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TUESDAY EDITION,
 DECEMBER 29, 2020

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VOLUME 116, NUMBER 85

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Big Spring Fire Department gearing up for entry level testing

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

The City of Big Spring Fire Department is gearing up for the next entry level testing, set for Jan. 8, 2021. Those who have considered stepping into a career as a firefighter or EMT – certified or non-certified – is encouraged to submit an application. The deadline for applications to be submitted is Jan. 5, 2021 at 5 p.m.



after graduating high school. Serving as a firefighter is a very rewarding career and career path because you are helping people and serving your community,” Stacie King, Benefits Coordinator, Human Resources for the City of Big Spring, said. Those looking to obtain an entry-level position must successfully complete the entire hiring process in the ordered sequence, which includes written civil service entrance examination, physical agility test, establish eligibility list from candidates passing test, polygraph examination, oral

interview board, background investigation to include reference check, motor vehicle report, and criminal history background. Once all levels of the application process have been successfully completed a conditional offer of employment will be extended and followed by a pre-employment drug screen and medical examination based on NFPA Standard 1582. “The firefighters of the City of Big Spring Fire Department are part of a group of people who dedicate their livelihoods to protecting the life and property of their fellow citizens. It is an exciting and interesting career

choice,” King said. “To become a firefighter there are a number of requirements and steps one must go through, but once you join the BSFD there is room for advancement and through promotional examinations and completed successfully advancement can take place.”

The BSFD and the City of Big Spring generate an eligibility list which allows for positions to be filled as they become available. Certified and non-certified candidates are placed on the list once they have completed successfully the written Civil

See **BSFD**, Page 3

Local churches, small businesses join forces to distribute food baskets to community



HERALD photo/Brie Miller

Jeanie Knocke and A.J. Deel picked up the Christmas food baskets sponsored by local businesses and the Big Spring Herald to distribute them to families in need this holiday season.

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Holiday cheer, a warm meal on the table, and family and friends seem to make for a wonderful holiday season. Through the support and partnership of more than 27 local businesses, this year, two local churches were able to partner with the Big Spring Herald and distribute 54 food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

“Being able to help provide a helping hand to our community is one of the blessings that we are given the opportunity to take part in through our generous partners in the community,” Angela Lance, Senior Advertising Executive, said.

The Holiday Food Basket outreach was started four years ago by the Big Spring Herald and since then has grown from 12 sponsors to 27 sponsors. This year, through the partnerships with Life Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church, there were 54 food baskets delivered in the community.

At Thanksgiving Life Church took on the distribution of food baskets and utilized the opportunity as a way to extend their Neighbor to Neighbor Outreach.

“We decided to hand them out to our neighbors around the Life Church campus, as a way to connect to the community around us,” Manny Negron, Life Church Associate Pastor, said. “We are always looking for ways to connect with our neighbors.”

The food bag distribution served as an extension of the Neighbor to Neighbor Outreach Program that began a few months ago, which focuses on filling a need for those who live in a radius around the Life Church campus.

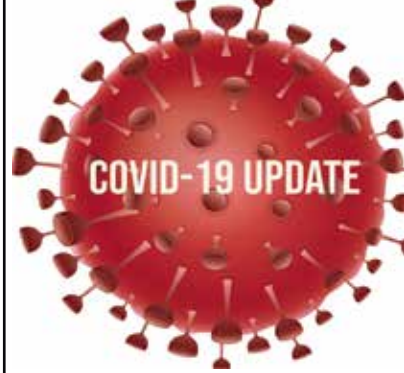
“There are many families in our neighborhood who are in need during this time,” Negron said. “To see the smiling faces and hear the ‘Thank You’ from these families meant that we were doing the right thing and meeting needs.”

He continued, “It’s important for us to be that extension of God’s hand and love to our neighbors.”

This Christmas, St. Paul Lutheran Church picked up the second round of food baskets to be distributed to families in need.

“There are so many in great need right now,” Jeanie Knocke, member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, said. “Each of the families that we

See **FOOD**, Page 3



Scenic Mountain Medical Center has reported 12/25/2020:

- 17 Covid-19 positive patients
- 3 in ICU & 2 vents

SMMG & SMMC Testing through 12/17:

- 2,304 tests
- 615 positives for 26.8% positivity rate

For the month of December 25, 368 patients have tested of which 105 were positive for a rate of 28.9% positivity. 5 tests are pending.

Howard County has reported as of 12/15:

- 3865 positive cases
- 61 Covid-19 fatalities
- 11,772 negative tests
- 15,640 tests performed 3500 cases closed

*SMMC provided numbers for in-house patients/ SMMG testing since the onset of Covid-19; info obtained from Texas Health Department website

New year, new classes focused on mental health for adults and teens

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

As the nation continues to navigate through the coronavirus pandemic, mental health is gaining attention. West Texas Centers in Big Spring and surrounding communities has launched an effort to help combat mental health issues and lend a helping hand of support to those who are in need of assistance.

In January there will be two virtual classes launched, with one focusing on adult mental health and the other focusing on youth mental health. The class focusing on adult mental health is scheduled virtual-

ly for Jan. 26 with the youth mental health virtual class scheduled for two days later on Jan. 28.

“As we continue to battle the pandemic the mental crisis continues to be on the rise. These classes are tools to help individuals be more observant in getting help for our family, neighbors, family and friends,” Ida Hambrick, Mental Health First Aid Coordinator for West Texas Centers, said.

Last month, there were a series of five classes offered with a heavy focus on adult mental health. According to Hambrick last month, a youth focused program was on the horizon and in January the community will be able to take part in that.

“The best way the community can support us right now is to get involved; know the resources that are offered in Big Spring and surrounding counties,” she said.

To register for the classes, which are free to attend, call the West Texas Centers office at 432-264-3240 or email ida.hambrick@wtcmhmr.org.

The virtual classes are scheduled for four and a half hours to six and a half hours. The in person class is around eight hours long. Each class is a stand alone class.

Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Upcoming Events

Howard County Commissioners Meeting was rescheduled for January 4, after the holidays at 3:30 p.m. County Courthouse

City offices available by appointment or electronic communication only

Silver Wings Ball supporting Hangar 25 Jan. 30, 2021

The Club at Silver Hills 5:30 p.m. cocktails 6:45 p.m. dinner, dancing, auction

City, County, and other local businesses will be closed in recognition of New Years Day Friday, Jan. 1

Wash your hands, wear a mask, social distance when possible. Slow the spread.

Share your community photos with us. E-mail editor@bigspringherald.com

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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com



Obituaries

Constance Marguerite
(Connie) Boyd

Constance Marguerite (Connie) Boyd, passed away Dec. 20, 2020. Connie was born on Oct. 25, 1946, in Lamesa, Texas to Norman Lee and Ola Juanita (Merritt) Fuson and was one of eight children. In 1981, she met the love of her life Gerald E. Boyd in Gail, Texas, to whom she was married to for 34 years until his death in 2015.

Connie loved to spend time with her children and grandchildren. She loved to sew and crochet. She was known for her green thumb as she could grow anything. She

Vicki Suzanne Stewart

Vicki Suzanne Stewart, 66, of Big Spring, passed away Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020, in a Lubbock hospital. Private family services were held.

She was born March 11, 1954, in Hobbs, New Mexico. She was adopted March 14, 1954, by John and Nancy Annen and brought to Big Spring. Vicki married Howard Stewart April 11, 1981 in Big Spring.

Vicki graduated from Big Spring High School in 1972 and from Pan American University in 1976. She taught art for Big Spring ISD for 27 years.

