happening at FBC, go to the website: fcbigspring.org or call 267-8223.

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

Blessed Hands Deaf Church

Pastor Jim Walterhouse, wife Debbie, and the congregation of Blessed Hands Deaf Church invite you to worship with them Sunday at 2 p.m. as they celebrate the season of the birth of the world's Savior, Jesus Christ. Currently, Blessed Hands Deaf Church meets inside First Baptist Church at 705 W FM 700.

For detailed information about BHDC, contact Pastor Jim at: jwalterhouse@gmail.com. Merry Christmas!

Cornerstone Covenant Church

We at Cornerstone Covenant Church would love the opportunity to Connect with YOU! Please join us this week at one of the following events:

Sunday, Dec. 23rd- Join us this Sunday as we enter the season of sharing and great expectations. We offer both a 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. worship service so come on out as you can expect biblical teaching & preaching, genuine loving fellowship and live spirit filled praise & worship. We would love the opportunity this Sunday to share what God has for you, and get to know you better.

Sunday, Jan. 6th- Come on out and join us as we welcome in the 2019 New Year. We offer both a 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.. Worship Service.

#21DAYFAST2019- We are believing for great and wonderful things in the year 2019. As a Kingdom citizen we share in the duties, rights and privileges of our Christian Community. Therefore, as Kingdom citizens we have the privilege and duty of giving, praying and fasting. Join us on Tuesday, January 1st @ 7 p.m. thru Monday, January 21st @ 7 p.m., for a Church wide Fast. If you are inter-

ested contact us for more information. #21DAYFAST2019.

Van transportation- We have an active Van Ministry that picks-up on Sundays for our 11 a.m. Worship Service. If you are needing a ride please contact the church office.

Cornerstone Covenant Church (CCC) is a unified, spirit-led, purpose-driven church, which cultivates an atmosphere of faith so that lives can be transformed by Jesus Christ. Please join us every Sunday at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m. for worship services.

CCC is located at 706 East 12th Street. For office hours or other questions please contact our Administrative Office at 432.264.0015 or email us at info@cccbigspring.org. You can also find us at [facebook.com/CCCBigSpring](https://www.facebook.com/CCCBigSpring) or visit us at www.cccbigspring.org if you would like more information.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

Fourth Sunday in Advent December 23, 2018 "Celebrating and Sharing God's Love and Grace in our lives".

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood Neighborhood in Big Spring. If you would like to reach Pastor Lamb or the church office, please call (432) 264-7818, or e-mail us at aliveinchristtx@gmail.com.

Bible Study and Sunday School begin at 9:30 a.m. and our Sunday Service begins at 10:30 a.m. If you are new to the area or haven't been to church before or in a while, please accept this as an invitation to join us this Sunday.

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study will not be held this week. We are not having a meal this week. Please come and join us again in January.

We are having our Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m. and our Christmas Morning Service at 10 a.m. Please come and join us for these services.

Bill Dorey will present the scripture readings this week.

Tune in to KBYG every morning for a devotional sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for these wonderful devotions: "Morning Meditation Thoughts". Also tune in every Sunday morning at 8:30 to listen to the Lutheran Hour.

First Church of the Nazarene

This Sunday at 10 a.m. presented by Pastor Richard will continue celebrating Christmas at the Nazfamily Church.

Visit New Hope Christian School, December 21st and 22nd from 6-8 p.m. the Cedar Road Campus of Nazfamily will be presenting "Searching for Christmas" an interactive walk through journey where you can take moment and find Jesus. Then stay after for a winter wonderland experience with free cider, hot chocolate and treats.

On December 24th at 6:30 p.m. there will be a spe-

Are You in the Trap?

By DR. LILLIAN BOHANNAN

I think at Christmas time we often think about our childhood and what happened way back when. So it was that I thought about an incident in my earlier days of yore. We lived in a two bedroom house with a large yard in the back. At the back of the property was a chicken coop and hen house right at the rear gate. In the summer my brothers four would sleep out there and we called it the bunk house.

But in the winter it was too cold and we would move the bunk beds into the one other bed room in the house. My sister and I would sleep in the dining room on a roll away bed. Because it was an older house, the mice found ways of coming in and bugging the hound out of my sister. She hated mice and would jump up on the furniture and scream when she saw one.

I loved practical jokes and many times I got into trouble with my mom when I would play one.

My sister had gotten up around ten to make a trip to the bathroom. When she came back, I was kneeling down beside the kitchen doorway in the dark, and ran my fingers across her bare feet. She screamed her very loudest as she just knew a mouse had run right over her toes. I jumped up and was back in bed before the light came on. Mother, Dad, and four brothers came in to see what in the world was happening. I started

crying because I realized I had scared my sister so badly.

I don't think I got in trouble for that one. I did confess it was me, but only my sister was mad at me for a whole week.

I often wonder what happened to the mice. She probably scared them all right out of the house. But the nature of mice is never to be still, even at Christmas. They are always stirring. Nasty little creatures.

It reminds me of what sin does in our lives. It lurks around corners and hides in holes until all is quiet. Then it comes out to pounce on the unsuspecting cheese in the trap. If we are vigilant we will catch the sin before it becomes a part of our lives.

If we know Jesus as Saviour, He helps us overcome the temptation and gives us a way out. We celebrate His first coming at Christmas, by giving gifts to our family and friends. We get caught in the trap

of overspending. Then our financial status is devoured so we have a hard time for the rest of the year trying to make ends meet. Don't so be caught up in the status of gifts as to forget Who is the perfect Gift. His perfect gift to us is eternal life with Him and more abundant life between now and then.

Family time is important. Giving is important. But more important than all of that is to avoid the pitfalls that will lead to our destruction. Watch out for the mouse. And don't be one to get caught in the trap.



LILLIAN BOHANNAN

cial Christmas Eve Service of the Nativity. Invite friends and family to join the celebration of the gift of Jesus.

If you need prayer or just want to spend time with God, the sanctuary will be open at 7 a.m. on Tuesday mornings and during the noon hour on Thursdays. You can also leave any prayer requests at the alters and someone will pray over those. Remember 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings, both Men's and Women's class meet before service. The Women's class is continuing on the importance of reading the bible.

