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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018



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75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Last chance for Festival on Christmas Day



This Saturday, December 22, 2018 photo shows a scene from this year's Festival of Lights. If you haven't made it out there to see the gorgeous Christmas light display, hurry! The last night to see the show is Tuesday, December 25.

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Been out to see the Comanche Trail Park Festival of Lights yet? A lot of people have, but if

you haven't, you've got until Christmas night. The festival isn't staying open during the week between Christmas and New Year's this year – the lights go out 'til next year at 10

p.m. Dec. 25. "If you're driving through, remember there's going to be a lot of people coming out to see, so allow yourself time to come and enjoy the lights," said organizer Vicki Stewart. "Don't expect to come and just speed through. It might take you 20 minutes."

Stewart said thousands of people have already enjoyed the million-plus lights adorning the candy canes, historical images, and lighted poinsettias – as well as all the other goodies

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 3

Santa heads back to North Pole after Porters visit



Santa made a surprise, last-minute visit to Porter's Grocery Store on Saturday, asking kids what they would like for Christmas, taking photos with them and giving out sweet treats. Above, Santa Claus holds little Martina Parnell as Martin Castillo (Center) and Jayden Parnell (right) stand next to them for a photo. Santa went back to the North Pole shortly after his visit to make sure he and his elves have everything ready for Christmas morning!

HERALD photo/Anna Gutierrez

Salvation Army brightens holidays for many



Salvation Army Capt. Rachel McKain, right, works with volunteers to organize and distribute donated gifts at the group's Angel Tree Distribution, held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Nearly 400 children and senior citizens received toys, clothes, food packages, and other gifts through the program this year.

HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Birth certificate changes may cause delays

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

If you were born outside Howard County, and you're going to be needing a birth certificate through the Howard County Courthouse any time soon, you better go get it pretty quick. New state-mandated procedures are going to create a gap in availability of such documents, said Howard County Clerk Brent Zitterkopf.

"The ones for other Texas counties, the whole system for the state is changing on how we get those," Zitterkopf said. "Our current system will be going down at noon on the 28th, next Friday. The new system starts on Jan. 2 when we come back, but they've also changed the paper we have to have. It's doubtful our paper will come in, because there's only one place it can be ordered, and all 254 counties are having to order it. I don't know how long. We can't do it even af-

ter the first of the year until we get paper, which I don't know. They haven't even given me a time frame on when we're going to get our paper. We may not even be able to do it all of January."

Zitterkopf said people who know they'll need a birth certificate soon should make plans accordingly.

"The reason I was wanting people to know was, if they know they're going to need one, they need to come before noon on Dec. 28," he said.

The only other option during the down time is to contact the courthouse in the county of birth, and request a birth certificate directly from them, said Zitterkopf.

"That will take mail time and all of that," he said. Contact the Howard County Clerk's Office at 432-264-2213 for more information.

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

Big Spring Herald's Christmas Countdown



Brennen says "Only 1 Days 'til Christmas!"
 (Brennen Green, Grandson of Sandra Green, Ad Designer)

YMCA of Big Spring
 801 Owens St.
 (432) 267-8234

Students receive bikes for perfect attendance

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Some diligent kids got rewarded this week for their perfect school attendance.

They each had a chance to win a brand new bicycle as part of a program sponsored by the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club.

"We sponsor an attendance incentive at all four of the elemen-

tary campuses and Coahoma Elementary as well," said GBSRC President George Bancroft. "Any kid that gets perfect attendance, their name goes in a hat for a drawing. Each semester they pick one name from each grade. Well, it's actually two names – one boy and one girl." The drawings

See **BIKES**, Page 3

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AP Explains: What happens in a partial government shutdown

By The Associated Press

A look at the impact of the partial government shutdown:

WHAT'S OPEN AND WHAT'S CLOSED

Social Security checks will go out and troops will remain at their posts. Doctors and hospitals will receive their Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. The U.S. Postal Service, busy delivering packages for the holiday season, is an independent agency and won't be affected. Passport services, which are funded by fees and not government spending, will also continue.

Virtually every essential government agency, including the FBI, the Border Patrol and the Coast Guard, will remain open. Transportation Security Administration officers will staff airport checkpoints.

The air traffic control system, food inspection, Medicare, veterans' health care and many other essential government programs will run as usual. The Federal Emergency Management Agency can continue to respond to disasters.

Nearly 90 percent of the Department of Homeland Security's 240,000 employees will be at work because they're considered essential.

Special counsel Robert Mueller's office, which is investigating potential ties between the Trump campaign and Russia, is unaffected by a shutdown.

But hundreds of thousands of federal workers will be forced off the job, and some services will go dark.

In the past, the vast majority of national parks were closed to visitors and campers, but beginning with the last government shutdown, in January, the Interior Department has tried to make parks as accessible as possible despite bare-bones staffing levels. Some are staying open thanks to funding from states and charitable groups.

In Washington, the museums along the National Mall will remain open at least through Jan. 1, but Smithsonian officials said they will reevaluate the situation if the shutdown continues into the new year. The Washington Monument is closed for repairs.

Arizona and Utah officials put in place plans to keep open Grand Canyon, Zion, Arches and Bryce Canyon and Zion national parks.

At the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, it was business as usual, thanks to funding from New York state.