Vicki was a Rainbow Girl with Assembly 60, was initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter #67 in 1984 and was currently serving as secretary. She volunteered many years for the American Cancer Society and was a state

loved flowers, especially roses. She also loved to go fishing, especially with her family.

Connie had a huge heart. She never let anyone go hungry and was always willing to help those in need. She would give her last dollar to help someone else.

She is survived by her daughter Tina Essary and husband Glen of La Vernia, Texas; daughter Teresa Combs and Brant Williams of Lubbock, Texas; son Carl Glen Bacon and wife Kambra of Prosper, Texas; and son Bryan Bacon and wife Heidi of San Angelo, Texas. She is also survived by her sisters Pat Veld of Midland, Texas; Beverly Massingill of Crane, Texas; Starr Miller of Hot Springs, Arkansas; Lori Shaffer of Goldsmith, Texas; and brother David Fuson of Houston, Texas, 14 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her hus-

band, Gerald Boyd, parents Norman and Juanita Fuson, and two brothers Norman Earl Fuson and James Daniel Fuson.

Family and friends are invited to a Visitation on Sunday, Dec. 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home, 906 S. Gregg St., Big Spring, Texas. Memorial Service to be held Monday, December 28, 2020 at 10 am at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel, with burial to follow in Gail Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be her grandsons: Heath Gwinn, Dusty Gwinn, Derek Gwinn, David Aaron Childers, Klayson Bacon and Ty Williams.

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

Paid Obituary

Vicki Suzanne Stewart

Vicki Suzanne Stewart, 66, of Big Spring, passed away Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020, in a Lubbock hospital. Private family services were held.

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Vicki was a Rainbow Girl with Assembly 60, was initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter #67 in 1984 and was currently serving as secretary. She volunteered many years for the American Cancer Society and was a state

trainer for Relay for Life. Vicki volunteered as a coordinator and designer for the Festival of Lights for 12 years and was a member of the 1953 Hyperion Club. In 2017 Vicki was named Big Spring Woman of the Year.

Survivors include her husband, Howard Stewart; one son, Quintinn Stewart; one daughter, Stephanie Piercefield and husband, Michael; three grandsons, Maximus Piercefield, Makennen Piercefield and Trooper Harrison; and a cousin, Pam Searcy.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and a grandson, Howard Rex Harrison.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights, % Georgie Newsom, P. O. Box 2464, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2464.

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

Paid Obituary

Mauricio Hernandez

Mauricio Hernandez, 66 of Big Spring died Dec. 17, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Irma Chapa

Irma Chapa, 56, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 28, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Marcelino Rangel

Marcelino Rangel, 86, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 28, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza.

Rev. Leandro "Cano" Gonzales

Rev. Leandro "Cano" Gonzales, Sr., 80, of Stanton, passed away Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020 at his residence surrounded by his loved ones.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at the First Baptist Church in Stanton. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring. He will lie in state at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Born Feb. 27, 1940 in Devine, Texas to Pedro Escamilla Gonzales and Maria Garcia Gonzales.

He was raised in San Antonio, TX, and later moved to Martin County at a young age of 13 years old. He went to work as a farm worker, where he later met the love of his life, Olga Garza. They married in 1962 in Lamesa, TX and were blessed with four children. Leandro worked for Stanton ISD and retired from Grady ISD. His ultimate passion was to serve the Lord after accepting to be called as a pastor.

He was ordained May of 1979, at The First Baptist Church of Stanton. He continued his career as a pastor in several churches in Stanton, Snyder, Big Spring and Odessa TX, retiring in 2011.

He was a devoted husband, a loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a dedicated minister. He loved people and was a joyful person that never met a stranger and always gave unconditionally. He always sought opportunities to teach his children and grandchildren his knowledge and wisdom for them avoid the life lesson he had to endure.

Survivors include his wife, Olga Gonzales of Stanton; two sons, Leandro Gonzales, Jr., (Cristy) and Luis Gonzales (Shelly); two daughters, Laura Hernandez (Antonio) of Midland, TX and Gracie Villa (Favian) of Stanton, TX; two sisters, Maria Elena Gonzales of Waco, TX and Irma Gonzales of Las Vegas, NV; grandchildren: Adrian Hernandez (Linnea), Aaron Hernandez (Courtney), Micki Dillard (Chad), Ashley Shaw (Zachary), Natalia Padilla (David), Andrew Villa, Wendy Johnson (Taylor), Amy Studer (Johnathan), Nicholas Villa and Sydney Gonzales and fifteen great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Marcos Gonzales and Eloy Gonzales and one sister Juanita Saldivar.

The family would like to express their thanks to Heart to Heart Hospice for their tender care.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory in Big Spring.

Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com

Paid Obituary

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FOOD

Continued from Page 1

have dropped off these baskets with have been so appreciative.”

Knocke enlisted the help of a few youth members from the congregation to help in the efforts. Bags were distributed over a two day period and the ability to help provide a Christmas meal for local fami-

lies was an opportunity that touched the giver and the ones who received.

“I love being a part of things like this,” Knocke said. “Each year we I get together with family and friends and we provide to a few families in need, but we focus on gifts only. When we received the call to help distribute food, we were appreciative. This just completed it.”

“We want to extend a huge thank you to those who have partnered with us over the years, espe-

cially this year to help meet the need in the community,” Lance said. “While this may be something small, it is nice to know that the generous hearts of our community will come together in times of need and help ensure families can enjoy a warm holiday meal.”

Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Obituaries

Jeanette Hewett Floyd

Jeanette Hewett Floyd, 85, of Sterling City, Texas, formerly of Big Spring passed away on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020 at a local hospital. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020 Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Delivered by her father at home in Knott, Texas on Dec. 7, 1935 to C.V. and Roxie Hewett. Jeanette was raising six children from a previous marriage when she met and married her partner for life Marion “Butch” Floyd on Aug. 18, 1972. Together they had a daughter. She spent her childhood in Knott and Big Spring and attended school in Big Spring. She was a housewife and mother to seven children. She loved her family unconditionally. Jeanette worked at Furr’s cafeteria and Medical Arts Hospital in Big Spring before making their home in Sterling City. Jeanette had a competitive nature when it came to bingo, playing cards or going to the casino.

She was sure to watch the Price is Right everyday and knew exactly how to play each game. Jeanette loved family get togethers and joking around. She loved to travel, especially on family vacations. She could stay up all night with a good book and loved long telephone conversations with family and



her longtime friend Betty Crocker. Jeanette was a Christian and a member of Trinity Baptist Church. In her later years, she enjoyed church services from her television.

She is survived by her husband Marion “Butch” Floyd, four daughters, Rhonda Hayes, Brenda Canady and husband Clifton of Big Spring, Terra Lawrence and husband James of Tyler and Marla Arizola and husband Filie of Sterling City, two sons, Rance McKee and wife Cindy of Belton and Preston McKee and wife Gloria of Hobbs, New Mexico, two brothers, Don Hewett and wife Donna of Valley View and Vernon Hewett of Grapevine. A sister-in-law Teena Lansing of San Antonio, fifteen grandchildren, twenty-four great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her parents, her oldest daughter, Verlin-da Phillips, a grandson, Bryan McKee, a sister, Betty Mathis, a brother, Jerry Hewett and a son in-law, Robert Hayes.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to, the Make a Wish Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, Cook’s Children’s Hospital or MD Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas.

