

Obituaries

Kerry Lynn O'Brien Peters



Kerry Lynn O'Brien Peters passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, Nov. 29, 2018, after a long battle with liver disease. A memorial service will be at Lakeside Baptist Church, in Granbury, TX, on December 13th at 11 a.m. A reception will follow. Kerry was born on March 2, 1947, to Bledsoe and La Homa Brown O'Brien, in Big Spring, Texas. She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1965. Kerry was very proud to have been a nurse assistant in the OB/GYN field in San Angelo

and Lubbock. She married her high school sweetheart, Rick, in September of 1997. They moved from Lubbock to Granbury in May of 2013. Kerry is survived by her adoring husband, Rick, and children Dana Esposito (Pete), James Bates (Stacey), Neiman Rittenhouse (Adam). Her loving stepchildren James Peters (Kristi), Robert Peters and Laura Gale (Alex), and sister Deanna O'Brien Stotts (Dennis). Along with her eleven grandchildren, two aunts, four cousins and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and infant brother, Michael. Her family was her life and she loved everyone of them "the most".

Paid Obituary

Deborah Allen

Deborah Allen, 60, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 24, 2018. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Holly McSwain



Holly McSwain, 65, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018. Memorial service was at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Holly was born April 14, 1953, in Snyder. She married Mike on March 28, 1970. She worked for Nurses Unlimited for 23 years. She liked genealogy, dancing with Mike and doting over her grandchildren.

Holly is survived by two daughters, Kerry McSwain of Midland and Kris Thomason and her husband Jeff of Tulsa, Oklahoma; one son, Scott McSwain and his wife Stephanie of Midland; two brothers, Toby Green and his wife Debbie of Big Spring and Chris Green of Jean, Texas; two sisters, Toni Moore of Jean, Texas, and Elaine Brewer of Graham, and four grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Police, Sheriff Reports

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **BRYAN LONNIE CHAVEZ**, 29, of 1022 Ridgeroad Dr., was arrested by BSPD on charge possession controlled substance less than one gram.
- **SAM JESSIE CHARLES JOHNSON**, 32, of 1404 E 14th, was arrested by BSPD on warrants of no driver's license when unlicensed, and failure to maintain financial responsibility, violate promise to appear, and parole violation.
- **BOBBY JOE HUTCHESON**, 35, of 417 Westover Rd., was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of unauthorized use of vehicle.
- **FIDEL MARTINEZ JR.**, 43, of 1610 Bluebird, was arrested by BSPD on warrant sex offenders duty to register, and driving while license invalid.
- **ANTHONY PAUL MUNOZ**, 60, 0 transient, was arrested by

BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **FOLLOW UP REPORT** was reported in the 3300 block of E I 20, and in the 2300 block W Hwy 80.
- **BURLGARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 2700 block of Carol Dr.
- **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported on 4th and Birdwell.
- **RUNAWAY** was reported in the 1300 block of Lindbergh St.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3600 block of W Hwy 80.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 900 block of Willia St.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 1400 block of Oriole St.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 499 block of E 14th St.

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 63 inmates at the time of this report.

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Take Note

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

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

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

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for new members. If you have a heart for serving people, have at least four hours a week to spare, SMMC Auxiliary might be the fit for you. Duties include working in the gift shop, delivering newspapers to inpatients, hospitality services, popcorn and more.

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

• The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys

and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

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

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

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

• Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will

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

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

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

• 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.

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GOP and Democrats trade blame for shutdown, no deal in sight

By JULIET LINDERMAN, LISA MASCARO and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The partial government shutdown will almost certainly be handed off to a divided government to solve in the new year, as both parties traded blame Friday and President Donald Trump sought to raise the stakes in the weeklong impasse.

As agreement eludes Washington in the waning days of the Republican monopoly on power, it sets up the first big confrontation between Trump and newly empowered Democrats. Trump is sticking with his demand for money to build a border wall with Mexico, and Democrats, who take control of the House on Jan. 3, are refusing to give him what he wants.

Trump raised the stakes on Friday, reissuing threats to shut the U.S.-Mexico border to pressure Congress to fund the wall and to cease aid to three Central American countries from which many migrants have fled.

The president also signaled he was in no rush to seek a resolution, welcoming the fight as he heads toward his own bid for re-election in 2020. He tweeted Thursday evening that Democrats may be able to block him now, "but we have the issue, Border Security. 2020!"

