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# BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY EDITION,  
 DECEMBER 17, 2019

**OPEN SATURDAYS**  
 Pediatric Clinic & Well Checks  
 10am - 1pm  
**Dr. Steve Ahmed**  
 1700 W. FM 700 (432) 264-1900

VOLUME 115, NUMBER 68

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**Upcoming Events**

*Festival of Lights*  
 Open through Dec. 25  
 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. nightly

*Red Kettle Challenge* has begun. Those wanting to volunteer can sign up at [RegisterToRing.com](http://RegisterToRing.com)

Submit your holiday festivities photos to be featured in the *Big Spring Herald*. Email [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com).

*Christmas Tree Forest Heritage Museum* runs through Dec. 20

**Today**

*BSEDC Meeting*  
 5:15 p.m.  
 215 W. Third  
 Open to the public

**Dec. 19**  
*Santa comes to Back in Motion*  
 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Jan. 25**

*Silver Wings Ball*  
 Tickets now available

**Feb. 1**

*Big Spring's Got Talent*

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



## Howard College blackout 2019 ends in time for the new year

By **CINDY PINCH**  
 Staff Writer

Let there be light. Electricity has been restored to Howard College.

The campus has been in the dark since the week of Thanksgiving due to an accident that involved a vehicle hitting the switch that supplied the campus' electricity. President Cheryl Sparks recognized those who were involved in restoring power to the Big Spring campus during the board of trustees meeting on Dec. 16.

Among those who were honored were the maintenance staff and IT department of Howard College, the teams of Oncor and TESCO, and a few other individuals who played a role in restoring electricity to the campus, getting the word out, and taking care of the students living in the dormitories.

Terry Hansen explained a plan the college is working on in order to be better prepared in the future in case a similar incident were to occur.

See **LIGHTS**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Cindy Pinch

The Howard College Board of Trustees met Monday afternoon, for their final meeting of the year. During the meeting, Dr. Cheryl Sparks and the board of trustees recognized all those who worked diligently and tirelessly to restore power to the Howard College campus.

## SMMC annual tree lighting



HERALD photo/Cindy Pinch

Scenic Mountain Medical Center held the seventh annual tree lighting, with music from local school choirs. Special visitors, such as Santa Claus, stopped in with the community to enjoy Christmas music, hot chocolate

## Benton St. Bridge closed for repairs

**Special to the Herald**

The City of Big Spring issued the following announcement Monday afternoon, regarding the bridge construction.

According to the release, as of Dec. 16 (Monday) the Benton Street Bridge is closed completely to all through traffic.

The bridge is expected to remain closed until the repairs are complete.

We apologize for any inconvenience and request your patience while repairs are made.

To receive updates, visit [mybigspring.com](http://mybigspring.com) and sign up for email alerts, text messaging alerts and read other information and announcements from the city.

## Big Spring Rotary supporting literacy in Howard Co.



Courtesy photo/Bruce Schooler

The Big Spring Rotary Club distributed over 450 dictionaries on Thursday, Dec. 12 to the third graders at Coahoma, Forsan and Washington Elementary. This is the sixth year that the Big Spring Rotary Club has been involved with this project. The Big Spring Rotary Club meets on Tuesdays at the Cactus Room on the Howard College campus. Come visit us and see what we are all about. We will even buy you lunch.

Coahoma, Forsan, Big Spring, students receive dictionaries from local club

*From Christmas*  
**Big Spring Herald's Christmas Countdown**



**Pace'Lei** says "Only 8 Days 'til Christmas!"  
 (Daughter of Angela Lance)

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## Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 83 inmates at the time of this report.

- **MATTHEW LUIS ALMAZAN**, 32, was arrested by BSPD on charges of theft of property (\$100 to \$750), and evading arrest or detention, and warrants for two counts of bail jumping and failure to appear, assault causing bodily injury, theft of property \$750 to \$2,500, and a warrant for the attorney general for failure to appear-motion for enforcement/contempt.

- **EMILIA ALVAREZ**, 32, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for driving with invalid license.

- **ISRAEL ALVAREZ**, 33, was arrested by BSPD on warrants for motion to revoke-driving while intoxicated with open alcohol container, driving with invalid license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and dis-

playing expired registration.

- **ADRIAN CEDILLO**, 21, was arrested by BSPD on a charge purchasing or furnishing alcohol to a minor.

- **CAREY NATHANIEL CULLISON**, 26, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

- **ANDREW JACOB ESTRACA**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.

- **DEJA ALIAH FRANCO**, 18, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury.

- **VICTORIA HANNABASS**, 30, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **JEREMIAH ISAAH HOLGUIN**, 22, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- **BRIAN CHRISTOPHER LEWIS**, 35, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of walking on highway with traffic-no sidewalk, and warrants for murders, bondsman off bond-sale of alco-

hol to minor, terroristic threat of family/household violence, and theft of property (\$750 to \$2,500).

- **TERRANCE LEWIS**, 33, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of walking on a highway with traffic-no sidewalk and possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 (less than one gram), and warrants for assault-class C, failure to appear, and a parole violation.

- **ALISHA MCGEE**, 41, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of walking on highway with traffic-no sidewalk

- **JOSEPH ALTON MURLEY**, 40, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

- **JOSE ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ**, 62, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **SAMUEL DEE THOMASON**, 29, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

## Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2000 block of Hwy 80. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 4000 block of Alma Circle. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

ter.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Cornell. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported on I-20 mile marker 195. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans

Blvd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. No transport was required.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of S. Hwy 87. No transport was required.

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was on Hwy 176. No transport was required.

## Take Note

- The Potton House will be open, beginning Sunday, Dec. 8, and then on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through the month of December. Hours will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are greatly appreciated. Come see a little bit of Big Spring's history at the historic Potton House.

- VFW Post 2013 meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. New members are being sought. The Post is located at 500 Driver Rd. Qualified veterans, those who have served in a foreign war, who are interested in joining the VFW are encouraged to attend a meeting to find out more information.

- A fund has been set up in order to assist Brent Fowlkes with medical expenses. Brent is the husband of Ashley Martin Fowlkes, CEO of Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union. If you would like more information or would like to make a donation, please stop by the credit union located at 1110 Benton, or call 432-263-8393. Please see the tellers to make a donation. Thank you to everyone for your kindness and support during this difficult time.

- DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible?

There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

- Food2Kids will again be providing sack lunches to children in the Big Spring area who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It takes

just a couple of hours of your time, and the work is very rewarding. The next sacking event of this 2019-2020 school year will be Monday, Jan. 6 and Tuesday Jan. 7, and they will continue throughout the year on the first Monday and Tuesday of the month. To volunteer, just show up at Lakeview High School located at 1107 N.W. 7th St., at 5:30 p.m. You can follow their Facebook page for additional information <https://www.facebook.com/food2kids/>.

- O'Neal-Kunkle, Chapter #47 of the Disabled American Vets (D.A.V.), meets the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 2204 Runnels Street. For more information, please contact Norman Witcher at 432-413-6663.

- Senior and/or mature adults are invited to come to a dance every first and third Friday each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Drive. Come two-step the evening away, or just mingle with old friends and make new friends. Dances are from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live entertainment. No alcohol or smoking permitted. Cost is \$5 per person.

- Home Hospice is looking for volunteers (18+) and junior volunteers (9-16 years old). Applications can be picked up at the Home Hospice office, located at 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite A between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Adult volunteers will need to complete a training and must be able to pass a background check. Volunteer duties will include home visits; junior volunteers will be helping with office work, community events and holiday activities. More information can be obtained by calling 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon the first Monday of every month. We meet at Howard College in the Cactus Room. Our vision is that every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the most beautiful city in Texas. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Tammy at 432-935-0057.

- The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you.

- 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.



