

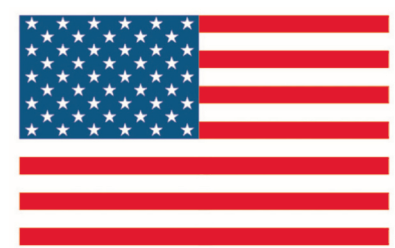
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Last day to register for HC spring semester Jan. 11



By ROGER CLINE
 Staff Writer

If you want to register for classes at Howard College for the spring, you still have a few more days. Online registration will be up through Jan. 6, and walk-in registrations will be accepted through Jan. 11. Classes begin Jan. 14.

"Howard College is still in open registration season and there's no better gift for your loved on than the gift of education," said Howard College Director of Information and Marketing Cindy Smith. "Even though the campus is closed until Jan. 3, 2019, open registration is still available online through Jan. 6. Advisors will be available on campus beginning Jan. 3 and students are welcome to come to campus, see an advisor and get registered for the spring semester.

Walk-in registration will continue for the 16-week courses as well as the first eight-week courses through Jan. 11."

Smith said students who register have until Jan. 7 to pay for their tuition and fees, and financial aid should be applied to accounts on that date. Students who register after Jan. 7 must pay when they register.

Some classes only last half a semester; the final day to register for the second eight-week courses will be March 8, with those classes beginning March 18.

For more information, call Howard College at 432-264-5000, or visit the website at www.howard-college.edu.

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

Relay for Life's second annual Survivor Fashion Show

By AMBER MANSFIELD
 Staff Writer

All the time you hear about people conquering courageous acts of amazing things and being praised and remembered for it. Sometimes it's climbing a mountain or diving with sharks to running a marathon. But what about surviving cancer? Fighting an internal battle every day, all the while trying to remain positive, may be an unorthodox way of conquering courageous acts, but definitely the most commendable.

Home Hospice knows just how courageous cancer survivors are and wants to celebrate them, which is why Home Hospice is hosting their second annual Relay for Life Fashion Show to honor cancer survivors.



From left to right show fashion models Connie Baker, Kaelor Green, Christie Brownfield, Gay Herren, Judy Pumroy, Kay Hulse, Laura Liphim, Audrey Liphim and Hailey Grant who all participated in the first-ever Brunch and Fashion Show back in April of 2018. Home Hospice honored cancer survivors, and with the help from several local boutiques, the survivors got to dress up and walk the catwalk. The Second Annual Fashion Show is slated for Saturday, February 16, 2019.

The event will also include a brunch and is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019. "We are honoring all of the survivors of Howard County and Glasscock County," said Beverly Grant from Home Hospice, and coordinator of the fashion show. "We want to let our survivors know that we appreciate them, and we thought a fashion show would be a great way to do that."

See RELAY, Page 3

Marcy Place to hold meet and greet



By AMBER MANSFIELD
 Staff Writer

Assisted living places are aimed at helping residents remain as self-sufficient as possible with the assurance of assistance when needed. A combination of housing, meals, personal care and support, social activities, 24-hour supervision and, in some residences, health-related services is usually provided. Assisted living facilities are a great choice for those who can't live on their own, but do not need nursing care. If you happen to be searching for information or insight regarding assisted living, you are in luck.

One local assisted living facility, Marcy Place, will be hosting a meet and greet on Thursday, January 10 all day long at Marcy Place, located at 2301 Wasson Rd. All members of the public are invited to come and ask any questions they may have, or simply to just come and check out what Marcy Place has to offer.

"It is imperative that you involve your loved one in the choices about his or her care. Take them with you on the tour of the facility and let them handle as much of the talking and decision-making as possible," said Catharine Denise Allado, of Marcy Place. "Second, take these questions, along with the residence-specific questions that arose while reviewing the mailed materials, with you. As you and your loved one meet with staff and take the tour, pay attention to how you feel and your surroundings. Spend time with the staff and residents. Ask them what they like and dislike about the place."

Marcy Place is classified as a large Assisted Living facility and provides assisted living services for each of its residents, and if needed, assists them with bathing, grooming, meal preparation, dressing and much more. Marcy Place

Assisted living places are aimed at helping residents remain as self-sufficient as possible with the assurance of assistance when needed. A combination of housing, meals, personal care and support, social activities, 24-hour supervision and, in some residences, health-related services is usually provided. Assisted living facilities are a great choice for those who can't live on their own, but do not need nursing care. If you happen to be searching for information or insight regarding assisted living, you are in luck.

Courtesy photo

Marcy Place assisted living is located in Big Spring at 2301 Wasson Rd. here in Big Spring.

See MEET, Page 3

Running in the name of love

By AMBER MANSFIELD
 Staff Writer

Assisted living places are aimed at helping residents remain as self-sufficient as possible with the assurance of assistance when needed. A combination of housing, meals, personal care and support, social activities, 24-hour supervision and, in some residences, health-related services is usually provided. Assisted living facilities are a great choice for those who can't live on their own, but do not need nursing care. One local assisted living area, Marcy Place, will be hosting a meet and greet Jan. 10 all day long at Marcy Place, located at 2301 Wasson Rd, and is invited the public to come and ask any question they may have or just and come to check out what Marcy Place has to offer.

"It is imperative that you involve your loved one in the choices about his or her care. Take them with you on the tour of the facility and let them handle as much of the talking



Deloras Shubert, who won best costume in last year's Run2Love2Run 5K, poses for a photo. The race is held every year at the scenic mountain, and this year's event is scheduled for Saturday, February 9, 2019.

Courtesy photo

See LOVE, Page 3

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Obituaries

Charles Ladd Smith



Beloved husband, father, friend and great American citizen, Charles Ladd Smith, 91, of Big Spring passed peacefully at home Thursday, Dec. 20 with his devoted wife of 69 years, Betty, by his side. Memorial Services will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Big Spring on Thursday, Dec. 27 at 2 p.m. Visitation will be at 1 p.m. prior to the service.

Ladd was born April 10, 1927, to Ruby and Luke Felton Smith. He is survived by three children; Celia L Milner of San Diego, Nancy Lynn Smith of Haiku, Hawaii, and David Batton Smith and wife, Terri-Lin of Highland Village; two grandchildren, Tiffany Smith Messerli and husband, Ian of Denton, and Starr and Katie Skinner of San Diego, California; three great-grandchildren, Vaughn Batton Smith, Cooper Ladd and Lucy Beth Skinner; and many caring nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Doris Buchanan and Ruby Anderson; and four brothers, Payton Smith, Robert Smith, Luke Felton Smith, Jr. and William Howard Smith.

Ladd graduated Big Spring High School in 1945 and joined the Navy that same year. He served honorably in the Pacific as a ships carpenter and helped transport troops home after the war. Subsequent to discharge, he attended Howard College, played on the basketball team and graduated in the first class of 1947.

Ladd continued his education at North Texas State University and married the love of his life, Betty Jo Stuteville in July of 1949. After teaching high school mathematics in Littlefield, Ladd and Betty moved back to Big Spring and Ladd went to work for Cosden Petroleum June of 1951. In 1963, Ladd and Betty and their three children moved to Dallas and Ladd continued his distinguished 38 year career with American Petrofina, N.A. until

his retirement and return to Big Spring in 1989.

Retirement freed Ladd to serve one term on the Big Spring City Council from May 1991 through May 1994.

Ladd's devotion and love of his church community at First United Methodist Church of Big Spring continued throughout his life. He and Betty were active members of the Preston Hollow Methodist Church in North Dallas where they served many years with the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Ladd loyally served the Boy Scouts of America throughout his life earning his Eagle Badge in Troop 3 in 1941. He was a Life Member of the Executive Committee Buffalo Council and served on the Advisory Board for over 25 years. He was recognized over the years for District Award of Merit, Good Scout Award, James E. Wood Fellowship, and received the highest honor the council can convey, the Silver Beaver Award in 1997.

Ladd also became a Mason as soon as he was eligible at 21 on June 12, 1948. He held many offices and earned many accolades within the organization. He served as the Commander of the Big Spring Commandery in 1957 and 2008, President of the Big Spring Shrine Club in 1961. He has also received both the Order of the Silver Trowel and the Order of the Golden Trowel, the highest honor a lodge can bestow.

