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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019

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## Washington spellers show their stuff



*Courtesy photo*  
 28 students participated in Washington Elementary School's Spelling Bee Friday. Avani Limaye, third from left, took top honors, and will compete Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Midland Reporter-Telegram's 32nd Annual Regional Spelling Bee, to be held in the Allison Fine Arts Building auditorium at Midland College. Also shown are Ryan A.J. Deel, second place; Jaslynn Williams, third place; and Turner Lathem, fourth place.

## 'Carnage Radio' free screening set Feb. 2



**By ANNA GUTIERREZ**  
 Staff Writer

Hotel Settles will sponsor a free screening of the short film Carnage Radio on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, 310 E. Third St.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. for a red carpet event and to find seating. The movie begins at 7 p.m., and will last about 30 minutes-and-answer with a question-and-answer with the entire cast. The after party will move to the Hotel Settles after the Q&A session.

Find us online at:  
[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

In the movie, a late-night radio DJ in a small West Texas town receives a call on the air one night from an unfamiliar voice, which leads him through a mysterious mind game. James Fite, writer and director of the movie, said he came up with the idea with Brandon Johnson, another local resident who also has a main role in the film.

"We originally wrote a feature film script, and, to try to get the funding to shoot it, we turned it into a short film," said Fite. "The idea came from how Billy Bob Thornton made a short film out of 'Sling Blade' and shopped it around until he got the funding to shoot the feature length film."

Fite said the entire city pitched in to help him make this movie, including the mayor, the fire and police departments, and a local radio station. The entire film was shot on location in Big Spring, and Fite is very proud to say the entire cast and crew are also local residents.

Johnson said the Big Spring setting really contributed to the film as well.

"We worked with what we had," he said. "From local landmarks, to the windmills, and interstate outside of town, Big Spring is a living, breathing part of the film. We wanted to make Big Spring a star," he said.

"This is our way of saying thank you to the city of Big Spring," says Fite.

Seating is limited to 1,200 guests on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information, visit and follow the movie's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/carnageradio>; updates will also be posted there.

Contact Staff Writer Anna Gutierrez at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com).

## Council to consider authorizing May 4 election

**By ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

It's almost time again for local elections, and the Big Spring City Council plans to adopt an ordinance authorizing the May 4 election. Up for grabs are the mayor's seat, currently held by Larry McLellan; and the City Council District 5 seat, currently held by Raul Benavides.

Discussion and voting on the issue will take place at the City Council meeting scheduled at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth St.

During the meeting, the council will also consider whether to enter into a joint election agreement with Big Spring Independent School District.

In other business, the council will once again consider purchase of a fire truck for the Big Spring Fire Department.

At the council's most recent meeting Jan. 8, the council voted to postpone purchase of a fire truck. The recommended bid was for \$388,227.80 from Toyne Inc./Municipal Fire Apparatus of McAllen. According to Assistant City Manager John Medina, the council wanted some time to reassess the issue and decide on a course of

action.

"The tariffs have really played havoc with the markets, so what (Municipal Fire Apparatus) have done is, they've sold that particular vehicle," said Medina. "We looked at it in October, and we were waiting for our financing to be in place before we ordered it so we wouldn't get caught where we would have to come up with that money from our General Fund coffers. In that interim, in that span of time, they sold that particular vehicle. Now, anything new, if we ordered one today, it would be ready for next November, and it would be more."

The item on Tuesday's agenda recommends awarding a bid on a truck to Lone Star Emergency Group Inc. for \$391,782.

The council will also:

- Present the January Star Employees award to Angela Brown, Gene Rodriguez, and Albert Valle.
- Consider awarding a bid on a new trash compactor for the landfill to Yellowhouse Machinery of Midland for \$544,542.
- Consider awarding a bid on lighting at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex to Qualite Sports Lighting LLC for \$195,400.

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

## Double L offers free dinner for payless federal employees

**BY AMBER MANSFIED**  
 Staff Writer

At midnight on Saturday, Dec. 22, started the second shutdown of the United States federal government in 2018, which has continued into January 2019. When this happens people who work government jobs do so without pay. According to Wikipedia on Jan. 11, 2019, 800,000 workers for agencies shutdown or furloughed missed their first paycheck since the shutdown began, and because the shutdown has effected so many people, one local business is going to be feeding those who need a little shine of light.

Double LBBQ is inviting the workers here in Big Spring that have been effected by the Government Shutdown Tuesday Jan. 22, for dinner while supplies last.

"We will open 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for dinner," said an entry on Double L BBQ's Facebook. "Just bring us proof of employment."

In United States politics, a government shutdown occurs when Congress fails to pass sufficient appropriation bills or continuing resolutions to fund federal government operations and agencies, or when the President refuses to sign such bills or resolutions into law.

This time the reason for the shutdown happened when the United States Congress and President Donald Trump could not agree on an appropriations bill to fund the operations of the federal government for the 2019 fiscal year, or a temporary continuing resolution that would extend the deadline for passing a bill.

See **DINNER**, Page 3

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Dr. Sally, AuD, CCC-A, Audiologist

## Obituaries

### Ronnie Thompson



Ronnie Thompson, 71 of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019. Graveside Service will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Mount Olive Memorial Park with Danny Tilley officiating.

He was born in Perryville, Missouri. Ronnie was an Army veteran of the Viet Nam War where he earned six medals including Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

He is survived by his wife, Lela of Big Spring; one

son, Jayson Thompson of Lemoore, California; two daughters, Kelly Thompson of Yukon, Oklahoma, and Kacy Aderhold of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He left behind four grandchildren; along with various nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles. He also left behind two sisters, Connie Johnson of Perryville, Missouri. and Kitty Schrecengost of Mineola, Texas; along with a brother, Tim Thompson of Colorado City, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents Richard and Eileen Thompson of Roscoe, Texas, along with an infant brother Donald.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

### Velia T. "Billie" Cantu



Velia T. "Billie" Cantu, 80, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born July 25, 1938, in Gonzales, Texas, to Eugenia Cantu and Alejandro Cantu.