Nazfamily offers two different types of services. Visit either the 118 Cedar Road Campus inside the New Hope Christian School cafeteria for a more contemporary setting or the 1400 Lancaster campus which is more traditional for Sunday Service.

Small groups for both men and women meet Sunday morning at the Lancaster campus at 9 a.m. while kids enjoy fellowship and breakfast before service.

On Wednesday at 6 p.m., the Cedar Road Campus has a meal, bible study and children's and youth activities. At 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, the Lancaster campus has prayer and children's and youth activities. Other small groups meet throughout the week, if you are interested pick up our small group bulletin. A ministry of the NazFamily Church is the Nazarene Christian Academy for K-6 grades at 118 Cedar Road. The Academy is fully accredited. Contact Alyssa Clark by calling the main church number.

For more information contact the church office at (432) 267-7015. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter under Nazfamily, visit our website at www.nazfamily.org or download our app.

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Cowboys try to wrap up NFC East, this time vs Bucs

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ezekiel Elliott and the Dallas Cowboys failed in their first attempt to wrap up the NFC East by losing to Indianapolis when the Colts badly needed a win for their playoff chase.

Now the NFL's rushing leader and his teammates will try again Sunday, this time facing an opponent with nothing on the line a week after Tampa Bay was eliminated from postseason contention with a loss in Baltimore.

"I think everyone in this locker room understands how important this game is," Elliott said with Dallas coming off the franchise's first shutout loss in 15 years. "I think it would be kind of beating a dead cow to come in here and harping on what happened last week."

Jameis Winston and the Bucs (5-9) are putting the wraps on a strange year that began with the quarterback's personal-conduct suspension, followed by his inability to keep the job once Ryan Fitzpatrick cooled off.

Fitzpatrick's struggles gave him another shot, and Winston is set for his fifth straight start, the longest stretch for either QB this year.

"Even though we're out of contention, it still feels good to win," said receiver Mike Evans, a bright spot for an offense that had little trouble churning out yards but often didn't turn them into points. "Christmas is coming up. It'll be good to have Christmas sitting on a 'W.'"

The Cowboys (8-6) just want to end their division race.

Dallas ran off five straight wins to earn the enviable position of needing one victory in the final three games to reach the postseason for the second time in three seasons with Elliott and quarterback Dak Prescott, the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year on a playoff team two years ago.

Moving the ball wasn't a problem for the Cowboys in the first half of



Dallas Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliott (21) is tackled by Indianapolis Colts' Clayton Geathers (26) during the second half of an NFL football game, in Indianapolis. Elliott and the Dallas Cowboys will take their second shot at trying to wrap up the NFC East title Sunday, Dec. 23, against Tampa Bay. The Cowboys were shut out in their first attempt by the Indianapolis Colts, who badly needed a win to keep their playoff hopes alive.

the 23-0 loss to Indianapolis, but they struggle several chances. A defense that has carried Dallas most of the season had the bigger let-down in the second half.

The Cowboys can win the division with another loss if Washington and Philadelphia lose. They don't want to go there.

"Guys were excited to get back there and get rid of that last game and kind of build from scratch and kind of build our swag back," said cornerback Byron Jones, who was voted to his first Pro Bowl this week. "I know we're going to come out feisty and fierce."

Things to consider as the Cowboys try to build on a 9-1 home record in the series with the Bucs, 11-1 if you include two playoff wins in the 1980s:

RACE IS ON

Elliott and Todd Gurley of the Los Angeles Rams have been locked in a duel for the rushing lead for several weeks. Elliott, the 2016 rushing champion as a rookie, extended his lead despite the Cowboys' paltry showing at the Colts. He's 98 yards ahead with two games left, and also leads in yards from scrimmage.

DECEPTIVE NUMBERS

The Buccaneers have thrown for 4,464 yards, fourth-most passing yards through the first 14 games in NFL history behind the 2013 Broncos (4,713), 2000 Rams (4,706) and 2011 Saints (4,639). They've dropped from first to third in total offense (416.6 per game) over the past two weeks after leading the league for much of the

year.

Although they still have the No. 1 passing attack (318.9), that hasn't translated into scoring enough points to win consistently. The Bucs are 12th in points scored (24.6) and 30th in points allowed (28.8).

EASY ON LEE

It would be putting it mildly to say the Cowboys eased Sean Lee back in after the linebacker missed five games with his second hamstring injury of the season. He played seven snaps against the Colts. The emergence of rookie Leighton Vander Esch and Jaylon Smith is the primary reason, although the defense played poorly enough last week that perhaps more playing time for Lee is warranted.

EVANS' BANNER YEAR

Evans has 74 receptions and is closing in on Tampa Bay's franchise record for receiving yards in a season. One of just three receivers in league history to begin a career with five consecutive 1,000-yard seasons, Evans has 1,328 yards through 14 games. He needs 95 to break Mark Carrier's club record of 1,422 from 1989.

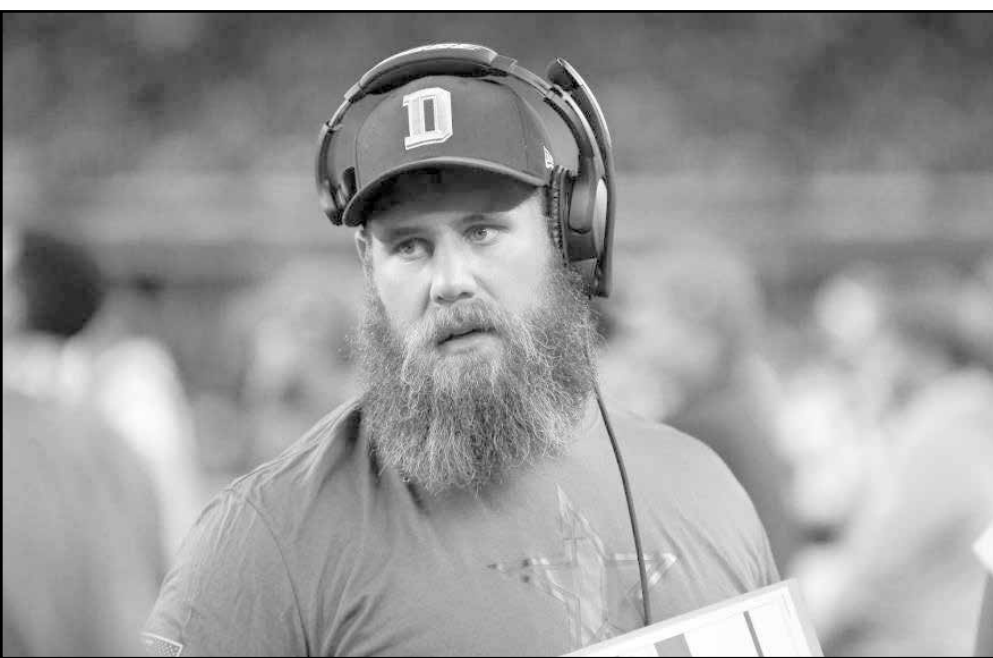
"Hopefully I can get it," said Evans, who has seven 100-yard games this season. "This week hopefully. If not, then next week."

