

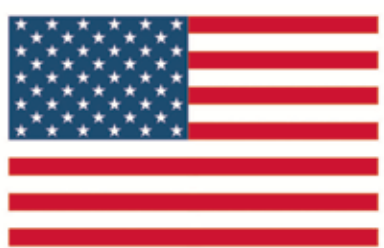
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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019



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50th Annual Gem and Mineral Show set for March 2 and 3



On the left, Koleton Goillandeau, 7, and his grandmother Martha Simmering of Big Spring inspect a table of turquoise jewelry at the Big Spring Prospectors Club's 48th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. A unique display is shown on the right, also at the 48th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the show, which will be March 2 and 3 at the Howard County Fairbarn. Mark your calendars. You don't want to miss out!

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Preparations are underway for the 50th annual iteration of a Big Spring tradition: The Big Spring Prospector's Club's Gem and Mineral Show. "This will be our 50th show, so we're going to try to make it more special

than just our regular ones," said Gem and Mineral Show organizer Lola Lamb. "We don't have any special display or anything set up at this time, but we just want to play it up as being our Golden Anniversary show, and that type of thing." Lamb said the show will be the first weekend in March – March 2 and 3 – at the Howard County Fair Barn. "We'll have the displays that are brought in by neighboring clubs. Midland always brings several displays for us," she said. "Our displays are our one attraction, and then the dealers selling the different merchandise, gems and minerals

and such. Then we have the spinning wheel for the kiddoes." The spinning wheel is a "wheel of fortune" type device that kids can spin. Each spin wins a prize, and the prize won depends on the number spun. Admission to the show is free, Lamb said. "We put out a booklet, and local businesses sponsor ads in our show booklet and we give it out," she said. "That's how we can have free admission." Along with the free admission, the Prospector's Club will be giving out door prizes.

See **SHOW**, Page 3

First 2019 City Council meeting to consider bids and budget amendments

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will hold its first meeting of 2019 Tuesday evening. During the meeting, set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth St., the council will consider several issues, including the award of bids on a new fire truck and improvements at the Russ McEwen Family Aquatic Center; and budget amendments to purchase land and a utility tractor at the Airpark, provide additional funds for Convention and Visitors Bureau events, and accept a donation to purchase bunker gear and cardiac monitor equipment for the Fire Department.

The Council approved funds for the purchase of a fire truck in the current year's budget in the amount of \$340,000. According to a memo from Fire Chief Craig Ferguson to City Manager Todd Darden, included in the meeting's agenda, "When I asked for quotes to prepare my budget back in April and May of 2018, this was a median price for a new truck. When the new budget was approved and took effect in October of 2018, the market had changed. Due to the rising cost of materials, the price has increased significantly. We sent out six packets and received five

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

Only a few spots left for free heart screenings



By **ANNA GUTIERREZ**
 Staff Writer

Midland Memorial Hospital (MMH), in collaboration with Championship Hearts Foundation (CHF), will be providing free heart screenings for students between the ages of 14 and 18 on Saturday, January 12. Athletes, cheerleaders, marching band students, drill team members and those who participate in vigorous exercises are encouraged to come and get their hearts screened. These screenings will take place at MMH from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. inside the Aqua Entrance off Illinois St. As of right now, there are only 10 remaining spots available of the

See **SCREENINGS**, Page 3

Find us online at:
 www.bigspringherald.com

Accident causes power outage at FM 700 and Hwy 350 intersection



An 18-wheeler hit a light pole near the intersection of FM 700 and Highway 350 Saturday morning at 11:26 a.m. While the driver of the truck refused treatment or transport to the hospital, the truck did receive heavy damage, according to Big Spring Fire Department Chief Craig Ferguson. In addition, the light pole interfered with some power lines, disrupting service for about 549 customers for about an hour and a half, said Oncor representative Kristy Tyra. Tyra also said that customers experiencing outages can check the website at www.oncor.com to find an outage map which will give estimates of when power will be restored. Additionally, customers can sign up to receive informational texts in the case of an outage.

HERALD photo/Amber Mansfield

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 Visit us online at: AllAboutHearing4U.com

Dr. Sally, AuD, CCC-A, Audiologist

Obituaries

Gerald Wayne Darnell

Gerald Wayne Darnell, 48, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 31, 2018, at his home.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Monday, January 7, 2019, at the Coahoma Church of Christ with Eddy Pitchford officiating.

Gerald is survived by a daughter, Shawna Darnell of Georgia; a stepdaughter, Samantha Debral of Georgia; a son, Dillon Hernandez of Big Spring;

four sisters, Kathy Sigmon, Deborah Darnell, and Zeita Mase, all of Big Spring, and Wanda Weissmiller of Coahoma; two brothers, Pete Gillbert of Big Spring and Mack Darnell of Arkansas; and five grandchildren.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- MICHAEL PAUL LEUSCHNER, 51, of 707 Craigmont Dr. was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated, possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.), and possession of a controlled substance (Penalty Group 1, less than 1 ounce).
- JOSE VASQUEZ, 19, of 4220 Hamilton St. was arrested on

a warrant for failure to signal within the required distance before turning, and on another outstanding warrant.

- LEO PENA, 18, of 1003 E. 14th St. was arrested on warrants for no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- OLEGARIO MELENDEZ JR., 31, of 806 Timothy Lane was arrested on a charge of assault/family violence (threat or offensive

touch).

- TASHA YVONNE RIOS, 31, of 806 Timothy Lane was arrested on a charge of assault/family violence (threat or offensive touch).
- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
- DISTURBANCE was reported in the 600 block of West Interstate 20.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 600 block of East Culp Avenue.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 77 inmates at the time of this report.

• ROBERTO VALDEZ BALTAZAR, 44, was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (Penalty Group 1, less than 1 gram).

• DESMOND RAY DELOACH, 27, was booked by HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for interfering with an emergency request for assistance.

• AUSTIN MICHAEL HENSON, 20, was booked by BSPD on warrants for no drivers license and failure to appear; and on charges of theft of property (less than \$100)/shoplifting, failure to identify, and evading arrest or detention.

• MICHAEL PAUL LEUS-

CHNER, 51, was booked by BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated, possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.), and possession of a controlled substance (Penalty Group 1, less than 1 ounce).

• SHIMEON RASHAD MAGERS, 35, was booked by HCSO on a charge of false drug test/falsification device.

• CHASITI CODI MCDANIEL, 33, was booked by HCSO on an order of modified conditions.

• OLEGARIO MELENDEZ JR., 31, was booked by HCSO on a charge of assault/family violence (threat or offensive touch).

• LEO PENA, 18, of 1003 E. 14th St. was arrested by BSPD on warrants for no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• TASHA YVONNE RIOS, 31, was booked by BSPD on a charge of assault/family violence (threat or offensive touch).

• DUNCAN JOSEPH SANCHEZ, 34, was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• KARL GENE SCHMIDT, 41, was booked by BSPD on warrants for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, failure to maintain financial responsibility, violation of promise to appear, and defective stop lamps.