The shutdown is forcing hundreds

of thousands of federal workers and contractors to stay home or work without pay, and many are experiencing mounting stress from the impasse. It also is beginning to pinch citizens who count on varied public services. Gates are closed at some national parks, the government won't issue new federal flood insurance policies and in New York, the chief judge of Manhattan federal courts suspended work on civil cases involving U.S. government lawyers, including several civil lawsuits in which Trump himself is a defendant.

With another long holiday weekend coming and nearly all lawmakers away from the Capitol there is little expectation of a quick fix.

"We are far apart," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders told CBS on Friday, claiming of Democrats, "They've left the table all together."

Incoming acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said Democrats are no longer negotiating with the administration over an offer made back on Saturday to accept less than the \$5 billion Trump wants for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Democrats said the White House offered \$2.5 billion for border security, but that Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer told Vice President Mike Pence it wasn't acceptable.

"There's not a single Democrat talking to the president of the

United States about this deal," Mulvaney said Friday. He told Fox News that Trump had canceled his plans to travel to Florida for New Year's.

Mulvaney added of the shutdown: "We do expect this to go on for a while." Democrats brushed off the White House's attempt to cast blame.

"For the White House to try and blame anyone but the president for this shutdown doesn't pass the laugh test," said Justin Goodman, a spokesman for Schumer.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi has vowed to pass legislation as soon as she takes the gavel, which is expected when the new Congress convenes, to reopen the nine shuttered departments and dozens of agencies now hit by the partial shutdown.

"If they can't do it before Jan. 3, then we will do it," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., incoming chairman of the Rules Committee. "We're going to do the responsible thing. We're going to behave like adults and do our job."

But even that may be difficult without a compromise because the Senate will remain in Republican hands and Trump's signature will be needed to turn any bill into law. Negotiations continue between Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill, but there's only so much Congress can do without the president.

Trump is not budging, having panned Democratic offers to keep money at current levels — \$1.3 billion

for border fencing, but not the wall. Senate Republicans approved that compromise in an earlier bill with Democrats but now say they won't be voting on any more unless something is agreed to by all sides, including Trump.

"I think it's obvious that until the president decides he can sign something — or something is presented to him — that we are where we are," said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., who opened the Senate on Thursday for a session that only lasted minutes.

"Call it anything," he added, "barrier, fence, I won't say the 'w' word."

Trump long promised that Mexico would pay for the wall, but Mexico refuses to do so. It was unclear how Trump's threat to close the border would affect his efforts to ratify an amended North American free trade pact.

He has also repeatedly threatened to cut off U.S. aid to countries he deems insufficient partners in combating illegal immigration, but has thus far failed to follow through with those threats. Experts have warned that cutting off aid money to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras could actually exacerbate the problem by worsening the poverty and violence that push many migrants to leave those countries.

And it is Congress, not the president, which appropriates aid money. The White House would have to notify

Congress if it wanted to cut or reallocate aid, which could delay or complicate the process.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1

older siblings come, and everyone is welcomed to attend."

The library has a children's book collection which includes picture books, board books, juvenile easy readers, non-fiction, fiction, bilingual Spanish-English books, biographies and some audio books. There are also DVD's that include Disney movies, Peppa Pig and educational shows. The library also has four computers (without internet connection) dedicated to educational games for kids ranging in age from toddlers to middle-school students.

For the older kids, the library sponsors a summer reading program from June to August. The theme for the 2019 Summer Reading Program is "A Universe of Stories". Suggested books will be about space, astronomy, and such and will include both fiction and non-fiction choices. This program is open to toddlers up to sixth graders. The program offers stories, activities, games and crafts. Registration for this program will begin in May.

These programs are free to all who attend. For more information on any of these programs, please visit the Howard County Library at 500 South Main Street. You can also call them at 264-2260, visit their website at <http://howard-county.ploud.net>, or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HowardCoLibrary.

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

WTC

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"We hope to become a hub for veterans in this region. There are many resources out there, and we can help connect veterans, their families, and the community to those resources," said Frank Garza, Veterans Liaison Officer for WTC.

BATTLE

Continued from Page 1

"off the top of the dome" (dome being slang for head) is a critical skill to winning these contests. Freestyle is always a style of improvisation with or without instrumental beats.

"There will be 5 judges, so whoever gets the most votes will win," said CJ. "The battles will consist of two, 1-minute rounds with a beat and two, 1-minute rounds with no beat."