She is survived by her husband, Esiquio "Pee

Wee" Castaneda of Big Spring; step-daughter, Margie Castaneda of Abilene; six sisters, Mary Carrizales and her husband Anastacio of San Antonio, Esther Nicholson of Harrison, Arkansas, Ruth Lea of Houston, Stella Spain of Houston, Amelie Palacios of New Braunfels, and Eugenia Ramirez of Gonzales; three brothers, Edward Cantu of Houston, David Cantu of Houston, and Ruben Cantu of Houston.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister, Frances Mora; and two brothers, Alex Cantu, Jr., and Steven Cantu, Sr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

### Lester Marvin Gross

Lester Marvin Gross, 63, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

### Hellen Ayers

Hellen Ayers, 82, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

### Ruben Vega

Ruben Vega, 48, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

### Gary Grant

Gary Grant, 71, died Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019 in Midland. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Frances Hernandez

Frances Hernandez, 59, died Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## 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

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

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

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

- For more information, email [francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org](mailto:francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org), or call 432-268-3003.

- GriefShare is a Biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death.

Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Meetings are weekly, every Thursday, at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring.

Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **TOMMY RAY HENLSEY**, 27, of 304 2nd St., was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- **AMANDA LEA CRUZ**, 37, of 1400 S Johnson St., was arrested on a charge of burglary of vehi-

cle.

- **BRANDON RUSHIN**, 49, of 509 S Jonson St., was arrested on a warrant of burglary of habitation.

- **VICTOR BARRERA**, 50, of 700 N San Zeferino St., was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

- **INTOXICATED DRIVER**

was reported in the 2700 block of S Gregg St.

- **UNATTENDED DEATH** was reported in the 1600 block of MLK.

- **DISTURBANCE** was reported on 7th and Presidio

- **THEFT** was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore St.

## Take Note

- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit [www.BecomeCASA.org](http://www.BecomeCASA.org) or [www.casawtx.org](http://www.casawtx.org).

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

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

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

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

To find out more about opportunities available with the SMMC Auxiliary, contact Amy Miramontes at 268-4809 or April Arms at 268-4907.

- The Crossroads

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

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

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

- The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

- Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect

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

- Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-0713.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school. The next sacking event will be February 4 and 5 at the old Lakeview High School, 1107 NW 7th St, at 5:30 p.m.

- 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.

- The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

- Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 432-271-2138.

- Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

- Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary Group is looking to expand. Positions are available for the Auxiliary group and the Teen Volunteer program. Must be 15 years of age to take part in the teen volunteer program. If you would like to volunteer please contact Heath White at 268-4850.



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# Hillside Christian celebrates first year in Big Spring



Courtesy photo

Hillside Christian Church celebrated their one-year anniversary with dinner, cake and kids' activities on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, at the Dora Roberts Community Center. "We had a total attendance of 170, with 46 of those being children," says Tim Dunn, pastor of Hillside Christian Church. "It was a great day!" Hillside Christian Church has Sunday services at Big Spring High School at 10:30 a.m.

# Teen in confrontation with Native American: I didn't provoke



AP photo

In this Friday, Jan. 18, 2019 image made from video provided by the Survival Media Agency, a teenager wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat, center left, stands in front of an elderly Native American singing and playing a drum in Washington.

By JEFF KAROUB and ADAM BEAM

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The student who stared and smiled at an elderly Native American protester drumming in his face outside the Lincoln Memorial as his schoolmates chanted and laughed says he did nothing to provoke the man in the videotaped confrontation and was only trying to calm the situation.

The student identified himself in an email statement Sunday evening as junior Nick Sandmann of Covington Catholic High School in a northern Kentucky suburb of Cincinnati. An official working with the family confirmed Sandmann's identity, speaking on condition of anonymity because the source didn't want to distract from the statement.

Videos posted of the confrontation drew wide criticism on social media. "I am being called every name in the book, including a racist, and I will not stand for this mob-like character assassination of my family's name," wrote Sandmann, who added that he and his parents have received death threats since video of Friday's confrontation emerged.

Both Sandmann and Nathan Phillips say they were trying to defuse tensions that were rising among three groups on a day Washington hosted both the March for Life and the Indigenous Peoples March. But video of Sandmann standing very close to Phillips, staring and at times smiling at

him as Phillips sang and played a drum, gave many who watched it a different impression. Other students appeared to be laughing at the drummer; and at least one could be seen on video doing a tomahawk chop.

The dueling accounts emerged Sunday as the nation picked apart footage from dozens of cellphones that recorded the incident on Friday in Washington amid an increasingly divided political climate fueled by a partial government shutdown over immigration policy.

Phillips had approached Sandmann, but well before that, both his group and Sandmann's, which had taken part in the anti-abortion rally, were confronted by a third group that appeared to be affiliated with the Black Hebrew Israelite movement.

Videos show members of the religious group yelling disparaging and profane insults at the students, who taunted them in return. Video also shows the Native Americans being insulted by the small religious group.

Sandmann wrote that the students were called "racists," "bigots," "white crackers" and "incest kids" by the third group. He said a teacher chaperone gave the students permission to begin their school chants "to counter the hateful things that were being shouted at our group."