LOOKING TO RETURN

Dallas right guard Zack Martin, who has now made the Pro Bowl in all five of his seasons, practiced Thursday for the first time since aggravating his left knee injury two weeks ago in a win over Philadelphia that pushed the Cowboys to the brink of the division title. He sat for the first time in his career against the Colts.

If Martin returns, the Cowboys will have to decide between Xavier Su'a-Filo and rookie Connor Williams at left guard. Su'a-Filo went to the hospital in Indianapolis after getting poked in the eye by teammate La'el Collins. The eye is improving, and he was a full practice participant Thursday.

Frederick still helps Cowboys in year lost to nerve disorder



AP photo

Dallas Cowboys center Travis Frederick walks the sidelines during the second half of an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans in Arlington, Texas. Frederick has known for awhile that a nerve disorder would end up sidelining him all season. He's tried to help in other ways for an offensive line that's battled other injuries as well.

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas — Travis Frederick at first stayed engaged with his teammates because the Dallas Cowboys center wasn't sure how long he would be out with a neurological disorder diagnosed during training camp.

By the time new offensive line coach Marc Colombo offered him a headset after Colombo was promoted as part of a midseason change, Frederick figured, "What the heck." And by then, it had become increasingly clear the four-time Pro Bowler was unlikely to play this year.

Now Frederick has a completely different view of the sideline with the Cowboys on the verge of making the playoffs without the 2016 All-Pro, and an offseason plan to return to the field now that he's mostly over the effects of Guillain-Barre syndrome.

"I feel like I have been at least able to lend some of my knowledge and experience for some of the guys that haven't played nearly as much," Frederick said. "It's been good having another set of eyes. I didn't realize how difficult it is to watch five guys play at the same time and be able to help."

Frederick will have the headset again Sunday when the Cowboys (8-

6) try to wrap up the NFC East title, which can be done by beating Tampa Bay (5-9) at home.

The 27-year-old's immediate football future has been uncertain the past four months, since he finally got an answer to why he was experiencing what felt like football "stinger" injuries in his upper body during camp in California.

Guillain-Barre is an auto-immune disease that attacks nerves and leads to weakness in various parts of the body. Frederick said his case was detected early, which helped avoid some of the severe symptoms that can include paralysis and difficulty breathing.

Even with the expected full recovery, Frederick knew getting back in football shape would take weeks, at a minimum. All along, he wanted to do what he could in meetings and sideline chats.

Frederick has always been in charge of the line calls, pretty much from the moment he stepped in as a rookie starter in 2013 and went on to play the first 83 games of his career, playoffs included. Still, the view with the headset has surprised him.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 13

Hopkins' great hands have Texans on verge of AFC South title



AP photo

Houston Texans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) celebrates his touchdown catch with wide receiver Demaryius Thomas (87) during the first half of an NFL football game, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Chicago Bears (10-4) already won the NFC North to complete a worst-to-first turnaround and the Houston Texans (10-4) are on the verge of securing the AFC South to become the second team to do it this season.

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — DeAndre Hopkins believes if a ball comes near him he should catch it.

"That's been my mindset since I've been playing football," he said. "Defense, offense, basketball as well, the ball's in the air, it's mine."

That belief has led to some amazing catches, and lately he seems to make at least one a game. All of which has helped the Texans turn around their season and leave them one win from clinching the AFC South.

His latest great grab came on in the fourth quarter on Saturday on a 14-yard reception that was the go-ahead score in Houston's 29-22 win over the Jets. New York cornerback Morris Claiborne stayed with Hopkins throughout that route and even got an arm between his on the play. But Hopkins was still able to come down with the ball.

"I felt like as good as I played it from the line of scrimmage it was perfect," Claiborne said. "When you get perfect coverage like that from the line of scrimmage all the way to the end zone and guys come up with those

type of balls, you take your hat off to them."

After the play Hopkins said Claiborne looked at him and said: "Man I don't know how you caught it."

It's a sentiment Hopkins hears often and said top defensive backs such as Patrick Peterson and Jalen Ramsey have said similar things after some of his catches.

Hopkins is a favorite target of second-year quarterback Deshaun Watson and he raved about his ability to catch most anything thrown his way.

"I try to be as perfect as I can, but for him, he just says: 'just get it in his area, he's going to come down with it,'" Watson said. "That's what I try to do, just throw it in his catch-radius, and majority of the time he's going to take it down. It helps me out big time."

Hopkins has reached 1,300 yards receiving for the second straight year and the third time in his career, and his 1,321 yards rank third in the NFL. He has 11 touchdown receptions, which are tied for the second most in his career behind the 13 he grabbed last season.

See **TEXANS**, Page 14

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PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Big Spring Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals

The City of Big Spring Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. 4th Street Big Spring, Texas to consider the following:

April Martinez, Lt 24 Bk 26, College Park, Located at 3226 Drexel, is requesting a variance for the following under the title of (SF-2) Single Family Dwelling; A variance out of Article 4, Section 4-1, Appendix (C) and Article 4 Section 4-6 Appendix (A) and (E) of the City of Big Spring Zoning Ordinance to encroach a total of four (4') feet into the maximum twenty five foot (25') front yard setback as regulated by the City of Big Spring Zoning Ordinance for a front yard carport.