His stewardship also included his love of the great outdoors. He enjoyed many days avidly enjoying fishing, hunting, and golfing. Ladd's love of mathematics led him to be a great domino and bridge player, pursuits he enjoyed all his life with friends and family.

Memorial Contributions made be made to the Philathia Sunday School Class at First United Methodist, the H.L. Batton Scholarship Fund at Howard College or the charity of your choice.

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

Paid Obituary

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.BecomeaCASA.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.

- Maranatha Baptist Academy, 903 Johnson Big Spring, Texas 432-213-1046, Call today for educational needs. In School, High School graduation, Tutoring, homeschool. We are qualified to help you with your child's education, kindergarten through twelfth grade. Come by or give us a call. Open enrollment.

- 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 opportunities 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 Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop mortgage foreclosure and are need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

- 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.

- The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program,

which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

- Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade. Cash donations to allow the Lions to purchase additional books are also appreciated. Books or donations can be taken to the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., or to the home of Lions member Ken Lawhon at 1707 E. 15th St. For more information, contact Lawhon at 214-998-9716.

- Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

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

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

- Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

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

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

- The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

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Michael "Mike" McSwain

Michael "Mike" McSwain, 67, of Midland formerly of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 24, 2018. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 432-517-9207 for more information.

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

- Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. t 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org, or call 432-268-3003.

- GriefShare is a Biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Meetings are weekly Sept. 13 Dec. 20, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.

FRIDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinson's Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's Disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

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

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MEET

Continued from Page 1

aims to provide a safe, nurturing and caring environment to its residents in a community-style setting that is similar to being in the comfort of their own home.

“Also, should residents have high blood pressure, diabetes or other medical conditions, Marcy Place should be able to provide special diet accommodations upon request. While 24-hour awake staff is not required by state licensing, certain assisted living facilities may have caregivers awake at night to accommodate your loved one,” said Allado. “In terms of your loved one’s alert level, mobility and care needs, Marcy Place may provide its residents with entertainment, exercise and a health and wellness program to keep them busy and active. Some of these activities at Marcy Place can include music therapy, pet therapy, board games, and outdoor excursions. Marcy Place should also be able to accommodate your loved one with transportation to and from doctor’s appointments, shopping and religious worship services.”

Stop by Marcy Place’s meet and greet for any questions you may have. If you need additional information regarding the meet and greet, please contact 432-271-4645 and a family care representative will be more than happy to help you.

Trump assails Fed as the 'only problem our economy has'

By **JOSH BOAK**

AP Economics Writer

President Donald Trump lashed out at the Federal Reserve on Monday after administration officials spent the weekend trying to assure the public and financial markets that Jerome Powell's job as Fed chairman was safe.

“The only problem our economy has is the Fed,” the president tweeted Monday. “They don't have a feel for the Market, they don't understand necessary Trade Wars or Strong Dollars or even Democrat Shutdowns over Borders. The Fed is like a powerful golfer who can't score because he has no touch — he can't putt!”

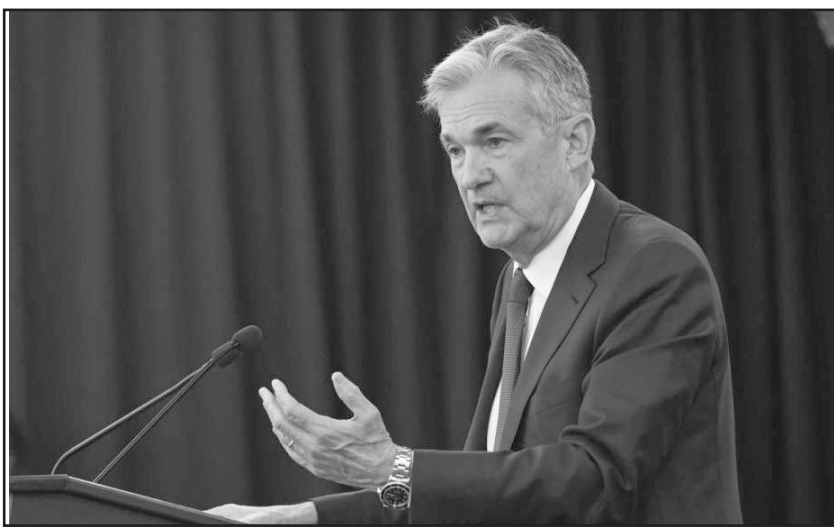
On Wall Street, stocks had already been down but intensified their fall after Trump's tweet. Markets were already facing their worst month in a decade over fears about a U.S. trade war with China, a slowing global economy and chaos in the Trump White House. Near the close of a holiday-shortened trading session Monday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was off more than 500 points.

Trump's latest tweet attacking the Fed was met with concern that any attempt to diminish Powell or remove him as chairman could destabilize the economy.

“He is seeking open warfare on Christmas Eve,” said Peter Conti-Brown, a financial historian at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. “We've never seen anything like this full-blown and full-frontal assault. This is a disaster for the Fed, a disaster for the president and a disaster for the economy.”

The president has expressed frustration over the Fed's decision to raise its key short-term rate four times this year. Those moves are intended to prevent the economy from overheating at a time of brisk growth and an unemployment rate near a half-century low.

At a news conference last week, Powell explained that the rate hikes were evidence of the economy's strength. But Trump sees the increases — which lead to higher borrowing costs for consumers and businesses — as an economic and political threat.



AP photo

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell speak at a news conference in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018. The Federal Reserve is raising its key interest rate for the fourth time this year to reflect the U.S. economy's continued strength but signaling that it expects to slow hikes next year.

Stocks did decline after Powell announced this year's fourth rate hike on Wednesday. But the sell-off appeared to reflect concerns that the Fed was moving too fast in its plans to raise rates and shrink its vast portfolio of bonds given an economic slowdown that is expected in 2019.

Fed officials voted unanimously to increase rates last week. Among those voting with Powell were three other board members who were chosen by Trump: Richard Clarida, Randal Quarles and Michelle Bowman.

The president expressed his displeasure Monday with the Fed after Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin had tweeted on Saturday that Powell's job was safe.

Mnuchin also tweeted on Sunday that he had checked with the heads of the six largest U.S. banks to ensure that they had enough liquidity to operate in a stock market that has tumbled sharply since October.

“My sense is the Mnuchin tweets don't tell us much about the economy, but they provide unusual insight into the chaos inside the White House,” said Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist at the consultancy RSM. “Rather than instilling confidence, it created confusion and raised more questions than it answered. Foremost among those is, how safe is the job of Jay Powell as chairman of the Federal Reserve?”

RELAY

Continued from Page 1

and fun way to do that.”

According to Grant, the fashion show will feature different survivors who will get to showcase different clothing from all of the boutiques around town and strut their stuff along the catwalk. Grant also stated that Merle Norman has wigs and scarfs available for free for any survivors who are dealing with hair loss from treatment.

“We pick a survivor and send them to a boutique or clothing store here in town. The store personnel will help them pick out what they will get to wear during the fashion show,” said

Grant. “If you know any survivors, or if you are a survivor, please come be a part of our Fashion Show and celebrate life!” During the brunch, Home Hospice will serve drinks and finger foods for attendees to enjoy along with the show.

The whole event will last for about two hours long, and there are limited tickets for this event, so don't delay.

“We only have a limited amount of tickets, which will buy you brunch and a seat for the Fashion Show,” said Grant. “All of the proceeds made from this event will go back to Howard and Glasscock County's Relay for Life.” If you want to purchase tickets for this event, please call Debbye Val-

Verde at the Chamber of Commerce at 432-263-7641. You can also get tickets from Home Hospice, or if you're a survivor or know a survivor who would want to be a part of the Fashion Show, please call Home Hospice at 432-264-7599.

“Here at Home Hospice and Relay For Life, we think that you become a survivor from the very first moment you are diagnosed with cancer,” said Grant. “This show is for them and to honor them for their courageous acts, for being mentors to others, and to show how much we appreciate them. Come show your appreciation and support too by attending the Brunch and Fashion Show.”