Also according to CJ, the freestyle rap battle at the Desert Flower Art Bar will also feature performances from local artists in between battle rounds and door prizes that anybody at the show has a chance to win.

"I got a great opportunity to be a part of the start of a new era," said CJ. "This is a form of art, forming thoughts into words at the drop of a dime. Freestyle and rapping is one of the elements of hip-hop as well as the distinguishing feature of most hip hop music, and music is art."

Get ready for a fun, fast-paced night consisting of battles, performances and door prizes.

For additional questions regarding the event and ticket information, please contact DJ CJ Pimp at 432-213-7304. The Desert Flower Art Bar is located at 123 S Main St. in downtown Big Spring.

any way, or for additional information about the 2019 Relay for Life Planning Meeting, please call 432-683-6375.

RELAY

Continued from Page 1

meeting, we will go over different on-goings we'll have for the year including the different fundraisers we put on during the year such as, 'Bling your Bra,' and 'Pink out,' and of course the big Relay For Life event, which is just four short months away."

Escamilla also stated that everyone who attends will be entered to win a drawing for some "relay swag."

"We need need help planning the 2019 Relay For Life event and for

more people to join in. We need to bring this event back to it's former glory, and we can't do it without volunteers," said Escamilla. "It's so sad that this event used to be HUGE. It generated \$200,000 for the Relay for Life, had thousands of walkers, and last year we generated only \$89,000 and had much less walkers."

As the largest voluntary health organization in the United States, the American Cancer Society is passionately committed to saving lives from cancer, but there must be volunteers to make it happen.

"I think what's happening is the older generations are having to step down and nobody is stepping up," said Escamilla. "Volunteers give their time and effort because they believe it's time to take action against cancer."

Please join and consider helping us attack cancer from every angle. Let's get our communities joined together to fight cancer. We will win the battle one day. Stay well... Get well... Find cures... FIGHT BACK!!!"

For more information on how you can be a volunteer or contribute in

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Psalm 91: 14-16


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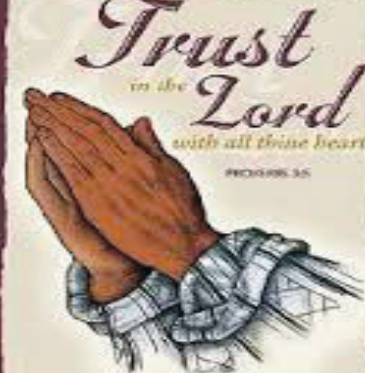
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(Psalm 103:11)

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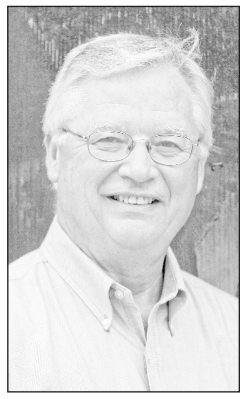


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Reflections: Imagine a New Year

If this New Year's Celebration at Times Square follows the pattern set since 2005, just before the ball drops and we turn or calendars forward, someone will sing John Lennon's classic song, Imagine. It is a good thing to close out the past and look to the future by imagining the world as it could be.



BILL TINSLEY

John Lennon sat down at his piano in Berkshire, England one morning in early 1971 and composed the song that became his most popular single. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation named it the greatest

song of the last 100 years. Australians chose "Imagine" as the greatest song of all time. But for many of us, there is a greater vision of how the world could be.

Every time we quote the Lord's Prayer we are invited to imagine the world as it is meant to be. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven ...". What would the world look like if that prayer were answered? How would the world differ from the world we know?

If God's will were done on earth, there would be no more crime. Theft, violence and murder would end. Prisons would empty. Neighbor would no longer sue neighbor. Court dockets would clear.

Employers would forego extravagant profits in order to pay higher

wages to their workers. No child would go to bed hungry or unsheltered. Those who possess the food and resources of the world would share with those who have none.

Corruption, graft and greed would disappear. Wars would cease. Politicians would serve the best interest of others with honesty and integrity. Fairness, kindness, forgiveness and generosity would prevail.

Husbands would love their wives seeking what is best for them and striving to please them. Wives would love and respect their husbands, building them up and encouraging them. Children would honor their parents and obey them, trusting them in the knowledge that they want what is best for them.

Racial, cultural and sexual prejudices would vanish. Discrimination would disappear. Every human being would treat every other human being

with respect. The strong would help the weak.

None of us are in the position to effect such a whole scale change for the world in which we live. But we are each able to change our little corner of the world. We can put into practice the answer to the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. His Kingdom can come and His will can be done in us and through us.