Donnie Jones, Lt 3 Bk 5, Highland Park, Located at 1104 Wood St., is requesting a variance for the following under the title of (NS) Neighborhood Service; A variance out of Article 4, Section 4-1, Appendix (C) and Article 4 Section 4-6 Appendix (A) and (E) of the City of Big Spring Zoning Ordinance to encroach a total of Five (5') feet into the side yard setback to extend the main structure, as regulated by the City of Big Spring Zoning Ordinance for a front yard carport.

Douglas Lykken, Lt 23 Bk 12, North Parkhill Addition,

Public Notice

Located at 126 Pennsylvania, is requesting a variance for the following under the title of (SF-2) Single Family Dwelling; A variance out of Article 4, Section 4-1, Appendix (C) and Article 4 Section 4-6 Appendix (A) and (E) of the City of Big Spring Zoning Ordinance to encroach a total of Five (5') feet into the maximum twenty five foot (25') front yard setback as regulated by the City of Big Spring Zoning Ordinance for a front yard carport.

Cliff Talbot, Lt 9 & the S11' of Lt 10 Bk 20, McDowell Heights Addition, Located at 1606 S Gregg St., is requesting a variance for the following under the title of (R) Retail; A variance out of Article 9, Section 9-5, Appendix (C) of the City of Big Spring Zoning Ordinance to encroach a total of Eight (8') feet into the maximum fifteen foot (15') front setback as regulated by the City of Big Spring Zoning Ordinance for a 4 X 8 Pylon sign.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Happy Solstice!

Humans have celebrated the sun's movement into Capricorn for thousands of years. Perhaps you're not watching sunbeams line up within the stone windows of an ancient monument, but you may still be able to feel something lining up in your life and heart. There's a sense of congruence and continuity. Things can only get better.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When it's your turn to take a bow, you'll be brief and then hand over the moment to the many others who helped. You'll do this because it feels comfortable. You can't help that it also makes you socially unstoppable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are certain people you feel so connected to that it's as

though, unbeknownst to you, your souls signed a contract to be intertwined. Autonomy is still important though, perhaps even more so with this type of closeness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're incomparable really, but if you must compare yourself, and it's hard not to on a day like today, then at least make a favorable comparison and move quickly on from that. It's no place to dwell.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Head in the clouds? That's OK. You're at your best when you're combining your reality with your dream of it. And you will dream more beautifully with pretty things around you to inspire you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You made contributions that were either overlooked or taken for granted. Reintroduce

them. The times have changed. Now they need what you're contributing and they'll be much more appreciative.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Fun day -- a playful mood takes hold. Relationships are better with humor. Your affectionate joking around will land perfectly as long as you keep it light and posi-

tive.

LI-BRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You always feel better about yourself after you do a round of excellent hard work. So why would you rob others of that self-esteem boost? They want to work for you. Let them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If the path seems to offer no challenge, then it's a lie. You'll look for the hard parts, the possible pitfalls and motives. This you'll do not out of cynicism, but rather in an effort for optimum

preparation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Expectation hinges on imagination. The bigger the imagination, the higher the expectation. So if your fantasy has proven outsized for reality, maybe it's because you've augmented powers of vision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll create an atmosphere to people to enjoy. It reflects you -- your style, appetites and intentions. Music will be an important part of this, an element that's a shortcut to putting people at ease.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a puzzle of a day, but you can handle it. There's a way to make this whole thing work out with many smiles. The most important thing is to stay cool and keep your inside voice on the inside.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It takes a minute to get to know a situation well enough to figure out how you're going compartmentalize all that goes along with it. Take it all in. Later you can decide what to pay attention to and what to tune out.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 21). The truer you are to yourself, the more everyone else benefits. You express yourself, solve problems, join groups and things get better for all. Other highlights include: an intriguing phone call from out of the blue, an intense and immediate connection with a new friend and a health-favoring lifestyle shift. Aquarius and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 38, 20, 22 and 47.

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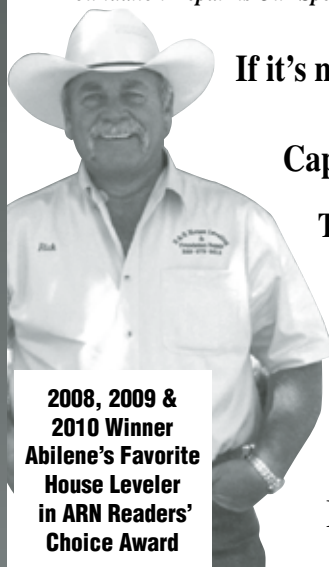
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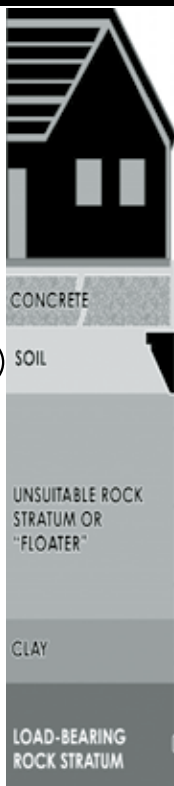
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	?		

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ Q852 ♥ AJ842 ♦ 73 ♣ K6
- ♠ — ♥ J853 ♦ Q762 ♣ J9642
- ♠ QJ ♥ KJ52 ♦ K964 ♣ QJ3
- ♠ KQ84 ♥ 72 ♦ AJ7652 ♣ 6

1. Three spades. Responses by a player who has passed originally have a different meaning than those made by a player who has not previously passed. For those who usually play that a jump to three spades would be forcing to game, the three-spade bid here by a passed hand is obviously only invitational, and partner is permitted to pass. Similarly, a two-heart response would not be forcing. In both cases, partner would be required to bid again had you not passed initially.

The reason such bids are nonforcing is logical enough. If your partner opens the bidding third- or fourth-hand after you've passed, he is in a good position to know whether or not a game is possible. If his judgment indicates that a game cannot be made, he is under no obligation to bid again.

2. Pass. There's no point in looking for trouble. The chance of making game is remote, and the chance

of improving matters by looking for a better trump suit is more imaginary than real. Your best bet is to leave well enough alone.