LOVE

Continued from Page 1

and decision-making as possible,” said Catharine Denise Allado, of Marcy Place. “Second, take these questions, along with the residence-specific questions that arose while reviewing the mailed materials, with you. As you and your loved one meet with staff and take the tour, pay attention to how you feel and your surroundings. Spend time with the staff and residents. Ask them what they like and dislike about the place.”

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Stop by Marcy Place, this Jan. 10 for any questions you may have, and for more free information regarding Marcy House and pricing in Big Spring, please contact 877.523.6523 and a family care representative will be more than happy to help you.

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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.

Church news for First United Methodist Church

Special to the Herald

First United Methodist Church is located just off Gregg Street at the corner of Fourth and Scurry in downtown Big Spring.

The Wednesday Noon Bible Study meets for lunch and a study in Garrett Hall on Wednesdays. The meal is served at 11:50 a.m. for \$5. The Study will resume on January 9 after the holidays.

Real Life Wednesday night sessions include something for almost everyone. There are Children and Youth activities. Choir rehearsal is at 6 p.m. The Praise Team rehearses at 7 p.m. The Women's Bible Study Group meets at 6:30 p.m. Regular Wednesday activities will resume on Jan. 9.

A Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24.

On Dec. 30 only one worship service will be held, at 11 a.m.

New classes of “Financial Peace University” will begin the last week of January 2019. Dave Ramsey's FPU has changed the lives of many families as they find freedom from debt and learn how to handle money God's way. There will be several classes offered on different days of the week and at a variety of times.

In January 2019 “Celebrate Recovery” will be offered to the community for individuals and families who seek relief and healing from hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Worship and helpful Bible-based discussions are included. New classes begin on Wednesday January 9; the public is invited.

For more information on any activity, please visit the website at www.fumcbs.com or phone the church office at 432-267-6394.

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Amid 2018's tragedies were moments of compassion and duty

By The Associated Press

Deadliest shooting at an American high school: Parkland, Florida.

Deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century: Paradise, California.

Deadliest attack on Jews in American history: Pittsburgh.

The cities of Parkland, Paradise and Pittsburgh became synonymous with tragedy in 2018, a year when the nation seemed to careen from one deadly horror to another. Yet in every calamity, there were people who showed their humanity, their selfless strength and their sense of duty amid the suffering.

As the year draws to a close, Associated Press reporters on the front lines of some of the year's heartbreaking stories offer up accounts of compassion and decency.

'I CHOSE TO ACT'

Rabbi Jeffrey Myers said no class in any seminary could have prepared anyone for the role he was thrust into.

Myers was leading Shabbat services when gunfire erupted inside his Pittsburgh synagogue on Oct. 27. After helping others to safety, Myers turned back and raced up the stairs to a choir loft, where he called 911. Seven members of his Tree of Life congregation and four others in the building were killed.

As the Jewish community grieved, Myers took a leading role during public memorials and presided over seven funerals in the space of less than a week.

"I really had two choices when it came down to how to respond," Myers said. "One of them was ... curl up with a bottle of scotch. The second choice was to act upon it. I chose to act upon it."

His response inspired Tree of Life congregants, including retired psychiatrist Joe Charny, 90.

"There's no question that he's been super, and it's hard to imagine that anybody could have done a better job," Charny said. "He has the right touch. He has maintained through all this a sense of humor. I don't know how he's done that."

Myers has vowed to no longer use the word "hate."

"To me, that's the mission that has come out of this, that for 11 beautiful people to have not died in vain," the rabbi said. "The conversation about hate speech in America must be elevated and it must gain attention, because that type of speech leads to action such as what happened at my synagogue."

— AP writer Mark Scoloro in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

A MORBID BUT CRITICAL TASK

It was the week before Thanksgiving when Craig Covey got the call for what would be his most difficult mission as a search-and-rescue team leader: picking through the ashes of Paradise for human remains.

It was a morbid but critical task.

A wildfire that swept through on Nov. 8 all but obliterated Paradise, once home to 27,000 people. To find and identify the 86 dead, authorities had to call on searchers like Covey to gather up what amounted in some cases to little more than teeth, bone fragments or artificial hips. Then they had to rely on the expertise of rapid-testing DNA labs, forensic anthropologists and other specialists.

"It was apocalyptic up there," Covey said several weeks after returning home to Costa Mesa, California.

Covey's team is deployed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to disasters across the country and beyond. Earlier this year, his team helped rescue an exhausted 82-year-old man who had been flushed out of his car by floodwaters and pinned in some trees amid Hurricane Florence in North Carolina.

Paradise was different, but brought rewards of its own.

"We weren't shaking hands with people," Covey said. "But we were making a difference for folks, for closure, who are missing their families."

— AP writer Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California

DOGS IN TUNE WITH HUMANS

When classes resumed in late February following the massacre of 17 students and staff at Parkland's Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, a therapy dog by the name of Fergie was brought in.

Fergie, an 8-year-old cross between a golden retriever and a poodle, zeroed in on one young man and sat on his feet the entire class, barely moving, said Aneysi Fernandez, volunteer coordinator of the nonprofit group Canine Assisted Therapy.

"It turned out that was one of the students who lost most of his friends in the shooting," said Fernandez. "Some of our dogs like Fergie are very in tune with human emotions."

Several therapy animal groups helped out in those dark days after the Feb. 14 mass shooting. The dogs — and in some cases, donkeys and horses — went into the cafeteria and classrooms. They were also at vigils and marches.

Fernandez's organization sent 35 therapy dogs and their handlers into the school. All of the animals were trained and selected for their calm, happy demeanor.

Some Parkland students specifically asked for a dog to shadow them during classes, saying that the animals' presence eased the stress of returning to a place where such a horrible thing happened.

"It's nice not to be asked any questions, to not have to relieve the event," Fernandez said. "Everyone grieves differently. Students who didn't want to talk could pet a dog."

Ten months after the tragedy, a dozen dogs still show up at the school every day, mostly to sit by the side of those teens who need a calming presence.

— AP writer Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida

'IT'S IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD'

It was known as the Wall of Forgotten Natives, a sprawling homeless encampment that sprouted along a Minneapolis freeway sound barrier over the summer.

Most of those living there were American Indians, who make up an outsized portion of the homeless population in the city, and the tents stood on what was once Dakota land.

University of Minnesota medical and law student Kristina Tester grew up nearby and began helping at the camp as part of an elective rotation for her degree. She began doing clean-needle exchanges and continued on as a volunteer for months after her assignment ended.

"There's really not much of a difference between myself and any of the residents who are here at the homeless camp, other than sort of luck of the draw and geographic-political lottery," she said.

The 26-year-old Tester said she organized groups of university students to do laundry for camp residents. She also served meals about once a week with neighbors. Recently she delivered cookies and blankets made by high school students.

Tester, who is non-Indian, said she did it because "it's in my neighborhood."

At its peak, the encampment had 300 people, but they began moving into a temporary shelter across the highway as winter approached.

Maggie Thunder Hawk, 56, an Oglala Lakota from Wanblee, South Dakota, picked up two blankets that Tester delivered.

"If it wasn't for her, we'd be cold, because she brings us warm blankets," Thunder Hawk said.

"I love her."

Indonesia searches for tsunami victims; death toll hits 373



AP photo

A tsunami survivor sits on a pile of debris as she salvages items from the location of her house in Sumur, Indonesia, Monday, Dec. 24, 2018.

By NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

TANJUNG LESUNG, Indonesia (AP) — Efforts to collect hundreds of bodies and save the injured were stepped up in Indonesia on Monday following the country's latest tsunami, as scientists collected evidence on how a volcanic eruption triggered the weekend tragedy.

Casualty figures from Saturday night's disaster continued to rise, with at least 373 people confirmed dead and more than 1,400 injured. The death toll was certain to rise further, with 128 people still missing from the affected areas along the coastlines of western Java and southern Sumatra islands, where hundreds of military personnel and volunteers were conducting their grim search along debris-strewn beaches.

Where victims were found, yellow, orange and black body bags were laid out, and weeping relatives identified the dead.