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## Obituaries

### Beatrice "TICHE" Ybarra

Beatrice "TICHE" Ybarra, 80, of Big Spring, passed away Monday, Dec. 16, 2019, at Covenant Medical Center. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

### Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez

Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez, 62, of Big Spring, passed away Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

## 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.

- Caregivers Support Group, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are held at the Senior Citizens Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. These meetings are open for any caregiver, whether medical professional or family member. For more information, please call Becky Letz at 267-1628.

- Al-anon family group meets at 8 p.m. at 615 Settles.

- DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible?

There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. The next session begins Sept. 3, 2019. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

### 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.

- Celebrate Recovery meets at First United Methodist Church Youth Hall, 400 Scurry, from 6-8 p.m. Hurts, habits and hang-ups. Leave message for Joyce Webb at 325-212-860

### 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.



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**MEMBER**  
**2019**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

# LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1

“Our electrical loop was not closed...not a complete circle.” Hansen explained. “If they had hit any other transformer, any other switch, any other anything, we could have backed up and kept everything up. But basically, when you take the battery out of the equation, which is the feed from Oncor, that leaves you without power.”

Hansen reported that Oncor will be looking into the situation and bringing in a secondary feed is being considered. In addition to the update on the electricity and routine agenda items, the board approved the notice for filing for the upcoming Trustee Election that will take place in January 2020. Changes were made and approved to the policies

for Howard Cottage Development Center, the child-care facility on campus. The changes will be effective as of Jan. 1, 2020 and will affect new enrollees to the program. President Sparks recognized the San Angelo Health Foundation Grant received by the San Angelo campus.

“We’re very excited that our San Angelo campus has been awarded a grant from the San Angelo Health Foundation.” President Sparks said. “This is another opportunity that we have to further what we’re doing in health professions.”

The grant will allow Howard College to purchase new equipment that will allow them to do some updating to programs they already have in place. The Texas Workforce Commission awarded the college a grant for the Lamesa campus.

“We’re going to be able to do some updated distance learning for our Lamesa campus.” President

Sparks said.

A few agenda items were put on hold until the January board meeting. Those items are the Accountability Measures for Operational, Financial, and Student Success Indicators. The board will hear reports on these items at the next meeting.

“On behalf of the Howard College employees,” President Sparks said. “We want to thank all of you, our board members and your families for everything that you have done for Howard College and...you continue to do.”

Howard College offices will close at noon on Dec. 17 for winter break and re-open Jan. 2. The next board meeting will be held Jan. 27.

*Cindy Pinch is a staff writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, email reporter@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.*

## Weather



**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 48. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

**Tonight:** Clear, with a low around 27. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph in the evening.

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 56. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. South wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 54. South wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 33.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 58.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 33.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 62.

**Saturday Night:** Clear, with a low around 35.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 67.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 38.

*(Weather courtesy National Weather Service via forecast.weather.gov)*

## Take Note

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence.

Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies, as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

• 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.BecomeaCA-SA.org](http://www.BecomeaCA-SA.org) or [www.casawtx.org](http://www.casawtx.org).

• 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 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.

• Each week, Kindred offers free health checks from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Yellow Rose Cafe at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place.

• 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 p.m. 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.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients.

Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, 432-268-7535 or [danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us)

• Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers.

If you would like to donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Maria at 816-6474.

• Kindred at Home needs volunteers for patient care.

Contact Shiela Crockett at 466-9034.

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson  
267-8288

Beatrice "TICHE" Ybarra, 80, died Monday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez, 62, died Friday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Joyce Coffman, 63, died Tuesday. Services are pending. A fund has been established at the funeral home to help the family with expenses.

*Submit your community events, fundraisers, and other activities to [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com) to be featured in Take Note. Let the community know about your Support Group, email [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com).*

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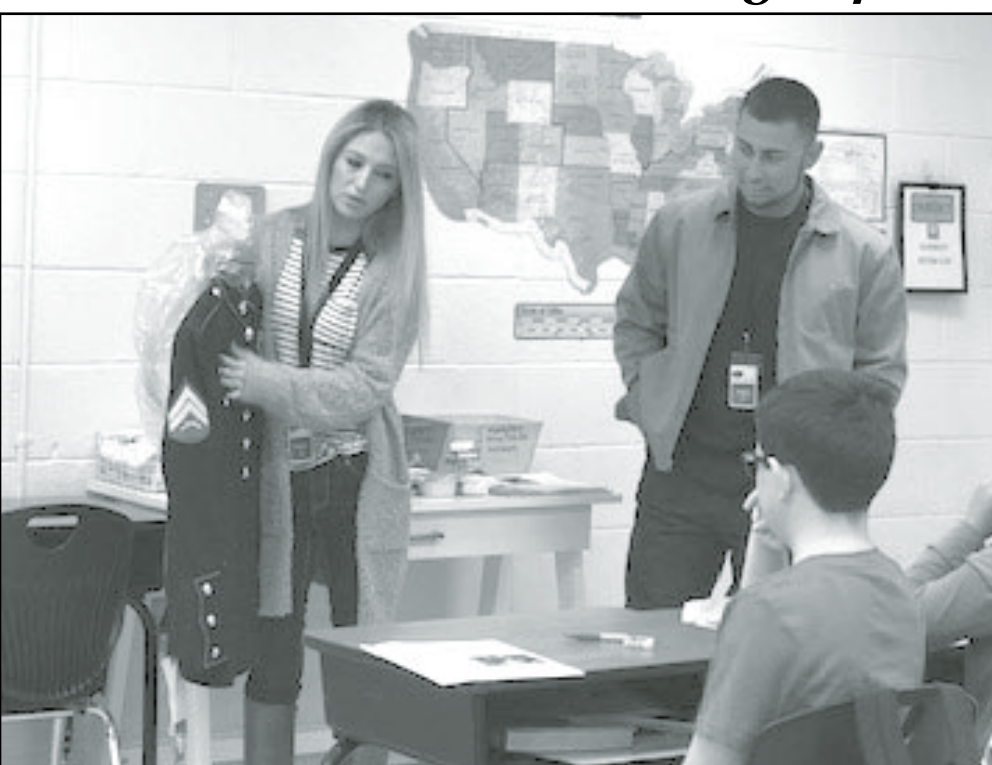
## Forsan Elementary 3rd Graders show off their new dictionaries



Courtesy photos

The Tuesday Rotary Club recently visited with students at Forsan Elementary, as part of the annual Dictionary project. For the past six years, the club has been providing dictionaries to students across Howard County. Each of the students - in third grade - received a dictionary to take home. Pictured above left are some of the students with Rotary Club members. Pictured above right: Students look through their dictionaries before heading back to class.

## Veterans visit Big Spring Intermediate students



Courtesy photo

Pictured above left: Mrs. Kennedy's Fifth grade social studies classes were honored by visitors: Jon and Sally Mendoza. Both are US veterans and were invited to speak to Mrs. Kennedy's students.



Pictured above right: Big Spring Intermediate had a very special visitor. Ryan Ward and his family dropped by to say hello prior to their big move to New York. Ward used to teach 5th grade math at BSI and left to join the army five years ago. BSI is very proud of Sergeant Ward and BSI will always be his home.

## Christmas Tree Forest raising awareness, supporting community

Courtesy photo

The Heritage Museum Christmas Tree Forest has brought in several local businesses, organizations and families to spread the holiday joy through creative tree decorations. One of the featured trees at the museum is in honor of Jay Porterfield - pictured with Museum Christmas Tree Forest entry above. The tree was put up not only to be part of the holiday cheer attached to the tree forest, but to raise awareness and to raise funds for the medical expense needed for his anticipated kidney transplant.



## Red Kettle Challenge brings out both Rotary clubs for friendly competition



Courtesy photos

The Salvation Army is in the second year of the Red Kettle Challenge. Across Big Spring and Howard County businesses, organizations and families have signed up to ring the bell. The two local Rotary Clubs - Greater Big Spring Rotary and Big Spring Rotary Club - have been gearing up for the annual challenge. On Saturday, members from both clubs headed out to Walmart and rang the bell to support the local Salvation Army. The winner has yet to be announced, but in the end, the local families and the Angel Tree angels are the real winners. Spots are still available if you would like to support the Red Kettle Challenge, visit [RegisterToRing.com](http://RegisterToRing.com).