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

Paid Obituary

Take Note

• West Texas Centers will be hosting the January 2021 Mental Health First Aid training classes twice in January. The classes will be held on Jan. 26, 2021 for Adult Mental Health First Aid, and Jan. 28, 2021 for Youth Mental Health First Aid . Both classes will be virtual.

• A gofund me page for Ed Flores, who recently tested positive for coronavirus and was recently transferred to Lubbock. Donations are requested to help with medical bills and travel expenses so his wife can be close with him. Ed worked with Shroyer for about 25 years and 87 Auto Sale as a mechanic; he has always been willing to help out people even when they didn’t have enough money to pay him. Donations can be made at GoFundMe by Monica Medina. For more information on how to help, e-mail jessemonica1234@gmail.com or call 432-517-7675.

• Isaiah 58’s last distribution will be Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. The food pantry will be closed for the holiday season, through the end of the year beginning Dec. 21. through January 5, 2021.

• The City of Big Spring recently announced that due to a recent increase in COVID-19 cases, all indoor city-owned rental facilities including our venue, The Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, will be closed for the rest of the year. With this announcement and with no other venue options that will properly social distance our musicians, we will be unable to kick off our season on Dec. 19 with our “Holiday Spectacular” Concert. Be watching our Facebook page, Symphony website (Big-springsymphony.org), the Big Spring Herald, KBYG and KBST for further details and a new kick-off date for our season, appropriately entitled, “The Versatile Big Spring Symphony”. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate through these unusual times. We hope to see you very soon. May you and your family stay safe and healthy through the rest of this Holiday Season!

• The Howard County Courthouse will only be open by appointment.

All doors except the handicapped entrance located on the west side of the building will be locked. All who enter will be screened following Covid guidelines. Face masks are required for all who enter.

• City of Big Spring offices have moved to by appointment only or electronic communication only. Contact information for all departments can be found on the city website at mybigspring.com.

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Alvin Marin, 83, died Thursday. Visitation 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM January 10, 2020 with a vigil service at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service at 10:00 January 11, 2020.

Trent Fraley, 60, died Wednesday. Memorial service will be at 4:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Richard Mills, 72 died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Maria Perez, 80, died Friday. Visitation will be 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Wednesday with a vigil service at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park

John Puga, 79, died Sunday. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Marcelino Rangel, 86, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Pat Rodriguez, died Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Visitation will be 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Tuesday with a Prayer service at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Service will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Irma Chapa, 56, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mauricio Hernandez, 66 died December 17, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BSFD

Continued from Page 1

Service entrance examination and physical agility test. Certified candidates are given preference followed by non-certified candidates that are ranked based on their final score on the exam.

Those wishing to apply can visit www.mybigspring.com/ or call the City of Big Spring to obtain more information on the application process. All applications must be received by Jan. 5 at 5 p.m. to qualify for the examination that will be administered on Jan. 8. For a complete list of required documents for application, visit mybigspring.com.

Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

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* More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.
* More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

(Statistics from NFPA.org)

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As much Christmas as possible

Whatever you think about Christmas, I think you would have to agree we need one this year.

Everyone I know seems determined to do as much Christmas as it is possible to do. My pastor announced at the beginning of Advent that we were going to have 26 consecutive Zoom Advent services.



Carrie Classon

"We're having 15 minutes of Advent reflections EVERY night!" she announced.

"Surely she means every week," most of the congregation thought.

"EVERY night!" she repeated for clarification.

"I am not Zooming every single night of Advent," I thought. "That's just excessive."

But after the first night, I looked forward to the second night and then it became a habit and, after a few nights, I couldn't imagine missing my little 15-minute dose of Christmas hope and positivity and fellowship. Fifteen minutes was just enough to settle my thoughts. There was music. I was asked to read a couple of times. We all waved "hello" at the beginning and, before we knew it, we were waving

"goodbye." I can't remember ever feeling the approach of the Christmas season so intimately, so incrementally, so intensely.

I've heard there is a worldwide shortage of Christmas trees.

Folks who haven't bothered to put up a tree in years decided this was the year. Usually, if I have a tree at all, I look for a skinny tree I can stash in the corner and still have room for company. Not this year.

This year, I got a big fat tree fresh off the truck. I figured no one else was using the space so, instead of tucking it in the corner, I set it smack-dab in the middle of the room. When I came down the next morning, that tree had doubled in size. My husband, Peter, was completely hidden behind it, as if he were reading the news in the forest.

I'm embracing every-night-Advent and the world's fattest Christmas tree because there is so much else that won't be the same and, of course, I will miss it.

There will be no crush of middle-aged cousins getting together on Christmas Day. My mom won't host Christmas brunch and we won't open presents together and I won't hear my niece and nephew play piano in church. None of the things that have made Christmas seem like Christmas will happen, and yet I am looking forward to the day with a peculiar fervor.

I think about people long ago who watched as the days grew shorter and the nights got longer and the weather grew colder and their supplies dwindled. When the winter solstice arrived, they needed to assure themselves that the darkness would end. They needed to pull together whatever sort of comforts they could manage and thumb their noses at the cold and dark and growing fear that spring might never come, that the sun might simply disappear one afternoon and never return.

So they had a party.

I'm sure most of the parties were small, as Peter's and mine will be. But they would eat something special and haul something green into the house and build a bigger fire than usual and reassure themselves that the dark and cold and loneliness would end and a better day would come.

And that's what we're doing this year.

We're going to huddle around our Zoom and our oversized tree and eat a little extra peppermint ice cream and Peter's good ginger cookies and be grateful for everything we have and more grateful yet that this time—this dark time—will slowly but surely be coming to an end.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

Bauer Headstart/Early Headstart hosted Drive-thru Christmas for the Big Spring community to enjoy with all the bells and carols



HERALD photos/Amanda Duforat

Bauer Headstart staff joined together to host a drive-thru Christmas parade for the community kids. Each kid that went through had a chance to win a bike and received a bag full of Christmas goodies including a stuffed animal, crafts and candy. There was also information on the services provided for families.



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Saw this ad t'other day in my outdoors magazine, Campin' 'n Fishin'. Oh, hi there, Alphonse Wilson doin' the talkin' don't you see. Call me Windy. Sneaked in here again when Slim weren't lookin'. But I gotta tell ya not to believe ever dang thing you read. Yessir, they had this little-bitty sleeping bag made out of space materials, I guess so you can stay warm on Mars or some-thin' and it weighed just about nothin' and a half.



Slim Randles

Just how stupid do they think we are, anyhow? I mean, you gotta surround yourself with good stuff to sleep right or you're just flippity squidglin' around all night. Like a inch bug or somethin' ... well, somethin' that's cold and has an agrellation of sleeplessness.

You give me a good ol' cowboy bedroll every day! Yessir. Now if you ain't up to slump on what a bedroll is, I'll just clue you in. You take a great big ol' tarp and inside it you put your blankets and a pillar and such. How many a-them blankets do you use? Wellsir, how cold is it going to plunge down to tonight? You see, it's adjustable and you can thicken it if it's cold or skinny it down if it's a warm night.

Now what a good smart cowboy will do is build hisself a bedroll so thick he can go dog mushin' on the Idiot Road race up in Alaska. Yessir! Then, he can take out half the blankets if it ain't gonna be cold enough to hang meat tonight. You see?

'Course now, a real cowboy bedroll ain't easy to haul around. You ain't goin' far with it on your back. Nossir. But that's why them early cowboys invented pack mules and pickup trucks.

There's a rule of thumb tacks here, and you're getting it straight from the horse's mouth ... if you can carry it, It ... Ain't ... A ... Bedroll.