The waves that swept locals and tourists into the sea along the Sunda Strait followed an eruption and apparent landslide on Anak Krakatau, or "Child of Krakatoa," one of the world's most infamous volcanic islands.

Hotels and hundreds of homes were heavily damaged by the waves. Broken chunks of concrete and splintered sticks of wood littered hard-hit coastal areas, turning popular beach areas into near ghost towns. Debris from thatched-bamboo shacks was strewn along the coast.

The Indonesian Medical Association of the worst-affected Banten region said that it sent doctors, medical supplies and equipment, and that many of the injured were in need of orthopedic and neurological surgery. It said most victims are domestic tourists who were visiting beaches during the long weekend ahead of Christmas.

It was the second deadly tsunami to hit seismically active Indonesia this year. A powerful earthquake triggered a tsunami that hit Sulawesi island in September, giving residents a brief warning before the

waves struck.

On Saturday night, however, the ground did not shake to alert people before the waves ripped buildings from their foundations and swept terrified concertgoers celebrating on a resort beach into the sea.

"I heard people shouting to run away and I saw the water had gone up to the mainland and the hotel had been flooded by water," said witness Feri Ardian. "About 200 people were dragged away by the waves."

Dramatic video posted on social media showed the Indonesian pop band Seventeen performing in a tent on Tanjung Lesung beach at a concert for employees of the state-owned electricity company. A wave smashed through the makeshift stage, tossing the band and its equipment into the audience.

Seventeen's bass player, guitarist, drummer, road manager and technician were all killed. The lead singer, Riefian Fajarsyah, survived, but his wife, who was also a backup singer, remains missing.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who faces what promises to be a tough re-election campaign next year, responded Monday to the lack of any warning of the disaster with a vow to have all equipment used for detection of tsunamis replaced or repaired.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman for Indonesia Disaster Mitigation Agency, acknowledged on Twitter that the country's network of detection buoys had been dysfunctional since 2012, due to vandalism and budget shortfalls.

But the head of Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency, Dwikorita Karnawati, said Monday that the tsunami was caused by Krakatau's volcanic activity, so could not have been picked up by her agency's sensors, which monitor the conventional tectonic earthquakes that are responsible for more than 90 percent of Indonesia's tsunamis.

With Anak Krakatau still erupting, she warned people to avoid activities around coastal areas in the coming days.

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Winners, losers heading into last week of NFL season

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

Winners and Losers.

The big winners in Week 16 were the Saints, Patriots, Cowboys, Seahawks and Ravens. The losers were the Steelers, Dolphins, Chiefs and Texans.

But wait. Then the Texans became winners hours later, earning a playoff berth as they headed back to Houston on Sunday following a last-second 32-30 loss at Philadelphia that handed the AFC's No. 2 seed behind Kansas City to the Patriots — as if they need any help when the playoffs arrive. Houston sneaked in when Pittsburgh lost 31-28 at New Orleans, though the Texans still could wind up a wild card in the, well, wild AFC South.

Here's a road map as we head into the final week of the schedule.

NFC

New Orleans (12-3) secured home-field advantage throughout the conference playoffs by beating Pittsburgh, dropping the Steelers into second place behind Baltimore in the AFC North. The Saints won't be playing outdoors again — the Super Bowl, should they get there, will be inside at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

"Knowing that we've done it, knowing that the road comes through New Orleans, that gives us a lot of confidence," Drew Brees said. "Obviously we love playing in the dome. ... We have goals throughout the season and this is one of them."

Also reaching their goal were the Cowboys, grabbing the NFC East with a 27-20 victory over Tampa Bay. Dallas (9-6) will be the fourth seed and host a wild-card game.

"We can't get comfortable," Ezekiel Elliott said. "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 playoffs."



Dallas Cowboys' Dak Prescott (4) and Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Jameis Winston, right, greet each other after their NFL football game in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018.

AP photo

Chicago (11-4) needs to be ready next week at Minnesota (8-6-1). For one, the Bears have a shot at the second overall slot and a first-round bye with a win and a loss by the Rams (12-3), who are at home for San Francisco. For another, they could deny their division rival a postseason spot; a Vikings win gets them a wild card.

But a Vikings loss and an Eagles win at Washington gets the defending champions (8-7) back into the postseason.

Seattle (9-6) appears destined to play at Dallas in the first round. The Seahawks beat the Cowboys in Week 3 for their first win of what was supposed to be a rebuilding year.

They've rebuilt so quickly that Pete Carroll is in the running for Coach of the Year.

"It's not complicated," Russell Wilson said after the 38-31 victory against the Chiefs. "It's hard work, it's hav-

ing faith. We knew we had to battle throughout the season, it's a journey and we're still not done yet."

AFC

For a decade now, the New England Patriots have owned the AFC East, and they had a huge weekend.

The Patriots clinched their 10th straight division title when they beat Buffalo 24-12. They got an added bonus when Houston fell to drop out of the second seed in the conference, which New England grabbed — with a shot at the top spot.

They are 7-0 in Foxborough — the league's only undefeated team in its own building — and 3-5 on the road.

"We didn't have our best day in the passing game. But it felt good to win. At this time of year, whatever it takes to win, that's what you've got to do," Tom Brady said.

Baltimore (9-6), fresh off its victory at the Chargers on Saturday night,

has a half-game lead on Pittsburgh (8-6-1), which has lost four of five. The Ravens will take the North with a home win against Cleveland next week. The Steelers host Cincinnati and need help to get into the postseason from their hated enemy, the Browns.

"We're playing pretty good football, but it might not matter," Ben Roethlisberger said. "Obviously we don't control our destiny any more. We have to take care of business next week."

"You can be as skillful as you want on both sides of the ball and special teams, but there is still a small element of luck involved in football. A play here, a play there. If that's what it is, I don't know, but it's the game of football."

The game of tiebreakers also shows that deadlocks the Colts and Titans should at Nashville in the prime-time game to end the season, and the Steelers win, Pittsburgh edges both of them for the final wild card, all at 9-6-1.

In the South, Houston (10-5) is leading Indianapolis and Tennessee by a game. The Texans host Jacksonville (5-10) and could wind up a wild card with a loss and a non-tie in Nashville.

The Chiefs (11-4) and Chargers (11-4) already are in the postseason from the West. That takes up one wild card. But Kansas City, once the darling of the league, could plummet from top overall seed to wild card if it flops versus Oakland next week and LA beats Denver.

Miami was still in the mix before falling 17-7 at home to lowly Jacksonville. Shameful.

What is clear is that there's no overwhelming favorite. It's been a while since a wild-card team, Green Bay for the 2010 season, won the championship. Right now, betting against the likes of the Chargers, Seahawks or Eagles should they get in would be foolish.

AP top sports story of '18: Nassar abuse, gymnastics turmoil

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

The depths of Larry Nassar's depravity began to emerge some 15 months before the calendar flipped to 2018 — when reports of his sexual abuse first appeared in newspaper stories that would eventually lead to a trial and, ultimately, to the doctor's imprisonment.

But it was January 2018, the month when more than 150 female athletes testified at Nassar's sentencing hearing for convictions on child-porn and sex-abuse charges, that marked a turning point in a crisis that has inflicted untold damage.

The testimony brought the true nature and number of Nassar's crimes to the fore, triggering spasms of anger, soul-searching and attempts at reform, while also giving women in sports — and society in general — a more powerful voice when it comes to exposing abuse that had been swept out of the public's conscience for decades.

Nassar's crimes and the chaos they provoked — the massive turnover at Michigan State, the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Gymnastics, to say nothing of the trauma wrought on the victims themselves — was the Story of the Year in balloting by AP members and editors. The Nassar saga earned more than double the number of votes as the second- and third-place finishers: the Eagles' first Super Bowl championship and the Supreme Court's decision to strike down a law that prohibited sports gambling outside of Nevada.

The year 2018 was also notable for a string of striking comebacks and surprises: Maryland-Baltimore County pulled the first 16 vs. 1 upset in an NCAA Tournament that was also highlighted by Loyola-Chicago's run to the Final Four, spurred on by a 98-year-old superfan, Sister Jean Dolores-Schmidt. Tiger Woods returned to form, nearly winning the PGA before capturing the season-ending Tour Championship. The expansion Las Vegas Knights made it all the way to the Stanley Cup Final before falling to the Washington Capitals.