• TIFFANY DAWN THOMPSON, 31, was booked by HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• JOSE VASQUEZ, 19, was booked by BSPD on warrants for failure to signal within the required distance before turning, and evading arrest or detention.

• CHRISTOPHER DOUGLASS WALLACE, 31, was booked by HCSO on warrants for driving with an invalid license, expired registration, and violation of promise to appear.

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 Balsdua 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 p.m. 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.

Gregoria Flores



Gregoria Flores, 97, of Big Spring died Friday, Jan. 4, 2019 at her home.

A rosary be will held at 7 p.m. Monday, January 7, 2019, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Gregoria is survived by a daughter, Yolanda Flores and two sons, Luxen Flores Jr. and Oscar Flores, all of Big Spring.

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

Dora Dunn

Dora Dunn, 77, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, in a local hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 7700 block of North Service Road.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 2900 block of McCauslan.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 800 block of East 14th St.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 500 block of West 17th St.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 2300 block of Brent Drive.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at the intersection of Gregg St. and FM 700.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 500 block of West 17th St.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1000 block of North Main St.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported on Northwest Highway 176.
- OUTSIDE/FENCE FIRE was reported in the 1100 block of South Monticello.

Support Groups

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.

• 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, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 and 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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.

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**MEMBER
2018**

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Federal student aid programs can help pay college costs

Special to the Herald

The federal government sponsors numerous financial aid programs that can help students and their parents pay college expenses. This brief summary from KHEAA describes the more common federal grant and loan programs. Grants generally do not have to be repaid, but loans do.

Federal Pell Grant: Pell Grants will provide up to \$6,195 for the 2019-2020 school year for undergraduates with financial need. The amount may change each year.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant: grants that provide up to \$4,000 per year for undergraduate students who have exceptional financial need.

Federal Direct Loans: These loans are available to undergraduate, graduate and professional students. The amount students may borrow depends on their year in school.

Federal PLUS Loan: Parents of dependent undergraduate students may qualify for PLUS Loans, depending on the parents' credit ratings. The amount available depends on how much other financial aid the student receives.

Graduate and professional students may apply for PLUS Loans if they have exhausted their Direct Loan eligibility.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to apply for all of these programs. Families seeking a PLUS Loan must also submit a separate application.

KHEAA is a public, non-profit agency established in 1966 to improve students' access to college. It provides information about financial aid and financial literacy at no cost to students and parents. KHEAA also helps colleges manage their student loan default rates and verify information submitted on the FAFSA. For more information about those services, visit www.kheaa.com.

In addition, KHEAA disburses private Advantage Education Loans for its sister agency, KHESLC.

For more information about Advantage Education Loans, visit www.advantageeducationloan.com.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

bids from four different companies. They are all over budget."

In the memo, Ferguson recommends to the council that they accept the lowest bid which meets specifications, in the amount of \$388,227.80 from Municipal Fire of McAllen, Texas. The fire truck they offer is a 2019 Spartan/Toyne Triple Combination Pumper, and includes a 2-year "bumper to bumper" warranty, as well as three annual preventative maintenance sessions including oil change, replacement of several filters, and topping off the transfer case, differential and grease chassis.

One other bid, from Daco/Rosenbauer Fire Apparatus of Lubbock, was less than the Municipal Fire bid at \$349,900, but, according to Ferguson, did not meet specifications set out in the bid packet.

Improvements at the Aquatic Center, including re-plastering the pool and repainting the slide and play features will cost the city \$220,062.18, if council members approve the recommendation from engineering firm Jacob and Martin. The firm has taken two quotes from Progressive Commercial Aquatics which total that amount.

According to the memo from Jacob and Martin to Assistant City Manager John Medina: "Progressive Commercial Aquatics Inc. is a member of BuyBoard and the quotation provided by Progressive Commercial Aquatics is consistent with the competitive procurement process provided by BuyBoard. Based on our evaluation of the quotations, it is recommended that the City accept the quotation from Progressive Commercial Aquatics Inc. for \$220,062.18."

The Texas BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative works to streamline the purchasing process for lo-

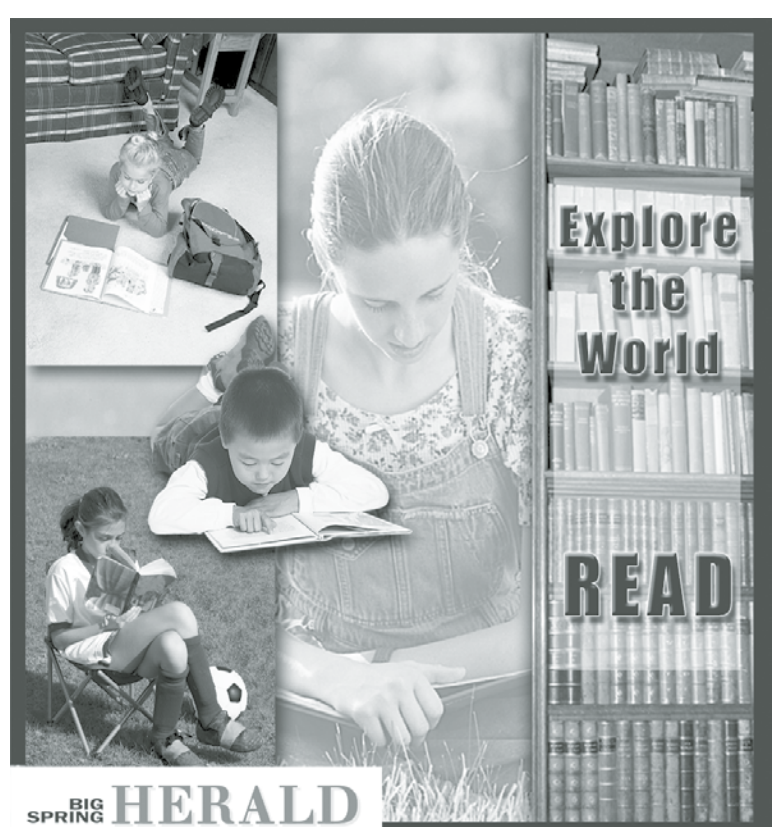
cal governmental entities. BuyBoard conducts bid processes on items and services in bulk, which satisfies statutory requirements for the governmental entities, so that they don't have to engage in their own bid processes on these items.

In other business, the council plans to consider budget amendments to increase to Airpark Fund Budget by \$79,738.50 to purchase property for the Safety Runway Area, and by \$67,000 to purchase a utility tractor; another to increase the CVB Events account by \$50,000 to fund events including "The Iron Orchard" movie premiere, the 2020 Pan American Hang Gliding Championships, the second annual Song Swap at the Spring, a Texas Trail Plains Conference that will be held in Big Spring, and "...any other events that will be held in Big Spring that are specifically sponsored by the CVB and not by other organizations," according to a memo from Community Services Director Hayley Herrera to City Manager Todd Darden; and to increase the budget by accepting a donation from Occidental Petroleum Corporation (OXY) for bunker gear and cardiac monitor equipment for the Fire Department.