In 2019 we can be a part of the answer to the prayer that has been prayed for more than 2,000 years. What if His kingdom were to come and His will was done on earth as it is in Heaven? Just imagine!

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. Visit www.tinsleycenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com

Church News

First Baptist Church

"...But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13b-14.

Come together with the family of First Baptist Church Sunday morning at 10:50 as they rejoice in God and thank Him for His unfailing love, strength, and goodness. Music Minister Alan Schantz will lead worshippers in a selection of seasonal songs of the faith, and contemporary praise and worship music.

The morning's message will be brought from Scripture by David Spence. If you need assistance accessing the sanctuary due to mobility issues, use the west circle drive, and someone will be glad to assist you inside and park your vehicle. If unable to attend, you may join the service through the live stream on the church website at: fbcbigspring.org. (Click on 'MORE' tab, then 'sermons').

This Sunday, December 30, Sunday school classes will not meet, and there will be no evening activities. Mother's Day Out is closed for the Christmas holidays, and will reopen after the new year. There are no Wednesday evening activities January 2, and the church office will be closed New Year's Day. FBC is looking for a secretary/receptionist to work in the church office. If you are interested in applying, or know someone who might be interested, please call the church at 267-8223, or see Pastor Mark for more information. To find out more about what's happening at FBC, go to the website: fbcbigspring.org or call 267-8223. FBC is located at 705 W FM 700. There is always a place for you at First Baptist Church. "...may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, ...guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7 Merry Christmas, and FBC wishes you a tremendously blessed 2019...Happy New Year!

Blessed Hands Deaf Church

Pastor Jim Walterhouse invites you to join the people of Blessed Hands Deaf Church Sunday at 2 p.m. as they come together in worship and praise of our Risen Savior Jesus Christ, and receive a message from God's Word. Currently, BHDC meets inside First Baptist Church at 705 W FM 700. For detailed information about Blessed Hands Deaf Church, including Wednesday night schedule and activities, contact Pastor Jim at: jwalterhouse@gmail.com.

Spring Creek Fellowship

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! KID CONNECT/GOSPEL PROJECT FOR KIDS Sunday, December 30, 2018, MOSES WAS BORN AND CALLED, Exodus 1-4. Lesson point: God called Moses to deliver His people from captivity.

All men are invited to the weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. at Evita's Restaurant in the mall. Please join us!

The Pain Management Class meets Tuesdays at 6 p.m. If you have chronic pain and would like to learn how to manage it, please attend this class. It meets in Room 4 of the Adult Connections Classrooms in the Mall.

lies in need for the holidays. Just \$5 will help! Contact Kay Elder for more information.

Volunteers are needed for "Our Daily Bread" Food Pantry to unload trucks on Wednesdays before they are open on the weekend. Hours are on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. If you are in need of food, please come see us! We are in the mall. Go in the door where the movie theater is located and we are in the first spot on the left! If you are interested in volunteering with the "Blessing Box" ministry or the "Our Daily Bread Food Pantry" ministry, please contact Kay Elder.

Children's Church is a great place for your child to learn and play while you enjoy Worship! We are excited about this new ministry for children ages K through 4th grade! We will be building on our Kid Connect lessons. Please bring your children for the fun and learning!

The Taylor School of Ministry is now in session. This session will address "How to Study the Bible." If you are interested, please contact Derrick Looney or the church office.

Our Van Ministry is growing and needs licensed drivers to help pick up those that need a ride to church. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, contact the church office.

Donations are needed for our Blessing Box placed outside in front of the church. This ministry is separate from "Our Daily Bread" and is supported completely by donations of nonperishable foods. Please consider donating nonperishable food items on a regular basis if you are able! Everyone is welcome to take what they need and donations are greatly appreciated.

"People Caring for People" is a ministry serving widows in our area with small projects and "honey do" kinds of things. This ministry has no operating budget, so repairs are made with donations. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, either in a "hands on" way or by donation, please contact the church office.

Our Nursery needs workers on Sunday mornings. If you have a heart for children and would like to give some of your time loving on our smallest members, please contact Lauren Bratcher.

We have an "App" for your convenience. It is easy to work with and has many applications. Go to your App Store, search for "The Church App" and download. Then search for "Spring Creek Fellowship Texas." That should take you to our Home Page.