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616 GREGG STREET

# Smart holiday shopping: Avoiding fake reviews and tricky ads

By **JOSEPH PISANI and ANICK JESDANUN**

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — There are lots of bargains online during the holidays, but also plenty of ways to get scammed, even at established outlets like Amazon.

How can you be sure you're reading a legitimate review, not one coming from a company employee? How can you flag sponsored placements and other ads — and protect your credit card once you buy?

Although there's no magical solution, try some of these practices to be a savvy online shopper.

## REVIEWING THE REVIEWS

Online reviews at major retailers such as Amazon and Walmart and listing services such as Yelp look like a good place to get firsthand information from people who've tried a product or merchant.

But investigations by The Washington Post and BuzzFeed have described networks of fake reviewers paid to inflate ratings for lesser-known sellers on Amazon. Merchants might also have their own employees write favorable reviews, or trash competitors.

Amazon has waged a legal battle against fake reviewers since at least 2015, when it claimed in a court filing that "an unhealthy ecosystem is developing outside of Amazon to supply inauthentic reviews." The Federal Trade Commission recently settled with a cosmetics merchant that, it charged, had its own managers create fake accounts and direct employees to write good reviews on Sephora.com.

Beyond that, many so-called social media influencers also write reviews after receiving free products.

Saoud Khalifah, who founded the service Fakespot to help consumers avoid being influenced by fake and biased reviews, suggests looking beyond text reviews. Search for video reviews on YouTube; you can at least tell that the reviewer has used the product, though it's not always easy to tell if they've been compensated.

Text reviews can still be helpful once you learn to spot unusual patterns, such as lots of five-star ratings in a short period of time.

If a service lets people rate reviews as helpful or not, look for reviews with an unusually high number of "helpful" votes. Khalifah said merchants might try to game the system by ar-

tificially inflating favorable reviews as helpful so they show up more prominently.

Another warning sign: reviews that carry high or low ratings without offering many specifics.

Other patterns are harder to spot. A reviewer might have been banned from one service, but still write for others. Websites and apps such as Fakespot can help by flagging the same person's reviews elsewhere and offering a revised rating.

## DODGE FAKES

Just because you're shopping on Amazon doesn't mean you're buying from Amazon. The online shopping giant, like eBay, Walmart and others, has vast third-party marketplaces where anyone can sell goods.

The problem: That's where fraudsters try to sneak in their brand-name counterfeits.

In a report last year, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said 20 of the 47 items it bought from online stores with third-party marketplaces were counterfeit. It isn't just about getting duped; phony products might be made with toxic chemicals or carry other risks.

One safeguard is to research whom you're buying from. The "sold by" section will list the seller's name. Look up its website to see if there are negative reviews or if the site looks unprofessional. Blurry photos and misspellings are red flags. Others include sparse reviews or complaints about knockoffs.

Be sure to compare the price to other sites. If it's much lower, you may be looking at a phony.

## COUPONS WITHOUT THE HUNT

Save money by installing browser extensions from such companies as Honey, RetailMeNot and Wikibuy. A button will show up on your web browser. Click to automatically search for and paste in discount codes such as "CYBERDEAL" when you're ready to check out.

The companies have other money-saving tools. Honey, for example, lets you track products and will notify you when there's a price drop at Amazon, Macy's and other major stores.

Your options are more limited on your phone. Browser extensions work only on traditional desktop and laptop computers.

## PRODUCT PLACEMENTS

Amazon, eBay, Walmart and Macy's are among the retailers that are stuffing their on-

line stores with ads to make more money.

Companies big and small can bid to get their products near the top of a store's search results. They look just like regular product listings, except for the word "Sponsored." You might think that a product is showing up at the top because it's somehow better.

Instead, sellers typically buy ads for their more expensive products or ones they have just launched to get the product in front of more shoppers and increase the likelihood of a sale, said Juozas Kazuikenas, the founder of Marketplace Pulse, a market research firm.

Before buying a product that was an ad, make sure that it fits what you're looking for and that there isn't a cheaper option.

## CREDIT CARD SAFETY

Once you're ready to buy, don't hand your credit or debit card number to just anyone. Even if the merchant is legitimate, smaller businesses might not have the resources to keep up on security. That could leave your data exposed to hacking.

You can protect yourself by using credit cards when possible, as they offer better protections than debit cards. Federal law limits liability to \$50 if your number gets stolen — and banks will often waive that entirely. Though there has been a decline in fraud involving existing credit card accounts, it still amounted to \$6.5 billion last year, according to estimates from the advisory firm Javelin Strategy & Research.

Some banks let you create temporary numbers that can be set to expire once you make your purchase, preventing merchants from charging you again down the road. And of course, if the number gets stolen, it won't work.

Digital payment services such as Apple Pay and Samsung Pay also automatically substitute your card number with a digital ID. But there aren't that many merchants that accept them for online transactions.

You can also use PayPal to keep merchants from having your real card number. Instead, PayPal keeps the number and makes the payment on your behalf. Be sure you're paying a business directly, as you get some protections, including reimbursements when merchants ship damaged or counterfeit items.

If you're making a cash transfer to pay an individual directly, you're on the hook if something goes wrong.

## Tips for buying smart toys

Emily Gaines undefined

Many toys can now be connected to the internet. This offers both fun and educational opportunities for your kids but can also come with risks if you're uninformed. Many of these toys may collect a child's personal information without parents' knowledge. It is important to remember that, just like in most offline situations, a parent's permission is required to collect or use a child's information, such as a name or email address.

In 2017, The Children's Advertising Review Unit (CARU) referred a toy company to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) after the company failed to respond to CARU's privacy inquiry regarding one of its toys. There were fears that the Bluetooth connection and built-in microphone of the doll in question made it vulnerable to hacking.

If you're looking at a smart toy for your kids this holiday season, use these tips from BBB and CARU to keep playtime safe and fun:

- Do your research. When considering a smart toy, search for product reviews online. You can also go to bbb.org to check the company's business profile. A simple search can uncover major issues.
- Know the law. Toy companies are legally required to post privacy policies disclosing how they will collect and handle a child's personal information.
- Use a secure connection. Only connect the toy on a secure, trusted network, such as password-protected Wi-Fi. Avoid connecting on public networks, which could allow anyone to access your child's information if there is a security flaw.
- Teach the moment. Use the opportunity to teach your kids about online responsibility. Smart toys are a great way to educate them on protecting their information, online spending, and to speak up if they encounter a questionable situation.
- Check the settings. The toy's default settings may not be set for privacy. Check parental controls and other safety measures the toy has in place.
- Turn it off. Turning off the smart toy when it isn't being used can help prevent information from continuing to be collected.

Happy shopping, from everyone at BBB serving the Heart of Texas!

Emily Gaines is a public relations coordinator with the Better Business Bureau for the Heart of Texas.

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## Texas is faring better than Oklahoma amid oil slump

By John Suayan

The Center Square undefined

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reports that sales tax revenues last month netted a record \$3.18 billion.

Oklahoma Treasurer Randy McDaniel, meanwhile, reports that the Sooner State recorded its first drop in total monthly receipts in more than two and a half years.

Both states have experienced the sluggish effects of downturns in the oil and gas sectors, but Texas has fared better because of its more diverse economy.

November marked the second time this year in which the Lone Star State collected more than \$3 billion from sales tax collections. The first time was in May, to the tune of \$3.01 billion.

According to Hegar, the wholesale trade, construction and restaurant sectors buoyed November's record growth while the oil and gas mining sector yielded lower collections.

Natural gas production tax revenue, which was close to \$120 billion last year, fell 33.1 percent in a year's span. Oil production tax income experienced a dip of around two percent.