And you can tell 'em I said so.



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Lady Buffs extend winning streak to four games with 52-36 victory over Wink

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

WINK — On a day where everyone was passing the ball well, players were knocking down open shots, and the defense was causing problems for their opponent, the Forsan Lady Buffs prevailed over the Wink Ladycats 52-36.

“I thought we played really well for the first game after a week off,” Head Coach Seth Johnson said. “We definitely need to play back into shape, but overall it was good to see.”

The Lady Buffs winning streak is now at four games and the group seemed to pick up right where they left off before their weeklong vacation. The backcourt duo of Rylee Evans and Kaeli Woodall shot the ball well and combined they knocked down seven shots from beyond the arc. Evans had a game-high 18 points while Woodall had 16 of her own. Fellow guard Taryn Spivey notched seven points in the game while dishing out four assists.

Altogether, the three starting guards for Forsan combined for 14 assists on the road Monday afternoon. With the team facilitating the ball that well for all four quarters, they never let their opponents get close and cruised to another victory.

“It always seems to show up on the scoreboard when we share the ball well,” Johnson said. “The girls have done a good job of being willing to set



HERALD Photo/Shawn Moran

Rylee Evans (1) and the rest of the Lady Buffs setup on defense against Wink.

their teammates up for success.”

Forsan was able to jump out to an early 17-6 lead at the end of the first quarter behind an offense that was thriving off of good ball movement. The rebounding ability of Aubrie Smith was also a big contributor to Forsan’s success early and throughout the contest. She would finish the contest with eight rebounds and came up big with second-chance opportunities for her team.

Senior forward Danni Akers scored a team-high

16 points for the Ladycats as Forsan continued to struggle with taller players. Without much height in their front-court, the Lady Buffs use strong passes on offense and collective team defense to slow down bigger opponents.

Forsan was putting the pressure on Wink early and often with a full or half-court press style of defense. This allowed the Lady Buffs to come up with 12 steals over the course of the game and maintain their double-digit lead for all four quarters.

“It’s probably true for anyone, but we seem to play a little more free if we can grab a quick lead,” Johnson said. “We haven’t always protected it like we need to, but it was good to be able to maintain that today.”

For now, the Forsan Lady Buffs will continue working hard and will be looking to extend their winning streak to five games. The next time they take the hardwood, they will surely be tested and will need to be on their ‘A’ game.

UP NEXT: Forsan will host an undefeated Morning Lady Devils (12-0) team on Wednesday morning at home (11:15 a.m.) as they look to extend their winning streak while snapping another team’s.

Shawn Moran is the sports writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact him, e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Buffaloes fall to undefeated Wink Wildcats 81-59



HERALD Photo/Shawn Moran

Sawyer Stallings (4) looks for an open teammate to pass to during Monday's loss.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

WINK — Following a week off, the Wink Buffaloes returned to the hardwood on Monday afternoon to take on the undefeated Wink Wildcats. Wink is one of the Top 10 2A basketball teams in Texas and they played like it against the visiting Buffaloes by prevailing 83-59.

“Their press killed us,” Head Coach Cory Richardson said. “We had a lot

of turnovers early and let them get out to a good start. I thought we played pretty even with them the rest of the way. We were one rotation short of being in pretty good defensive position and they just got some easy buckets.”

Wink forward Brock Gibson recorded 29 points as the Forsan bigs could not contain the powerful and talented Wildcat. In total, four Wink players notched double-digit points scored and were getting it done from all over the floor.

The majority of Gibson’s points came within a few feet of the basket while fellow Wildcat Jordan Tally scored 14 points mostly all from mid-range. Sophomore point guard Kanon Gibson scored 13 points and did most of his damage from the three-point line. Every player on Wink had the ability to score and they were able to

capitalize on Forsan’s early mistakes to build a big lead that they would never relinquish.

One bright spot for Forsan was the play of forward Mason Hillger on the low-block. The big man scored eight points in the fourth quarter alone and finished the game with 14.

“We’ve known that he can be a factor for us if we get him the ball and tonight I think near the end we were finally able to drive and beat their press. That drew some extra help and we were able to get the extra pass to him. He’s proven that if we can do that, then he can score. If we had gotten him the ball more I think he would’ve had a big night.”

Another strong area of play was Cayden Morgan from beyond the three-point line. After missing his first two of the game, Morgan knocked down four straight three’s in the second half that gave his team a short swing of momentum their way.

An area Forsan will need to improve at is the free throw line. The Buffaloes missed 18 shots from the charity

stripe on Monday afternoon and the game could have been much different if those shots had fallen. Teams will continue to pressure them, especially in the district, and Richardson believes that games like this are good measuring sticks and learning tools for his squad.

“I think we showed some grit today,” Richardson said. “Our depth, which is going to be a key factor in district, helped us. Some of their guys got tired and we were able to capitalize on that. I think Wink is probably the best team we’ve played all year and teams in our district play a similar style to them. I think this really gets us ready for district. We saw some things that we can do good and saw a lot of things that we can work on.”

Forsan’s first district game will be Jan. 5 on the road against Roscoe.

UP NEXT: Forsan (5-6) will host Water Valley on Tuesday afternoon (3:15).

Eli Cranor’s Athletic Support: Best questions of 2020

By ELI CRANOR

Special to the Herald

I’ve gone through and chosen a few of my favorite questions from 2020. To everyone who’s written in — thank you! Happy New Year! Best, Eli

Dear Athletic Support: Every time we travel, my son gets constipated. I know this sounds silly, but since he’s currently on a myson-league baseball team, it’s actually pretty serious. The worst part is the constipation impacts his play. Generally, he won’t go number two the entire time we’re away from the house. We’ve tried MiraLAX and other types of stool softeners, but nothing seems to work. I know you’re not a medical professional, but I’ll take any help I can get at this point! — Clogged Up

Dear Clogged: I’m not a medical professional, but my wife is a nurse practitioner. She deals with childhood constipation on a daily basis. The number one reason kids get stopped up is because they don’t drink enough water. This can be especially problematic when a family travels. The more liquids a kid drinks, the more stops a family will have to make along the way. In your son’s case, however, it might be worth making a few more pit stops instead of him having to play through the pain of constipation.

Dear Athletic Support: My son redshirted last year for an in-state DII football program. He mainly played scout team and got his head busted daily by the starters. I think he’ll have a good chance to get off the scout team next season, but now he wants to quit. He’s on scholarship, and if he quits, I’m going to start paying a whole lot more money for his school. Of course, I want him to do what’s best for him, but I also don’t want him to take the easy way out. — Paying For It

Dear Paying: Freshmen year of college sports is a killer. It’s a completely different experience than high school athletics. In many ways, collegiate sports are a job. Class from 8-2. Practice from 2-6. Then study hall 7-9. Couple all that with in-season travel on the weekends, and it’s easy to see how young players can get burnt out.

However, quitting is never a fun option, and in many cases (like yours) it can be costly.

Maybe you should explain the financial situation to your son. If he quits football, he’ll need to recoup the expenses some other way. Who knows, maybe after you put it to him like that, college football will look like a pretty good job after all.

Dear Athletic Support: My wife and I are huge sports fans. All our kids are athletes too. We’re constantly coaching them about what to eat and how to get the

most out of their bodies, but I’m starting to feel like my wife doesn’t have a leg to stand on. Over the last few years, she’s gained a substantial amount of weight. When she tries to tell our kids about their fitness levels and health, I can see them start to zone out. I don’t want to come off as a jerk, but I feel like I need to talk to my wife about this. Is there any way I can have that conversation and not be in the doghouse afterwards?