One of those chants, however, is what led Phillips and Marcus Frejo, a member of the Pawnee and Seminole tribes, to

# COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

- Consider rejecting all bids posted for irrigation improvements to the Comanche Trail Municipal Golf Course.
- Consider a couple of provisions to assist unpaid federal employees during the government shutdown, including: waiving penalties and shut off provisions for utility services and providing extensions to pay utility bills; and providing lunch for unpaid federal employees at the Big Spring Senior Center.
- Consider a resolution "... encouraging Governor (Greg) Abbott and the Legislature of the State of Texas to authorize extensions of time to pay real estate property taxes without incurring interest or penalties during the duration of the

federal government shut-down; encouraging landlords, lenders and other housing providers to consider providing extensions of time for unpaid federal employees to pay expenses for housing; and any similar actions necessary to protect the homes and families of unpaid federal employees."

• Consider restoring the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Traffic Commission.

• Consider an agreement with Freese and Nichols Inc. for design and construction services for Airpark roads. No price for the services was listed in the meeting's agenda.

• Consider several items regarding real estate and business negotiations in closed executive session.

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

approach the youths.

It was a haka — a war dance of New Zealand's indigenous Maori culture, made famous by the country's national rugby team. Frejo, who is also known as Chief Quese Imc, told the AP in a phone interview that he felt the students were mocking the dance.

Phillips, an activist described by the Indian Country Today website as an Omaha elder and Vietnam War veteran, said in an interview with The Associated Press that he was trying to keep peace between the high school students and the religious group.

He said he heard people chanting "Build that wall" or yelling, "Go back to the reservation." At one point, he said, he sought to ascend to the Lincoln statue and "pray for our country." Some students backed off, but one student wouldn't let him move, he added.

"They were making remarks to each other ... (such as) 'In my state those Indians are nothing but a bunch of drunks.' How do I report that?" Phillips said. "These young people were just roughshodding through our space, like what's been going on for 500 years here — just walking through our territories, feeling like 'this is ours.'"

Sandmann said he heard no student chant anything beyond school spirit chants, and that he hadn't even been aware of the Native American group until Phillips approached him.

"The protester everyone has seen in the video began playing his drum as he waded into the crowd, which parted for him. I did not see anyone try to block his path," Sandmann wrote. "He locked eyes with me and approached me, coming within inches of my face. He played his drum the entire time he was in my face."

Sandmann said one of the Native American protesters yelled at them that they "stole our land" and they should "go back to Europe," but that he never spoke to or interacted with Phillips. "To be honest, I was startled and confused as to why he had approached me."

He wrote that he "believed that by remaining motionless and calm, I was helping defuse the situation."

"I said a silent prayer that the situation would not get out of hand," he wrote. He said the incident ended when the buses arrived and his teacher told him it was time to leave.

Though many commenting on the internet were taken back by Sandmann staring at Phillips, the teen said he was "not intentionally making faces at the protestor. I did smile at one point because I wanted him to know that I was not going to become angry, intimidated or be provoked into a larger confrontation."

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# DINNER

Continued from Page 1

"Miss Royale on 1509 S Gregg is allowing us to use her parking lot for this event," said Double L. "Thank you in advance."

Contact Staff Writer Amber Mansfield at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at life@bigspringherald.com.

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
24th & Johnson  
267-8288

Ester Ramirez, 79, died Thursday. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Paul "Boydi" Ramirez, 53, died Thursday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Memorial Service will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Ronald "Ronnie" Thompson, 71, died Thursday. Graveside services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Velia T. "Billie" Cantu, 80, died Thursday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Frances Hernandez, 59, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Gary Grant, 71, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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## Super Bowl: Pats vs Rams in a meeting of Past vs Future

By **EDDIE PELLIS**

AP National Writer

It began in 2002, back when the Rams were in St. Louis and the Patriots were a plucky underdog standing in the way of a potential dynasty.

So much has changed.

This hasn't: Bill Belichick and Tom Brady.

The duo, every bit as formidable now as when they won that first title, face the Rams in Los Angeles, in a Super Bowl rematch of sorts that pits the NFL's past against its future.

At 32, Sean McVay is the youngest Super Bowl coach. At 66, Bill Belichick has an NFL-record 30 playoff wins.

At 24, Jared Goff is the youngest quarterback to win the NFC championship. At 41, Brady will be the oldest quarterback to start a Super Bowl.

The Rams (15-3) are back in the Super Bowl for the first time since that meeting against the Patriots — and for the first time as the "Los Angeles Rams" since 1980, when they fell to the Steelers. The Patriots (13-5) are back for the third straight time — they lost to Philly last year — the fourth in five seasons and the ninth since Belichick got the New England dynasty on track in the 2002 win over St. Louis.

The Rams duo of McVay and Goff has spent the past two seasons heralding the coming of a new age of football — one in which McVay's reimagined offense has dealt a blow to the old, increasingly dated adage that teams ultimately must win championships with defense. The Rams have cracked 30 points in 13 of their 18 games this season. A generation ago, that would've been novel; now, it's normal.



AP photo

**New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) celebrates with his teammates after the AFC Championship NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, in Kansas City, Mo.**

But to officially usher the NFL into a new era, the Rams will have to get past New England, which is a 1-point favorite for the game in Atlanta, set for Feb. 3 — exactly 17 years to the date of the last Super Bowl showdown, and a bit more than three months since the Boston Red Sox topped the LA Dodgers for the World Series. (Who will Magic and Bird cheer for? Stay tuned.)

Is Brady up to it?

Well, on Sunday, he drove the Patriots down the field for three straight touchdowns — two in the fourth quarter and once in overtime — for a 37-31 victory over the Chiefs, the only team that gained more yards than Los Angeles this season.

It put an end to the dream of a rematch between two teams of the

future — Rams vs. Chiefs — who delivered a wildly entertaining, defense-optional touchdown-fest in a 54-51 Rams victory in November.

Instead, we get a "rematch" of that 2002 Super Bowl, won by the Patriots 20-17.

The Rams came into that game as a franchise on the edge of a dynasty.