The comptroller additionally attributed the increase in the state's sales tax revenue collections to remote sellers and online marketplace providers, in accordance with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, and the passage of House Bill 1525 during the 86th Texas Legislature.

Texas has no state income tax, so sales taxes are the largest source of funding for the state budget.

Oklahoma's November total monthly collections were \$989.7 million, a four percent drop from last year.

According to McDaniel's office, lower sales tax and oilfield tax collections led to the decrease. Acknowledging the recent job losses in the energy sector, the treasurer said that his heart goes out to the families affected.

Halliburton, which is headquartered in Houston, laid off more than 800 workers in the Oklahoma town of El Reno.

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## Match The Santa To His Workshop!!



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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

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This entry form must be received by Friday, December 20 at 5 p.m. Drop off your form at the Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry St. The winner will be the one who correctly matches the most Santas to his business/workshop. Gift certificates will be given away to use at the participating businesses. Winners will be announced in the Wednesday, December 25th Edition of the Big Spring Herald!

*All decisions are final at the discretion of the Big Spring Herald*

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### Coahoma Bulldogs and Forsan Buffaloes All-District football selections



HERALD File Photos

Pictured above left: A Forsan Buffaloes player looks on from the sideline. Pictured above right: District Offensive MVP Zack Schneider throws a pass in a game from earlier this year.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

**Coahoma Bulldogs**  
**9-3 Bi-district Champs**  
**Second-most points in program history behind 1965**  
**Defeated all three rivals in same season**  
**Eight or more wins in a season for first time since 2003**

**District Offensive MVP:** Zack Schneider-QB

**1st Team Offense:**

Brysen Kerby-Sophomore-RB  
Braxton Chandler-Senior-WR  
Sean Striegler-Junior-WR  
Keegan Dobbs-Senior-OL  
Jonathon Schneider-Senior-OL

**1st Team Defense:**

Keegan Dobbs-Senior-DE  
Colin Daniels-Junior-OLB  
Gauge Hill-Senior-LB  
Zack Schneider-Senior-DB

**2nd Team Offense:**

Tony Hagins-Junior-WR  
Graydon Glidewell-Junior-OL  
Garrett Anderson-Senior-C

**2nd Team Defense:**

Alejandro Gonzales-Senior-DL  
Avry Burgans-Senior-OLB  
Braxton Chandler-Senior-DB

**Honorable Mentions:**

Brant Gartman-Senior-DB  
Kolt Redden-Junior-DE  
Travis Mitchell-Senior-TE  
Ky Kemper-Sophomore-DB  
Patrick Gutierrez-Junior-LB  
Cutter Atkins-Senior-OL

**Forsan Buffaloes**

**3-7 record**  
**Midseason three-game winning streak**  
**Improved record by two wins over 2018 season**

**Newcomer of the Year:** Ernesto Rivera-DE  
**Co-Kicker of the Year:** Nolan Park-Freshman

**1st Team Offense:**

Chris Mendez-Sophomore-RB  
Jonathon Gabehart-Senior-WR/RB/QB

**1st Team Defense:**

Cayden Morgan-Sophomore-S  
Jonathon Gabehart-Senior-LB

**2nd Team Offense:**

Colten Wallis-Junior-OL  
Cayden Morgan-Sophomore-WR  
Maverick Yanez-Sophomore-WR

**2nd Team Defense:**

Colten Wallis-Junior-DL  
Jake Patterson-Senior-DL

**Honorable Mentions:**

Jessie Vega-Junior-WR  
Aulton Lira-Sophomore-OL  
Ryheem Smith-Junior-WR  
Charles Childress-Sophomore-OL  
Mario Quintero-Junior-OL  
Chaney Bahlman-Sophomore-WR  
Ely Mathies-Junior-OLB  
Paul Evans-Junior-OLB  
Michael Stilwell-Junior-DB  
Lane Smith-Sophomore-CB  
Gerardo DeLaRosa-Junior-LB  
Carson Carver-Junior-LB  
Stephen Johnson-Junior-C  
Alex Salas-Junior-DB  
Felipe Eraso-Junior-DL  
Domynic Alvarado-Senior-DB  
Jayden Golleher-Sophomore-OL  
John Brady Wright-Junior-OL

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

### Dance Lab finishes top two at Redline Black Diamond West Texas Classic

**Special to the Herald**

The Dance Lab competition cheer and dance teams competed at the Redline Black Diamond West Texas Classic this past weekend in Lubbock.

Dance Lab Cheer (DLC) Rage, consisting of 16 girls ages 6-11, competed in the Youth Level 1 division and brought home the championship with a zero deduction routine. DLC Swarm, consisting of 18 girls ages 8-14, placed second out of five teams in their Junior Level 2 division.

Madison Campbell, member of DLC Rage, received a judge's choice award and was inducted into the Redline Infinity Five. With over 500+ individuals in the whole competition, Madison was picked for this special award for exceptional facials, performance, and leadership during her team's performance. The Junior Hip Hop dance duo made up



Courtesy photo

The Dance Lab team shows off their championship banner.

of Taelyn Fulgum and Avery Allen placed 1st in their division, as well as the Level 3 Junior cheer duo made up of Serenity Watts and Anissa Arguello. Several athletes also competed in individual skill events at the competition. Pailee Fontana and Avery Allen both took first in the Youth and Senior Best Jumps divisions. Kinlee Henderson and Taya Gill also walked away with first place finishes in the Mini and Youth Best Tumbling divisions. Addi Arguello finished second in the Junior Best Tumbling Division. Dance Lab will compete again at the American Spirit Championship in Lubbock this January.

### Lady Steers 7th Grade A team has great tournament showing

**Special to the Herald**

**Thursday Game - Big Spring vs. Coahoma**

The Big Spring 7th Grade A Team began the tournament with a loss yesterday. The first half was hard fought with a tie at the half, 14-14, and the game was lost in the second half against Coahoma, 43-18. Akire Castaneda, Ambrie Franco, and Niomi Wines were players of the game for their aggression on defense and willingness to take it to the basket. The girls are prepped and ready to show their true game on

Saturday morning.

**Saturday Game 1 - Big Spring vs. Forsan**

The Big Spring 7th Grade A Team started the morning off strong with a win against Forsan with a score of 32-16. The girls came together as a team to win this one and our leading scorers were Niomi Wines, CarNesha Rutledge, Chloe Deanda, and Gabriella Vasquez. The team played a super tough zone defense which proved to be hard to stop. This mixed with their scoring and heart led them to victory.

**Saturday Game 2 - Big Spring vs. Colorado City**

The Big Spring 7th Grade A Team ended their games in the tournament with a victory over Colorado City with a score of 38-22. Gabriella Vasquez proved to be quite the free throw shooter sinking 4/6 free throws. The other top scorers were Niomi Wines, CarNesha Rutledge, and Rihanna Olague. The girls did great on defense and played aggressive on the offensive and defensive fronts.