FEDERAL WORKERS STILL GET PAID — EVENTUALLY

While they can be kept on the

job, federal workers won't be paid for days worked during the lapse in funding. In the past, however, they have been repaid retroactively even if they were ordered to stay home. White House officials said that would be the case again.

The Senate already has passed legislation ensuring that workers will receive back pay. The House seems sure to follow suit.

Federal employees already were granted an extra day of vacation on Monday, Christmas Eve, under an executive order Trump signed this past week.

Federal workers are exempted from furloughs if their jobs are national security-related or if they perform essential activities that "protect life and property."

According to a report by Democrats on the Senate Appropriations Committee, more than 420,000 federal employees deemed essential will continue to work without pay, including about 41,000 law enforcement and corrections officers. The Homeland Security employees who will keep working include about 150,000 from the Coast Guard, TSA and Customs and Border Protection.

More than 380,000 employees will be furloughed — including nearly all from NASA and Housing and Urban Development and 41,000 from the Commerce Department. About 16,000 National Park Service employees — 80 percent of the agency's workforce — will be furloughed.

Also among those who will furloughed: 52,000 staffers at the Internal Revenue Service, slowing analysis and collection of hundreds of thousands of tax returns and audits.

SHUTDOWNS HAPPEN

Shutdowns happened every year when Jimmy Carter was president, averaging 11 days each. During President Ronald Reagan's two terms, there were six shutdowns, typically just one or two days apiece.

Before a three-day lapse in January, caused by Democrats' insistence that any budget measure come with protections for young immigrants known as "Dreamers," the most recent significant shutdown was a 16-day partial shuttering of the government in 2013.

That one came as tea party conservatives tried to block implementation of President Barack Obama's health care law. The government also shut down for a few hours last February amid a partisan dispute over deficit spending.

making 30,000. There's just no way of knowing. But it's very possible." Many of the visitors hail from far-flung locales, she added.

"I haven't tabulated where all they're from yet, but our greeters — I've talked to all our greeters. Last time, maybe four or five days ago, Pat (Simmons) said we've had over 30 states," Stewart said. "But countries, we've had Cuba, Turkey, Australia, Israel, Germany, France, Spain, Thailand, Brazil — one of them just wrote in 'European — no English' — and Mexico."

The Festival of Lights is open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. through Christmas. The entrance to the lighted holiday path is on South U.S. 87 across from Wal-Mart.

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

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.



Courtesy photos

Rotary members presented local students with bikes to reward them for their perfect attendance last week. In the top photo, Caden Cole of Coahoma receives his bike, and in the bottom photo, Ashlee Greenly and Hayden McNally receive their bikes. Congratulations to the winners and to all the students at local schools with exemplary attendance!

BIKES

Continued from Page 1

started Wednesday at Washington Elementary School, where Pyper Still and Jaiden De La Cruz took home the two-wheelers. Later that same day, Caden Cole and Alexa Ontiveros won the bikes at Coahoma Elementary.

Thursday, only Moss Elementary was on the schedule, and Hayden McNally and Ashley Greenlee were the recipients of two new bikes.

On Friday, Marcy's James Strong and Bella Martinez were the winners, and then

later at Goliad, Jade Valenzuela and Gavin Terry pedaled home the prize.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the students at local schools with exemplary attendance!

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

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Nease Crosby, 59, died Wednesday. A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018, at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Lamesa.

Gary Phillips, 71, died Wednesday. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018, at First Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Josefina Hernandez died Friday, Dec. 21, 2018. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Arthur Islas, Jr. died Friday, Dec. 21, 2018. Visitation will be 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Roger Sparks, died Friday, Dec. 21, 2018. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1

lining the roadways in Comanche Trail Park this year.

"I can give you numbers for now, and I can give you what I can project we'll have," she said. "As of Wednesday night, Dec. 19, we had 19,424 go through. If we have about the same tonight...Santa's nights we usually have more, and then Christmas Eve we usually have a big number, and then Christmas Day we usually have a big number. If we do that, we'll be at about 28,000. Our goal was 30,000. I don't think we'll make it, personally. Numbers — it's very possible, because our biggest night so far we had 2,985 go through, and that was a Saturday night. Say we have 2,700 go through each night... if we have that, we'd be borderline

Correction: On Page 3A of Sunday's edition of the Herald, the headline reading "Parkview claims gingerbread honors" is incorrect. As the photo's caption indicates, the winner of the Heritage Museum of Big Spring's 2018 Gingerbread House contest was Parkplace Retirement Living.

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Bulldogettes fall to Jim Ned in district play



Courtesy photo/Lyndel Moody

Coahoma Bulldogette Kaylie Kaczyk, No. 25, defends against a Jim Ned Lady Indian during the junior varsity match up held Friday, Dec. 21, 2018, in Coahoma.

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — A tough Jim Ned Lady Indians team dominated the Bulldogettes to overcome Friday night. Coahoma lost 21-53.

The Lady Indians (3-0, 15-4) were dominant from the first scoring in the double digits through the first three quarters of play. In the last quarter of the game, the Bulldogettes surged back defensively keeping Jim Ned to only 6 points while adding 5 of their own.

Caitlyn Corley led Coahoma with 9 points followed by Cassie Grant who brought in 5 for the night. Grant and Kenzi Canales both nailed a 3-point basket a piece.