They were one season removed from their first Super Bowl win, led by quarterback Kurt Warner and known as "The Greatest Show on Turf" for the fake grass they burned up at their seven-year-old home in St. Louis. They had amassed what was then unheard of — 500-plus points in three straight seasons — and were a two-touchdown favorite against Belichick and Brady, who was in his second year and best known as the sixth-round draft pick

Belichick stuck with after Drew Bledsoe got injured.

New England used ball control, defense and a last-second field goal to topple Warner and the Rams. On the surface, the task figures to not be all that different this time around, though Brady is showing he's perfectly capable of matching opponents touchdown-for-touchdown. Sunday's win adds to a Week 6 victory over Kansas City by the score of 43-40. The Patriots ranked the first in overall offense this season, only 28 yards a game behind LA.

Theirs is an offense built around Brady, his mastery of diagnosing defenses at the line of scrimmage and his ability to use interchangeable parts on his offense over the years. (Receiver Julian Edelman and tight end Rob Gronkowski have stood out most recently.)

And stability.

Offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels has interviewed for jobs elsewhere since returning to Foxborough after short stints in Denver and St. Louis. He was out the door for Indy last year, but changed his mind and returned once again to call plays for Belichick.

As for the Rams, they improved from 10th last year in offense to second this season, as McVay and Goff found their footing. But maybe the most telling sign of their success is that McVay's offensive assistants are, as a group, the most sought-after sideline talent in the league. Two left after last season. Two more, quarterbacks coach Zac Taylor and tight ends coach Shane Waldron, are drawing attention this season.

Now, the ultimate question: If they leave, will they do so with a Super Bowl ring?

## Officiating helps determine Super Bowl teams

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Pro Football Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The last thing the NFL would ever want is for an officiating mistake to decide the Super Bowl.

On Sunday, the league might have gotten enough errors to determine both teams that will play in the championship game in two weeks.

The most egregious gaffe of the NFC title game in New Orleans. The Saints were in position to put away the Rams when Tommylee Lewis blatantly was interfered with inside the Los Angeles 5-yard line by cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman. Not only did Robey-Coleman hit Lewis early, he did so helmet to helmet.

Next weekend, we'll hear about Robey-Coleman being fined for the collision — even though, incredibly, no flag was thrown. "Came to the sideline,

looked at the football gods and was like, 'Thank you,'" Robey-Coleman said. "I got away with one tonight."

Such a big one that it kept the Rams alive. Instead of a first down and the chance to run down the clock before making a field goal, or score a touchdown for a bigger lead, the Saints wound up with Wil Lutz's 31-yard kick. That made it 23-20 with 1:41 left in regulation, plenty of time for the Rams to march to Greg Zuerlein's tying 48-yard field goal.

"Greg The Leg" won it with a 57-yarder in OT. His heroics almost certainly never would have come had the call on Robey-Coleman been made. And the fact the defender led with his head into Lewis' helmet at a time when the NFL is adamant that it's doing everything to get such hits out of the sport should be even more maddening.

"They felt like the players — the player — arrived at the same time that the ball did," Saints coach Sean Payton said, trying to be diplomatic when he had every right to rant and rave. "They didn't feel like it was an interference call."

"Look, it's a tough way to lose a game, especially when you're in a position like that to win it. It's all



AP photo

**New Orleans Saints wide receiver Tommylee Lewis (11) works for a coach against Los Angeles Rams defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman (23) during the second half of the NFL football NFC championship game Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, in New Orleans. The Rams won 26-23.**

the more reason why we need more replay. We lose a chance to go to the Super Bowl with a call like that, it's just disappointing. But, credit the Rams. They did a good job, made the plays in the end when they needed to."

Plays that wouldn't have existed if Bill Vinovich's crew got it right.

An argument often is made, and rightly so, that plays seen in slow motion become clearly illegal, but at full speed in an increasingly fast and physical game, they look OK. That contention has no place here; even at warp speed, Robey-Coleman's hit was obviously a penalty.

NFL senior vice president of officiating Al Riveron "couldn't believe" no penalty call was called on the play, Payton said.

"It's tough to get over it," Payton said. "My problem with it is, I just don't know, if we were playing pickup football in the backyard ... it was as obvious a call — and how two guys can look at that and arrive at their decision? It happened though."

A few things happened in Kansas City, too, where the Patriots won 37-31, also in overtime. These had more to do with replay, with two critical calls going New England's way in the fourth quarter.

lenced, and replay indicated far more evidence the ground helped Hogan make the catch than the previous review showed Edelman whiffed on the ball.

No matter. The catch was upheld, and six plays later, Sony Michel scored a touchdown.

Chiefs linebacker Dee Ford also went offside on the Patriots' final drive in regulation, negating an interception by Charvarius Ward that could have clinched a win. But there was little controversy there.

The league has been under heavy scrutiny and drawn massive criticism about its officiating in the last few years. The perception is that the NFL needs full-time officials, which might help somewhat, and in part is being done.

However, the deeper issues are too many rules and tangents to those rules; points of emphasis that get hammered in, then seemingly are discarded; and officials who struggle to keep up with the speed of the sport. The league prizes experience, but when one of its most experienced crews blows a call so blatant that even the perpetrator acknowledges he caught a break, the storm of protest will rage.

Rightly so.