**NFL Standings**

AFC East	Division	Overall	PF	PA
New England	4-0-0	11-3-0	372	181
Buffalo Bills	3-1-0	10-4-0	291	222
New York Jets	1-4-0	5-9-0	247	343
Miami Dolphins	1-4-0	3-11-0	241	435
AFC North	Division	Overall	PF	PA
Baltimore Ravens	3-1-0	12-2-0	472	257
Pittsburgh Steelers	3-2-0	8-6-0	269	259
Cleveland Browns	3-1-0	6-8-0	297	329
Cincinnati Bengals	0-5-0	1-13-0	211	359
AFC South	Division	Overall	PF	PA
Houston Texans	4-1-0	9-5-0	341	330
Tennessee Titans	2-3-0	8-6-0	339	279
Indianapolis Colts	3-2-0	6-7-0	296	295
Jacksonville	1-4-0	5-9-0	250	353
AFC West	Division	Overall	PF	PA
Kansas City Chiefs	5-0-0	10-4-0	394	284
Oakland Raiders	2-2-0	6-8-0	274	386
Denver Broncos	2-3-0	5-9-0	239	284
L.A. Chargers	0-4-0	5-9-0	299	290
NFC East	Division	Overall	PF	PA
Dallas Cowboys	4-0-0	7-7-0	378	288
Philadelphia Eagles	3-1-0	7-7-0	334	328
New York Giants	1-3-0	3-11-0	283	382
Washington	0-4-0	3-11-0	215	347
NFC North	Division	Overall	PF	PA
Green Bay Packers	4-0-0	11-3-0	330	283
Minnesota Vikings	2-2-0	10-4-0	378	259
Chicago Bears	3-2-0	7-7-0	256	253
Detroit Lions	0-5-0	3-10-1	304	373
NFC South	Division	Overall	PF	PA
New Orleans Saints	4-1-0	10-3-0	344	296
Tampa Bay	2-3-0	7-7-0	416	398
Atlanta Falcons	3-2-0	5-9-0	329	365
Carolina Panthers	1-4-0	5-9-0	324	390
NFC West	Division	Overall	PF	PA
Seattle Seahawks	3-1-0	11-3-0	371	345
San Francisco 49ers	3-1-0	11-3-0	419	258
Los Angeles Rams	2-2-0	8-6-0	332	306
Arizona Cardinals	0-4-0	4-9-1	310	398

**PLAYOFF PICTURE**

**AFC:** (1) Ravens, (2) Patriots, (3) Chiefs, (4) Texans, (5) Bills, (6) Steelers  
**NFC:** (1) Seahawks, (2) Packers, (3) Saints, (4) Cowboys, (5) 49ers, (6) Vikings

# CLASSIFIEDS

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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### Announcements

#### Cemetery Lots

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Space 897 & 898  
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Call 432-631-5438

#### Help Wanted

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Automotive Service Advisor - Very Fast Pace - Male or Female with an Outgoing Personality, Customer Service oriented & Name/Face Recognition a must, Experience a plus. Apply in Person at Pollard Chevrolet, 1501 East 4th Street, Big Spring, Texas. Call Randy 806-790-7280.

Babysitter/Nanny Needed! I'm seeking a reliable, experienced, caring, and loving babysitter for up to 18 hours per week (Mon-Thurs only). 1 child at 4 months of age. Pay is negotiable. Contact me at (432) 230-8304



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or visit us at:  
Big Spring State Hospital  
1901 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, TX 79720

The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for the following position at Lake Thomas:

**Park Maintenance Technician** – Responsible for general maintenance of park and facilities. Entry to intermediate level position.

For additional information visit [www.crmwd.org](http://www.crmwd.org)

### Help Wanted

Parkview Skilled Care and Rehabilitation is seeking an Admission/Case Manager R.N. to join our team.

Mostly Monday –Friday 10am-6pm and approximately one weekend per month. (Must be somewhat flexible due to the nature of the business).

Must be a fast learner and be able to multi-task. Long Term care experience preferred.

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### Help Wanted

Seeking Working Couple for Mobile Home/RV Park in Big Spring, TX. Established mobile home/RV park under new ownership and looking to expand. Previous owner was on-site owner and we are looking to bring and experienced couple to help us expand and manage the park. Housing and utilities will be provided. Send Resume to [lancelubke@yahoo.com](mailto:lancelubke@yahoo.com) or call 210-865-8050

#### We are looking for an outgoing, ambitious individual to fill a role at the Big Spring Herald!

Are you eager to increase your income? Do you like to socialize and meet new people? We want to hear from you!

#### Responsibilities and Duties:

This individual will be responsible for contacting businesses and selling newspaper advertising.

**Qualifications and Skills:**  
Knowledge of Microsoft programs is preferred, but will train the right person. Organization, creativity and strong people skills is a plus. Must have reliable transportation and a valid driver's license.

Bring resume to  
**Big Spring Herald**  
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Job Type: Full Time

### Items for Sale

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For Sale: Lighted Christmas Poinsettias, Cactus, Trees, and more decorations of all sizes. Call 432-935-5307 or 432-816-2922 or come by 1433 Hilltop Rd.

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\$425/full cord, & \$240/half cord. Delivered & Stacked. Call 512-913-7406 or 512-913-8297

### Public Notice

CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS  
NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
SALE OF A PORTABLE BUILDING  
The City of BIG SPRING ("City") is soliciting sealed bids for the immediate cash sale of the following described personal property ("Property"), to wit: SPECIFICATIONS: 60' x 24' portable building 1440 square feet building that served as a storage for the City of Big Spring and that is currently located at 309 E. 5th, Big Spring, Texas. The portable Building is being sold AS IS, must be moved at purchaser's expense, and will not include any warranties. MINIMUM BID: The Minimum Bid is

### Public Notice

\$14,000.00  
For further instructions visit the City's website, [www.mybigspring.com](http://www.mybigspring.com) under Bid Postings. CLOSING TIME. Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. Central Time on the 7th day of January 2020 and opened soon thereafter.  
CITY OF Big Spring, TEXAS

### Real Estate for Rent

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## Annie's Mailbox

### Difficult Conversation Now to Save Friendship Forever

**Dear Annie:** I'm part of a group of eight women, all friends, who gather periodically for good conversation and to be together. But one of the women dominates the conversation for a significant time, every time.

It usually starts off with something like, "My husband," or "My sisters," or "My best friend's son," and most of the time it has nothing to do with the conversation we were in.

This friend is kind, generous and loving, and she certainly cares for all of us, but the overtaking of conversation is beginning to make a couple of us

not want to come to our gatherings.

We can't figure out how to let her know without hurting her. Can you help? -- Spokesperson for the Group

#### Dear Spokesperson for the Group:

Your friend sounds kind and lovely but completely unaware of how she is dominating the conversation. People do this for all sorts of reasons, including social anxiety, boredom or feeling nervous by lulls in conversation. As her friend who truly cares about her, you need to let her know. When we know better, we do better.

A difficult conversation now will save her from a great deal of pain. If you

don't let her know what she is doing, then she will keep doing it and eventually the group will no longer be a group.

Have a one-on-one conversation with her about your concerns. Before you sit down, go in with the mindset that you are doing this out of love and respect for your friendship. And start by pointing out her many positive qualities.

**Dear Annie:** I'm sitting here reading a letter to you from "Lonely and Sad for my Birthday," a gay man who has a troubled relationship with his family in part because of his sexuality. You encouraged him to look beyond his family members for

the love and support that he deserves.

I want him to know about something that happened to me about 25 years ago. I went to my very first gay pride festival. I'm not gay, but I felt so very loved and accepted. It was a very joyful occasion. It seemed as if those individuals who knew all too well what it meant to be rejected were all the more dedicated to being inclusive and loving towards everyone. I was blown away by the feeling, and the warm glow stayed with me for a long time.

A few weeks later, I was leaving a movie I'd attended by myself, and I happened to be wearing a rainbow button that had been given to me at

the festival. As I walked out the door, a man held the door open for me, smiled very warmly and said, "Oh! You're family!" And he went inside. I was confused for a moment. Then I remembered I was wearing the pin, and the warm glow returned -- and it never left.

I tell this story to stress that one thing (out of many) that the gay community has given to the world is the strong and vital notion that we are ALL family, especially the connected notion that chosen family can be every bit as beautiful -- if not more so -- than blood family.