3. Three notrump. You'll never be able to convince partner that you passed this 13-point hand if you respond with two notrump, which shows 11 or 12 points and is not forcing.

Perhaps you shouldn't have passed originally, but it was at best a marginal opening bid. Now there's only one way to compensate for the earlier pass, and that's to bid game.

4. Four spades. You might have opened the bidding with this hand also, but that's a debatable proposition. Having decided to pass, you must make up for it now by bidding game.

However, you wouldn't bid this way if partner had opened with, say, one club. In that case, you would have responded with one diamond and awaited developments. The difference here is that partner's opening spade bid changes the value of your hand enormously — so much so that you can treat it as the equivalent of an opening bid or better.

Alternately, those who play "splinter bids" could bid four clubs opposite the one-spade opening, indicating a singleton or void in clubs and sufficient values and trump support to make four spades a viable contract.

Tomorrow: Accidentally on purpose.
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Annie's Mailbox

Unwanted Conversation Topic

Dear Annie: A couple with whom I have a very close relationship have recently become friends with their new neighbors. These neighbors are retired from successful careers, have been U.S. residents for at least 50 years and are financially comfortable. I am grateful to be included in invitations with my close friends and the neighbors, and I have often invited the neighbors to join my close friends and me at my house. The problem is that the neighbors always want to turn the conversation around to what a horrible early life they had when they were children in Germany during World War II. It seems they have no end to their horrific stories of such things as frozen babies lying dead on the road. I find this subject of conversation extremely upsetting and feel it is inappropriate in a social gathering. Annie, I know that the neighbors experienced some very difficult times, and I don't want to be unsympathetic or unkind. However, I do not discuss my traumatic life issues over cocktails. The most recent time the neighbors started going on and on about their tragic childhood, I asked to be excused before dinner because I was "not feeling well." And truth be told, after hearing about

such graphic things, I was really not feeling well. In the future, would it be appropriate for me to interrupt these lengthy tales of woe by saying, "I am so sorry that you had to endure all that, but could we talk about something more pleasant?" No one else ever feels free to change the subject. I am not close with this couple, so I am not in a position to speak with them privately about this. -- Dinner Table Talk

Dear Dinner Table Talk: If dinner parties were kept to pleasant and safe conversations, they could get pretty boring very fast. Sometimes, hearing about people's hardships can bring you closer. Maybe you yourself could feel more open or vulnerable enough to share some of your hardships with them and your friends. Being human is about being kind and trying to give people the benefit of the doubt. Strive to be more sympathetic. But when the conversation becomes far too dark for too long, you can just try to subtly change the subject. No need to call attention to the previous topic's unpleasantness. If they never get the hint and the conversation is constant despair, then speak with your friends. Tell them how much you care about them, but let them know that their neighbors are just not your cup of tea. Not every

person in the world is meant to be our friend. There is nothing wrong with not caring much for your friends' friends.

Dear Annie: Would you please print the following for your readers who are clearing out closets and cupboards to donate for the holidays?

1) Please wash all clothing. It is awful to reach in the pocket of a donated item and take out someone else's dirty tissue.

2) If the clothing is stained and you cannot get the stain out, please discard it in the rag bag at home. The poor do not need stains or broken zippers any more than you do.

3) If donating kitchen items, vases, planters or artificial plants, please make sure the items have been cleaned first.

4) Check games and puzzles. Indicate by a note all pieces included. -- Diane

Dear Diane: Thank you for the helpful tips we should all keep in mind during this giving season.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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

ANSWER:

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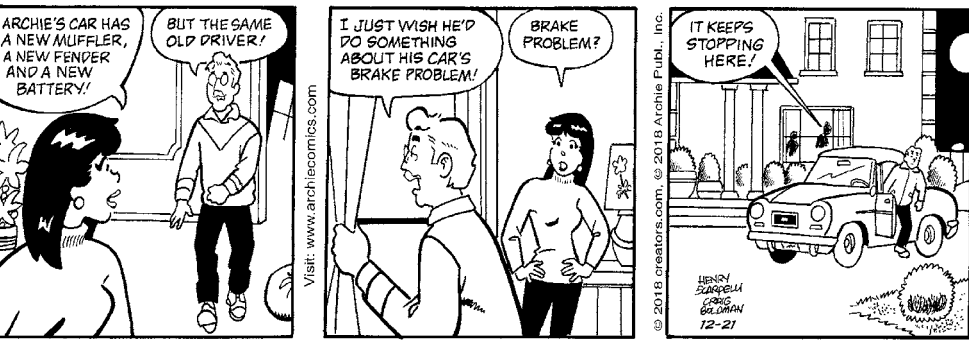
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AGNES



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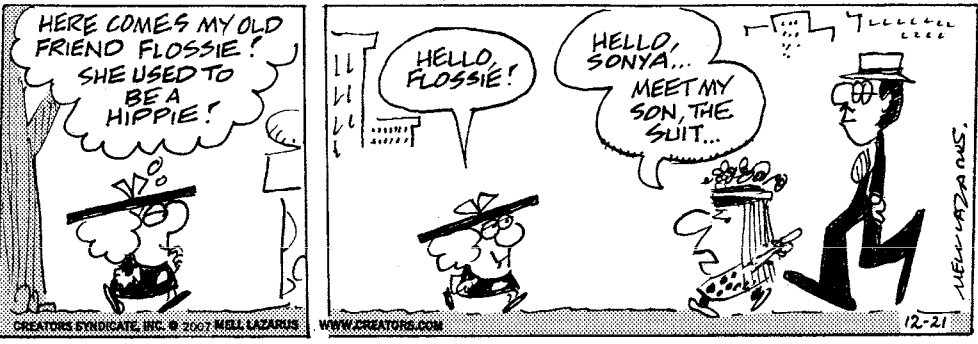
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2018. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives at 5:23 p.m. Eastern time.

States and the death of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In 2002, President George W. Bush received a smallpox vaccination...

Albert Lee is 75. Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas is 74. Actor Josh Mostel is 72. Actor Samuel L. Jackson is 70.

62. Former child actress Lisa Gerritsen is 61. Actor-comedian Ray Romano is 61. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is 56.

Karri Turner is 52. Actress Khristyne Haje is 50. Country singer Brad Warren (The Warren Brothers) is 50.