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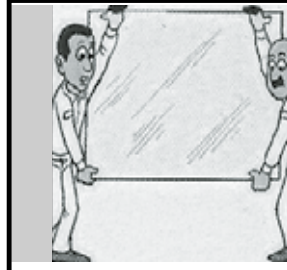
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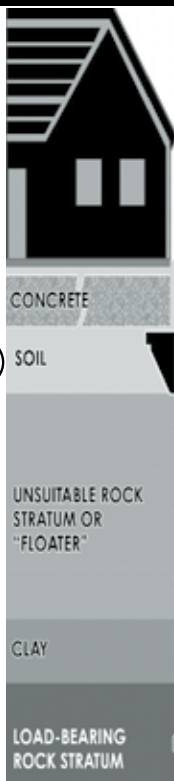
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**A Counterattack to the Mars-Saturn Square**

In new situations, you get to test out a different part of yourself. But you don't have to bend and change completely to make the most of the fresh scene. If there's a way to keep to the rituals that have served you well, it's worth going out of your way, considering this Mars and Saturn situation. Rituals bring comfort. Habits remind you of who you are.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Focus on building relationships. Human capital is the only real wealth in the end, and it will pay you in ways that make dollar bills and gold bars seem inconsequential.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Why do you think you have to say yes? If it's because someone makes you feel as if

you can't say no, you're being unduly pressured. Perhaps it's time to recognize an imbalance and set a boundary.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The muses are right above you -- seeing what you see, only from a slightly higher perspective. They'll whisper in your ear about it all, too, like giddy gossips. But the final interpretation? Well, that's for you to decide.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** There are times when you wish you didn't feel things so acutely, but don't equate strength with heartlessness. It is because you feel so deeply that you'll be stronger. Let yourself feel and you'll find out the truth of this.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Fit matters today, pretty much across the board. As it is with clothes, just because they may technically be able to be worn doesn't mean

they fit well. In relationships especially, there's a nice fit out there for you. Don't settle for less.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** There have been times when you decided not to want because wanting is a risk. Wanting sets a person up for possible disappointment. The way to want well is to want what's best for all.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Inside a fast car, the scenery is a blur. To someone who's very far

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**By HOLIDAY MATHIS**



away, the "fast" car seems to be inching along the landscape. Since speed is relative, only judge your own, and do it by feel. A good pace is the

pace that seems right to the one doing the moving.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** If you could focus on only one thing today, you'd do well to focus on making sure that people know how much you appreciate them. Positive interactions will make lasting impressions.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You have a feeling that the best is yet to come, and you're absolutely right about that. Part of the way you keep your optimism up is by remembering the good that's already happened.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Though of course you could use anything at all as a jumping-off place for your imagination, it's going to be an easier, more joyful leap if you follow your natural curiosity to the inspiration.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Though it may seem that compliments are nice things to give, it's not always the case. Be mindful of status dynamics at play. Complimenting a superior is particularly tricky. If you're not sure, err on the side of formality.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** When

you're tired, you need to either relax or do the opposite -- get thrilled -- because excitement jump-starts your energy, too. You don't have to decide between the two today, though. The universe decides for you.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 21).** You'll have increased control over your body, in all sorts of ways -- flexibility, strength and, perhaps most impressively, what comes out of your mouth. Your words will be like magic keys you arrange skillfully and use to open realms once only dreamed of. What you plant will be ready for the world in August. Pisces and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 5, 38, 2 and 18.

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis@gmail.com](mailto:HolidayMathis@gmail.com).  
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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Famous Hand

West dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 3 2  
♥ 10 8 7  
♦ A K J 9 8 7 6  
♣ 4

**WEST**  
♠ K 10 7  
♥ Q 6 5 2  
♦ Q 10 4  
♣ 7 6 3

**EAST**  
♠ Q J 8 4  
♥ A K J 9 3  
♦ 5 3  
♣ 9 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 9 6 5  
♥ 4  
♦ 2  
♣ A K Q J 10 8 5

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass Pass 1♥ Dble  
3♥ 5♦ Pass 6♣

Opening lead — two of hearts.

**This deal occurred** in the quarter-final match between Norway and Italy at the 1997 world team championship. It features a truly brilliant play by Italy's Lorenzo Lauria, who found the only way to defeat a slam that appeared certain to succeed.

**The hand was the last** in the 96-deal match. At one table, the Italian North-South pair reached five clubs and made six. After a heart lead and a trump shift, declarer drew trumps and led a diamond to the jack. When the finesse worked and the diamonds divided 3-2, declarer had the rest of the tricks.

**At the second table**, the Norwegian pair of Tor Helness and Geir Helgemo were North-South, and the bidding went as shown. Lauria, East, won the opening heart lead with the king and went into a lengthy huddle.

**As Lauria contemplated** his next move, the Vu-Graph commentators analyzing the deal before a large audience observed that the only way to defeat the slam was to return a diamond into dummy's strong suit. This is not a play that would occur to many, and most players would no doubt elect to continue with a second heart, shift to the queen of spades or perhaps return a trump.

**After several agonizing minutes**, Lauria, crediting Helgemo with a hand such as the one he had, found the killing diamond shift. With his only diamond thus expended before trumps could be drawn, declarer could no longer utilize dummy's long suit, and the slam went down.

**Despite Lauria's** magnificent effort, the Italians narrowly lost to the Norwegians, who were then eliminated in the semifinal by the eventual champion, France.

**Tomorrow:** Declarer sets a trap.  
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# SUDOKU

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!