There was a steady trickle of news about the still-emerging evidence and response to the doping scandal in Russia that has sullied the last three



Larry Nassar listens during his sentencing at Eaton County Circuit Court in Charlotte, Mich. Crimes of sexual abuse committed by Nassar and the chaos they provoked have been named the Story of the Year in balloting by Associated Press members and editors.

AP photo

Olympics, with potential for more.

But the steadiest flow of cringe-inducing headlines came out of the Nassar scandal — not only detailing his depravity, but also the slow, often-hampered way in which some of the most powerful people in sports dealt with the aftermath.

Those who failed paid dearly, and it's no exaggeration to say the entire Olympic movement inside the United States could be reconfigured because of it.

USOC chairman Larry Probst, CEO Scott Blackmun and sport performance director Alan Ashley all left or were forced out under a cloud. In his going-away speech, Probst said despite the USOC's success under his watch, "it is our collective failure to keep you safe that that will forever cause me deep and profound regret." Brought on to repair USA Gymnastics, president Kerry Perry got forced out after a series of embarrassing and out-of-tune missteps. Her predecessor, Steve Penny, was arrested on charges he ordered files pertaining to Nassar removed from the team's training center at the Karolyi Ranch in Texas.

Blackmun's successor, Sarah Hirshland, eventually called for decertification of USA Gymnastics — an unwieldy process that could be hastened by Congress, which held a number of hearings and called for changes in the law that governs the entire, dysfunctional U.S. Olympic charter.

Though he worked with high-profile gymnasts in a volunteer capacity, Nassar did most of his damage at his full-time job at Michigan State.

The school has settled lawsuits totaling \$500 million. Its university president, athletic director, gymnastics coach, vice president of legal affairs, a dean and a school doctor have all left under the cloud of how the university failed, time and again, when presented with evidence that Nassar was a serial abuser. Some of those who have left are awaiting trials for enabling Nassar in some way.

Hundreds of gymnasts' lawsuits against the USOC and USA Gymnastics are still pending. More Congressional hearings will be scheduled. More failures are certain to be detailed, and possibly some positive solutions — few and far between as the recriminations have piled up — can be found, as well.

The one sure thing is that even though 2018 is coming to an end, the pain, lessons and impact felt from the Nassar saga will resonate in 2019 and beyond.

"I think we have opened this door and revealed a lot of bad truths about our sport and sports in general," said one of Nassar's many victims, Olympic champion Jordyn Wieber. "Not only in sports in general, but a big child-abuse problem. People are opening their eyes a little bit more."

Ironically, one of the biggest drivers of change turned out to be the world's best gymnast. A Nassar victim herself, Olympic and world champion Simone Biles was unabashed in calling it like she saw it when change wasn't coming quickly enough — or didn't make any sense. Though hers may have been the best-known voice, it wasn't the only one.

Survivors are cautiously optimistic.

"There is a broader cultural impact in terms of survivors speaking up," said Rachel Denhollander, whose story of abuse at the hands of Nassar triggered the entire meltdown. "Prosecutors are saying they're seeing a significant increase. A lot of them are tying them back to the sentencing hearing with Larry."

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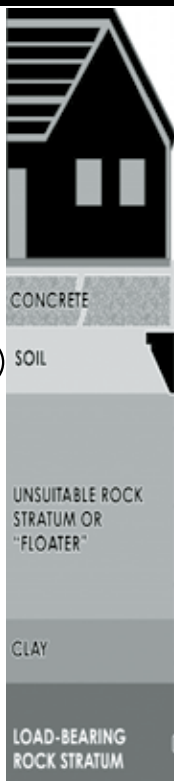
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On November 30, 2018, Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor"), Sharyland Distribution & Transmission Services, L.L.C. ("SDTS"), Sharyland Utilities, L.P. ("Sharyland"), and Sempra Energy ("Sempra") (collectively, "Joint Applicants") filed a Joint Report and Application for Regulatory Approvals ("Joint Application") with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUC" or "Commission"), copies of which are kept at Oncor's office at 1616 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Suite 6000, Dallas, TX 75202. The Joint Application requests Commission approval of three transactions (the "Proposed Transactions"), as described below, that will result in SDTS becoming an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Oncor that will own transmission and distribution assets held today by Sharyland and SDTS in central, north, and west Texas, and Sharyland will remain a utility in south Texas, with Sempra owning a 50 percent indirect interest in Sharyland. First, Sharyland will transfer its assets in north Texas, along with associated assets, liabilities, and working capital, to SDTS. In return, Sharyland will receive all of SDTS's assets located in south Texas. In connection with this asset exchange, Sharyland's equity interest in SDTS will be cancelled, and the certificates of convenience and necessity of Sharyland and SDTS will be amended to authorize the "North Texas Utility" (referring to the post-closing assets to be owned by SDTS) and the "South Texas Utility" (referring to the post-closing assets to be owned by Sharyland) to own, operate, and maintain their respective post-exchange assets. Second, Oncor will acquire InfraREIT, Inc. ("InfraREIT") and InfraREIT Partners, LP and, as a result, will own and operate all of SDTS's post-transaction assets. Finally, Sempra will purchase a 50-percent indirect limited partnership interest in a newly formed Delaware limited partnership expected to be named Sharyland Holdings, LP, which will own a 100-percent interest in Sharyland. The Joint Applicants also request Commission approval of certain regulatory terms listed in Exhibit A to the Joint Application, some of which are regulatory conditions to closing.

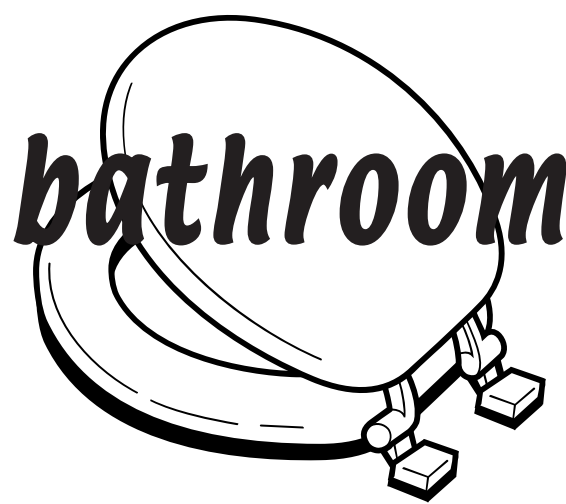
The Joint Application does not seek Commission approval of a modification to Oncor's rates. Oncor is requesting a Commission finding, however, that Oncor may consolidate the North Texas Utility's wholesale transmission rates with Oncor's rates as part of Oncor's next base-rate case. Oncor also requests Commission approval to establish a regulatory asset to track any make-whole payments or other expenses that may be required to extinguish, transfer, or restructure the debt of InfraREIT and its subsidiaries under the Proposed Transactions, so that Oncor may seek recovery of that regulatory asset in its next base-rate case. The Joint Applicants also seek Commission approval to split the current Sharyland wholesale transmission service tariff into two separate tariffs—one for the North Texas Utility and one for the South Texas Utility—which rates, when taken together, would be equal to Sharyland's rate in effect at the time the Proposed Transactions close.