Thought for Today: "Winter comes but once a year, And when it comes it brings the doctor good cheer."

Newsday Crossword

TOY FADS by Greg Johnson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Artist with a museum in Spain 5 Spinach pie ingredient 9 Suspends 14 Part of QED 15 Sunni leader 16 Close to 17 People on patrol 18 3-D puzzle (1980) 20 City on the Missouri 22 Handling the task 23 Ground cover of a sort 24 Foldable two-wheeler (2000) 28 Salad variety 29 Air freshener brand 33 Google milestone of 2004 36 Vitality, so to speak 38 Large trailer puller 39 Round-faced doll (1983) 44 Mask-wearing sport 45 Voice from some phones 46 37 Down reading 47 Rejuvenation destinations 51 Family guys 53 Red doll (1996) 58 Doc bloc 61 Uncommon eye color 62 Kick back 63 Handheld digital pet (1997) 67 Garment that sounds rueful 68 White daisy

- 69 Kid-lit author Carle 70 Surrounded by 71 Motley 72 Great vitality 73 Dwindle DOWN 1 Interior styling 2 Something in the air 3 Andean valley capital 4 Server's warning 5 Cedar cousin 6 Bird that gallops 7 Highly frowned upon 8 Scale related to C 9 Accelerate 10 It shows Shark Tank 11 Garish 12 Oil paint holder

- 13 Slow-cooker meal 19 Frequent flier 21 Dutch island 25 Get caught, as fabric 26 Candy configuration 27 Directive to a messenger 30 Wizard of Oz farmhand 31 "They accepted me!" 32 Assist in difficulty, with "over" 33 Frosty 34 Family guy 35 Go along with 37 Car rental extra 40 Outdo 41 Advisor, for instance 42 People mover

- 43 Hayride refreshment 48 Overate, with "out" 49 It means "height" 50 Moved on blades 52 Two-person plaything 54 Elastic fabric 55 3 Down gift shop souvenir 56 County north of San Francisco 57 Zinc ointment 58 Tiny bit 59 Long dress 60 Discover alternative 64 Pinafore assent 65 "... grace on thee" 66 I, to Einstein

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 1-73.

Answer to previous puzzle: SANG UPENN SODA OMOO PAREE UKES FIRSTCLASS RICK ADIEU STEREO ELSA EGO ALI SECONDGUESS NOM ACCRA SNAIL GAPS RID DRNO STEEP UNIFY TAIT THIRDEGREE HIS EAR SECT GAINSAY COMBO AUDI FOURTHDOWN TROT TYPEO OLAY EASY SOAPY STYX

Williamson helps No. 2 Duke top unbeaten Texas Tech



AP photo

Duke guard Tre Jones, front right, and Texas Tech guard Matt Mooney, left, scramble for a loose ball during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018, in New York.

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Zion Williamson was the must-see player to watch on an NBA stage. The Duke star was heckled when he missed a dunk in warmups and had Blue Devils die-hards — and casual hoops fans and NBA stars — roaring each time he touched the ball.

He felt at home as a guest inside the New York Knicks locker room.

Williamson might look pretty good next season in a blue-and-orange uniform, too.

Williamson had 17 points, 13 rebounds and wowed a crowd of nearly 20,000 before he fouled out, and the second-ranked Blue Devils ended No. 12 Texas Tech's unbeaten start with a 69-58 victory Thursday night at Madison Square Garden.

"It is the Garden," Williamson said. "It's where big-time players are made."

The biggest was the 6-foot-7, 285-pound Williamson that has been pegged as a can't-miss prospect in the NBA. Philadelphia 76ers star Jimmy Butler sat courtside and cheered for Williamson and Knicks President Steve Mills was in the house. With the nine-win Knicks slogging through another miserable season, the idea of what Williamson could do in New York surely tantalized Mills' mind.

"Zion was everywhere on the court making plays," Duke's Jack White said.

White provided late help once Williamson was whistled for his fifth foul on a drive to the basket. White hit a 3 in a back-and-forth game for a 56-55 lead that secured the Blue Devils' 35th career win at MSG.

RJ Barrett scored 16 points for the Blue Devils (11-1) and Tre Jones had 13 points in the first meeting between the programs. Both reached the Elite Eight last season and the atmosphere had a late-March feel.

"This is a great night for college basketball," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

Jarrett Culver scored 25 points for the Red Raiders (10-1) in their first loss since the NCAA Tournament.

With the Garden rocking from the tip, Culver hit a 3 for a 45-40 lead and Williamson came back down and missed Duke's 13th straight 3-pointer. White finally connected on Duke's 15th attempt that tied the game at 45-all and brought "Let's go Duke!" chants to

a crescendo. The cheers were quickly muted by Williamson's fourth foul (at 10:32) that forced Krzyzewski to sit the likely one-and-done freshman.

Culver pounced and a dunk made it 53-49 and gave him 22 points, bettering his 19.1 season average.

Williamson checked in with 6:31 left and the game tied at 53 and White hit a go-ahead 3 a possession later. He couldn't stay out of foul trouble and picked up his fifth on a drive to the basket with 3:51 left and Duke up 60-55.

But the Blue Devils hung on without their star the stars came to watch.

"It's crazy. I can't describe it," Williamson said. "The fans from both teams were great. It was just a great basketball game."

The Garden was lit once doors opened and ushers had to shoo away fans who lined the court during warmups to snap a picture of Williamson. Williamson missed a dunk in the layup line that earned him some heckles from the Red Raiders fans behind the basket.

Texas Tech fans were drowned out by a roaring crowd at packed MSG for Williamson's lineup introduction. He scored the first basket of the game and capped an 8-0 run with a rim-rattling dunk off an alley-oop that made the Garden sound more like Cameron.

Led by Culver, Texas Tech quickly steadied itself and "Raider! Power!" chants soon enveloped the arena.

"I thought we were composed all night. We call it stone faced," coach Chris Beard said.

Culver buried a 3 for a 24-17 lead and Texas Tech fans were delirious; one big, sweaty Texas Tech fan bear-hugged another during a timeout and exclaimed "Damn, this is fun!"

"We see what we can be but we're not there yet," Culver said.