I know it can be brutal when family doesn't love you for who you are (this happens to all kinds of

people), but that doesn't mean that you can't make your own new family. And the best way to make good family is to make good friends. And the best way to make good friends is to be a good friend. I wish him happiness on his birthday and every day! -- Blessed with a Chosen Family in Pennsylvania

**Dear Blessed:** Thank you for your beautiful letter reminding us that family can be found anywhere, as long as we're open to it.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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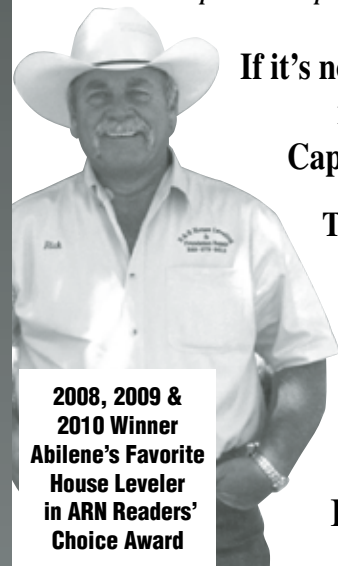
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**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker  
 A vital defensive signal

North dealer.  
 Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
 ♠ A Q 10 8 3  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ K 6 2  
 ♣ A 5 4 3  
**WEST**  
 ♠ 7 4  
 ♥ K 10 7 5 2  
 ♦ J 9 5 4  
 ♣ J 9  
**EAST**  
 ♠ K 9 5 2  
 ♥ Q 6 4 3  
 ♦ Q 10  
 ♣ 10 7 6  
**SOUTH**  
 ♠ J 6  
 ♥ A J 9  
 ♦ A 8 7 3  
 ♣ K Q 8 2

The correct return is the three. This is consistent with the understanding that when a defender who played his highest card in the suit his partner led next returns the suit, he leads the card that was originally his fourth-best in the suit if he started with four or more, and his original second-highest card if he started with only three.

Observe how helpful the three return is to West. Knowing that East started with four hearts, he does not have to be a genius to figure out that South started with exactly three.

Accordingly, after winning South's nine with the ten, West cashes the king, dropping declarer's jack. Both his other hearts are good, and three notrump goes down one.

But suppose East had returned his highest remaining heart, the six, instead of three, thinking that it really didn't matter which low heart he returned. West would win the nine with the ten but would not know whether to continue with the king. He might think South originally had A-J-9-3 or A-J-9-4 and shift to another suit so as not to establish declarer's jack.

One other point: Note that West can't misread the three as indicating an original heart holding of only the Q-3. That would mean South started with the A-J-9-6-4, and he would surely have bid two hearts rather than two notrump at his first turn.

Tomorrow: Now you see it, now you don't.

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**Karma-Facing Moon**

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You'll be deciding whom to align with. Fresh faces are mighty fine, but the luckiest teammates will be people who have been injured but continued on anyway. Resilience is the quality of champions.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Every lofty dream sits atop its own ladder of fears. Face the fear of one rung and you can't skip rungs. Keep climbing in full expectation that you'll be facing the next fear and stepping on it, too.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** If someone doesn't accept you for who you are, this is no reason to hide, pretend or highlight something you don't particularly value about yourself. It's just a reason to find different company.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** A song seems to understand you in a way that people cannot. That's the magic of music. You've been motivated, inspired and even healed by it, and you will be again.

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).**

The reason many people don't do the things they are capable of doing is because they have no idea what those things are. You'll apply your imagination and dare to envision more for yourself and others.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The answer is the work you do while trying to come up with the answer. The final number you put at the end of the equation, if you even put one there, is irrelevant.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Don't worry about the success of a friend. You may have to wait for it, but good friends will always return to help, inform or even carry their own. "To know the road ahead, ask those coming back." -- Chinese Proverb

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS SCORPIO**



(Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You feel that people learn who you are through context cues -- that they must be surprised of your family, friends, job and possessions to get you. Perhaps, although the soulful ones need only look in your eyes.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You don't need money to fix the problem. Nor do you require anything you don't already have access to. Your best resource will be your own resourcefulness.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** There are those who would rather you lie to them, and you'll have to give this one a fair amount of consideration. You may be able to tell the truth in a softer way or compassionately reframe the story to high-

light what's honest in it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** In time, each will claim their rightful karma, so there is no reason to teach anyone a lesson, get revenge, punish or reward. Too much of your attention is needed in your own business to bother with that stuff.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You'll be on the lucky side of a deal today, but that's not the sweet part. What's magnificent is that you really like, enjoy and celebrate what you get. So many ruin a good thing by looking for a better thing.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 17).** Recognizing need in yourself and others will be the superpower that opens up your options for making money, gaining influence and creating stellar relationships. You'll be accepted to an elite group. You'll make an investment in personal development. You'll see fruit from seeds you planted five years ago. Aries and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 27, 2, 28 and 46.

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis.com](http://HolidayMathis.com).

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**SUDOKU**

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: 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!

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

ANSWER:

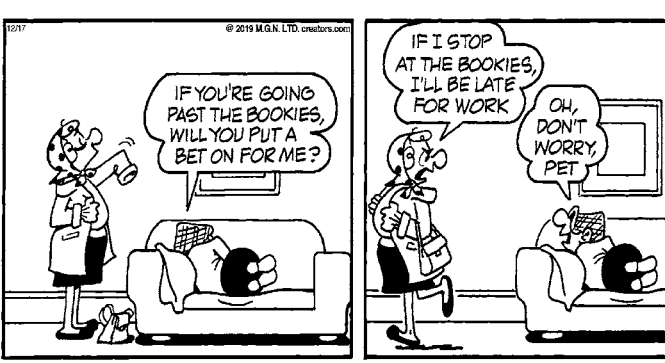
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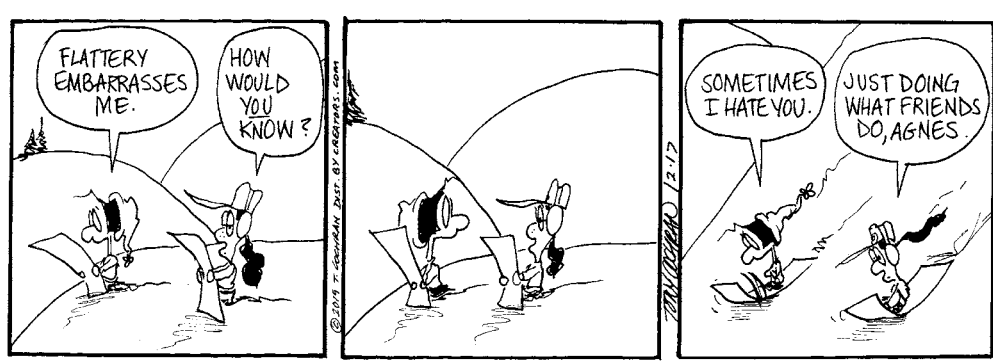
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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	All About	Focus	Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy	LUKE EVARIS (DVS)	SportsCenter	Daily Wager	Stars In.	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Moonshiners
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	Shofar	Business	Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy				Champion-ship	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Moonshiners
6:PM	News	Amor eterno	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso cerrado (SS)	News	Our Mess	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	The Elf	E:60	College Basketball: Florida vs Providence.	C'boys	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Moonshiners
6:30	Wheel		Big Bang	ET		News	Building		M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang			College Basketball: Purdue at Ohio.		Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Moonshiners
7:PM	Charlie Brown	Ringo	The Resident	NCIS (DVS)	El sultán (SS)	The Voice	News	The Ornament of the World	Andy G.	Dogs of the Year	Big Bang	Movie: The Wizard of Oz (DVS)	ESPN Docu.		College Basketball: Purdue at Ohio.	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Moonshiners
7:30	Olaf's Shrek	Rosa de Guadalupe	Empire (DVS)	FBI	Decisiones: unos	The Voice	Dr. Wil	Light of Southwest	Andy G.	Arrow	Big Bang		30 for 30	College Basketball: Purdue at Ohio.	Champion-ship	The Purge	Behind Bars	Moonshiners
8:PM	Conners	El dragón	FOX 24 News at 9	NCIS: New Orleans	El Señor de los		Light of Southwest	Frontline	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	(:15) Movie: Maleficent (DVS)				(:01) Treadstone	Behind Bars	Gold Rush WW
8:30	Bliss								Heroes	Seinfeld	Misery		SportsCenter	SportsCenter Spec.	Texas High School Football Classics	Law & Order: SVU	(:04) The First 48	(:01) Moonshiners
9:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	Creation	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	black-ish	Conan					(:05) The Purge	(:03) The First 48	Moonshiners
9:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Words of Freedom	The Ornament of the World	Perry Mason	black-ish	Misery							
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	Contacto	Mod Fam	Funny	James Corden	El Señor de los	Seth Meyers	Master On the	Twi. Zone	Gold	Conan	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter	Ariel Helwani's				
10:30	AM	Destilando amor	Two Men	Simpsons	Holly	Programa de los	Late-Lilly	American	Hitchock	Live PD	Jokers	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter	College Basketball	(12:05) Treadstone	Chicago P.D.	Behind Bars	Gold Rush WW
11:PM	Nightline	Deportivo							Hitchock	Live PD	Jokers	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter	Now/Nev.	30 for 30			
11:30	AM	Mel Robbins	Pawn	ET	Programa de los	De'siones	Inside Ed.		Mannix	Cops	Misery	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter					
12:PM	AM	Y mañana será	Pawn	ET	Programa de los	De'siones	Inside Ed.		Mannix	Cops	Misery	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter					
1:PM	AM	Paid Prg.	Pawn	ET	Programa de los	De'siones	Inside Ed.		Mannix	Cops	Misery	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter					