Any person wishing to intervene in this proceeding must file a written request with the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 North Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326, no later than January 4, 2019. This case has been assigned PUCT Docket No. 48929. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7136 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech- impaired with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC, SHARYLAND DISTRIBUTION & TRANSMISSION SERVICES, L.L.C., SHARYLAND UTILITIES, L.P., AND SEMPRA ENERGY

#10026 Dec. 19 & 26, 2018

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Kwanzaa Trine

A trine of the sun and moon offers a window of good fortune on the first night of Kwanzaa, a weeklong celebration of African heritage. Seven principles serve as guiding lights over the holiday: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Shine on! Happy Kwanzaa.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Nothing gets in the way today unless you let it. With this philosophy, you won't cast yourself in the role of the victim. Why would you? You're able and you can always make a different choice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll get to building a beautiful and

different kind of world, maybe only with one other person, but it still counts. It only takes one other person to create a society with you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You long ago came to terms with the unfair nature of life. You'll be reminded how some have been endowed with traits or circumstances that give them an advantage from birth, and you'll do something to help the balance today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Extending compassion to yourself can be a difficult thing to do. It's tempting to try to find out why this is so. But then again, maybe the reason doesn't matter. Override it. Help yourself out. Forgive and love yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

The art of the seating chart isn't just for big parties and events. If there's a way to arrange your life so as to place and group people elegantly, then you certainly will find it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you don't get what you want right away, consider yourself lucky. This is where the

By Holiday Mathis



real gold comes -- in having to reach down deep into your own resources and build something out of them to make your situation work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There was a time you thought it best to strictly follow the rules; you were young and this kept you safe. But if you continued in this way, you'd miss out on a great deal of life. Afford yourself some slack.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You came into your convictions over time, slowly forming and testing a belief system that made sense to you at many levels. In many ways you're still assembling it, but what you've got already is certainly worthy of your defense.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's possible that trying to be better counts as actually being better, but it's also possible that accepting yourself more fully is a faster route to your transformation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The more people involved in your vision, the harder it will be to keep it cohesive, but that's OK for now. Pick one or two guiding principles and see what

happens.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's not a correct way to look at things, but optimism does net different results than pessimism. You do not feel that your interests are at stake, and this allows you to feel effortlessly generous with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's comfort in playing the old games you used to play, and yet there are new games, too. So while you may visit the glory days of the past, you won't stay there.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com. COPYRIGHT 2018 CREATORS.COM



By Steve Becker

Preparation for the unexpected

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

which East showed out, and the hand collapsed.

What had appeared a moment before to be a shoo-in for 10 tricks — seven clubs and three aces — changed drastically when East failed to follow to the first club. South struggled awhile, but eventually went down two.

Had South taken the proper precautions to guard against a 4-0 club break, however, he could not have failed to make the contract. As soon as dummy came down, he should have realized that only a 4-0 club division could defeat him, and his sole concern should have been to guard against that possibility.

There was a simple way to do this. After both opponents followed to the third spade, proving that the opposing spades were divided 4-3, he should have led a low club from his hand. The worst that could happen then would be that the defense would take three spades and a club to hold him to nine tricks.

It is true that in most hands this precautionary measure would have cost South an overtrick or two — since the clubs were much more likely to be divided 3-1 or 2-2 — but this minor investment to assure making a vulnerable game was well worth the price.

Tomorrow: A psychological ploy.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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!

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

ANSWER:

	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	P. Luche	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	Behind	Mack	Mama's	American	Fam. Guy	Comedy	College	SportsCenter	Basket	Harry Potter		
6 :30	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Shepherd's Heart	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Burgers	Minnesota vs Georgia Tech.	Boxing	Boxing	Cowboys	The Goblet of Fire, Emma Watson (DVS)		Border Live
7 :30	Gold	Jesús	Empire (DVS)	The 41st Annual Kennedy Center Honors	(:05) La sul-tana (SS)	Chicago Fire	News	Nature (DVS)	Griffith	Riverdale	Big Bang	Movie: The Intern, Rene Russo (DVS)	Scores	Boxing	Mavs Pre.	Live PD		Border Live
8 :30	Mod Fam Single	Mi marido	Star (DVS)	Falsa identidad (SS)	Chicago Med	Light of Southwest	NOVA (DVS)	WKRP	All American	Big Bang	Big Bang	College Football: Cheez-It Bowl -- California vs TCU.	Boxing	Boxing	NBA Basketball: Pelicans at Mavericks	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix		Border Live
9 :30	Mod Fam Single	Amar a muerte	FOX 24 News at 9	Bull	Chicago P.D.	Light of Southwest	Amer. Experience	Heroes	Page Six	Big Bang	Big Bang	Movie: Horrible Bosses 2, Jason Sudeikis (DVS)	Boxing	Boxing		Mod Fam		Storage
10 :30	Big 2	Impacto	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	Gold	Full	2, Jason Sudeikis (DVS)	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Mavs	Mod Fam		Storage
11 :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Dr. C. Stanley	Nature (DVS)	Perry Mason	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Movie: The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (DVS)	SportCtr	SportCtr	NBA Basketball: Pelicans at Mavericks	Mod Fam		Border Live
12 :30	Extra	Cachito de Cielo	Two Men	Access	Señora Acero (SS)	Daily	TBA	Hitchcock	Hitchcock	King	King	Bones (DVS)	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Bucks at Knicks	Law & Order: SVU		Border Live
1 :30	Paid Prg.	En tierras salvajes	Pawn	Paid Prg.	Programa	Inside Ed.	Programa	Mannix	Top 30	Brooklyn	Brooklyn	Bones (DVS)	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Bucks at Knicks	Chicago P.D.		Dual Simulca

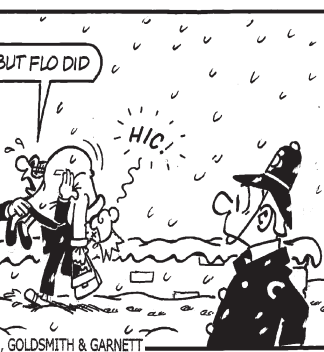
ANDY CAPP



AGNES



ARCHIE



ONE BIG HAPPY



MOMMA



NEST HEAD



Thought for Today:

"Time is the longest distance between two places."

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 26, the 360th day of 2018. There are five days left in the year. The seven-day African-American holiday Kwanzaa begins today. This is Boxing Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 26, 2004, more than 230,000 people, mostly in southern Asia, were killed by a 100-foot-high tsunami triggered by a 9.1-magnitude earthquake beneath the Indian Ocean.

On this date:

In 1799, former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In 1908, Jack Johnson became the first African-American boxer to win the world heavyweight championship as he defeated Canadian Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia.

In 1917, during World War I, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation authorizing the government to take over operation of the nation's railroads.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, the embattled U.S. 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium, was relieved by units of the 4th Armored Division. Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie" was first performed at the Civic Theatre in Chicago.

In 1947, heavy snow blanketed the Northeast, burying New York City under 26.4 inches of snow in 16 hours; the severe weather was blamed for some 80 deaths.

In 1972, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, died in Kansas City, Missouri, at age 88.

In 1975, the Soviet Union inaugurated the world's first supersonic transport service with a flight of its Tupolev-144 airliner from Moscow to Alma-Ata (AHL'muh AH'tah).

In 1980, Iranian television footage was broadcast in the United States, showing a dozen of the American hostages sending messages to their families.

In 1985, Ford Motor Company began selling its Taurus and Sable sedans and station wagons.

In 1996, 6-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colorado. (To date, the slaying remains

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Lose fur

5 Bank conveniences: Abbr.

9 Not on a tilt

14 Residence

15 Make ready, for short

16 Iron ___ (rust)

17 Natural balm

18 ___ colada (cocktail)

19 Dorian Gray creator

20 Multipurpose ointment

23 Visual artistic sense

24 Media mogul Turner

25 Neck of the woods

26 Urban GPS lines

27 Bovine chew

29 Type of coat fastener

32 Give a speech

35 Overfilled

37 Be in debt

38 Wildlife refuges

41 Network founded by Turner

42 Take a siesta

43 Most minimal

44 Causes of personality clashes

46 Web page pop-ups

47 Sales receipt figure

48 Blog entry

50 Family reunion group

51 Quarterback Manning

54 Created trouble for oneself

DOWN

8 Junk e-mail

9 Now at a discount

10 Banishes

11 Pennsylvania university

12 Swirling current

13 Director Ang

21 Riverbank frolickers

22 Green gemstones

26 Alphabetic trio

27 Gives a darn

28 Lone Star State sch.

30 Impresses a lot

31 Irksome one

32 In olden days

33 Sounded loudly

34 Never

35 Went fast

36 Part of FDR

SPREAD IT AROUND

by Fred Piscop
 Edited by Stanley Newman
 www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
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The Dabo Way: Swinney keeps mood light at surging Clemson

By PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer

CLEMSON, S.C. (AP) — Dabo Swinney likes to keep the mood around Clemson's football program light, with lots of revelry.