The council will also:

- Consider approval of revisions to the Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria;
- Consider approval of the Investment Report for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 2018;
- Consider approval of Big Spring Economic Development Corporation funding a robotics program at Coahoma ISD;
- Consider approval of a BSEDC budget amendment in the amount of \$473,700 for rail infrastructure.

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



BIG SPRING HERALD

SCREENINGS

Continued from Page 1

250 that were offered, so if you are wanting to have your child screened, there is no time to waste.

These screenings will be provided free of charge to those who attend the heart screening event, but normally the procedure would cost around \$700. Also according to Johnson, at a recent heart screening event held on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, there were roughly 176 students screened. Of those, six teens were referred elsewhere for further cardiology testing.

According to Danielle Johnson, public relations and interactive marketing with Midland Health, these health screenings have taken place in the past, but after the recent passing of a Lee High School student and basketball player, MMH reached out to CHF in an effort to bring awareness to Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) and the significance of preventative heart checks.

"We felt this was an opportune time to remind parents of the importance of heart screenings, as standard physical exams do not include cardiac screenings," said Johnson.

This heart screening tests for HCM, which is the leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest in young people, including athletes, and affects roughly 1 in 500 people. HCM can cause thickening of heart muscles, which can lead to blockages and erratic heartbeat. Symptoms can include chest pain, dizziness, shortness of breath or fainting, but many times there are no symptoms present.

You can register until January 11, but only a few spots are still available! If you are interested in the heart screenings, please register at www.champhearts.org. There will be a waiting list started if capacity is reached, but right now, there is not another date scheduled for heart screenings.

All students are required to have a consent form signed by parents, and as long as the students have these consent forms, parents do not have to be present during the exam. Please wear comfortable clothing (gym attire is suggested).

For more information, you are free to call 888-884-6945 or 512-900-3243.

Contact Staff Writer Anna Gutierrez at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

Thank Texas school board members during January's School Board Recognition Month

Texas Association of School Boards Encourages Texans to Honor Trustees

(Austin)—Texas school board members volunteer countless hours to ensure students have the best schools possible. To honor the more than 7,200 locally elected trustees in Texas, Governor Greg Abbott has declared January School Board Recognition Month, and the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) is encouraging all Texas communities to join the celebration by showing appreciation to these men and women.

"In every part of the state, dedicated school board members willingly step forward to tackle serious issues and deal with tough financial challenges to provide excellent educational experiences for all children—and the trustees work with no pay, giving their best as

a generous gift to the next generation," said James B. Crow, TASB executive director. "We urge every community to express support for their local board members during the first month of the new year."

School districts across Texas will be honoring



their local school board members with celebrations, student-written thank-you notes, and certificates of appreciation. The community can join in by saying thank you to their local school board members and by sharing appreciation using #SchoolBoardMonth on Twitter and Instagram.

"School boards play a vital role in our efforts to improve education in the Lone Star State as they work with parents, education professionals, and community members to create successful learning environments," said Abbott in his proclamation.

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local Texas school boards. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve more than 5.3 million public school students. To learn more about January's School Board Recognition Month, visit sbrm.tasb.org.

SHOW

Continued from Page 1

"We'll have hourly door prizes," said Lamb. "They get a ticket when they come in, and then we give a door prize every hour on the hour. That's free for people who come to the show."

Those attending the show will also have a chance to help pick the best display.

"It's the People's Choice Award," Lamb said. "The people who come to the show vote on what display they like the best, and we give a plaque to the person who set it up."

And if you get hungry, there will be food vendors.

"We'll have some food vendors. They'll be set up right outside the back door," Lamb said. "I don't know how many we'll have this year. We've only had one in the past, but we're going to try to have more. We'll try to have several different ones."

Planning for the 50th annual Gem and Mineral Show is still in progress, and the Herald will report on more details as they become available.

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

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Michael "Mike" Spivey, 42, died Tuesday. Funeral Service will be at 3:00 PM Monday at Hillcrest Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.



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Prescott, Cowboys push past Seahawks for 24-22 wild-card win

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dak Prescott saw an opening up the middle, then three defenders between him and the first down.

The Dallas quarterback found a way to get there, and get his first playoff victory two years after a sensational rookie season ended in disappointment.

Ezekiel Elliott rushed for 137 yards and the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter, Prescott scored on a sneak after his dazzling head-over-heels run and the Cowboys hung on for a 24-22 wild-card win over the Seattle Seahawks on Saturday night.

The win for the Cowboys (11-6) was the first for Elliott and Prescott after losing a divisional game in their playoff debut as first-year stars two years ago. Dallas will play at either New Orleans or the Los Angeles Rams in the divisional round next weekend.

"It's really just a chance to keep going on, simple as that," Prescott said. "Me and this whole team, we want to win it all. You can't do that without taking care of the first one. A lot of excitement, but my goal is bigger than just one playoff win."

The loss ended a run of nine straight victories in playoff openers for the Seahawks (10-7). The Elias Sports Bureau says it was the longest streak in NFL history.

Leading 17-14, Prescott faced third-and-14 from



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) celebrates his first down near the goal line against the Seattle Seahawks during the second half of the NFC wild-card NFL football game in Arlington, Texas, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019.

AP photo

the Seattle 17 with the 2-minute warning approaching. He took off up the middle on a QB draw, barged through a trio of defenders 6 yards short of the first and went down at the 1 when he was flipped head-first by Tedric Thompson.

Prescott, who also had an 11-yard scoring pass to Michael Gallup in the first half, scored on the next play in the eighth win in nine games for the Cowboys.

"He's just a rare guy," coach Jason Garrett said.

las burned more than five minutes while taking 24-14 lead.

But Tyler Lockett's 53-yard catch set up a quick Seattle touchdown — Seahawk's 7-yard scoring pass to J.D. McKissic. The Seahawks got within two on their second 2-point conversion following an injury to Sebastian Janikowski.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 10

Texans look to bright future with Watson after playoff exit



AP photo

Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson (4) walks off the field after failing to connect on a fourth down against the Indianapolis Colts during the second half of an NFL wild card playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019, in Houston.

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Houston's impressive turnaround after a 0-3 start ended in disappointment with a loss to the Indianapolis Colts in the wild-card round.

Still, the Texans remain optimistic about their future because they're confident they've finally found their franchise quarterback in Deshaun Watson after years of misfires at the position.

"Every position is important ... but you have to have a quarterback, and we have a quarterback," coach Bill O'Brien said on Sunday. "There's no doubt in my mind that we have the type of person and the type of quarterback that you need here to win in this league."

Watson's play has been a revelation for a team that has started 11 different quarterbacks since 2011. The 12th overall pick in the 2017 draft started each game this season after he was limited to just seven games as a rookie after tearing a knee ligament in practice.