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



ARCHIE



ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

**Today in History**  
Today is Tuesday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 2019. There are 14 days left in the year.  
Today's Highlight in History:  
On Dec. 17, 1992, President George H.W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari (sah-LEE'-nuhs deh gohr-TAHR-ee) signed the North American Free Trade Agreement in separate ceremonies. (After President Donald Trump demanded a new deal, the three countries signed a replacement agreement in 2018; it awaits approval by lawmakers.)  
On this date:  
In 1777, France recognized American independence.  
In 1865, Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 8, known as the "Unfinished" because only two movements had been completed, was first performed publicly in Vienna 37 years after the composer's death.  
In 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful powered-airplane flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.  
In 1938, German chemists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann discovered nuclear fission by splitting the nuclei of uranium into lighter elements.  
In 1944, the U.S. War Department announced it was ending its policy of excluding people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.  
In 1969, the U.S. Air Force closed its Project "Blue Book" by concluding there was no evidence of extraterrestrial spacecrafts behind thousands of UFO sightings. An estimated 50 million TV viewers watched singer Tiny Tim marry his fiancée, Miss Vicki, on NBC's "Tonight Show."  
In 1975, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme was sentenced in Sacramento, Calif. to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford. (She was paroled in Aug. 2009.)  
In 1979, Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance executive, was fatally injured after leading police on a chase with his motorcycle in Miami. (Four white police officers accused of beating McDuffie were later acquitted, sparking riots.)  
In 1994, North Korea shot down a U.S. Army helicopter which had strayed north of the demilitarized zone. The co-pilot, Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon, was killed; the pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall, was captured and held for nearly two weeks.  
In 2000, President-elect George W. Bush named Stanford professor Condoleezza Rice his national security adviser and Alberto Gonzales to the White

House counsel's job, the same day Bush was named Time magazine's Person of the Year.  
In 2007, Iran received its first nuclear fuel from Russia, paving the way for the startup of its reactor.  
In 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il died after more than a decade of iron rule; he was 69, according to official records, but some reports indicated he was 70.  
Ten years ago: Large pieces of a climate deal fell into place on the next-to-last day of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry, 26, died a day after falling out of the back of a pickup truck in Charlotte, North Carolina. Academy Award-winning actress Jennifer Jones, 90, died in Malibu, California.  
Five years ago: The United States and Cuba restored diplomatic relations, sweeping away one of the last vestiges of the Cold War. Sony Pictures canceled the Dec. 25 release of "The Interview," a black comedy about a plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, after hackers threatened terrorist attacks and the largest multiplex chains in North America pulled the film. Veteran broadcast journalist Richard C. Hottelet, 97, the last of the original "Murrow's Boys," died in Wilton, Connecticut.  
One year ago: Actress and director Penny Marshall, who starred in the sitcom "Laverne & Shirley" before directing film comedies such as "Big" and "A League of Their Own," died in her Los Angeles home at the age of 75 due to complications from diabetes. CBS announced that former CEO Les Moonves would not receive his \$120 million severance package after the board of directors found he had violated company policy and was uncooperative with an investigation of sexual misconduct allegations. A report from the Senate intelligence committee found that Russia's political disinformation campaign on U.S. social media was more far-reaching than originally thought, with troll farms working to discourage black voters and "blur the lines between reality and fiction" to help elect Donald Trump. Google announced that it would build a new office complex in New York City, in the tech industry's latest major expansion beyond the Seattle-San Francisco corridor.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ar-

Answer to previous puzzle

B	A	D	E	R	S	M	A	S	H	P	E	A
E	L	A	T	E	M	A	L	T	A	U	R	N
S	L	I	T	S	E	L	L	I	S	N	O	T
T	A	L	E	T	E	L	L	E	R	S	C	D
S	H	Y	U	R	L	N	E	I	L	H	E	V
S	P	R	A	T	N	E	I	L	H	E	V	
P	O	P	E	O	R	E	S	N	I	P	S	
B	R	O	W	R	A	P	I	D	K	N	I	T
S	A	L	E	M	T	I	D	E	E	N	V	
E	R	I	C	D	E	F	E	R				
M	T	V	D	U	B	S	O	X	T	E	E	
Y	E	A	W	R	I	S	T	G	U	A	R	D
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S	A	T	T	E	N	T	S	D	Y	E	R	S

min Mueller-Stahl is 89. Pope Francis is 83. Singer-actor Tom-azee Steele is 83. Actor Bernard Hill is 75. Actor Ernie Hudson is 74. Political commentator Chris Matthews is 74. Comedian-actor Eugene Levy is 73. Actress Marilyn Hassett is 72. Actor Wes Studi is 72. Pop musician Jim Bonfanti (The Raspberries) is 71. Actor Joel Brooks is 70. Rock singer Paul Rodgers is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanda Hutchinson Vaughn (The

Emotions) is 68. Actor Bill Pullman is 66. Actor Barry Livingston is 66. Country singer Sharon White is 66. Producer-director-writer Peter Farrelly is 63. Rock musician Mike Mills (R.E.M.) is 61. Pop singer Sarah Dallon (Bananarama) is 58. Country musician Tim Cheurning is 57. Country singer Tracy Byrd is 53. Country musician Duane Propes is 53. Actress Laurie Holden is 50. DJ Homicide (Sugar Ray) is 49. Actor Sean

Patrick Thomas is 49. Actress Claire Forlani is 48. Pop-rock musician Eddie Fisher (OneRepublic) is 46. Actress Sarah Paulson is 45. Actress Marissa Ribisi is 45. Actor Giovanni Ribisi is 45. Actress Milla Jovovich (YO'-vuh-vich) is 44. Singer Bree Sharp is 44. Singer-songwriter Ben Goldwasser (MGMT) is 37. Rock singer Mikky Ekko is 36. Actress Shannon Woodward is 35. Actress Emma Bell is 33. Actress Vanessa Zima is

33. Rock musician Taylor York (Paramore) is 30. Actor Graham Rogers is 29. Actor-singer Nat Wolff is 25.  
**Thought for Today:** "A life of leisure and a life of laziness are two things." — "Poor Richard's Almanack."