Weekly Happenings:
Sunday-9:15-10:15 a.m.-Sunday School/Connection Groups
10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.-"Holy Grounds Café" is open with coffee, drinks and fellowship.
10:45 a.m.-noon-Worship Service
10:45 a.m.-noon Children's Church
5 p.m. Prayer Meeting
Tuesday-6 p.m.- Pain Management Class-Room 4
7 p.m.-Women's Bible Study-Beautiful Outlaw Wednesday-Community Groups-various times and places Thursday
7 p.m.-Men's Bible Study-Kingdom Disciples Saturday
7:30 a.m.-Men's Prayer Breakfast. Breakfast at Evita's Restaurant in the mall and prayer at the church.



Bridge service at 11 a.m., which features contemporary music led by a wonderful praise team.

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

On Sunday December 30 only one worship service will be held, at 11:00 am. Pastor Derrell's message, "Celebrating the Messiah", is from Luke 2:21-33. Several Christmas Carols will be sung in the service. Worship services are broadcast live each Sunday at 11 a.m. on radio station KXCS-105.5 FM. You can also find the service live streamed on our Facebook page at First United Methodist Church Big Spring. You can watch previous worship service videos on that Facebook page including recordings of our Christmas program, "Our Savior."

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

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

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

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

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

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

There is a new sisterhood for widows in our community. This group is called "PUP" which stands for "Picking Up Pieces." All widows in Big Spring and the surrounding areas are welcome! Meetings will be held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served. We would love to see you there! For address or more info, please contact the church office.

"Our Daily Bread" Food Pantry is taking donations to sponsor turkeys and hams to give to fami-

The Power Of Believing

"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." John 6:28-29



TOM SLOAN

Under the Old Testament Law, people had to work their fingers to the bone to be obedient to God's commands. And they had to do this under the threat of death. But we see that Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to all who believe. Believing on Christ is so powerful, that God takes it as a work – the only work that He accepts and validates. Believing on Christ is so powerful, that Paul says – now to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Why is believing on Christ so powerful? Because on the cross, Christ said: "It is finished". This means that there is no more work for us to do in our justification, sanctification and blessing. "It is finished" means that, He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Believing is so powerful because all is grace. And all is grace because Christ is all-sufficient. And He is all-sufficient because He fills all in all.

This believing is not trusting that God will somehow give us the strength to be good enough to gain His favor. Nor is it the power to keep the ten commandments. This believing is resting in the fact that God offers to us all things freely in Christ Jesus and that we can never lose these gifts.

There is nothing good we can do to gain God's favor, and nothing bad to lose it. Why? Because believing on Christ is the only work that impresses Him.

Can you believe this?

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

First Presbyterian Church

On Wednesday the Lectionary Bible Study, led by Taylor Todd, meets at 5 p.m. in the church library. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday at 6 p.m. The past week there was no study or choir rehearsal, but the regular schedule will resume January 2.

The monthly Saturday Breakfast is set for 8 a.m. on Dec. 29 in Fellowship Hall. Marj Carpenter is the speaker for this month. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend.

Session members, both returning and newly-elected, are reminded to put Friday evening and Saturday, January 25 and 26, on their calendars for Elder Training sessions. New officers will be installed on Sunday, January 27. Session members are also reminded to come to the next Session meeting with suggestions for people to serve on a search committee for an organist/choir director.

Ellen Austin will provide refreshments for Take Ten this week. Lector is Buddy Cochrane. Ushers last Sunday were Louise Hitch, Susan McDaniel,

Rip and Claudie Patterson. Last Sunday, Lynn and Helen Glass lit the fourth Advent candle during worship.

The lectionary passages for the First Sunday after Christmas are I Samuel 2:18-20; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52. Rev. Taylor Todd will deliver the sermon. The Chancel Choir opens the service musically with the Introit, "Good Christians Friends, Rejoice." The choir will present "In the Bleak Midwinter" for the offertory. The Noisy Offering will be collected during the Children's Moment. Everyone is asked to stay for a few minutes after worship to help take down the Christmas decorations. Anyone who furnished a poinsettia and has not taken it home is asked to retrieve it.

Please note that our worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. for announcements and parish concerns before our radio broadcast starts at 11.

If you cannot attend worship, you may listen in on KBST 1490 AM, beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, please call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website www.fpcbs.org. Please Like us on Facebook.

College Baptist Church

As we move passed the holiday season and into the New Year of 2019, God continues to allow us to be on the move at College Baptist Church with Him, and we would love to meet with you as our visitors and friends on the corner of 11th Place and Birdwell Lane.