It's the Dabo Way. And it seems to be working. Top recruits keep arriving each year, assistants don't want to leave and the Tigers keep winning.

Swinney, in his 10th year at Clemson, like most coaches is a stickler for hard work. But he also is keen on celebrating success. There are memorable locker room dance parties after victories. There was a stadium pizza party for fans following Clemson's first trip to the College Football Playoff in 2015, and even a trip to an area amusement park this week amid preparations for its latest playoff run, which starts for the second ranked Tigers (13-0, CFP No. 2) against No. 3 Notre Dame (12-0, CFP No. 3).

"Coach Swinney calls it joy," receiver Amari Rodgers said.

There's been plenty of joy for the Tigers in the decade since Swinney, a little known receivers coach, earned the fulltime job after the 2008 season without any experience as coach or coordinator.

Clemson has won five Atlantic Coast Conference titles (the last four in a row) under Swinney and the 2016 national championship.

And Swinney is ardent defender of his team's right to happiness.

Last month, he angrily chided fans critical of a closer-than-expected 56-35 win over rival South Carolina.

"We've got people complaining," Swinney said. "Give me a break. If 12-0 ain't good enough, then it's time to seek other places."

It's an atmosphere in which players and assistants feel welcome, and seek to stay.

Three Clemson All-Americans, de-



AP photo

Dec. 1, 2018, file photo, Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney raises the trophy after Clemson won the Atlantic Coast Conference championship NCAA college football game against Pittsburgh in Charlotte, N.C. Swinney, in his 10th year at Clemson, like most coaches is a stickler for hard work. But he also is keen on celebrating success.

fensive end Clelin Ferrell, defensive tackle Christian Wilkins and left tackle Mitch Hyatt — all considered high-round NFL prospects a year ago — returned last January for another season in college.

Highly regarded head coaching candidates in defensive coordinator Brent Venables and co-offensive coordinators Tony Elliott and Jeff Scott have, so far, resisted queries from other programs.

Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson, who led the Tigers to that national title two years ago, said Swinney's style creates loyalty, appreciation and respect.

"He let us be us," Watson said. "He didn't try to control us in any way. He had a great culture there that everyone bought into. We (were) all on the same page and everyone loved it. That was the reason why we were winning and very successful."

And things don't look like they're changing anytime soon.

Clemson's current quarterback, Trevor Lawrence, is a freshman who's

already popped up on several early Heisman Trophy lists for 2019. The Tigers signed 27 players last Wednesday, including 13 considered four- or five-star players per 247sports.com.

Wilkins is a player that seems born for Swinney's system; he's hard-working and fun-loving. He's a Power Rangers fanatic who has had linemates dress up as the fictional superheroes and visit coaches' houses on Halloween. His athletic pirouette, leg extension and split on the confetti-filled field was the highlight of the Tigers' national title celebration two years ago. He took criticism during that playoff run, too, for grabbing Ohio State runner Curtis Samuel near his private parts after one play.

The defensive lineman embraced Swinney's approach and made it his mission to step things up.

"I almost try to take it to new levels, new heights," Wilkins said. "I try to have as much fun as anybody when I'm playing the game, doing my job. But I also try and work harder than anybody."

It's a blend that's kept Clemson's staff stable, too. Nine of Swinney's 10 assistants have been with the program four years or more, including Venables, the highly regarded defensive leader whose name regularly surfaces in coaching searches. There were two openings this past month that seemed tailor-made for him: At Texas Tech where Venables' former teammate and friend Kirby Hocutt is the athletic director and Kansas State, Venables' alma mater.

But Venables, who acknowledged speaking to Hocutt, remains at Clemson. Now, he is well compensated with a salary package of \$2.2 million this year, but credits Swinney's style as a big reason for staying put.

"He's relentless about demanding that we enjoy it and our players enjoy it and have a great experience," Venables said. "So I love that."

Swinney's keeping fun in mind this bowl season, as well. The team followed a community service outing Monday with a trip to Frankie's Fun Park. Swinney said they'll have an enjoyable gathering to celebrate Christmas in Dallas because they can't be home.

The coach fully understands big-time college football can be a head-down, grinding experience with long hours and stressful moments. Keeping perspective is essential, he said.

Swinney regularly hears "Thank You" from former players for how he does things after learning of other programs from pro teammates where winning was more of a chore. That'll never be for Swinney's Tigers.

"If we lose," Swinney quips, "no one lost a leg."

So count on more dance-offs and fun times at Clemson.

"I don't want them to be miserable if we win," Swinney said. "At the end of the day, man, we celebrate the journey."

Jerry Jeudy follows in steps of past Alabama star receivers



AP photo

Alabama wide receiver Jerry Jeudy (4) catches a pass against Citadel during the first half of a game in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Jeudy was named to the 2018 AP All-America NCAA college football team, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018.

By JOHN ZENOR

AP Sports Writer

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Jerry Jeudy's ambitions grew with every college camp he attended and every highly rated defensive back he beat head to head.

His recruiting stock rose, and so did his goals. Now Alabama's latest All-America wide receiver, Jeudy ratcheted up his workout routine, started eating healthier and buckled down in the classroom for his senior year at Deerfield Beach High School in Florida.

"When he got out there and started feeling like, 'I'm going against guys that were supposed to be five-stars and I'm taking it to them. I can do it,'" Deerfield coach Jevon Glenn said. "Then he put himself in that class and after that, it was a wrap."

It's not a wrap quite yet, with at least one more season at Alabama awaiting, plus the College Football Playoffs. Alabama faces Oklahoma in an Orange Bowl semifinal matchup in Miami — an hour from Jeudy's hometown — on Dec. 29.

The 6-foot-1, 192-pound Jeudy has followed his fellow south Florida products Amari Cooper and Calvin Ridley to receiving stardom with the Crimson Tide. He became a five-star recruit, like them. And the go-to receiver for a national title contender, also like them.

Like Cooper in 2014, the sophomore also won the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's top receiver.

Jeudy has put up big numbers like his predecessors, including Atlanta Falcons star Julio Jones. The other three all became first-round NFL draft picks.

He has the benefit of catching passes from an elite quarterback in Heisman Trophy runner-up Tua Tagovailoa in a more pass-oriented offense. But Jeudy also shares the ball with a deeper pool of talented receivers than any of them.

Jeudy has already put up bigger numbers than Ridley did in either of his final two seasons in a much more run-first offense. He has 59 catches for 1,103 yards — an 18.7-yard average — and 12 touchdowns.

Jeudy worked out every other day with Ridley as a 10th-grader and they still keep in touch.

"Great player, works really hard and deserves everything coming his way," Ridley said. "We played high school together and grew up together a little bit. Just seeing him grow and becoming the player he is — that's the most exciting thing."

All that time working with or watching Ridley and Cooper helped give the ambitious Jeudy specific targets. Their success, he said, "just made me go harder."

"They taught me a lot," Jeudy said. "Hard work beats talent, so if you've got talent and you work hard, you can turn into something serious."

That's why his success at all-star games and camps served as such a motivator. You can be good with a good work ethic, and with a better one you could really be "something serious."

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He used to hunker down in Deerfield's football lounge studying receivers like Jones, Ridley and Antonio Brown and hoping to join that elite company someday.

Glenn also offers an anecdote showing that Jeudy's increased focus transferred into the classroom, too. He said the receiver called him before the Under Armour All-American game, insisting that a B-plus he received in his final semester had to be a mistake. The teacher agreed that it was a calculating error and Jeudy wound up with straight A's, the coach said.

He said Jeudy also started hanging out more with other friends who nursed similar aspirations.

"He's got plans, he's got reservations in his mind to be one of the best when it's all said and done," Glenn said. "That explains why he works so hard and why he's so focused."

Jeudy didn't just catch the attention of college coaches — and himself — at those all-star games and camps. Current teammates saw the highlights, too, and were anticipating his arrival on campus.