BIG PICTURE

Texas Tech: The Red Raiders could have at least built a double-digit cushion in the first half had it not been for 15 turnovers.

Duke: Duke had averaged 75.7 possessions per game this season, ranking the Blue Devils 28th nationally. Duke missed 17 of 20 3s and made only 23 of 60 shots from the floor. "We've been scoring at a high rate but we haven't played against a defense like theirs," Krzyzewski said.

DOWN UNDER

White's mother and sister traveled from Australia to watch him play.

Brooks, No. 21 Houston rally for 60-50 win over Utah State



AP photo

Utah State forward Quinn Taylor (10) blocks the shot attempt by Houston guard Dejon Jarreau (13) as Utah State guard John Knight III, right, looks on during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018, in Houston.

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Armoni Brooks pulled Houston out of another big hole.

Brooks scored all of his 15 points in the second half and No. 21 Houston overcame a sluggish first half to rally past Utah State 60-50 on Thursday night.

The Cougars fell behind by double digits for the second time in three games before rallying to remain unbeaten.

Brooks shot 5 for 10 in the second half and led the way as the Cougars (11-0) came back from a 10-point half-time deficit for their 24th consecutive home win. DeJon Jarreau had 10 points off the bench for Houston, which shot 32 percent from the field, including 39 percent in the second half.

"We came out really lackadaisical in the first half," Brooks said. "Galen (Robinson Jr.) and Corey (Davis Jr.) are our emotional leaders, so at halftime, they told us to keep fighting and don't get our heads down. We went out in the second half and started getting stops. Once we get stops, that's when all of our confidence rises."

Dwayne Brown Jr. had 19 points and seven rebounds off the bench, and Quinn Taylor added 14 points and nine rebounds for Utah State (9-3), which shot 37 percent from the field but was 5 for 19 in the second half. Utah State lost its 15th straight against an AP Top 25 opponent.

"That would have been a great win," Utah State coach Craig Smith said. "We went toe-to-toe with one of the best teams in the country, and gave ourselves every opportunity to win, but in order to win, you have to eliminate losing."

Houston opened the second half by outscoring the Aggies 29-10 over the first 12 ½ minutes to open up a 50-41 lead on Brooks' 3-pointer. Brooks had all of his points in the run.

"The start of the second half, we gave up two offensive rebounds in the first three or four possessions, and they get five points out of that,"

Smith said. "Then, they ramped up their defense. I thought they pressured us a lot more, and we got stagnant and tentative."

Houston coach Kelvin Sampson pointed to Houston's defense and rebounding for the rally. The Cougars outbounded Utah State 40-35, including 14-6 on the offensive glass.

"They out-competed us (in the first half)," Sampson said. "Big difference in playing hard versus competing. I thought our kids out-competed them in the second half."

The Aggies cut it to 52-47 on a free throw by John Knight III with 4:49 remaining, but got no closer as Houston finished the game with an 8-3 spurt.

Utah State used an 11-0 run in the first half to take a 29-16 on Taylor's dunk with 4 minutes remaining. Utah State led 31-21 at the half as the Cougars shot a dismal 7 of 30 from the field.

"We're down that much because we're missing shots," Sampson said. "Could we have been any more wide open? We hang our hats on defense and rebounding. As long as we are doing that, I'm OK."

BIG PICTURE

Utah State: The Aggies missed an opportunity for a nice resume-building win, and fell to 16-100 all-time against AP Top 25 opponents. Utah State finished with 17 turnovers, which Houston turned into 17 points. The Aggies shot 10 of 14 from the free throw line but 4 of 20 from the 3-point line, including 1 of 10 in the second half.

Houston: The Cougars used a strong defensive effort in the second half to mount the comeback, holding the Aggies to 3-for-14 shooting during their large run and forcing six turnovers over that span. Houston shot 13 of 15 from the free throw line to help overcome sluggish shooting from the field.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE

This was the third meeting between Houston and Utah State and first since Jan. 31, 1970. Houston now holds a 2-1 advantage in the series.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 7

"It was definitely an eye-opening experience trying to understand how much was happening during a game and how difficult it is for, like the coordinator to be able to call those plays that quickly," Frederick said. "You don't think about it when you're watching the game. It just flows."

The "quasi-coaching role," as Frederick put it, hasn't changed his long-range outlook much, with five years remaining on the contract he signed in 2016. But he did get something out of a season that easily could have been classified as a lost cause.

"He's been with us every step of the way, doing everything he can to get himself back," coach Jason Garrett said. "He's also really engaged with our guys. You talk about the job Marc Colombo has done with some of the guys who are playing, Travis has been a big part of that."

Injuries are hampering the Dallas line again late in the season, with 2014 All-Pro right guard Zack Martin missing the first game of his five-year career against Indianapolis after aggravating a pre-season knee injury two weeks ago in a win over Philadelphia.

Rookie Connor Williams began the season as the starting left guard before a knee injury opened a spot that Xavier Su'a-Filo kept with a solid performance as his replacement.

Williams re-entered the lineup in Martin's spot, and Su'a-Filo missed part of last week's 23-0 loss to the Colts after getting poked in the eye by team-

mate La'el Collins. Su'a-Filo was a full practice participant Thursday.

During the first half of the season — before other ailments starting hitting the line — the Dallas offense was inconsistent at best. The addition of receiver Amari Cooper in a trade helped boost production during a five-game winning streak.

All along, running back Ezekiel Elliott stayed in contention for his second NFL rushing title in three seasons. He has a 98-yard lead over Todd Gurley of the Los Angeles Rams with two games remaining.

Joe Looney has started all 14 games in Frederick's place — one more start than the career backup had in his first six seasons combined. Looney said Frederick has been there with pointers on techniques and pass-blocking philosophies, among other things.

"It's been good knowing that our goal always is to improve through the year," Frederick said. "To see that this group is improving and has improved fairly steadily throughout the year, it's sort of a proud moment, knowing that I couldn't be out there but

these guys are doing that and I'm doing what I can." Regardless, Frederick will happily trade the headset for a helmet in eight months.

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Rockets lose Paul, Heat escape with 101-99 victory

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI — The plan for the Miami Heat on the game's final play was simple: Do not let James Harden win the game for Houston.