He threw for 4,165 yards and 26 touchdowns this season to become the second player in team history and first since Matt Schaub in 2012 to throw for 4,000 yards. He added 551 yards rush-

ing and five touchdowns to become the first player to have at least 4,000 yards passing and 25 touchdowns and 500 yards rushing and five scores in a season in NFL history.

He was disappointed that he was unable to move the offense effectively on Saturday, but is looking forward to what this team can do next year and beyond.

"The organization, (its) future, it's bright," he said. "Hopefully I'm a part of it, for sure, for a long time."

While the Texans know they'll have Watson for the next few seasons, they have a big decision to make on the other side of the ball with defensive end Jadeveon Clowney becoming a free agent. The top overall pick in the 2014 draft shook off injuries that plagued the early part of his career to make the Pro Bowl in each of the past three seasons.

Clowney joined J.J. Watt to form one of the league's most fearsome pass rushing duos this season and he had nine sacks after having a career-high 9½ last season.

O'Brien wouldn't say what their plans for Clowney are, but he had plenty to say about his development as a player.

See **TEXANS**, Page 10

Beating Ravens gets Chargers a date with Brady and Patriots



AP photo

Los Angeles Chargers head coach Anthony Lynn, left, huddles with quarterback Philip Rivers (17) in the second half of an NFL wild card playoff football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, in Baltimore. (AP Photo/Gail Burton)

By DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE — The Los Angeles Chargers' prize for dismantling the toughest defense in the NFL is a road game against a team that has long been a nemesis for Philip Rivers.

Los Angeles advanced to the divisional round of the postseason by beating the Baltimore Ravens 23-17 on Sunday. Next up, a matchup against the New England Patriots (11-5) this Sunday.

Since Rivers became a starter, the Chargers are 0-7 against Tom Brady and the Patriots, including 0-2 in playoff games. The last time they met, New England rolled to a 21-12 win in the AFC Championship game in January 2008.

Fortunately for Rivers, past performances don't necessarily mean that much. Just two weeks after being dominated by Baltimore in a loss that knocked them out of first place in the AFC West, the Chargers (13-4) bounced back with a resounding win to advance to the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2014.

Rivers went 22 of 32 for 160 yards, his longest completion a 28-yarder to Mike Williams.

Going up against longtime Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and standout coach Bill Belichick is no easy task,

but Rivers is up for the challenge.

"I'm not playing Tom by any means. But is it special to go to New England against a Hall of Fame coach and arguably the best quarterback ever to play and get another shot at 'em? Heck, yeah," Rivers said. "To get an opportunity again to go against them, 11 years after we had the opportunity in the 2007 season, yeah, it's awesome. Looking forward to it."

The Chargers face a veteran quarterback after putting the clamps on a rookie, Lamar Jackson of the Ravens, who fumbled three times, threw an interception and was sacked seven times in his playoff debut.

AFC North champion Baltimore (10-7) got to play a home playoff game for the first time since 2012, but its run ended there.

Looking ahead, this much is clear: John Harbaugh figures he'll be back as coach — even if nothing is set in stone yet — and he knows Jackson will be the team's starting quarterback next season instead of past Super Bowl MVP Joe Flacco.

While Flacco is "the best quarterback in the history of the Ravens," as Harbaugh put it, Jackson's 6-1 close to the regular season cemented the first-round draft pick and Heisman Trophy winner as the No. 1 quarterback.

See **CHARGERS**, Page 10

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JANUARY 10, 2019**

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Robert L. Noyles, 5726 Ranch Road 33, Big Spring, TX 79720, LT 5-6 BK 16, of Original Town Addition, also known as 409 E 3rd St.
Ruth Cano- 701E 13th St., Big Spring, TX 79720, Lt 6 Bk 7, Cole & Strayhorn Addition, also known as 610 E 12th St.
Jesse Rios- 723 Baylor, Big Spring, TX 79720- Lts 7-12 Bk 16, Original Town Addition, also known as 711 NW 9th St.
Elizabeth Hope Larez- 1002 N Main St., Big Spring, TX 79720- Lts 7-12 Bk 16, Original Town Addition, also known as 711 NW 9th St.
Irene Lopez, 2917 Southwest Dr., Abilene, TX 79605- Lts 7-12 Bk 16, Original Town Addition, also known as 711 NW 9th St.
Albert G Barrera- 1418 E 36th St., Odessa, TX 79762- Lts 7-12 Bk 16, Original Town Addition, also known as 711 NW 9th St.
Melanie Watson 2530 Hunter Dr, Big Spring, TX 79720- Lt 8 Bk 33, Cole & Strayhorn Addition, also known as 1109 E 14th St.
Patel Bakulbhai- 601 State St., Big Spring, TX 79720- NW/4 SC 46 Bk 32 also known as 1712 E 3rd St.

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Public Notice

not secured against entry shall be deemed unsafe.

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Thomas Hodges

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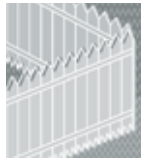
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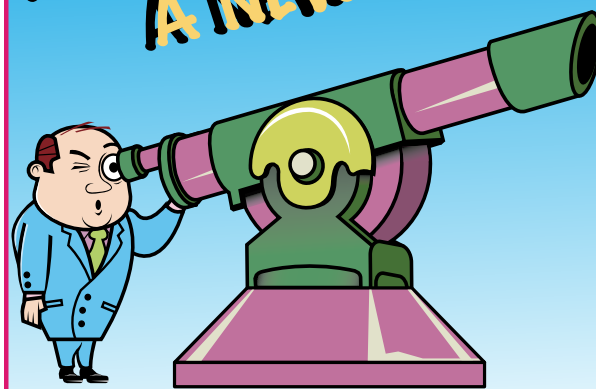
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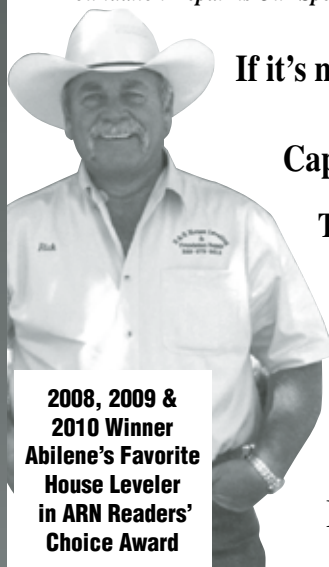
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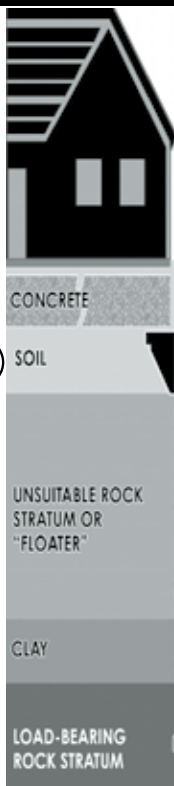
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS 24-Nov. 21)



-- the kind that's pretty easily solved once you put your mind to it. Note that you don't need to buy anything extra to do this. You already have all you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll do many of the same things you've been doing, but you'll have a breakthrough with your approach that makes the action easier, more loving and more efficient, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you include others in your plans, you increase the energy flowing through your life. This "inclusion" could be as simple as telling them what you're doing so they might ask about it later. Publicity keeps you accountable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The visionary cannot see the future that exists, because the future doesn't exist until the visionary imagines it and begins building toward that vision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are many currencies beyond money. Money is not even the stablest currency to deal in, as all of its value is assigned and can therefore be easily lessened -- unlike emotional currencies, which hold their own.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you don't celebrate your accomplishments, you will be demotivated to do more.