— Physically Fit Father

Dear Fit: Nah, man. I really don’t think you can. If you feel strongly enough about your wife’s weight to have this conversation — you’re going to spend some time in the doghouse.

Good luck.

Eli Cranor is a former professional quarterback and coach turned award-winning author. Send questions for “Athletic Support” to eli.cranor@gmail.com

NCAA Football Bowl Schedule

Bowl	Date	Home Team	Away Team	Final Score
Myrtle Beach Bowl	12/21	Appalachian State (9-3)	North Texas (4-6)	56-28, App. State
Famous Idaho Potato	12/22	Tulane (6-6)	Nevada (7-2)	48-27, Nevada
Roofclaim Boca Raton	12/22	UCF (6-4)	BYU (11-1)	49-23, BYU
R+L Carriers New Or.	12/23	Louisiana Tech (5-5)	Georgia So. (8-5)	38-3, Georgia South.
Montgomery Bowl	12/23	Memphis (8-3)	Florida Atl. (5-4)	25-10, Memphis
New Mexico Bowl	12/24	Hawai’i (5-4)	Houston (3-5)	28-14, Hawai’i
Camellia Bowl	12/25	Marshall (7-3)	UTSA (7-5)	17-10, Buffalo
SERVPRO First Resp.	12/26	#19 Louisiana (10-1)	UTSA (7-5)	31-24, Louisiana
LendingTree Bowl	12/26	Western Kentucky (5-7)	Georgia State (6-4)	39-21, Georgia St.
FBC Mortgage Cure	12/26	Liberty (10-1)	#12 C. Carolina (11-1)	37-34, Liberty (OT)
Bowl	Date	Home Team	Away Team	Time of Game
Cheez-It Bowl	12/29	#21 Oklahoma St. (7-3)	#18 Miami (8-2)	4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Valero Alamo Bowl	12/29	#20 Texas (6-3)	Colorado (4-1)	8:00 p.m. (ESPN)
Duke’s Mayo Bowl	12/30	Wake Forest (4-4)	Wisconsin (3-3)	11:00 a.m. (ESPN)
Goodyear Cotton Bowl	12/30	#7 Florida (8-3)	#6 Oklahoma (8-2)	7:00 p.m. (ESPN)
Armed Forces Bowl	12/31	#24 Tulsa (6-2)	Mississippi State (3-7)	11:00 a.m. (ESPN)
Arizona Bowl	12/31	Ball State (6-1)	#22 San Jose State (7-0)	1:00 p.m. (CBS)
Liberty Bowl	12/31	West Virginia (5-4)	Army (9-2)	3:00 p.m. (ESPN)
Texas Bowl	12/31	Arkansas (3-7)	TCU (6-4)	7:00 p.m. (ESPN)
Peach Bowl	1/1	#9 Georgia (7-2)	#8 Cincinnati (9-0)	11:00 a.m. (ESPN)
Citrus Bowl	1/1	Auburn (6-4)	#14 Northwestern (6-2)	12:00 p.m. (ABC)
Rose Bowl	1/1	#4 Notre Dame (10-1)	#1 Alabama (11-0)	3:00 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl	1/1	#3 Ohio State (6-0)	#2 Clemson (10-1)	7:00 p.m. (ESPN)
Gator Bowl	1/2	#23 NC State (8-3)	Kentucky (4-6)	11:00 a.m. (ESPN)
Outback Bowl	1/2	Ole Miss (4-5)	#11 Indiana (6-1)	11:30 a.m. (ABC)
Fiesta Bowl	1/2	#25 Oregon (4-2)	#10 Iowa State (8-3)	3:00 p.m. (ESPN)
Orange Bowl	1/2	#5 Texas A&M (8-1)	#13 North Carolina (8-3)	7:00 p.m. (ESPN)
National Champions.	1/11	Winner of Rose Bowl	Winner of Sugar Bowl	7:00 p.m. (ESPN)

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Annie's Mailbox

Disappointed With Dishes

Dear Annie: My son has been dating a girl for a little over three years. My husband and I really like her. Our son loves her. Here's the problem: I have asked her before to help in the kitchen with meal preparation and clean-up, and she refuses.

They come once a week for meals, and we eat in front of the TV while watching shows. Everyone brings their dishes to the kitchen, but I'm left with the clean-up. Once, when I asked her for help, she said that she is company and wouldn't

expect me to help at her house. They were here for Thanksgiving, and my mom asked her to join us at the table and visit, but she declined, saying she was OK where she was. My mom was hurt and upset.

I'm planning a big Christmas dinner and want the girls to help with cleanup and to sit and visit after the meal. How can I get her to get involved in the kitchen work, both before and after, and to put her phone away and sit and visit with us? -- Disappointed

Dear Disappointed: Staring at your

phone and texting while at your potential in-laws' house is very rude. The polite thing to do is ask the host if he or she needs help, but it is also polite for the host not to expect the guests to do all the work. Have a talk with your son and ask him to help you out in the kitchen. Maybe his girlfriend will catch on and want to jump in. Her behavior toward your mother was also very rude, so address this with your son, too. Perhaps there is a reason he hasn't married her yet.

Dear Annie: I enjoy reading your column and am writing in

response to Caroline M. and her dilemma about how to celebrate Christmas this year.

My immediate family is comprised of four households in different parts of eastern Pennsylvania, so we won't be getting together in person. We are shipping gifts or possibly leaving them on each other's doorsteps ahead of time, and we are planning to meet virtually during the holidays. We wanted to do something fun as a family.

The age range of our group is 7 to 64. With that in mind, we decided it could be fun for

us to all bake something together. We've already done bingo together. Luckily, all of the households had actual sets so we could rotate callers during the games. I know there's virtual bingo, but we needed to keep it simple for the less tech-savvy.

We have coordinated movie nights during which we have the same movie on our televisions and meet virtually on another device to watch together. That was great for grandparent/grandchildren time. Baking virtually will be different, but we're looking forward to it. We happen to have

fans of that activity in all four houses, but everyone can try to find their common ground and do that together. There are many other things you may want to try together. -- Trying to Make the Best of It

Dear Trying to Make the Best of It: Thank you for your suggestions. I love the idea of all family members watching a holiday movie together -- remotely.

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

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Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
It works like a charm

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

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♦ 1♥ 1♠
Pass 2♣ Pass 4♣

Opening lead — ace of hearts.
Among the first things one learns in bridge is how to finesse. But after you've played the game awhile, you start looking for ways to avoid finesses, because experience has taught you there are often other methods of play that will give you better than the 50-50 chance normally offered by a finesse.

Assume you reach four spades as shown, and West leads the A-3 of hearts. East wins and plays a third heart, which you ruff high. You cash two trumps and three clubs, discard-

ing a diamond from dummy, and East follows suit throughout. This brings you to what you have been worrying about from the outset — that you might lose two diamond tricks.

However, a quick review of what has transpired thus far would seem to indicate that West is more likely to have the king of diamonds. This is because East has turned up with six hearts, two spades and three clubs, leaving him with at most two diamonds, and West with at least four.

It might therefore seem that you should next lead a diamond to the queen, because if West has the king, you'd immediately make the contract. But the possibility that East, who made a vulnerable overcall, may have the king keeps nagging at you.

So you start thinking about how to avoid the finesse, and pretty soon you realize that even if East has the king of diamonds, you are certain to make the contract anyway. Accordingly, you cash the ace of diamonds, return to your hand with a trump and play a diamond to the queen, hoping to find West with the king.