Next: The varsity girls will play in the Mary Tatum Tournament hosted by the Christian County ISD over the Christmas break set for Friday and Saturday, Dec. 28-29. The Bulldogettes will return to district play on Jan. 4, when they travel to Stanton to face the Lady Buffaloes.

JIM NED 53, BULLDOGETTES 21

Jim Ned: 11, 25, 11, 6 — 53

Coahoma: 5, 9, 2, 5 — 21

Coach — Taylor Grant 13, Jenna Moore 2, Alexis Espinosa 12, Leticia Salas 6, Claire Graham 14, Brooke Galvin 6.

Coach — Macee Grant 2, Caitlyn Corley 7, Paige Atkins 2, Kenzi Canales 3, Cassie Grant 5, Abbie Lopez 2.

Free Throws — Jim Ned 8-13, Coahoma 3-4; 3-Point Goals — Jim Ned 5 (Espinosa 2, Graham 3), Coahoma 2 (C. Grant, Canales); Total Team Fouls — Jim Ned 7, Coahoma 15.

Coahoma JV vs Jim Ned

Coahoma — The Bulldogettes JV team fell to the Jim Ned Lady Indians Friday.

Katlyn Johnson and Maddison Rogers both had 6 points each to lead the Bulldogettes in scoring for the evening.

Next: The Bulldogette JV team will take a break for Christmas and resume the season on Jan. 4, when they travel to Stanton to take on the Lady Buffaloes.

JIM NED 54, COAHOMA 18

Jim Ned: 8, 13, 19, 14 — 54



Courtesy photo/Lyndel Moody

Caitlyn Corley, No. 11, reaches for the ball in the tip off to start the Coahoma Bulldogettes/Jim Ned Lady Indians game held Friday, Dec. 21, 2018, in Coahoma.

Coahoma: 2, 2, 8, 6 — 18

Jim Ned — Emma Harback 8, Kennadi Beasley 10, Brooklyn Weaver 6, Claire Cooley 17, Bradee Ross 3, Kylie Gwinn 10.

Coahoma — Maddie Scott 2, Katlyn

Johnson 6, Maddison Rogers 6, Vada Cortez 4.

Free Throws — Jim Ned 6-8, Coahoma 2-5; 3-Point Goals — Jim Ned 6 (Beasley 2, Weaver 2, Cooley, Ross); Team Fouls — Jim Ned 8, Coahoma 8

Coahoma drops district opener to Indians



Courtesy photo/Lyndel Moody

Bryson Cline, No. 14, races through two Jim Ned players during the Coahoma Bulldogs/Indians game held Friday, Dec. 21, 2018, in Coahoma. Cline had 9 points for the match.

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — The Bulldogs lost to a tough Jim Ned Indian team Friday night 26-59 in their first district 5-3A game of the season.

The Indians came into the match having already built up a strong 11-2 win record for the season including a victory against Clyde last Tuesday in their first district game. However, the Bulldogs make it clear from the first they were there to compete.

For the first two minutes of play, both teams played heavy defense not allowing any score. Finally, Jim Ned's Dylan Bryant broke the stalemate by nailing one of his two free throws.

The Indians followed by two more free throws, a 3-point basket, and a 2-point field goal before Bryson Cline got the Bulldogs on the board by nailing a shot for 2 at the 3:22 mark. Cline added 2 more points from the charity strip before the first quarter was over.

Jim Ned headed into the second up 4-13 with 8 of those points coming

from free throws. Coahoma fared better in the second although Jim Ned continued to outscore the Bulldogs. Cline, Joe Manning, Gaige Hill, and Gage Clark-Burdell scored a total of 6 points while the team was successful at keeping the Indians to just 9 points. However, Jim Ned left for the locker room with a 12-point advantage.

Returning for the second half, Jim Ned broke the game wide open by scoring 25 points in the third while holding Coahoma to just 3. Not ready to give up, the Bulldogs had their best quarter in the fourth and outscored Jim Ned 13-12. Clark-Burdell brought a little excitement to the tense game when he picked off the ball from a Jim Ned player and raced down the court for a slam dunk.

Even with the last quarter surge, the Bulldogs were unable to chip away the huge lead the Indians built in first three quarters before the end of the game.

Cline led the Bulldogs with 9 points followed by Manning with 7.

Next: The Bulldogs will spend part



Dakota Harrison looks to get around a Jim Ned player during the Coahoma Bulldogs/Jim Ned Indians game held Friday, Dec. 21, 2018, in Coahoma.

of their Christmas break in Reagan County playing in the Mary Tatum tournament set for Friday and Saturday, Dec. 28-29. The Coahoma varsity boys team will return to district play on Jan. 4 in Stanton against the Buffaloes.

JIM NED 59, COAHOMA 26

Jim Ned: 13, 9 25, 12 — 59

Coahoma: 4, 6, 3, 13 — 26

Jim Ned — Rhett May 5, Bay Bran- nan 4, Cortland Baum 4, Ethan Senne 18, Caden Martin 2, Cade Ford 3, Caden Burke 11, Alex Rosales 3, Dylan Bryant 9.

Coahoma — Brice Martin 2, Joe Manning 7, Zack Schneider 3; Gage Clark-Burdell 3; Gaige Hill 2, Bryson Cline, 9.