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

Level: Beginner

**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!

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

ANSWER:

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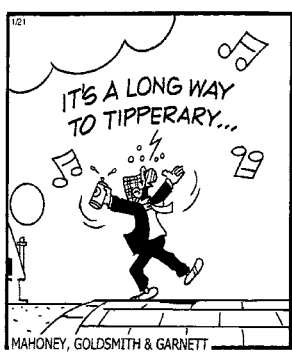
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5:30	Big 2 ABC	P. Luche Noticiero	Broke Girl Mom	CBS 7 CBS	Tele Noticias	News News	Creation Cost	Over Business	Mama's Jeff'sons	American American	Family Guy	Dail. Pencils at Grizzlies	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	Spotlight Bear Bryant Award Show '19	Law & Order: SVU	Hour: News	Fast N' Loud	
6:30	Jeopardy! Wheel	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang Big Bang	CBS 7 ET	Exatlón Unidos (SS)	News News	Families TBA	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	College Basketball	Women's College Basketball	Temptation Island	Street Out-laws				
7:30	The Bachelor	Jesús	The Resident	Big Brother		America's Got Talent	News Being	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith	Arrow	Fam. Guy	NBA Basketball: Rockets at 76ers		Champ Spotlight	WWE Monday Night RAW	Movie: The Mummy, John Hannah	Street Out-laws		
8:30		Mi marido	The Passage	Magnum P.I.	Falsa identidad (SS)		Light of Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	G. Pyle WKRP	Black Lightning	Fam. Guy	College Basketball: Iowa State at Kansas	2019 Australian Open Tennis: Men's and Women's Quarterfinals	High School Football					
9:30	The Good Doctor	Amar a muerte	FOX 24 News at 9	Bull	Señora Acero (SS)	Manifest	Light of Southwest	Independent Lens (DVS)	Heroes	Page Six	American	NBA Basketball: Warriors at Lakers							
10:30	Big 2	Impacto	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Amanpour-Co	Perry Mason	Seinfeld	Seinfeld		SportsCenter		Formula E	Temptation Island	Deadly Class	(04) Movie: The Scorpion King	Garage Rehab
11:30	Nightline	Funny	James Corden	Señora Acero (SS)	Daly	Creation	Antiques Roadshow	Hitchcock	King	Brooklyn	Brooklyn		SportsCenter						
12:30	Extra	Soy tu dueña	Two Men	Simpsons	Access	News	Antiques Roadshow	Hitchcock	Top 30	Brooklyn	Brooklyn	Inside the NBA	SportsCenter	NFL Live	NBA Basketball: Mavericks at Bucks	Chrisley Chrisley	Movie: The Mummy, John Hannah	Garage Rehab	
1:30	Paid Prg.	En tierras salvajes	Pawn	ET	Programa	Light of Southwest	Independent Lens (DVS)												

ANDY CAPP



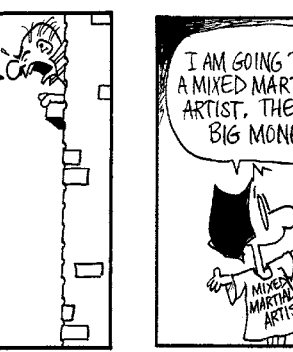
AGNES



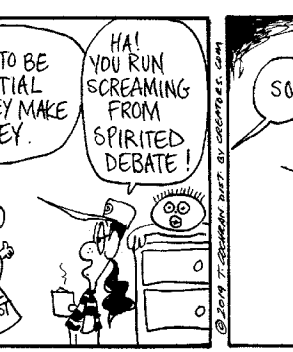
ARCHIE



ONE BIG HAPPY



MOMMA



NEST HEAD



Thought for Today:

"The road to ruin is always in good repair, and the travellers pay the expense of it."

Josh Billings (Henry Wheeler Shaw)  
American humorist (1818-1885).

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Monday, Jan. 21, the 21st day of 2019. There are 344 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 21, 1977, on his first full day in office, President Jimmy Carter pardoned almost all Vietnam War draft evaders.

On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolution, King Louis XVI, condemned for treason, was executed on the guillotine.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and four other Southerners whose states had seceded from the Union resigned from the U.S. Senate.

In 1908, New York City's Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance prohibiting women from smoking in public establishments (the measure was vetoed by Mayor George B. McClellan Jr., but not before one woman, Katie Mulcahey, was jailed overnight for refusing to pay a fine).

In 1924, Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin died at age 53.

In 1950, former State Department official Alger Hiss, accused of being part of a Communist spy ring, was found guilty in New York of lying to a grand jury. (Hiss, who proclaimed his innocence, served less than four years in prison.)

In 1954, the first atomic submarine, the USS Nautilus, was launched at Groton (Graham), Connecticut (however, the Nautilus did not make its first nuclear-powered run until nearly a year later).

In 1958, Charles Starkweather, 19, killed three relatives of his 14-year-old girlfriend, Caril Ann Fugate, at her family's home in Lincoln, Nebraska. (Starkweather and Fugate went on a road trip which resulted in seven more slayings; Starkweather was eventually executed while Fugate spent 17 years in prison despite maintaining she was a hostage, not an accomplice.)

In 1968, the North Vietnamese Army launched a full-scale assault against the U.S. combat base in Khe Sanh, South Vietnam, in a siege lasting 11 weeks; although the Americans were able to hold back the communists, they ended up dismantling and abandoning the base.

In 1982, convict-turned-author Jack Henry Abbott was found guilty in New York of first-degree manslaughter in the stabbing death of waiter Richard Adan in 1981. (Abbott was later sentenced to 15 years to life in prison; he committed

suicide in 2002.)

In 1997, Speaker Newt Gingrich was reprimanded and fined as the House voted for the first time in history to discipline its leader for ethical misconduct.

In 1998, Pope John Paul II began a historic pilgrimage to Cuba. Actor Jack Lord of "Hawaii Five-O" fame died in Honolulu at age 77.

In 2003, The Census Bureau announced that Hispanics had surpassed blacks as America's largest minority group.

Ten years ago: In a whirlwind first full day in office, President Barack Obama showcased efforts to revive the economy, summoned top military officials to chart a new course in Iraq and eased into the daunting thicket of Middle East diplomacy. The Senate confirmed Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state.

Five years ago: Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, once viewed as a rising star in the GOP, and his wife, Maureen, were indicted on federal corruption charges; the couple denied wrongdoing. (A jury in Sept. 2014 convicted the McDonnells of doing favors for former Star Scientific CEO Jonnie Williams in exchange for more than \$165,000 in low-interest loans and gifts. Their convictions were later overturned as the U.S. Supreme Court narrowed the definition of public corruption.)