Newsday Crossword

SCI-FI STAPLES by Billie Truitt  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- |                                      |                          |                                   |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                        | <b>DOWN</b>              |                                   |  |
| 1 Line of stitching                  | 1 Egotist's priority     | 11 Uses a sofa                    | 42 West Point mascot                   |
| 5 Graph paper pattern                | 2 "Green" sci.           | 12 "___ you kidding?"             | 43 Dig out                             |
| 9 Twangy, as a voice                 | 3 Sailor's greeting      | 13 ___ Misérables                 | 48 Wide shoe width                     |
| 14 Rebound, as sound                 | 4 Decorator's theme      | 21 Vote down, informally          | 50 Shade of color                      |
| 15 German car brand                  | 5 Backyard cooker        | 22 Scratching post user           | 53 Walk proudly                        |
| 16 In flames                         | 6 Has regrets about      | 25 Wanderer                       | 55 Tumbler or goblet                   |
| 17 Robber's haul                     | 7 Creative thought       | 26 British singer of "Skyfall"    | 56 Spanish appetizer                   |
| 18 Bird feeder supply                | 8 Adorned lavishly       | 27 Gossipy person                 | 57 "___ first you don't succeed . . ." |
| 19 Husbands or wives                 | 9 Mention one's VIP pals | 29 Slight amount                  | 58 City near Lake Tahoe                |
| 20 Spacecrafts from other worlds     | 10 Miles away            | 30 Not at all skillful            | 59 Very slightly                       |
| 23 Tree with cones                   |                          | 32 Actor McGregor                 | 60 Waffle cooker                       |
| 24 Tablet of paper                   |                          | 33 Some female singers            | 61 Ship of 1492                        |
| 25 "All opposed" reply               |                          | 34 Little laugh                   | 62 Startled sound                      |
| 28 13, in Roman numerals             |                          | 35 Fashion sense                  | 63 Resort with saunas                  |
| 31 Pays for everyone's lunch         |                          | 37 One of 50 on the American flag | 64 Catch, as a crook                   |
| 36 Poems of praise                   |                          | 39 Unrestrained delight           |  |
| 38 Yearn (for)                       |                          |                                   |  |
| 40 Little hooter                     |                          |                                   |  |
| 41 Mind reading                      |                          |                                   |  |
| 44 Site for wedding vows             |                          |                                   |  |
| 45 Acme                              |                          |                                   |  |
| 46 Christmas carol                   |                          |                                   |  |
| 47 "My goodness!" for short          |                          |                                   |  |
| 51 Have a glance at                  |                          |                                   |  |
| 52 "You bet!"                        |                          |                                   |  |
| 54 Eighth mo.                        |                          |                                   |  |
| 56 Journeying to the past and future |                          |                                   |  |
| 63 Messed-up situation               |                          |                                   |  |
| 65 Singer McEntire                   |                          |                                   |  |
| 66 Opera solo                        |                          |                                   |  |
| 67 Of a Vatican leader               |                          |                                   |  |

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# Brees sets NFL all-time TD mark as Saints crush Colts 34-7

By **BRETT MARTEL**

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Drew Brees trotted along the sideline holding his helmet and a Hall of Fame-bound ball in his left hand while using his right hand to wave and blow kisses to an adoring Superdome crowd.

Another milestone, another memory, for an undersized and once underestimated player who has broken just about every significant record a quarterback can break — and doesn't look anywhere near done at age 40.

Brees became the NFL's all-time leader in touchdown passes, throwing for four scores to lead the New Orleans Saints to a 34-7 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Monday night.

"It was special, everything about the night," Brees said. "It just kind of makes your whole life and career flash before your eyes, because I never thought I'd have a chance to be part of something like this."

The scoring strike that broke Peyton Manning's record of 539 career touchdown passes came in the third quarter, when Brees hit tight end Josh Hill for a 5-yard score. Brees' next pass in the game was the 541st scoring toss of his career, a 28-yarder to reserve QB and utility player Taysom Hill that put the Saints up 34-0.

"He's done that to a lot of defenses," Colts coach Frank Reich said. "When he gets like that, I don't know that anybody can stop him."

Now in his 19th season, the 6-foot Brees — a 2001 second-round draft choice — came into the game already holding NFL records for completions with 6,792 and yards passing with 72,577. He built on those numbers while also setting a record for completion percentage in a game. He completed 29 of 30 passes — 96.7% — for 307 yards before being relieved by Teddy Bridgewater in the fourth quarter. That broke the mark Philip Rivers had held since completing 28 of 29 (96.6%) against Arizona last season.

"He had a hot hand, obviously," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "Guys were making plays, but that's

awfully difficult to do."

The victory kept the Saints (11-3), who'd already won the NFC South, in the running with Seattle (11-3), San Francisco (11-3) and Green Bay (11-3) for one of the top two seeds in the NFC playoffs.

"There's a lot at stake right now relative to these games when you look at the top of the NFC," Payton said. "It's about winning and winning and winning and trying to give yourself the best chance in the postseason."

The Colts (6-8) were eliminated from playoff contention after losing their fourth straight and sixth out of seven.

They were also left struggled to explain their lack of competitiveness in a game they needed to win.

"I wish I knew all the answers," Colts linebacker Darius Leonard said. "I hate losing more than I love winning."

Jacoby Brissett struggled at times with accuracy and finished 18 of 34 for 165 yards against a Saints defense looking for redemption after allowing 48 points in a loss to the 49ers a week earlier.

Meanwhile, Colts defenders had no answer for Michael Thomas, who caught 12 passes for 128 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown. Thomas' eighth game this season with at least 10 catches give him 133 for the season, which is also the fourth-highest single-season total in NFL history.

With four more catches, Thomas will pass Antonio Brown and Julio Jones for second most in a season. He needs 11 to eclipse Marvin Harrison's record of 143 from 2002.

Tre'Quan Smith caught a 21-yard touchdown pass for New Orleans.

Jordan Wilkins scored the Colts' lone TD on a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter.

### FLUID RECORD

While Brees holds the career touchdown pass record for now, the Patriots' Tom Brady is only three behind at 538.

"It's a fluid record," Payton said. "There's still another quarterback in New England, so that will go back and forth as long as those two are playing."

The next-closest active player is Rivers with 395. Brees wasn't about to underestimate Brady's ability to keep pace.

"He's such a stud. He's got a lot of rings and records," Brees said of Brady. "He's awesome."

### HAILING HILL

Brees said the ball with which he threw his record-breaking TD would go to the Pro Football Hall of Fame and also sounded particularly pleased by who caught it.

"I love the fact it was Josh Hill," Brees said, noting that Hill made the team as an undrafted rookie in 2013 and has been reliable both on offense and special teams ever since.

"The epitome of a great teammate, kind of an unsung hero," Brees said. "He's done an unbelievable job. I have so much trust and confidence in him."

### INJURIES

Colts: Reserve safety Rolan Milligan left the game with a foot injury in the first half. Cornerback Quincy Wilson left with a shoulder injury.

Saints: Right guard Larry Warford needed help to the sideline with a left knee injury early in the third quarter. Defensive back C.J. Gardner Johnson left the game with a concussion in the fourth quarter.

### UP NEXT

Colts: Host Carolina on Sunday.

Saints: Visit Tennessee on Sunday.

# Bucks' 18-game winning streak ends with 120-116 loss to Mavs

By **JIM HOEHN**

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Bucks have little time to reflect on the end of their 18-game winning streak.

Milwaukee's impressive run was halted Monday night when Seth Curry and Kristaps Porzingis each scored 26 points to help the Dallas Mavericks hang on for a 120-116 victory even without

star guard Luka Don i .

Milwaukee, which dropped to 24-4 with its first loss since a 103-100 setback Nov. 8 at Utah, next hosts LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers (24-3) on Thursday in a matchup of conference leaders.

"It's going to be a test for us," said Giannis Antetokounmpo, who led the Bucks with 48 points and 14 rebounds. "The Lakers

are one of the best teams in the league. We've got to play good basketball. We've got to move the ball. Obviously as a team, we don't want to lose two in a row."

The winning streak was the Bucks' longest since a franchise-record 20 consecutive victories by the 1970-71 championship team that featured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, then known as Lew Alcindor, and Oscar Robertson.


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KING SET.....	\$897
<b>Plush ..</b>	
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QUEEN SET.....	\$247
KING SET.....	\$277
<b>Pillowtop</b>	
TWIN SET.....	\$247
FULL SET.....	\$297
QUEEN SET.....	\$347
KING SET.....	\$497
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