Free Throws — Jim Ned 18-25, Coahoma 12-25; 3-Point Goals — Jim Ned 5 (Senne 3; Rhett, Burke); Total Team Fouls — Jim Ned 20, Coahoma 19.

Bulldog JV vs Jim Ned

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogs JV team lost to Jim Ned 21-32 at home Friday night.

Tony Haggins had a game high of 7 points including a 3-point goal to lead the Coahoma team at the post. Teammates Avery Burgan and Garrett Anderson both added 4 points each.

Next: The JV team will enjoy a couple of weeks off for the mid-semester break and will return to action on Jan. 4, when they head to Stanton to take on the Buffaloes.

JIM NED 32, COAHOMA 21

Jim Ned: 5, 12, 8, 7 — 32

Coahoma: 6, 4, 7, 4 — 21

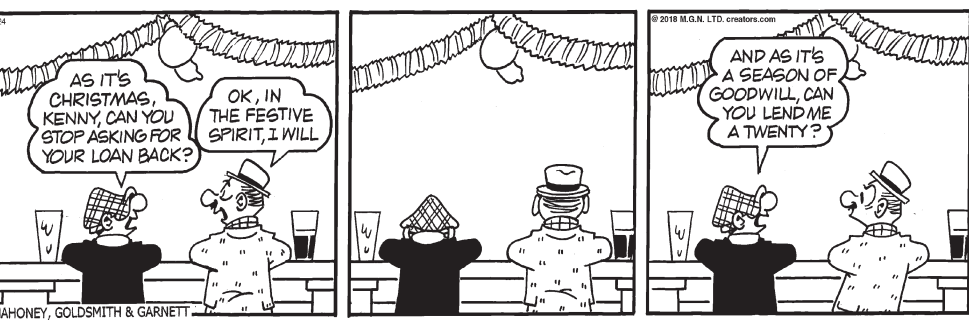
Jim Ned — Duncan 3, Noland 3, Smith 3, Lukenbach 7, Chavez 3, Bar- ron 2, Tant 1, Martin 6, Hussman 4.

Coahoma — Avery Burgans 4, Isaiah Martin 2, Sean Striegler 2, Tony Haggins 7, Dakota Harrison 2, Garrett Anderson 4.

Free Throws — Jim Ned 8-16, Coahoma 0-2; 3-Point Goals — Jim Ned 4 (Duncan, Smith, Lukenbach, Chavez), Coahoma 1 (Haggins); Total Team Fouls — Jim Ned 7, Coahoma 14.

	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWWT (14)	KWES2 (15)	WTBS (33)	TNT (34)	ESPN (35)	ESPN2 (36)	FSN (38)	USA (55)	A&E (58)	DISC (60)		
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Midland	Atlanta	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Sports	New York	New York	Discovery		
5:30	Big 2 ABC	P. Luche	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	Creation	Danube	Mama's	American	Fam. Guy	(45) Movie: The Wizard of Oz (DVS)	Monday Night Countdown	SportsCenter	Texas	Mod Fam		Fast N' Loud		
6:30	Jeopardy! Wheel	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Ice Age 3: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (SS)	News	Families	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy		Basketball: A Love Story	Epic	Mod Fam	Movie: Ocean's Eleven, Andy Garcia		Fast N' Loud		
7:30	Movie: Beauty and the Beast	Celebrando en Nochebuena	MasterChef Junior: Celebrity Showdown	Neighbor	Neighbor	Movie: It's a Wonderful Life, Lionel Barrymore (DVS)	News	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith	Arrow	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)		(15) NFL Football: Denver Broncos at Oakland Raiders	Basketball: A Love Story	High School Football	WWE Monday Night RAW		Fast N' Loud		
8:30	The Good Doctor		FOX 24 News at 9	Bull			Light of Southwest	Christmas With the Candlelight	G. Pyle WKRP	DC's Legends	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)							Movie: Ocean's Thirteen, Matt Damon		
9:30	Big 2	Impacto	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Amanpour-Co Perry Mason	C. Burnett	Gold	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)		SportsCenter W/Van Pelt	Basketball: A Love Story	C'boys Cowboys World Poker	Movie: The Fast and the Furious (DVS)		Fast N' Loud		
10:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero Misa de gallo	Mom	A Baylor Christmas	Titulares	Christmas Choir	American House	(Off Air)	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)								Movie: Ocean's Eleven, Andy Garcia	
11:30	Nightline		Funny	A Bold New	Navidad	(34) Christmas Eve Mass	Zion		Rules	Rules	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)		NFL Prime-Time						Movie: Ocean's Eleven, Andy Garcia	
12:30	(12:07) King of Kings		Two Men	Love: A	Milagros de Navidad		Milagros de Navidad		King	King	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)		SportsCenter	Basketball: A Love Story	UFC Re-loaded				Movie: Ocean's Eleven, Andy Garcia	
1:30	(05) Extra Paid Prg.	En tierras salvajes	Pawn	ET	Programa	News	Light of Southwest		Top 30	Top 30	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)					(25) Movie: 2 Fast 2 Furious			Movie: Ocean's Eleven, Andy Garcia	
1:45	(05) ABC		Pawn	Paid Prg.	Programa	News	Light of Southwest		Paid Prg.	Paid Prg.	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)		NFL Prime-Time							Movie: Ocean's Eleven, Andy Garcia