So this is not the step to skip. That said, the celebration needn't be big. One ritual might be enough to bolster your joy and self-appreciation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Knowing what you do about the uplifting power of generosity and its beneficial effects on the giver, letting someone serve you might be the best way to help someone feel good today.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 7). Suddenly, it seems that everyone is thinking too small. It's because this birthday augments your estimation of your own ability and your understanding of what's possible. This new, bigger vision represents the most accurate sense of scale you've used. You'll manage, and then you'll sustain, and then you'll surpass all expectation. Leo and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 3, 33, and 27.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com.

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Venus Negotiates for Freedom

Today's action might not look like much from a distance, but there's a lot accomplished through discussions and decisions having to do with the delicate equilibrium of ego and social and personal responsibility. The work of this Venus change is communal and spiritual, and it's centered around the subject of how to treat one another.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Most people will seek knowledge on topics they enjoy, but it's the people who also take the time to learn about topics they don't agree with who will build the most empathy, awareness and character.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Those who try hard to impress you may be earnest, honest, excited people, or they may be accidentally showing you a signal that they are inexperienced and eager to gain some experience on your dime. Either way might work just fine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your support system is one of mutuality. Right now, you're so needed that you don't get to be needy. It feels good to test your strength, though, especially because you're finding out that you're stronger than you thought.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Nothing boosts your ego today like the feeling of being useful to others. Of course, it helps if they let you know how much of a difference you make, but the appreciation, if you get it, is only the cherry on top.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're sensitive now, which makes your ride down the road of life a little more exciting than it has been lately. The speed bumps feel like mountains, the potholes like valleys.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The main action centers around the best kind of dilemma

Annie's Mailbox

Not Responding to Texts Right Away

Dear Annie: Recently, a friend confronted me about something that I didn't think was a big deal: Sometimes I forget to respond to texts for a while, and then I reply and say that I just saw the message. Technically, most of the time, it's a lie; I did see the message, and I just got sidetracked or zoned out or didn't feel like replying until later. But I just say it to try to make the other person feel better or to smooth things over. I'm certainly not trying to be deceitful.

My friend who always tells it like it is, God bless her, called me out for this behavior in front of a group of mutual friends. A few laughed and agreed that I do this. It was brought up in a joking manner, but it still ruffled my feathers a bit. Am I really in the wrong here? Is there a more tactful way to handle things when you take a while to respond to someone? -- Delayed

Dear Delayed: Not responding to a text message right away is understandable -- even healthy, as we shouldn't be beholden to our devices

24/7. But lying about the reason for not returning a text is wrong, and it insults your friend's intelligence. The next time you take a while to respond to a message, simply apologize (if appropriate) for not getting back to the person sooner, and leave it at that. No flimsy excuses necessary.

Dear Annie: For at least three years now, my neck has hurt on a daily basis. More often than not, it's stiff, and I need to crack it to get some relief. I've heard that changing to a better pillow can help with neck pain. But when

I went online to see what pillow I should get, I was overwhelmed by dozens of options, all claiming to have five-star reviews. Now I don't know what to do! I'm not sure how to make a choice, considering I'm... -- Neck-Deep in Options

Dear Neck-Deep in Options: A new pillow might help, but what you really need is to talk to your doctor. He or she can refer you to a physical therapist who can help you protect your neck long term. You also might want to consider using a standing desk, if you work

at a computer, because unless you have perfect posture, sitting at a desk all day can wreak havoc on your neck and back. As for the pillow, perhaps the doctor or physical therapist could advise you on the right kind.

Dear Annie: "Sad in Wisconsin" -- the man who wrote that when he and his wife give gifts to his son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren, they never express gratitude -- should examine why they are giving gifts in the first place. If I see a beggar on the street, I don't give him money because I

expect a thank-you. I do it because he needs a helping hand. When I do something nice for my wife, I do it because she deserves it. Not expecting anything back when we give is a wonderful thing. -- No Returns

Dear No Returns: Hear! Hear! May we all aspire toward such selflessness.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 10 7 3
♥ —
♦ 5 3
♣ K Q J 10 8 4 2

WEST

♠ J 8 5
♥ K Q 7 4 3
♦ A Q 9 2
♣ A

EAST

♠ 4
♥ A 10 6 2
♦ J 8 7 6 4
♣ 7 5 3

SOUTH

♠ K Q 9 6 2
♥ J 9 8 5
♦ K 10
♣ 9 6

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♥	2♣	2♥
2♠	3♦	4♠	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble		

Opening lead — king of hearts.

This deal occurred in a playoff between the B. Jay Becker and Curtis Smith teams to determine which would represent the United States in the 1973 world championship. The Becker team won the match handily, but not before it was badly clawed on this hand.

Becker, West, doubled five spades and led the king of hearts, ruffed in

dummy. Declarer then conceded a club to the ace, after which Becker could do no better than cash the ace of diamonds to hold South to 11 tricks.

Losing 850 points was surely a bitter pill for Becker to swallow, but what happened at the other table was no doubt even worse than he might have expected. With his teammates now holding the North-South cards, the bidding went:

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♥	2♣	2♠ (!)
Pass	3♠	4♣	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
Dble			

Here Smith, East, decided to muddy the waters by throwing in a psychic two-spade bid, and it worked like a charm. Becker's befuddled teammates never got themselves straightened out, and they wound up doubling five hearts. West then proceeded to wrap up that contract for another 850 points, losing only a spade and a trump.

Thus the Smith team made five spades doubled at one table and five hearts doubled at the other table for a combined gain of 1,700 points. Fortunately for Becker's squad, it was able to recover from this disastrous loss, proving that one hand does not a bridge match make.

Tomorrow: Good things come in small packages.