In the actual case, the queen loses to East's king, but, since he has no more diamonds, he is forced to return a heart. This allows you to discard your remaining diamond as you ruff in dummy, and the contract is safely home.

Tomorrow: One false move and you're dead.
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SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

Final Full Moon of 2020

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Someone wants you to make a change from your standard terms, and if you bend, he or she will, too. There is a place to meet -- perhaps not in the middle, exactly, but you'll still be better off for having made the deal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Without grace, beauty doesn't breathe; ornamentation doesn't sparkle. With grace, bad ideas pass for brilliant; the mundane becomes magical. What exactly is grace? Whatever it is, you have it today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Even though you think it's obnoxious to draw attention to your work, attributes and good deeds, the fact is that unless you are seen exemplifying a quality, they will not understand who you are. Don't do it for ego. Do it for clarity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll lean toward acts of gallantry, nobility, high character, forgiveness, generosity. This leaning changes the balance, and into magnanimity you'll topple.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be asked to make a judgment, and you really don't have to. A stance of no stance keeps you in a perfect position. You can say very little, keep the mood light and move on swiftly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Work

Tomorrow's Horoscope

absorbs and excites you. You'll make a difference and have an impact. These are the sorts of efforts that make time speed. You'll be happy for the puzzles that make everything stop for a minute.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The uphill climb won't be safe until after the thaw. But wouldn't it be silly to wait around? Since that won't get you there at all, there's no glory in taking that route. Go easy. Actually, it's the only open route right now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Right now it's a little hard to get people to give you what you need, maybe because you're not entirely clear on it. Explore the topic. Ask yourself the sharp questions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To complain always brings someone discredit. There's a lot else to try before it comes to that. Offer a solution if you can. Another way is to praise the way someone else did it and see if others don't follow suit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What you admire in others you

By Holiday Mathis



can cultivate in yourself. This will eliminate the need for you to carry around the kind of heavy energy that comes from wanting things from people. Self-sufficiency is incredibly light.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have friends in powerful places. Though you rarely ask anything of these connections, it's a secure feeling to know that if you needed to, you could. Still, the best security is knowing you have your own back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Maybe you don't completely judge a book by its cover, but you do get a pretty good idea about what language it's written in, what era it comes from and more. Today, you'll use every hint you can get!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 29). You'd rather have one authentic exchange than a hundred generic gestures. The gems of your year will be just the sort of wonderful events that thrill and fortify you. Ever the cheerleader, you'll use your airtime to promote others, and you'll thrive in spite of this -- or, more likely, because of it! Gemini and Leo

adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 3, 22, 12 and 18.

COSMIC QUESTION: "If someone's birth due date is, let's say, in July, but they are born three months premature, are they the sign of when they were born, or do they have the tendencies of when they would have been born? I always thought it was the cook time in the womb that made the difference. What do you think?"

Good question. Astrology celebrates your day of birth, not the day you were supposed to be born. Though there are many extenuating circumstances that could cause a premature arrival, when a baby takes his or her first autonomous breath, when the umbilical cord is cut and life outside of the mother's body begins, that's the baby's birthday. One spiritual belief is that the soul chooses to be born on a particular day and so chooses the stars of that day. I like that idea, and any idea that puts the individual in the driver's seat of life. Some people think of the day they were "born again" through a spiritual belief, became sober, changed their name or changed another aspect of identity as a kind of birthday. That's valid, too. Astrology is best used to give individuals a point of perspective on life and an expanded idea of who they are, not to limit choice or make destiny seem fixed.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Big 2 ABC	Noticiero	FamFeud	CBS 7	Tele Noticias	News	All About	Wild Kratt	King	Burgers	Fam. Guy	(LVS)	Football: Cheez-It Bowl -- Oklahoma State vs Miami.	SportsCenter	18 Holes	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Moonshiners
6:PM	News	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	El domo del dinero (SS)	News	Truth for Life	Xavier	Last Man	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Milwaukee Bucks at Miami Heat.	College Basketball	Sports	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Moonshiners	
7:PM	To Tell the Truth	Vencer el desamor	The Resident	NCIS (DVS)	The Wall	The Wall	Our Mess	Hero	Chicago P.D.	Best of 2020	Big Bang	College Football: Valero Alamo Bowl -- Texas vs Colorado.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	Women's College Basketball	Law-SVU	The First 48	Moonshiners	
8:PM	The Year: 2020	Imperio de mentiras	Prodigal Son	FBI	Todo por mi hija	Nurses (DVS)	Light of Southwest	Arthur	Chicago P.D.	Tell Me a Story	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Pelicans at Suns	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	Rangers Icons	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Moonshiners	
9:PM	Big 2 ABC	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Creek	Conan	Inside the NBA	SportsCenter	World Poker	Mod Fam	(:01) The First 48	Lone Star Law	
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	Contacto deportivo	Funny	James Corden	Historias de	Seth Meyers	Creation	Tiger	Jokers	Gold	Conan	NBA Basketball: Milwaukee Bucks at Miami Heat.	SportsCenter	NFL Live	Mod Fam	(:03) The First 48	Moonshiners	
11:PM	Nightline	Extra	Un gancho al	Two Men	Simpsons	Drew Barrymore	Caso	Late-Lilly	For the	Nature	Forensic	Short List	Wipeout	College Football: Teams TBA.	Women's College Basketball	Mod Fam	(:04) The First 48	Lone Star Law
12:AM	DailyMail	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	De'siones	Inside Ed.	Wild Kratt	Wild Kratt	Jerry Springer	Paid Prg.	Wipeout	SportCtr	College Football: Teams TBA.	Law & Order: SVU	(:04) The First 48	Lone Star Law		

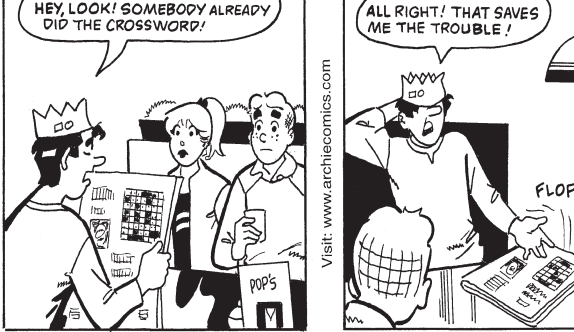
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AGNES



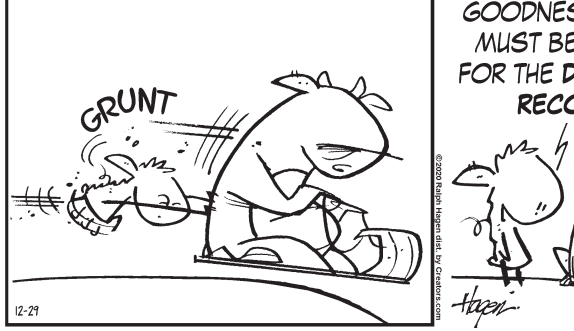
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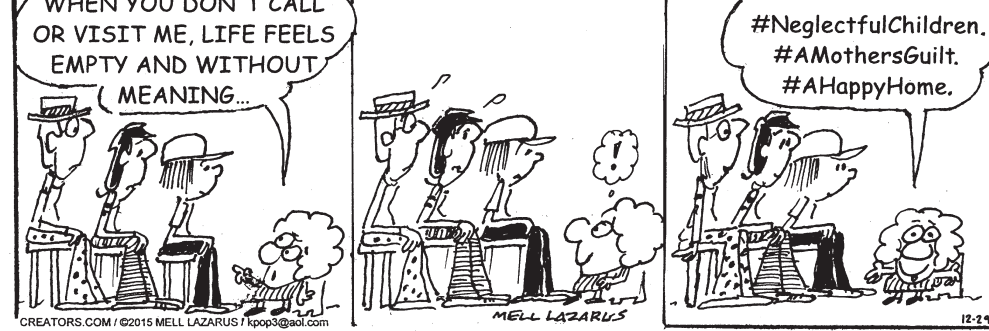
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This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 29, the 364th day of 2020. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 29, 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as an estimated 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

On this date:

In 1812, during the War of 1812, the American frigate USS Constitution engaged and severely damaged the British frigate HMS Java off Brazil.