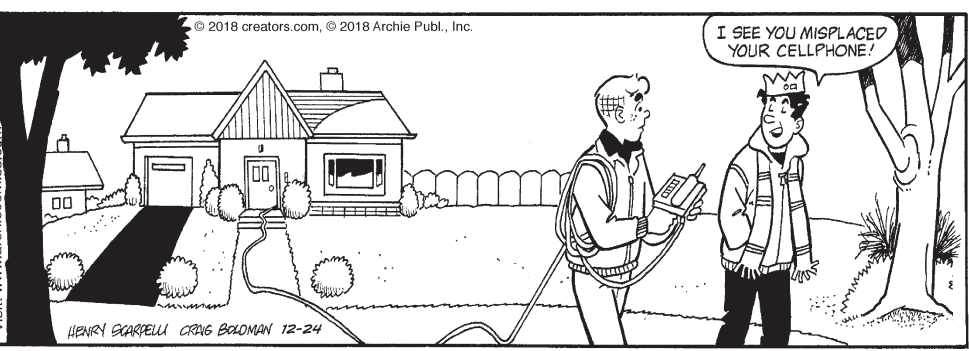
ANDY CAPP



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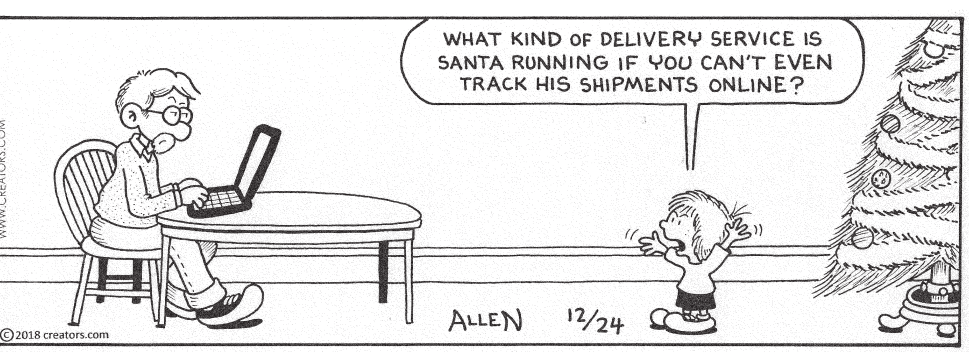
ARCHIE



ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2018. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 24, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe as part of Operation Overlord.

On this date:

In 1814, the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 following ratification by both the British Parliament and the U.S. Senate.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tennessee, that was the original version of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt.

In 1906, Canadian physicist Reginald A. Fessenden became the first person to transmit the human voice (his own) as well as music over radio, from Brant Rock, Massachusetts.

In 1913, 73 people, most of them children, died in a crush of panic after a false cry of "Fire!" during a Christmas party for striking miners and their families at the Italian Hall in Calumet, Michigan.

In 1914, during World War I, impromptu Christmas truces began to take hold along parts of the Western Front between British and German soldiers.

In 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast.

In 1974, Cyclone Tracy began battering the Australian city of Darwin, resulting in widespread damage and causing some 65 deaths.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds — one second for each day of captivity.

In 1990, actor Tom Cruise married his "Days of Thunder" co-star, Nicole Kidman, during a private ceremony at a Colorado ski resort (the marriage ended in 2001).

In 1992, President Bush pardoned former Defense

Secretary Caspar Weinberger and five others in the Iran-Contra scandal.

In 1993, the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, who blended Christian and psychiatric principles into a message of "positive thinking," died in Pawling, N.Y., at age 95.

Ten years ago: A man dressed in a Santa Claus suit shot his way into the Covina, Calif., home of his former in-laws and set it on fire, killing nine people (the attacker, identified as Bruce Jeffrey Pardo, committed suicide the next day). The Federal Reserve granted a request by the financing arm of General Motors to tap the government's \$700 billion rescue fund, bolstering GM's ability to survive. Nobel Prize-winning playwright Harold Pinter died in London at age 78.

Five years ago: In Egypt, a car bomb ripped through a security headquarters in the Nile Delta city of Mansoura, killing 16 people, almost all policemen. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II granted a posthumous pardon to code-breaker Alan Turing, who was convicted of homosexual behavior in the 1950s. Pope Francis lauded Jesus' humble beginning as a poor and vulnerable baby as he celebrated his first Christmas Eve Mass as pontiff in St. Peter's Basilica.

One year ago: Peru's president announced that he had granted a medical pardon to jailed former strongman Alberto Fujimori, 79, who had been serving a 25-year sentence for human rights abuses, corruption and the sanctioning of death squads. In Christmas eve remarks, Pope Francis likened the journey to Bethlehem by Mary and Joseph to the migrations of millions of people today who are forced to leave homelands for a better life, or just to survive. Hundreds of supporters of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny nominated him for president, allowing him to file the required endorsement papers and putting pressure on the Kremlin to allow him to run. (Navalny was blocked from the ballot because of a felony conviction in a case that his supporters regarded as falsified.)

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter-bandleader Dave Bartholomew is 100. Author Mary Higgins Clark is 91. Federal health official Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., is 78. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 74. Actress Sharon Farrell is 72. U.S. Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions is 72.