"You just saw him making all these plays," Alabama tailback Damien Harris said. "We knew he was committed here, so seeing him on those videos, 'Hey, this kid is pretty good.' He came in here and continued to work hard and he's turned into the player he is now."

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NHL primes pump for future talent with transfer fees

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Hockey Writer

When Rasmus Dahlin put pen to paper on his first NHL contract, the reverberations carried to Gothenburg and Lidköping in his native Sweden.

The No. 1 overall pick signing with the Buffalo Sabres earned Sweden more than \$250,000 to put back into development.

"It's unreal," Dahlin said. "We need all the money we can get."

Last year alone, the NHL paid more than \$35 million in transfer fees as teams signed European players. There are agreements in place with all the major hockey-producing countries except Russia and Switzerland that allow the free flow of players to the best league in the world.

"The purpose I suppose is to help prime the pump for hockey development," deputy NHL Commissioner Bill Daly said. "The pool of players who can play in the National Hockey League continues to increase on a regular basis. ... There's more better players than ever before."

When the world junior championship begins Wednesday in Canada, it will be a showcase of that emerging talent spurred along in Europe and North America by this money. The NHL also sends junior leagues in Canada and the United States over \$12 million annually and it also provides financial support for USA Hockey.

That feeder system is partially responsible for the game's explosion of young talent in recent years. Nowhere is that more evident than Sweden, which received roughly \$8 million last year for Dahlin and more than 30 other players signing in NHL contracts.

"That money is obviously huge,"



AP photo

In this Nov. 27, 2018 file photo, Buffalo Sabres defenseman Rasmus Dahlin (26) and San Jose Sharks forward Joonas Donskoi (27) battle in the corner during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Buffalo N.Y. When first overall pick Dahlin put pen to paper on his first NHL contract, the reverberations carried to Gothenburg and Lidköping in his native Sweden. Dahlin signing with the Buffalo Sabres earned Sweden more than \$250,000 to put back into development.

said Detroit Red Wings defenseman Niklas Kronwall, who is Swedish. "It doesn't just go to the pro teams. I think it funnels down to your first team and the teams that are developing you and have been taking you on this ride. And that money is doing the same for the next generation of players: setting up with the right facilities and the right coaches and just try to surround them with the best circumstances that they can so they can succeed. That's one of the reasons why Sweden's been able to keep producing players."

The investment makes sense for the NHL, which currently has players from 16 different countries. The 31 — soon to be 32 — teams split the costs equally each year.

It's beneficial for national federations and European leagues and teams, too, even if Swedish Hockey

Association vice president Peter Forsberg had to convince those in charge it was better to make a deal with the NHL than lose players for nothing.

"I told them that I think it's better you have an agreement because then we have impact in the kind of discussions," said Forsberg, who shares the same name with the retired NHL star. "All the players who sign a contract with Swedish club or European club or whatever, they have always an out clause that they can go to the NHL. We can't ever keep them in our league if you want to keep them in our league. We cannot sign the long contract that they do in soccer in Europe. We don't have that kind of possibilities."

The trick is making sure the money goes to what it's designed for. Daly, who has been in charge of transfer fees since the end of the 2004-05 lock-out, said federations are responsible

for reporting where the funds go because the goal is to keep churning out players who one day could make it to the NHL.

The federations distribute the money to various levels as they see fit. Forsberg said 95 percent of fees go back into programs that grow the sport in Sweden.

"We ensure that the money goes back to the development," Forsberg said. "You can see that on the result that we have around 10 percent of Swedish players are today in NHL (and) that 10 percent of players in NHL are Swedes. We can see that we have a high production line."

That's also the case in Finland, which has the league's leading scorer in Colorado's Mikko Rantanen and produced 43-goal scorer Patrik Laine, young Dallas defenseman Miro Heiskanen and a whole generation of emerging star players.

"They take care of the players, they help players to develop them to get

ready to come over," Buffalo defenseman Rasmus Ristolainen said. "Like you've seen the last few years, Finnish players are really stepping up, so it's a credit to every team back home."

Government contributions and smart leadership have also helped hockey blossom across Europe. Kronwall credited longtime coach-turned-general manager Tommy Boustedt for setting up position-specific camps in Sweden that specifically allowed for the development of Dahlin and more modern defensemen.

The NHL money paved the way for that.

"We're a hard-working country," Dahlin said. "We're humble. We don't have a lot of players, but some of the guys come to the NHL and for me, a younger guy, I know that a Swedish guy can make it, too."

MLB Calendar



Associated Press

Jan. 11 — Salary arbitration figures exchanged.

Jan. 22 — BBWAA Hall of Fame voting announced.

Jan. 28-Feb. 15 — Salary arbitration hearings, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Feb. 6-8 — Owners' meetings, Orlando, Fla.

Feb. 10 — Voluntary reporting date for Oakland pitchers, catchers and injured players.

Feb. 11 — Voluntary reporting date for Seattle pitchers, catchers and injured players.

Feb. 13 — Voluntary reporting date for other teams' pitchers, catchers and injured players.

Feb. 15 — Voluntary reporting date for other players on Oakland and Seattle.

Feb. 18 — Voluntary reporting date for other teams' other players.

ers.

Feb. 23 — Mandatory reporting date.

March 20-21 — Opening series, Seattle vs. Oakland at Tokyo.

March 28 — Opening day for other teams, active rosters reduced to 25 players.

April 13-14 — St. Louis vs. Cincinnati at Monterrey, Mexico.

May 4-5 — Houston vs. Los Angeles Angels at Monterrey, Mexico.

June 3 — Amateur draft starts.

June 15 — International amateur signing period closes.

June 29-30 — New York Yankees vs. Boston at London.

July 2 — International amateur signing period opens.

July 9 — All-Star Game at Cleveland.

July 31 — Last day to trade a player without securing waivers.

Aug. 18 — Pittsburgh vs. Chicago Cubs at Williamsport, Pa.

Aug. 31 — Last day to be contracted to an organization and be eligible for postseason roster.

Sept. 1 — Active rosters expanded to 40 players.

Oct. 1-2 — Wild-card games.

November TBA — Deadline for teams to make qualifying offers to their eligible former players who became free agents, fifth day after World Series.

November TBA — Deadline for free agents to accept qualifying offers, 15th day after World Series.

Dec. 2 — Last day for teams to offer 2020 contracts to unsigned players on their 40-man rosters.

Dec. 8 — Hall of Fame Modern Baseball committee vote announced, San Diego.

Dec. 9-12 — Winter meetings, San Diego.

Todd Bowles mum on future with Jets despite rumors

By **DENNIS**

WASZAK Jr.

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Todd Bowles is concerned about only one thing regarding his future with the New York Jets: the team's next opponent.

Despite all the rumors and expectations that the game Sunday at New England will be his last as coach of the franchise, Bowles refuses to publicly fuel any of the speculation that has seemed like an inevitable ending for weeks.

"I do not talk about my job," Bowles said during a conference call Monday.

Plenty of other people do that for him, of course, with many fans and media already preparing for a coaching search and throwing out potential replacements for Bowles.

Pro Football Talk reported Sunday night, citing an anonymous source, that the Jets plan to pursue Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh. Bowles said he had no response to the report, but the team issued a statement from acting chairman and CEO Christopher Johnson denying it.

"Todd Bowles is our head coach," Johnson said in the statement.

"There is no truth to the report of our interest in Jim Harbaugh."

That, of course, doesn't mean Bowles will, in fact, remain the coach moving forward. The Jets also might know the reality is Harbaugh has made it clear he intends to remain with the Wolverines.

Harbaugh's brother John, another name mentioned in speculation and rumors, will also not be on New York's list after Baltimore announced last week it will sign him to a contract extension.

Former Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy has been a much-discussed option on sports radio and social media, and there will be plenty more names to consider over the next several days.

Bowles remaining with the Jets, however, does not seem likely. He is about to finish his fourth season — all without a playoff appearance — and has a 24-39 overall record, including a 44-38 overtime loss to the Packers on Sunday.

"Personally, I do not speak about my next job," Bowles said. "I worry about tomorrow and when Christmas comes, and I worry about New England on Sunday and I go from there."