One year ago: Security forces in Afghanistan brought an end to an overnight siege by Taliban militants at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul; four American citizens were among 22 people killed in the 13-hour attack. "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" swept the Screen Actors Guild Awards with wins for Frances McDormand, and best supporting actor for Sam Rockwell. The Philadelphia Eagles stunned the Minnesota Vikings, 38-7, in the NFC title game to advance to the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots, who had scored a 24-20 comeback win over the Jacksonville Jaguars in the AFC title game. (The Eagles would go on to win their first Super Bowl.)

Today's Birthdays: World

Golf Hall of Famer Jack Nicklaus is 79. Opera singer-conductor Plácido Domingo is 78. Singer Mac Davis is 77. Actress Jill Eikenberry is 72. Country musician Jim Ibbotson is 72. Singer-songwriter Billy Ocean is 69. Former U.S. Ambassador to China Gary Locke is 69. Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder is 68. Actor-director Robby Benson is 63. Actress

Geena Davis is 63. Basketball Hall of Famer Hakeem Olajuwon is 56. Actress Charlotte Ross is 51. Actor John Ducey is 50. Actress Karina Lombard is 50. Actor Ken Leung is 49. Rapper Levitt (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 49. Rock musician Mark Trojanowski (Sister Hazel) is 49. Rock singer-songwriter Cat Power is 47. Rock DJ Chris Kilmore (Incubus) is 46. Actor

Vincent Laresca is 45. Singer Emma Bunton (Spice Girls) is 43. Actor Jerry Trainor is 42. Country singer Phil Stacey is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nokio (Dru Hill) is 40. Actress Izabella Miko (MEE'-koh) is 38. Actor Luke Grimes is 35. Actress Feliz Ramirez is 27.

Newsday Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 \_\_\_-tac-toe

4 Baseball officials, for short

8 Remove pencil marks

13 Cola or ginger ale

14 Breakfast or dinner

15 \_\_\_ copy (photocopy)

16 Last word of a prayer

17 Soft French cheese

18 Banish

19 Device that chops beef for hamburger

22 1/60 of a min.

23 Main ingredient in borscht

24 Gain entry to

26 In addition

29 Group of three

30 Meadow

31 Lion's den

34 Intelligent

38 Device that removes skin from potatoes

42 Boxing match venue

43 Nile queen, for short

44 "Give \_\_\_ break!"

45 Dunks chips into salsa

47 Go \_\_\_ (date only one person)

50 Major annoyance

53 Hollywood headliner

54 Intense anger

55 Device that crushes pungent cloves

61 Actor Henry, Jane or Peter

63 Scarlett O'Hara's home

FOOD PROCESSING by Sandy Fein

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**DOWN**

7 Snow coaster

8 Jog or do push-ups

9 Tyrannosaurus

10 Crop up

11 Bottoms of shoes

12 Corporate VIPs

13 America's "uncle"

20 Hair goo

21 Serving of corn

25 \_\_\_ through (perform as hoped)

26 Thomas \_\_\_ Edison

27 Fortune-teller

28 Employee's pay

29 Elm or maple

32 Fundamentals

33 Not feeling well

35 \_\_\_ mater (school once attended)

36 Mouthpiece for an oboe

37 Cafeteria food holder

39 Conclusions

40 Follow a car too closely

41 "Picture" mail sent by a tourist

46 Split \_\_\_ soup

48 Knock softly

49 List of a book's misprints

50 Stereo systems

51 Enticing smell

52 Mexican mister

53 Emergency vehicle sound

56 Itineraries: Abbr.

57 Volcano outflow

58 Historical periods

59 Kitchen basin

60 Droop

62 Used a shovel

Answer to previous puzzle

MAIL	CTRL	CARDS
ORDER	HERE	ATE IT
MTEVEREST	DONNA	
IT IS	TORMENT	
PLIERS	PERE	LEE
IAMS	THERE	OARS
TWA	FEAST	ACCT
YOGA	INSTRUCTORS	
FIST	BEAST	SAS
ETNA	MARY	MARTIN
SHE	PODS	ALIENS
SET	BAIL	PROB
ASHEN	USAIN	BOLT
YEATS	CORNEILLE	
SATAY	KNEE	TACT

# Chiefs' Mahomes overcomes slow first half, gets no OT shot

By **DAVE SKRETTA**

AP Sports Writer  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Patrick Mahomes struggled in the first half and dazzled in the second Sunday night.

Nobody knows how he might have fared in overtime.

The Chiefs' young All-Pro threw for 295 yards and three touchdowns against New England, almost all of it after the break, only to watch the extra session from the bench. The Patriots won the coin toss and never gave him a chance, scoring on the only possession they needed to escape with a 37-31 victory in the first AFC championship game ever played at Arrowhead Stadium.

"I thought if we got the chance we'd score," said Mahomes, who instead praised the Patriots' Tom Brady for converting a trio of third-and-10s to give Rex Burkhead a chance to score the winning TD.

"He had a great drive," Mahomes said. "Big moments, guys made big catches for him."

Mahomes had plenty of big moments in his own right.

After a dismal first half in which he was 4 of 8 for 65 yards and three sacks, Mahomes caught fire in the third quarter. He needed just four plays to find Travis Kelce for a touchdown that trimmed a 14-0 deficit in half, then kept slinging the ball in what became a back-and-forth fourth quarter.

The Patriots scored two touchdowns. The Chiefs managed three.

Mahomes was behind it all, shred-



**Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes pauses during a news conference after the AFC Championship NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, in Kansas City, Mo.**

ding a Patriots defense that had played reasonably well down the stretch this season. He hit Damien Williams with a short TD flip to get within 17-14 early in the fourth quarter, then found his elusive running back again with a 23-yard completion that gave Kansas City its first lead at 21-17 with 7:45 remaining in the game.