Actor Grand L. Bush is 63. Actor Clarence Gilyard is 63. Actress Stephanie Hodge is 62. The former president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-ze-ye), is 61. Rock musician Ian Burden (The Human League) is 61. Actor Anil Kapoor (ah-NEEL' kuh-POOR') is 59. Actress Eva Tamargo is 58. Actor Wade Williams is 57. Rock singer Mary Ramsey (10,000

Maniacs) is 55. Actor Mark Valley is 54. Actor Diedrich Bader is 52. Actor Amaury Nolasco is 48. Singer Ricky Martin is 47. Author Stephenie Meyer is 45. TV personality Ryan Seacrest (TV: "Live With Kelly & Ryan") is 44. Actor Michael Raymond-James is 41. Actor Austin Stowell is 34. Rock singer Louis Tomlinson (One Direction) is 27.

Thought for Today:

"To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult with every year."

E.B. White
American author and journalist
(1899-1985).

Newsday Crossword "12 DAYS OF" EXCERPTS by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fine necktie fabric
 - 5 Upscale German cars, for short
 - 9 Ship's diary
 - 12 Obama's vice president
 - 13 Scary and strange
 - 15 Top card in poker
 - 16 Without assistance
 - 17 Boxing match locale
 - 18 Coffee alternative
 - 19 "Five __, four calling birds . . ."
 - 21 Portion of corn
 - 22 Emcee
 - 23 Qualifies for
 - 25 Minister in church
 - 29 Season after summer
 - 31 Angry look
 - 32 " __ Sir or Madam . . ."
 - 34 Walk-__ (cameo roles)
 - 37 " . . . __, two turtledoves . . ."
 - 41 When a plane is expected: Abbr.
 - 42 "Mighty" trees
 - 43 Devour
 - 44 Was familiar with
 - 46 Don't stop at
 - 47 Selected
 - 50 Moved quickly
 - 52 Pull apart, as paper
 - 53 " . . . and a partridge __"
 - 60 "Roses __ red . . ."
 - 61 Irritates greatly
 - 62 Wear away
- DOWN**
- 1 Fam's grain tower
 - 2 Much-admired celebrity
 - 3 Give temporarily
 - 4 Desk space for legs
 - 5 "Grizzly" beasts
 - 6 Qualify for
 - 7 Small warbling bird
 - 8 Perform a ballad
 - 9 In a little while
 - 10 Pacific or Atlantic
 - 11 Car transmission choices
 - 12 Pocketbook or satchel
 - 14 Artist's stand
 - 20 Neither fish __ fowl
 - 24 Hawaiian hellos
 - 25 California winter clock setting: Abbr.
 - 26 Muscle soreness
 - 27 Alphabetize
 - 28 Minor modifications
 - 29 Ceiling-mounted room coolers
 - 30 Curved line
 - 32 Sketch a picture
 - 33 "A mouse!"
 - 35 Receives after taxes
 - 36 Ignore socially
 - 38 Opponent
 - 39 Safety attachment atop a car seat
 - 40 Secret agent
 - 45 Horse's cry
 - 46 Pod veggie
 - 47 Wooden shipping container
 - 48 Adds to the payroll
 - 49 Unlocks
 - 50 Break in two
 - 51 Annoying ones
 - 54 Hammer target member
 - 56 Factual
 - 57 Cowpoke's lasso
 - 58 Adam and Eve's home
 - 59 Occupational suffix for auction



Answer to previous puzzle

OCHERS MAP VIES
TRALEE ALL CTRL
CASITA RICA HEIR
GAZILLIONAIRE
STAREINTOSPACE
EVE TSK TAN
TBSPEGG SPINE
HEAP LEICA ROAM
RANDD NON ONLY
OCT TOC ANG
WHATSNOTTO LIKE
GROCERYSTORES
GOOD BOP AVIATE
MESA INE TENTED
TRAY TAB ERASES

Contract Bridge

Famous Hand

By Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 2
♥ J 10 6 3
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A Q 8 7 2

EAST

♠ K 10 7 6 5
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ 5
♣ 9 4

WEST

♠ J 9 8 4
♥ —
♦ A K Q J 9 8 7 4
♣ 3

SOUTH

♠ A Q 3
♥ A K Q 5
♦ 3
♣ K J 10 6 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ 5 ♣ Dble Pass

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

One of the great attractions of bridge is its intrinsic ability to generate a steady supply of unexpected situations. For example, imagine how East must have felt at the end of the first trick on this deal, which occurred in a match between Canada and Bermuda.

The bidding requires some explanation. The Bermuda South's one-club bid guaranteed 16 points or more but had nothing whatever to do with clubs as a suit. West's five-club overcall also had nothing at all to do with clubs, but instead showed very

long diamonds and instructed his partner to bid them.

Against six clubs, the Canadian West (Subhash Gupta) decided that his best chance to get two tricks was to try to get a heart ruff. Since this required his partner to be on lead at trick two, he elected to lead the four of diamonds, hoping to find East with the ten!

The scheme should have miscarried, since dummy had the ten, but the unusual opening lead caught declarer fast asleep. South could have won the first trick with either the six or the ten, but when he played dummy's deuce instead, an astonished East found himself winning the trick with the five!

East may have been momentarily flabbergasted, but he certainly was not paralyzed. After the five held the trick, it did not take him long to figure out what to do next.