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SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWTT (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 PM	Big 2 ABC	P. Luche Noticiero	Broke Girl Mom	CBS 7 CBS 7	Tele Noticias	News News	Creation Cost	Over Business	Mama's Jeff'sons	American American	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	War of the Worlds, Miranda Otto (DVS)	Championship Drive	Football	Power of Xterra	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Street Out-laws
6:30 PM	Jeopardy! Wheel	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang Big Bang	CBS 7 ET	Caso Cer-rado	News News	Families TBA	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Studio	Studio	Mavericks	NCIS (DVS)	Gangland	Street Out-laws	
7:30 PM	The Bachelor	Jesus	The Resident	Big Bang Happy	La sultana (SS)	America's Got Talent	News Being	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith	The Flash	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Movie: Edge of Tomorrow (DVS)	CFP National Championship: Teams TBA.	CFP National Championship	Mavs Pre. NBA Basketball: Lakers at Mavericks	WWE Monday Night RAW	Gangland	Street-Memphis
8:30 PM		Mi marido	9-1-1 (DVS)	Sheldon Neighbor	Falsa identidad (SS)		Light of Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	G. Pyle WKRP	Arrow	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy							Street-Memphis
9:30 PM		Amar a muerte	FOX 24 News at 9	Bull	Señora Acero (SS)	Manifest	Light of Southwest	Independent Lens	Heroes	Page Six	American	Movie: Shooter, Danny Glover (DVS)						Street Out-laws
10:30 PM	Big 2	Impacto	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	Gold	Seinfeld				Mavs	Mod Fam	(:04) Gang-land	Bad Chad Customs
11:30 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	American House	Antiques Roadshow	Perry Mason	Seinfeld	Seinfeld		Studio SportsCenter	Football Scoreboard	C'boys World Poker	Mod Fam	(:03) Gang-land	Street-Memphis
12:30 AM	Nightline	Deportivo	Funny	James Corden	Falsa identidad (SS)	Seth Meyers	Zion	News	Independent Lens	Hitchcock	Rules	Brooklyn	SportsCenter	NFL Live	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Mavericks	NCIS: Los Angeles	(12:03) Gangland	Street Out-laws
1:30 AM	Extra	Cachito de Cielo	Two Men	Simpsons	Access	Señora Acero (SS)	Daly	Creation	Light of Southwest	Victoria-Master	Mannix							Street Out-laws
1:30 AM	Paid Prg.	En tierras salvajes	Pawn	ET	Programa	Programa	Inside Ed.	Light of Southwest	Victoria-Master	Mannix								Street Out-laws
1:30 AM	Paid Prg.	En tierras salvajes	Pawn	ET	Programa	Programa	Inside Ed.	Light of Southwest	Victoria-Master	Mannix								Street Out-laws

ANDY CAPP



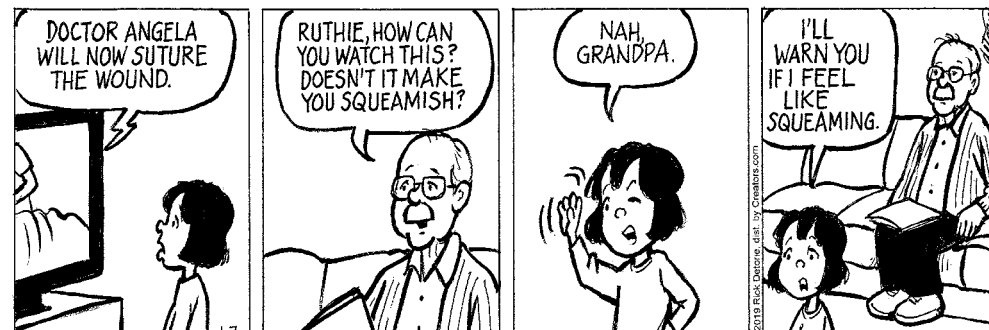
AGNES



ARCHIE



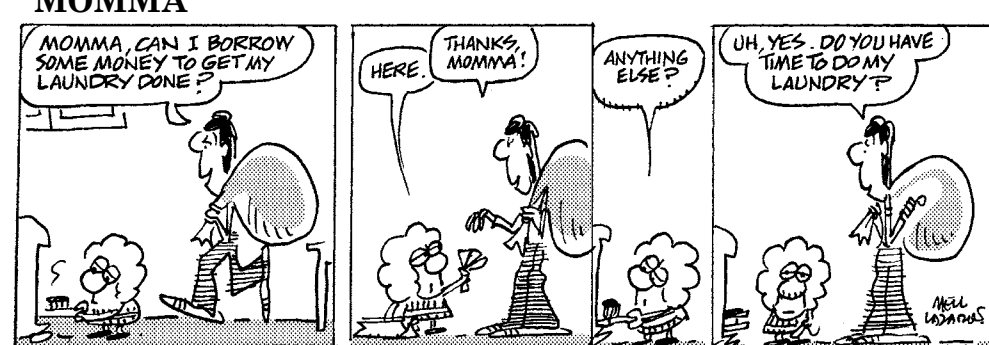
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

On Jan. 7, 1999, for the second time in history, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice; he was acquitted.

On this date:

In 1789, America held its first presidential election as voters chose electors who, a month later, selected George Washington to be the nation's first chief executive.

In 1904, the Marconi International Marine Communication Company of London announced that the telegraphed letters "CQD" would serve as a maritime distress call (it was later replaced with "SOS").

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1942, Japanese forces began besieging American and Filipino troops in Bataan during World War II. (The fall of Bataan three months later was followed by the notorious Death March.)

In 1953, President Truman announced in his State of the Union message to Congress that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

In 1959, the United States recognized the new government of Cuba, six days after Fidel Castro led the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office raised the cost of a first-class stamp from 4 to 5 cents.

In 1972, Lewis F. Powell, Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were sworn in as the 99th and 100th members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died in Tokyo at age 87; he was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.

In 2004, President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of immigrants improperly working in the U.S.

In 2015, masked gunmen stormed the Paris offices

of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, methodically killing 12 people before escaping. (Two suspects were killed two days later.) Actor Rod Taylor 82, died in Los Angeles.

Ten years ago: President-elect Barack Obama met at the White House with America's four living presidents: George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter. Russia shut off all its gas supplies to Europe through Ukraine in a price and payment dispute; the cutoff lasted nearly two weeks.

Five years ago: Brutal polar air that made the Midwest shiver over the past few days spread to the East and the Deep South, shattering records that in some cases had stood for more than a century. A U.S. Air Force Pave Hawk helicopter crashed in a coastal area of eastern England during a training mission, killing all four crew members aboard.

One year ago: "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" was the top film at the Golden Globe Awards, winning as best drama and taking home awards for stars Frances McDormand and Sam Rockwell and for writer-director Martin McDonagh. The Golden Globes ceremony became an expression of female empowerment in the post-Harvey Weinstein era, capped by a speech in which Cecil B. DeMille Award winner Oprah Winfrey said of men who use their power to abuse women, "Their time is up!"

The Arctic air that engulfed parts of the East Coast broke cold temperature records from Maine to West Virginia.

Birthdays: Today's Magazine publisher Jann Wenner is 73. Singer Kenny Loggins is 71. Singer-songwriter Marshall Chapman is 70. Actress Erin Gray is 69. Actor Sammo Hung is 67.