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

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

In 1939, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," starring Charles Laughton and Maureen O'Hara, was released by RKO Radio Pictures.

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

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

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

In 1989, dissident and playwright Vaclav Havel (VAHTS'-lahv HAH'-vel) assumed the presidency of Czechoslovakia.

In 1992, the United States and Russia announced agreement on a nuclear arms reduction treaty.

In 2006, word reached the United States of the execution of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein (because of the time difference, it was the morning of Dec. 30 in Iraq when the

hanging took place). In a statement, President George W. Bush called Saddam's execution an important milestone on Iraq's road to democracy.

In 2007, the New England Patriots ended their regular season with a remarkable 16-0 record following a 38-35 comeback victory over the New York Giants. (New England became the first NFL team since the 1972 Dolphins to win every game on the schedule.)

In 2017, Puerto Rico authorities said nearly half of the power customers in the U.S. territory still lacked electricity, more than three months after Hurricane Maria.

Ten years ago: The Obama administration expelled Venezuela's ambassador to the United States, a day after Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said he would not allow diplomat Larry Palmer to become the U.S. ambassador to his country. Suicide bombers succeeded in killing Iraqi police commander Lt. Col. Shamil al-Jabouri, who was renowned in the tense northern city of Mosul for his relentless pursuit of al-Qaida.

Five years ago: Belgian authorities announced they had arrested two men and seized military-type uniforms and Islamic State group propaganda in connection with a suspected plot to unleash holiday season attacks against police and celebrated locations in Brussels. Former "Glee" star Mark Salling was arrested in Los Angeles for investigation of possessing child pornography. (Salling pleaded guilty in December 2017; he took his own life a few weeks later while awaiting sentencing.)

One year ago: A man opened fire at a church near Fort Worth, Texas, killing two people before being shot and killed by a member of the church's volunteer security team. NBA star LeBron James was named the Associated Press male athlete of the decade. British comedy writer and actor Neil Innes, who frequently worked with

members of the Monty Python comedy troupe, died at the age of 75.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Rose Lee Maphis is 98. Actor Inga Swenson is 88. Retired ABC newscaster Tom Jarriel is 86. Actor Barbara Steele is 83. Actor Jon Voight is 82. Country singer Ed Bruce is 81. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 74. Retired Hall of Fame

Jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. is 74. Actor Ted Danson is 73. Singer-actor Yvonne Elliman is 69. The president of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, is 67. Actor Patricia Clarkson is 61. Comedian Paula Poundstone is 61. Rock singer-musician Jim Reid (The Jesus and Mary Chain) is 59. Actor Michael Cudlitz is 56. Rock singer Dexter Holland (The

Offspring) is 55. Actor-comedian Mystro Clark is 54. Actor Jason Gould is 54. News anchor Ashleigh Banfield is 53. Movie director Lilly Wachowski is 53. Actor Jennifer Ehle is 51. Actor Patrick Fischler is 51. Rock singer-musician Glen Phillips is 50. Actor Kevin Weisman is 50. Actor Jude Law is 48. Actor Maria Dizzia is 46. Actor Mekhi Phifer (mih-KY' FY'-

fuhr) is 46. Actor Shawn Hatosy is 45. Actor Katherine Moennig is 43. Actor Diego Luna is 41. Actor Alison Brie is 38. Country singer Jessica Andrews is 37. Actor Iain De Caestecker is 33. Actor Jane Levy is 31. Singer-actor-dancer Ross Lynch is 25. Rock musician Danny Wagner is 22.

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Newsday Crossword

BROWN STUDY by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS	DOWN	ACROSS	DOWN
1 Norway's capital	1 Oil cartel	64 Garden entrance	1 Contented comments from 27 Down
5 Imitated	2 Farm storage tower	66 Speck of dust	7 Game-show host
9 Broker's customer: Abbr.	3 Bread purchase	67 Cost	8 E-flat equivalent
13 Devout	4 Set of clothing	68 Gawk at	9 Long, long __ (way back when)
15 Operates smoothly	5 Moby-Dick captain	69 Puts to work	10 What the penny used to be
16 Clinton's vice president		70 Appears to be	11 Merciless
17 Fill with joy		71 Fishing-rod attachment	12 Easily irritated
18 Curve of a foot		72 Impudent	14 Perceived to be
19 Numbered musical work		73 Poems of praise	21 Farm soil
20 Midmornng ritual			22 Ship's backbone
23 Teacher's favorite			26 Advertising sign gas
24 Once __ blue moon			27 Popular pets
25 In a calm way			28 Toledo's state
27 Shares top billing			29 Beachgoer's building project
31 Jury member			30 Chimney grime
32 "Now I get it!"			34 Scratch or dent
33 Step heavily (on)			
36 From the neighborhood			
39 Very small			
41 Squirrel away			
43 __ of the above			
44 Colas and root beers			
46 Family diagrams			
48 Suffix for meteor			
49 Nautical staff			
51 Beer variety			
53 Dangerous driving situation			
57 Use scissors			
58 "No __, ands, or buts!"			
59 Third-place Olympics award			

Answer to previous puzzle

SAPS	SLOTS	SCAM
ALOT	TIARA	HATE
NOSY	ASTER	ORAL
GET	ONTHEDOUBLE	
HERDS	ILLSEE	
SPARES	OWNED	
OASIS	SPIES	RIP
SITE	PEN	LIDS
ONE	DEARS	CAGES
MENSA	TOPHAT	
APRILS	BEAST	
THIS	INSTANT	ACS
EAVE	ACIDS	AWOL
USER	RANGE	DARE
PETS	ENTER	DYED

12/29/20

Bad Texans get mad as losing streak extends to 4 games

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans have been bad all season. Now they're getting mad.

A 37-31 loss to the Bengals on Sunday gave them their second four-game skid of the season and pushed star J.J. Watt into a postgame tirade about effort and professionalism.

"If you can't go out there and you can't work out, you can't show up on time, you can't practice, you can't want to go out there and win, you shouldn't be here," he said during an almost two-minute rant after the game.

Interim coach Romeo Crennel said he empathizes with Watt and he's frustrated, too. But he thinks for the most part his team is doing the best it can under difficult circumstances.

"We're a losing team, so everything is not perfect," Crennel said. "We try to keep the focus, try to keep the guys together and try to keep on playing to the best of our ability. And so sometimes it looks good. Sometimes it doesn't."

Long out of the playoff hunt, the Texans (4-11) have little to play for other than pride this Sunday when they wrap up the season against the visiting Titans (10-5), who lead the AFC South.

"You don't play this game to lose like we've been losing," receiver Brandin Cooks said. "Man, it's horrible, but I think we've got guys that's going to continue to fight, and that's all we genuinely can do and control the things that we can control and show up and try to get better and finish on a positive note."