"They blitzed about every down, played man coverage, and they were able to get home a little bit on some of their games," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "We made a few adjustments at halftime, should have done that ear-

lier — that's my responsibility. But I'm proud of the way the guys battled back."

But the Patriots kept battling, too.

Brady led them the other way, and Sony Michel scored from 10 yards on fourth down, only for the Chiefs' mop-haired QB to answer with a 38-yard pass to Sammy Watkins that set up Williams' TD run.

Back came the Patriots, who in their eighth consecutive conference championship game showed no sign of nerves. They caught a break when an interception was wiped out by an

offside call, and Burkhead's TD run with 39 seconds left appeared to have given New England a 31-28 victory.

Then again, Mahomes long ago proved that 39 seconds can last an eternity.

He immediately found running back Spencer Ware for 21 yards, the only meaningful play the backup running back made all game. Then, Mahomes hit Demarcus Robinson for 39 yards to the Patriots 21 with 16 seconds left, giving the Chiefs — without any timeouts — one shot at the end zone.

Mahomes wound up throwing it away, and Harrison Butker's 39-yard field goal forced overtime.

By that point the Patriots knew full well the best way to stop Mahomes was to keep him on the bench. So their confidence no doubt soared when they won the coin toss for overtime, and Brady took advantage of the opportunity by finding Julian Edelman

and Rob Gronkowski on their march downfield.

Mahomes could only look on as the Patriots ended his dream season.

"They challenged us," he said. "They came up and played man defense. Not a lot of teams did that this year. The first half we struggled, we couldn't make much happen. The second half we were up to the challenge, we found ways to win one-on-one matchups."

"We gave everything we had," Mahomes said. "They ended up making more plays at the end."

AP photo

# Harden scores 48 points, Rockets beat Lakers 138-134 in OT

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — James Harden was the star for the Houston Rockets as usual on Saturday night, but he and the team got a big boost from Eric Gordon in his second game back after recovering from a bruised knee.

Harden scored 48 points, Gordon added 30 and the Rockets overcame a 21-point deficit to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 138-134 in overtime.

The Rockets trailed for most of the night and were down by 18 in the second-half. Gordon sent it to overtime with a 3-pointer, and made four free throws in the last seconds of the extra period.

"He's playing unbelievable," coach Mike D'Antoni said of Gordon.

Coming off 57- and 58-point games, Harden had his 19th straight game with at least 30 and he's had 40 in 10 of the last 13. He was 14 of 30 from the field, going 8 of 19 on 3-pointers, and hit 12 of 15 free throws.

Harden was asked if Gordon being back after missing eight games before his return on Wednesday night eased the burden on him a little bit.

"A little bit? It takes a lot of burden off me," Harden said. "He's so offensively gifted and talented being able to shoot the basketball, being able to get to the rim, being able to make plays for others. You get a guy like that on the floor with you it makes it easier for not only myself but for everybody."

Brandon Ingram missed a 3 for Los Angeles before Harden hit 1 of 2 free throws to make it 132-130 with less than a minute left. Ingram tied it with a basket, and Harden again made 1 of 2 free throws to make it 133-132.

Los Angeles missed a 3 before Gordon also made just 1 of 2 free throws to leave Houston up by two with 12.6 seconds left. Kyle Kuzma lost the ball and it went out of bounds to give Houston the ball back. Gordon added four free throws after that to secure the victory.

It was the second straight overtime game for both teams after Houston lost to Brooklyn on Wednesday night and Los Angeles beat Oklahoma City on Thursday night.

Kuzma had 32 points for Los Angeles and Ingram added 21 in a game where coach Luke Walton was ejected in the third quarter.

Already without LeBron James and Rajon Rondo, the Lakers have another injury concern after Lonzo Ball sprained his left ankle in the third quarter. Walton said his X-rays were negative but that he'd have an MRI and "we'll see where we are after that."



AP photo

**Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) drives to the basket as Los Angeles Lakers center Tyson Chandler defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, in Houston.**

Four straight points by the Lakers stretched the lead to nine in the fourth quarter, but Harden and Gordon made consecutive 3-pointers cut it to 112-109 with about two minutes remaining.

Los Angeles made four free throws to make it 116-109 about a minute later, but Harden made two 3-pointers around a basket by Ivica Zubac to get

Houston within three with about 30 seconds left.

Lance Stephenson missed a 3-pointer and Harden made two free throws to cut the lead to 118-117 with 5.7 seconds left.

Zubac made two more free throws before Gordon's off-balance 3-pointer with 2 seconds left sent it to OT.

"I saw Kentavious Caldwell-Pope running out to me and I thought he was going to fly right by me, but he stood right there," Gordon said. "So I had to try to shoot it with confidence and I'm glad it went in."

The Lakers built a huge lead early and were up 64-46 at halftime, with Kuzma scoring 24 points.

They were ahead by 17 with about eight minutes left in the third quarter after scoring five straight points capped by a basket from Kuzma before Houston scored the next 15 points to cut it to 74-72 three minutes later. James Ennis had five points in that stretch and P.J. Tucker capped it with a 3-pointer.

Ball was injured just before Houston's run began. He remained on the court for a couple of minutes talking with trainer's before he was helped to his feet where he hopped on his right foot for a few steps before being carried off the court and to the locker room by Stephenson and Michael Beasley.

Walton was ejected a couple of minutes after that when he got two technical fouls after yelling at officials during a timeout.

Ingram pointed to losing Ball as when things started to get away from the Lakers.

"Right when Lonzo went out," he said. "That's exactly when it went away. We lost momentum a little bit."

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