Actress Jodi Long is 65. Actor David Caruso is 63. Talk show host Katie Couric is 62. Country singer David Lee Murphy is 60. Rock musician Kathy Valentine is 60. Actor David Marciano is 59. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., is 58. Actress Hallie Todd is 57. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is 56. Actor Nicolas Cage is 55. Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik (on-DRAH'-sik) (Five for Fighting) is 54. Actor Rex Lee is 50. Actor Doug E. Doug is 49. Actor Kevin Rahm is 48. Actor Jeremy Renner is 48. Country singer-musician John Rich is 45. Actor Dustin Diamond is 42. Actor Reggie Austin is 40. Singer-rapper Aloe Blacc is 40. Actress Lauren Cohan is 37. Actor Brett Dalton is 36. Actor Robert Ri'chard is 36. Actress Lyndsy Fonseca is 32. Actress Camryn Grimes is 29. Actor Max Morrow is 28. Actor Marcus Scribner is 19.

Thought for Today:
"Nothing in science has any value to society if it is not communicated, and scientists are beginning to learn their social obligations."
Anne Roe Simpson
American psychologist (1904-1991).
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Newsday Crossword

FOWL TALK by Brad Wilber
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Furnish meals for
- On the ___ (fleeing police)
- Boys in the family
- Summits
- Kemo ___ (Lone Ranger, to Tonto)
- Much-admired celebrity
- Lose one's courage
- Carryall bag
- Two-year-old
- Eye part
- Intense dislike
- Polite fellow
- Cartoon bear or baseball great
- Performer in a play
- Learners in classrooms
- Make a selection
- Yale student, informally
- Sandpaper coating
- Rollaway beds
- Highest digits
- Great ___ (large dog)
- Maple or mahogany
- Singer count in a duet
- Stroll wearily
- Absolute rulers, as of Japan and old Rome
- Atlantic or Pacific
- Teheran's country
- Take a stroll
- Superhero pal of Robin
- Toppled over
- Strange
- Right away, in a memo

DOWN

- True statement
- Bounce back, as a sound
- Give off
- New Year's Eve mo.
- Country bordering Thailand
- ___ Dhabi (Mideast land)
- Protestant who's the M in SMU
- Easy target
- Aroma
- Brief letter
- Gravity-powered snow vehicle
- Racers gliding on snow
- Irritated moods
- Suffix for east or west
- Ripen, as fruit
- Skin bump caused by fear
- Christmas season
- Invoice ID: Abbr.
- Tedious task
- ___ pole (tribal carving)
- Male choral voice
- Swap
- ___ song of sixpence . . .
- Ways into buildings
- Typical high-schooler
- "Victory is mine!"
- Furl for storage, as a poster
- Historical period
- Person from Stockholm
- PC key near the space bar
- Male choral voice
- Largest continent
- Lofty
- Dart around, as a bee
- Cajun vegetable
- Profound
- Hair colorings
- Mineral that's mined
- Go for a jog

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15
16 17 18
19 20 21 22
23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31
32 33 34 35 36
37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44
45 46 47 48
49 50 51
52 53 54 55 56 57 58
59 60 61 62
63 64 65
66 67 68

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Answer to previous puzzle
JAZZBAND SAUCER
INTERNEE URBANE
HOMNOVEL REORGIS
AMI SIDING ALRIT
DISH LEVEE ALINA
SETON DEAR ASSET
POD RATES LEE
TWEETUNTOOTHERS
WIN SHAN NEO
INTRO DEB REAMS
TERI BIGOT SLIP
CLAN IRONIC GRE
HINGIS OMNIVORE
ESCUDO DOGTIRED
STEPON STEEPENS

Offenses took a holiday on wild-card weekend

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Pro Football Writer

CHICAGO — Maybe it was the absence of all those high-powered offenses on byes.

Perhaps it was the jitters for some younger teams, particularly their quarterbacks: Deshaun Watson, Mitchell Trubisky and Lamar Jackson.

Or maybe defense actually still has a place in the NFL, especially in the playoffs.

The most points anyone scored during wild-card weekend, when only Dallas won at home, was 24 by the Cowboys. In total, 145 points were scored, an average of 36.2 per game. The Chiefs averaged 35.3 all by themselves this season.

As Nick Foles — St. Nick in Philly for his clutch work as a relief pitcher and, oh yes, as a Super Bowl champion — observed following the Eagles' 16-15 comeback escape in Chicago: "Our

defense really kept us in this game. It was a hard-fought defensive battle tonight and we were able to come up big in the end."

Or as coach Anthony Lynn noted following the Chargers' 23-17 win at Baltimore in which Los Angeles forced three turnovers and held the Ravens to 229 total yards, 90 on the ground: "Our defense was outstanding. We held that team down to 100 yards rushing. No one has played that team the way our defense played today. I was really impressed with the way our defense stepped up."

All the winning defenses will need to step up a few more rungs next weekend. Consider that aside from the Chiefs scoring 565 points this season, the Rams got 527, the Saints 504 and the Patriots 436. All of them will be at home.

The Colts (11-6) head to Kansas City (12-4) on Saturday, followed by the Cowboys (11-6) at the Rams (13-3).

On Sunday, the Chargers (13-4) are at the Patriots (11-5), while the Eagles, who lost 48-7 at the Saints during the season, finish off the divisional round at New Orleans (13-3).

While the NFL loves to tout all the scoring records set during the 2018 season, all of the yards gained and general wide-openness of weekly contests, when it comes down to deciding who winds up in the conference title games, maybe the guys trying to stop those video-game offenses will have a say.

It's unlikely that any of the wild-card victors can win a Super Bowl without being balanced. The Eagles will need to play far better defense in the Big Easy or Drew Brees will have, well, an easy time picking apart a secondary playing mostly backups. The Chargers likely will require more than 24 points to succeed in Foxborough, where the Patriots had the NFL's only unbeaten home record this season.

Dallas needs more offensive imagination and another huge performance against the run to win at L.A. Only Indianapolis, which was superb on both sides of the ball at Houston, displayed enough of the formula needed to get the conference championship game.

Then again, the Colts must slow down All-Pro quarterback Patrick Mahomes and crew at Arrowhead Stadium.

"We're not worried about who's on the other side," said Colts rookie linebacker Darius Leonard, himself an All-Pro. "We always talk about whoever's playing on the opposite side is gray matter. So we're always talking about doing what we can do and controlling what we can control, and that is going out, playing each play, play by play and going from there."

What about the four teams coming off byes? Which ones are best suited to come up with a solid defensive showing?

CHARGERS

Continued from Page 4

"Lamar's our quarterback going forward. There's no question about that," Harbaugh said.

And as for Harbaugh's future?

"We'll see," he said. "I have every expectation and every plan to be here, as long as the Ravens want me here. And I believe they want me here. That's been made clear by them to me."

Some other things we learned from the Ravens-Chargers matchup:

STICK TO THE PLAN

It would be easy for Chargers defensive end Melvin Ingram to hog the spotlight after recording a team-leading seven tackles, two sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery on Sunday.