Since his partner had obviously gone to great lengths to try to put him on lead, there had to be a reasonable explanation. And the only conclusion East could reach that made any sense was that West was trying to get a heart ruff.

The heart return was duly trumped by West at trick two, and declarer quickly went down one. At the other table, there were no fancy doings, and declarer bid and made six clubs, giving the Canadians a gain of 1,470 points (16 IMPs) on the deal.

Tomorrow: Pièce de résistance.
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Neptunian Sugarplum Situation

Mercury and Neptune may interfere with the vision of sugarplums supposedly dancing in our heads. The remedy is to take the vision out of our heads (where it might get distorted or lose its sweetness) and stop leaving everything to the plums. Turn up the music, and do your own dance. Move your body and life moves merrily along.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



and merry music. Even if you don't happen to be around loved ones, going where there are food and music and strangers will give you a connected feeling.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your heart is filled with a boundless, conditionless kind of love. However, relationships don't live solely in the heart. Relationships live in a conditional world. You'll be attuned to how everyone's conditions are being met.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What's shared between you and the other person is a formless feeling, yet when you try to put it into form, you come pretty close to creating a perfect understanding of the emotion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The move that improves things happens before the main action. It's the moment you take to project an outcome that will please you, to create an intention, and to decide who you're going to be in the scenario.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Romantic or not, each relationship has its own chemistry. What's going on at this level is good information, and you'll have a heightened awareness of what's clicking and feeling great.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com.
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ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your abiding respect for words and your love of their eloquent or novel expression will enhance your experience as you take part in a brilliant conversation or piece of writing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though a belief in something that cannot be observed or quantified exists only in the mind, the tangible things that happen because of and in expression of the belief can change the world.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Human relationships are very intricate, requiring the complex balance of several layers all at once. So when you feel as if you're getting it right, give yourself a lot of credit. And when you're not, offer up a huge amount of grace.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The reason the card is as important as, if not more important than, the gift is that the spirit in which you do things matters much more than the actions themselves.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Open your eyes to the secret clues. You only have to see one for there to suddenly be an endless ticker tape of clues to point you in the right direction or provide reassurance anytime you need it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're powerful, capable and creative. So you'll turn the old traditions into something you can get behind, or you'll do things in a way that's all you; the tradition starts now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sometimes you simply don't let yourself want what you want. You reason it away as too expensive, time-consuming, caloric, difficult to obtain, etc., but to no avail, because the want keeps coming back. Go on and let yourself have it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Nothing connects you with family and friends like good food

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:



Prescott, Cowboys wrap up NFC East with 27-20 win over Bucs

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer
ARLINGTON, Texas — Dak Prescott shared a brief hug with star running back Ezekiel Elliott after the Dallas quarterback knelt twice to wrap up their second NFC East title in three seasons together.

The postgame celebration was equally muted after Prescott accounted for two touchdowns and Jaylon Smith returned a fumble 69 yards for a score in a 27-20 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday.

Now it's on to something Prescott and Elliott couldn't do after an NFC-best 13 victories during their remarkable rookie year together in 2016: win a playoff game.

"We've got a lot more work to do," Prescott said after running for Dallas' first touchdown and throwing a 4-yard pass to Michael Gallup for the last. "This is something that we set out, wanted to do way back in the offseason, and this is giving us a chance to go and get the greater goal."

Smith's long return came after a scrambling Jameis Winston lost the ball on a blind-side sack by Randy Gregory, who also recovered a fumble to set up a touchdown for a 14-point lead late in the third quarter.

The Cowboys (9-6) clinched their third division title in five seasons a week after failing in their first chance with their first shutout loss in 15 years, 23-0 at Indianapolis.

It was a moment of redemption for Elliott, whose six-game suspension over domestic violence allegations last year came just as the Cowboys were playing their best. The ensuing three-game losing streak ultimately kept them out of the playoffs.

"We can't get comfortable," said Elliott, who had 85 yards rushing. "We can't afford to take a week off next week. We've got to keep working and make sure we're ready for the play-



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) celebrates scoring a touchdown on a running play in the first half of an NFL football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018.

AP photo

offs."

Winston threw for 336 yards in another prolific passing game for the Buccaneers (5-10), who outgained the Cowboys 383 yards to 232 but hurt themselves with turnovers and holding penalties. Tampa Bay's third straight loss clinched the franchise's fifth season of at least 10 losses in the past six years, a week after the Bucs were eliminated from postseason contention.

"It's frustrating to move the ball like that and not get touchdowns," coach Dirk Koetter said. "Against good teams, that's what you're supposed to do."

Smith's fumble return and Gregory's recovery at the Tampa Bay 4 helped a Dallas offense that wasn't sharp for a second straight week. Prescott was 20 of 25 but for just 161 yards.

Prescott ran 7 yards to cap the only lengthy Dallas touchdown drive, a 75-yarder. His toss to the rookie Gallup came after Gregory's recovery, which resulted from a botched exchange between Winston and receiver Bobo Wilson.

A play before that bad exchange in a seven-point game, Peyton Barber's 33-yard run was wiped out by one of four

holding penalties against the Bucs.

Smith gave the Cowboys a 14-3 lead in the second quarter, scooping up the loose ball after Gregory hit Winston from behind and outrunning the Tampa Bay quarterback down the sideline for his first career touchdown.