Houston started the season 0-4, which led to the firing of coach and general manager Bill O'Brien. The team then won four of seven under Crennel — twice against the league-worst Jaguars — before the current four-game skid.

Sunday was the third time in the past four games the Texans have had a chance to win or tie a game late but lost a fumble instead.

They trailed Cincinnati by three with about two minutes left when Deshaun Watson was sacked by Sam Hubbard, who forced a fumble that Margus Hunt recovered, leading to a Bengals field goal.

"If we were able to make the plays, then the outlook on the season would be different," Crennel said. "But we didn't make the plays, and so it is what it is."

WHAT'S WORKING
Watson's late fumble was an unfortunate end to another strong game. He threw for 324 yards and three touchdowns, his ninth 300-yard game this season. The fourth-year player has thrown 30 touchdown passes to set a single-season franchise record and his 4,458 yards passing are a career high, rank second in the NFL and are the second most in team history.

Watson was shaken up on that sack late in Sunday's loss, but returned in the final seconds and said he was fine after the game. Crennel said he wouldn't

consider sitting Watson this week to avoid an injury to his star quarterback.

"One of the things that Deshaun brings to this team is he brings a high level of football," Crennel said. "And in my mind, for me, he brings a high level of hope for us to be able to win a game. And so, I would like to have that on my side."

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The Bengals rushed for 169 yards on Sunday in the latest terrible performance by Houston's run defense. The Texans rank 31st in the league, allowing 151.7 yards rushing per game, and Sunday was the eighth time they've allowed more than 160 yards.

STOCK UP

David Johnson had a second straight big game on Sunday when he rushed for a season-high 128 yards with a rushing touchdown and a TD catch. A week earlier, he set career highs with 11 receptions for 106 yards in a loss to the Colts. His recent strong play is a welcome development for the Texans after he struggled for much of the year. Houston acquired Johnson in the offseason in the trade that sent DeAndre Hopkins to Arizona, a baffling personnel move that hastened O'Brien's departure.

STOCK DOWN

Chad Hansen had one catch for 8 yards on Sunday after piling up 212 yards receiving combined in his past three games and scoring his first career touchdown last week.

INJURED

RG Brent Qvale sustained a concussion against the Bengals and will likely miss the season finale. ... LT Laremy Tunsil injured his foot in the second quarter and Crennel said he isn't sure if he will return this week.

KEY NUMBER

540 — Yards Houston allowed on Sunday, the second most the team has given up all season behind the 607 Tennessee had in a Week 6 victory.

NEXT STEPS

Tennessee will have plenty to play for on Sunday, when a win will give it the AFC South title. The Titans beat the Texans 42-36 in overtime in Week 6 behind a 212-yard rushing performance from Derrick Henry. For the Texans to have any chance for the upset, they'll have to find a way to slow down Henry, who ran for 211 yards against them in Week 17 last season, and who needs 223 yards to reach 2,000 this season.

"If we can win the game, at least we can go out this year with a win and not feel as bad as we presently do," Crennel said.

Seeds of hope: Cowboys alive and kicking in woeful NFC East

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys won a game thanks to a watermelon kick and are now 2-0 after smashing said fruit as a motivational tactic the night before each victory.

If that doesn't say it all about the pandemic-altered 2020 season, then how about the woeful NFC East offering the guarantee that a team will go from 2-7 to the playoffs for the first time in NFL history, according to Sportradar?

Dallas (6-9) is one of those three teams, with the winner between the Cowboys and New York Giants (5-10) from early Sunday getting in if Washington loses at Philadelphia in prime time. Washington (6-9) simply needs to win to advance.

Andy Dalton, 4-4 since replacing Dak Prescott after the star quarterback's season-ending ankle injury, has directed a three-game winning streak after beating the Eagles 37-17, and the former Cincinnati starter has the Cowboys playing for a lot more than 2021 momentum.

That was the goal a few weeks ago, when first-year coach Mike McCarthy noted that a four-game winning streak to finish his rough Green Bay debut in 2006 was a springboard to a trip to the NFC championship game the next year.

Now, the Cowboys could be two playoff wins from their first run that far in the postseason in 25 years — with a little help, of course.

"We look totally different today than we did two months ago," McCarthy said. "That's a real credit to our football players."

McCarthy's first victory with Dallas, 40-39 over Atlanta in Week 2, came on Greg Zuerlein's field goal on the final play after the Cowboys recovered their kicker's spinning onside attempt, executed without a tee.

The biggest win before beating Philadelphia was 31-28 at Minnesota a day after McCarthy impersonated the comedian Gallagher by taking a sledgehammer to some watermelons during a team meeting in the hotel.

This time, McCarthy let the game's captains — receiver Amari Cooper, defensive lineman Tyrone Crawford and cornerback Chidobe Awuzie — do the smashing, with a piñata effect. There was candy inside.

"With us being crazy football players and everything like that, guys really like smashing things," Cooper said. "I think that's what football is all

about, you know, just hitting guys. So, it kind of got everybody hyped for the game."

WHAT'S WORKING

The receiving trio of Cooper, Michael Gallup and rookie CeeDee Lamb have a seven-game streak of at least one touchdown receiving, with a total of 10. Gallup had two against the Eagles, and Lamb added a rushing score for 11 total TDs in that span. The Cowboys are 4-3 in those games.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The much-maligned defense gave up more than 450 yards for the second week in a row as the Cowboys narrowly avoided giving up the most points per game at home in NFL history. Dallas finished at 34.4, and the expansion Cowboys of 1960 share the record of 36.5 with the winless Detroit Lions of 2008 and the 1948 Giants.

On the bright side for Dallas, the defense slowed rookie Jalen Hurts and the Eagles while the offense scored on five straight possessions. After giving up 14 points in less than 10 minutes to start the game, the Cowboys held Philadelphia to three the rest of the way. But it was still enough to set a franchise record in points allowed with a game to go at 450. The previous high was 436 points in 2010.

STOCK UP

Defensive end Randy Gregory had 1½ sacks and three forced fumbles, including one on his full sack and another while dropping Philadelphia running back Miles Sanders for a 4-yard loss. Gregory, who also had two QB hits, returned this season after his fourth suspension over substance-abuse violations.

STOCK DOWN

Linebacker Sean Lee got the first start of his 11th season but ended up playing fewer snaps than backup Joe Thomas. Jaylon Smith played all 73 snaps, while Thomas was in for 58% of the plays to 41% for Lee. It might have been the 34-year-old Lee's final home game.

INJURIES

RB Ezekiel Elliott had his second 100-yard game of the season (105 yards on 19 carries) playing through a calf issue that has bothered him for weeks and kept him out of a game because of injury for the first time in his career a week earlier.

S Darian Thompson is in concussion protocol. LG Connor Williams injured a knee, but executive vice president of personnel Stephen Jones said on his radio show Monday that Williams "is going to

be fine."

KEY NUMBER

514 — Dallas had the fourth 500-yard game of the season with 514 total yards against the Eagles, tying the 1966, 1978 and 2019 teams for the most in franchise history. It was the first without Prescott. Dallas had three straight 500-yard games before his Week 5 injury. It was the most for a Dalton-led offense since the Bengals had 559 in a 31-17 win over Cleveland in 2016.

NEXT STEPS

This is the first meaningful regular-season finale for the Cowboys since 2013. That's when they lost a season ender to finish 8-8 for the third consecutive year when a win would have put them in the playoffs.

Kickoff for Sunday will be at 12:00 p.m. local time as the Cowboys search for a win over the Giants.


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