But Ingram said his success was simply a byproduct of playing in a system that emphasizes staying in position and not over-pursuing a mobile quarter-

back and his hard-running backfield.

Two weeks ago, the Ravens' complicated offensive strategy wore down and puzzled the Chargers. Not this time.

"We played assignment football," Ingram said. "We were told to see what we were supposed to see. They do a lot to confuse us, but we stayed with it and it was a much better result for us."

SUGGS WANTS MORE

Sixteen seasons of being an NFL linebacker evidently isn't enough for Baltimore's Terrell Suggs.

Asked after the game if he intended to return, the 36-year-old Suggs said, "Absolutely."

With Baltimore?

"I would love to be here. I would love to be a Raven life-timer," Suggs said. "If it's not, I'll be playing lights out for somebody."

BOO BIRDS

The boos started in the second half, as the Ravens' offense kept getting shut down and Jackson kept getting sacked. Then came the chants from the home fans for Flacco to replace Jackson.

Baltimore cornerback Jimmy Smith was not surprised — but he was angered. So he told those spectators exactly what he thought.

"I'm standing there, and they were just like chanting Flacco's name. I love 'Flac,' but (Jackson) got us here," Smith said. "So for the fact that you're a fair-weather fan that quickly when things go rough — you turn your back on him? That just got under my skin a little bit."

"So I just went to them and told them, like, 'Yo, you either ride or die or you get ... out of here.'"

JOE TO GO?

Although Flacco likely won't throw another pass with the Ravens, Harbaugh clearly believes Flacco will be a starting quarterback for years to come.

"Joe Flacco is going to play really well in this league. Joe can still play," Harbaugh said. "Joe's going to have a market. A lot of teams are going to want Joe because they understand that."

Asked if he can still be a starter in the NFL, Flacco replied, "Oh, there is no doubt about it."

TEXANS

Continued from Page 4

"I think very highly of him," O'Brien said. "I think he's a disruptive player ... when he feels good, health-wise, and he's ready to rock and roll, he's hard to handle. Him in combination with J.J. and the other guys, it's a tough front."

If the Texans can't or don't want to work out a long-term deal with Clowney they could use the franchise tag to keep him in Houston for one more season. Clowney said he hasn't thought much about free agency, but that he'd like to remain with the Texans.

"We were a lot better than what we played (Saturday)," he said. "Of course I want to come back and show

everybody that with this team. But that's up to them."

Along with getting Watson back after a season-ending injury, the Texans also received a boost from the return of Watt after he'd played just eight games over the previous two seasons because of injuries.

The three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year earned All-Pro honors in a season when he had 61 tackles, led the AFC with 16 sacks, had 25 quarterback hits, 18 tackles for losses and forced a career-high seven fumbles, which tied for the most in the NFL. It's his fourth season with at least 15 sacks, which ranks second in NFL history behind Hall of Famer Reggie White, who had five.

"The last two years all I wanted to do was just play," he said. "I just wanted to play and not even necessarily at the highest level. I just wanted to play.

Now it's exciting to be back where I'm playing at a very high level and I say: 'OK I don't want to just play. I want to be dominant and great and the best.'"

Also on Sunday, receiver Demaryius Thomas spoke to reporters for the first time since a season-ending Achilles tendon injury on Dec. 23. Thomas was traded from Denver in October after Will Fuller tore a knee ligament.

The four-time Pro Bowler has one year remaining on a five-year, \$70 million contract signed in 2015 and it's unclear if the Texans will want to keep him on the roster with such a high salary.

"That's a tough injury," O'Brien said. "He knows that. He's (over) 30 years old. That's not easy to come back from, but he's going to work hard. He wants to play again. He made that statement to me, and we'll see how it goes moving forward."

The Texans are also looking ahead to this year's draft where they'll have three picks in the top two rounds after not having a draft pick until the third round last year because they shipped their top two picks away to get rid of Brock Osweiler and trade up to get Watson in 2017.

But O'Brien said he'd need a little time before he starts thinking about the future after how his team's season ended on Saturday.

"I'm not trying to overstate this (but) I felt terrible about (Saturday) that I couldn't get that team to play better than they did," he said. "That's something that will stick with me for a long time, and I've got to figure that out. But definitely, at some point in time pretty soon here I'll get a second wind and get excited about helping (general manager) Brian (Gaine) (with) ... the draft."

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 4

The missing kicker left the Seahawks no good options on an onside kick with 1:18 remaining. Punter Michael Dickson's drop kick was caught by Cole Beasley at the Dallas 31, sealing the first playoff win for the Cowboys since beating Detroit in the wild-card round in the 2014 season.

After Wilson ran for 4 yards for a touchdown and Mike Davis' 2-point conversion run put Seattle up 14-10 late in the third quarter, Prescott led a 67-yard drive to put the Cowboys back in front for good.

A 34-yard pass to Amari Cooper, who had seven catches for 106 yards, led to Elliott's 1-yard plunge after an apparent touchdown by the quarterback was overturned on replay.

Prescott then had a chance to give the Cowboys a 10-point lead, but K.J. Wright made a juggling interception in the end zone.

Dallas' defense came through again, though, forcing a punt and giving Elliott a highlight play before Prescott added his. The NFL rushing leader stiff-armed Shaquill Griffin on a 17-yard run to get inside the 20.

Seattle got a double dose of bad news at halftime when Janikowski missed a 57-yard field goal on the final play and injured his left hamstring. He yelled as he grabbed the back of his leg and limped to the locker room, unable to return.

Still, the Seahawks took their first lead basically because the 40-year-old's injury forced them to try.

Facing fourth-and-5 in Janikowski's range from the Dallas 39, Doug Baldwin made a toe-dragging catch on the sideline for 22 yards. After Wilson's TD run, the Seahawks pushed their lead to 14-10 on Mike Davis' run.

But the Cowboys never did lose control of the Seattle running game after allowing Chris Carson's first career 100-yard game in a Week 3 Seattle win that turned the season for the Seahawks, who finished the regular season with six wins in seven games.

Carson had just 20 yards on 13 carries. Wilson was 18 of 27 for 233 yards, with Lockett getting four catches for 120 yards. The Seahawks had 73 yards rushing after averaging 160 during the season. Dallas came in with the No. 5 rushing defense.

"Once we go up, we do a pretty good job of getting ourselves back down, knowing that we've got to start over next week and we've got to be able to do it again," linebacker Leighton Vander Esch said. "It's a full attack mode."

INJURIES

Cowboys receiver Allen Hurns fractured his left ankle in a gruesome first-quarter injury. Owner and general manager Jerry Jones said after the game that Hurns was "probably in surgery at this

time." Hurns was being dragged down by Seahawks safety Bradley McDougald at the end of a 14-yard catch for a first down when his lower left leg appeared to buckle. ... Seahawks cornerback Neiko Thorpe left in the first half with a shoulder injury.

UP NEXT

Cowboy will take on the Los Angeles Rams on the road in the divisional round next weekend.

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