Dwyane Wade and the Heat pulled it off.

Wade ran at Harden and got him to give the ball up as the clock ran down, Eric Gordon missed a 3-pointer — one that Wade said he tipped ever so slightly — as time expired, and the Heat held off the Rockets 101-99 on Thursday night for their first three-game winning streak of the season.

"If somebody else hit it, we would deal with it," Wade said. "But it wasn't going to be James Harden."

Harden scored 35 for the Rockets, whose five-game winning streak was snapped. The worst part of the night for Houston, however, will likely be the loss of point guard Chris Paul in the second quarter to a strained left hamstring.

All the Rockets know, for now, is that Paul will miss time. He will undergo an MRI on Friday to determine the severity and likely timetable for returning.

"We lose a guy of the magnitude of Chris, now we're fighting again," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "And the flaws that we have are going to come out again and we've got to overcome those."

Josh Richardson scored 22 points and Tyler Johnson added 19 for the Heat, who were up by 16 early, then wasted an 11-point lead in the fourth before rallying.

Gordon's 3-pointer with 37 seconds left got Houston within two, and the Rockets got a stop on a long ensuing Heat possession. Wade missed, Hassan Whiteside got the offensive rebound and Wade



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) dunks over Houston Rockets center Clint Capela (15) and forward PJ Tucker, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018, in Miami.

AP photo

wound up missing again, with the Rockets finally corraling the ball with 3.8 seconds left.

The last play eventually went to Gordon, and his 3 — Houston's 54th attempt of the night from beyond the arc — was off, and Miami escaped. The Heat are 4-4 this season when shooting under 40 percent; the rest of the NBA, combined, is 9-103 in such games.

"Our identity is trying to make it ugly," Tyler Johnson said. "A lot of teams aren't used to that."

Derrick Jones Jr. scored 15 for Miami, which got 11 from James Johnson and 10 from Wade. Gordon scored 20 for the Rockets, who got 14 from PJ Tucker and 10 from Danuel House Jr.

The Rockets set an NBA record with 26 makes from 3-point range in Washington on Wednesday, and connected on another 18 in this one. The 44 made 3s in a two-game span are second-most in NBA history over such a stretch — Houston made 46 in

a two-game stretch of the 2016-17 season — and are the most ever posted in consecutive days.

But in this one, the Rockets needed one more.

"In those situations you've always got to be ready and I've hit those shots many of times," Gordon said. "It just didn't go in for me."

Houston led by 16 early, then used a 13-1 run to erase an 11-point deficit in the fourth.

Tyler Johnson got a layup to snap Miami's six-minute field-goal drought, then blocked a layup try by Harden and followed that with a 3 for a four-point edge. And with 1:20 left, Wade used the same move he's used for 16 seasons — the shot fake on the wing — to induce Gordon into a foul that he turned into two free throws for a 101-96 lead.

TIP-INS

Rockets: Houston led 45-38 when Paul went to the locker room. ... Houston is 1-7 this season

when Paul and Harden aren't together, and going back to last season the Rockets have lost nine in a row when Paul isn't on the floor. ... Harden had 12 assists, and was 15 for 18 from the foul line.

Heat: Justise Winslow (sore right ankle) didn't play. ... The Heat held Houston to 35 percent shooting and outrebounded the Rockets 62-41.

STREAK ENDS

Whiteside didn't record a blocked shot, ending a 26-game streak going back to last season.

KNIGHT HOMECOMING

Houston's Brandon Knight was born in Miami and played his high school ball in nearby Fort Lauderdale. Thursday marked his first appearance in an NBA game at Miami since March 2, 2015. Knight didn't play last season after tearing his ACL in a summer pro league game at Miami in July 2017.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 7

Though he's happy about his success, he's far more excited about how the team is doing, with the Texans winning 10 of their past 11 games after a 0-3 start.

"If I had 50 catches and 500 yards I would feel like this is my best season because my team is in this position to do more than we've ever done before," he said. "So for me team success first."

And despite his success, Hopkins never stops striving to improve. He admits to watching footage of his work, but said that he also devotes a good chunk of time to viewing catches made by former Lions receiver Calvin Johnson, whom he refers to by his nickname "Megatron."

"I watch my highlights a lot, but I watch Megatron highlights too just because he made great catches like

that," Hopkins said. "It motivates me before the games just seeing a great dude go out there and just do it effortlessly."

During these film sessions Hopkins not only watches his big catches, he also dissects the catches that he didn't make.

"I always feel like I can be better. I feel like I can do better," he said. "I feel like I can make better catches."

Hopkins is a very confident player, but he's careful not to sound boastful. No matter what players do to try and slow him down he puts pressure on himself to do more to come away with the catch.

"I've been stopped before from making those catches or I might have stopped myself sometimes," he said. "So I feel like it's me more so than the defender. That's just like the role that I put on myself and the pressure, no matter what DB is out there it's my ball. I don't want to say a DB can't guard me, but I still feel like I can

catch it."

Houston cornerback Johnathan Joseph, a 13-year NFL veteran, has covered Hopkins for years in practice and shakes his head when asked what someone can do to keep him from making a catch.

"You can't do anything," Joseph said. "He's an exceptional talent. He's got rare hand-eye coordination to catch the ball so ... it's one of those things that in the game it's almost impossible."

Hopkins has been making nifty catches throughout his six-year NFL career, which often leads him to be asked which one is his favorite. Because he's always outdoing himself, the answer often changes and on Thursday it took him a few seconds to come up with an answer.

He exhaled sharply and rubbed his long and lean hands together for a bit before coming to a conclusion.

"The Dolphins catch between the

legs," he finally said. "I'm going to go with that."

That catch came earlier this season when he reached back and grabbed the ball with one hand and weaved it between his legs in the air before crashing to the ground. But it actually wasn't a catch at all because he was called for pass interference.

Despite not counting, that play was the talk of the locker room after the win and had many of his teammates wondering, as they often do, how he possibly came down with it.

While he vows teammates and defenders alike with such feats as that non-catch and his huge grab last week, does he still get excited when he makes plays like that or is it simply another day at the office for the 26-year old?

"Sometimes I surprise myself, just like darn I did that? (But) I feel like just go out and be better and do more," he said.



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