The sprint was one of the best illustrations of Smith getting his speed back after the devastating knee injury in his final game at Notre Dame that sidelined him as a rookie with the Cowboys in 2016. For the first time this season, he's playing without a brace designed to offset nerve damage.

"I've been known as a sideline-to-sideline fast linebacker and athlete," Smith said. "Had I run the 40 (at the NFL combine), I would have been somewhere in the 4.4s and all that good stuff. But it feels good to be able to open up like that again at the highest level."

Winston's 7-yard pass to Mike Evans got the Bucs within a touchdown with 2:05 remaining, but Dallas linebacker Leighton Vander Esch recovered the onside kick. Evans had six catches for 90 yards, and Adam Humphries

had 10 grabs for 79 yards. With a chance to get within a touchdown earlier in the fourth quarter, Winston was stopped about half a yard short of the first down at the Dallas 1 on a fourth-down scramble.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

The Cowboys could have clinched the division with a Philadelphia loss at home against Houston. The issue was already settled by the time Jake Elliott hit a 35-yard field goal as time expired to give the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles a 32-30 win. "I think it was mandatory for us to go out there and take care of it ourselves," Elliott said. "Honestly, it just feels better."

RUSHING RACE

Elliott, the NFL rushing leader by 98 yards over Todd Gurley of the Los Angeles Rams coming in, is at 1,434 yards with what could be seen as a meaningless game at the Giants to finish the regular season. In a similar situation two years ago, Elliott didn't play at Philadelphia. His final carry Sunday was an 11-yarder for a first down that allowed Prescott to run out the clock.

CRAWFORD SCARE

Dallas defensive lineman Tyrone Crawford went to a hospital to have a neck injury evaluated after getting hurt on the second play of the game. Crawford's neck was stabilized on a stretcher with his facemask removed. The seventh-year player was moving his arms and legs before he was taken off the field.

The Cowboys said after the game that Crawford was released from the hospital and would be re-evaluated by the team's medical staff Monday.

UP NEXT

Buccaneers: Finale at home against Atlanta next Sunday.

Cowboys: Regular-season finale at the Giants next Sunday.

Texans lose to Eagles 32-30, lose control of No. 2 seed



AP photo

Philadelphia Eagles' Zach Ertz (86) scores a touchdown over Houston Texans' Aaron Colvin (22) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018, in Philadelphia.

By ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Deshaun Watson made one big play after another to rally the Houston Texans back from a 13-point deficit to take the lead only to watch the defense let it slip away.

The Texans missed an opportunity to clinch the AFC South and lost control of the No. 2 seed when Jake Elliott kicked a 35-yard field goal as time expired to give the Philadelphia Eagles a 32-30 victory on Sunday.

Houston would secure the division title with a victory against Jacksonville next week. They need the Patriots to lose or tie to get a first-round bye. But they own at least a wild-card spot because Pittsburgh lost to New Orleans later Sunday.

"We just have to go out there and win next week," J.J. Watt said after being held to only three tackles and no sacks. "We can't worry about anything else."

Watson was 29 of 40 for 339 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for 49 yards and two scores.

Down 29-16 in the fourth quarter, the Texans started their comeback after recovering Josh Adams' fumble. Watson threw a 14-yard TD to DeAn-

dre Hopkins to cut the deficit to 29-23 with 4:48 left and the Texans got the ball back at their 20 after a three-and-out.

Watson made an incredible escape on third-and-11 and threw 22 yards to Jordan Akins for a first down at the Philadelphia 34.

On third-and-11, he hit Vyncint Smith deep in the back of the end zone. Smith made an outstanding catch, and dragged his feet to stay inbounds.

"He played great the last two drives," Texans coach Bill O'Brien said. "He's just got incredible instincts, he sees things well, he hangs in there, he's tough. The football field for him is heaven on earth. Obviously we have a strong belief in him and what he can do."

The Texans had a tough time moving the ball until the fourth quarter and the absence of Lamar Miller hurt their rushing attack. Alfred Blue and D'Onta Foreman had 13 yards on 11 carries.

"I think the ball in (Watson's) hands is the best thing for our offense and for our football team," O'Brien said. "But we have to figure out how to run the ball better. I have to figure it out because it hasn't been good enough."

Watt and the rest of Houston's defense blamed

themselves for the loss after giving up 519 yards and allowing the Eagles to go 4 for 4 on fourth downs.

"I'll put that on my shoulders," Watt said. "The offense did a great job giving us a chance, and we just didn't get a stop at the end. I'll take that as a leader of the defense. We have to get a stop."

"As long as we get in, then it's a new season," Watson said before the clinching was official. "My mentality is whoever we have to play, wherever we have to play, we are going to play all four quarters. All that stuff is irrelevant. We have to focus on Jacksonville, get everyone healthy and try to win the next game and see what happens."

The Texans lost wide receiver Demaryius Thomas (right leg) and cornerbacks Kareem Jackson (knee) and Kayvon Webster (thigh) in the game. Thomas was carted off the field in the fourth quarter and his injury appeared most serious.

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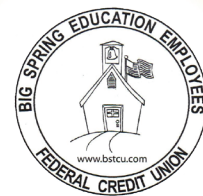
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