This Sunday Morning at 9:15 we have Sunday School for all ages, at 10:45 for Worship. Bro, Ken McMeans will be bringing us the Word from the Word of God. Don't forget your part in the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Sunday Evening at 6 p.m. we have Bible Study. Our service Wednesday, King's Kids, Wee singers, and prayer and Bible study for Youth and Adults all meet at 7 p.m. Please remember that Jesus is the reason for ANY season.

Remember to SAVE THE DATE event on February 23rd and 24th. We are planning a College Baptist Church reunion. All former members are welcome to attend this community event. Please continue in prayer so we can reach our "Jerusalem" and beyond for Jesus.

As a church we are involved in many ministries

Are you worth your salt?

By Dr. Lillian Bohannon

As young people, we spent our time doing things that some people will remember for the rest of our lives. We sowed so many wild oats that the crops we produced were nothing but weeds from those seeds. If we have any regrets, it's probably that we finally woke up to the fact that our lives were not producing anything productive but our own selfish desires.

So the next twenty-five or so years are spent in trying to clean up the mess we made in our youth. Some get married. Some try to raise the children they have to be descent human beings. Some try to make up for the wrongs of their youth by helping other youth avoid the same mistakes. But some don't get it and end up doing the same things the rest of their lives.

Finally the next twenty-five or so years are spent in staying on track and doing those things that made people forget what kind of youth we were. Sometime that works until we go visit home folks—like at Thanksgiving or Christmas. Then some of the oldest folks ask questions like, "Are you that little brat that tied my cat's tail to the fence?" Or, "Aren't you part of that family who were drunk all the time?" "Didn't your daddy rob that bank?" and so on the questions go.

I think that's why Jesus said in His

Word that a prophet is without honor in his own country. His hometown of Nazareth knew about His mother's having a supposed affair—and His earthly dad as a lowly carpenter. And all the other rumors about His hanging out with sinners and tax collectors. They rejected His claim to being God's only begotten Son.

He also said in Luke 14, "Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour wherewith shall it be seasoned?" Salt is for preservation. If it has lost its saltiness or usefulness, it is good for nothing but to be thrown in the trash heap of life.

Jesus is the only One who can make us fit for His Kingdom. He loves us enough to clean up our lives when we trust Him to do so. He gives us abundant life here on earth, and everlasting life with Him in His Kingdom.

So this new year is a great time to begin on the plans He has for us. New resolutions don't work. But a commitment to Him does. Be worth your salt by living the life abundantly He has planned for you. He will even show you what that is, if you will take the time to ask Him.



LILLIAN BOHANNAN



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Spring Tabernacle Ministries

After having had our doors closed for two years First Tabernacle Ministries are reopening the Church Jan. 6, 2019, at 10 a.m. for our first Sunday morning service.

The Lord has put it in our hearts and by His leading is what we want to do.

First Tabernacle Ministries is located at 1209 Wright St. For more information call 432-263-0544.

LUKE 7:47

"47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."



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Core values: Religion, family and culture

Ruben Cantu

Sandra Hernandez, San Felipe Del Rio CISD's administrative director, holds her childhood memory of walking in an annual posada close to her heart.

Hernandez recalls participating in the Mexican tradition, which emulates Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay.

"With candles in hand, we sang songs, weaved in and out of doorways and in the end, welcomed Mary and Joseph into our grandmother's home," Hernandez said. Her "abuelita" spearheaded the posada each year, gathering their family, neighbors and her catechism students.

The children were rewarded with a piñata after the posada ended, Hernandez said. She remembers anxiously waiting her turn to hit the brightly decorated star-shaped piñata, which her grandmother and mom stuffed with fragrant, delicious Mexican candy, she said.

"I can also remember that whether you were the first or last child to take a crack at the piñata, there would always be a small paper bag filled with "dulces tipicos," traditional candy, sugar cane and a juicy orange, waiting for you," Hernandez said. This recollection, Hernandez said, reflects what she considers the most significant factors of Christmas: religion, family and culture.

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Brewer helps Baylor beat Vanderbilt 45-38 in Texas Bowl

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Before Baylor faced Vanderbilt in the Texas Bowl on Thursday night, coach Matt Rhule asked his players to think about where they were a year ago after the team finished 1-11.

After taking a moment to reflect on that, the Bears returned their focus to the game and finished an impressive turnaround with a huge performance from quarterback Charlie Brewer in a 45-38 win. Brewer threw for 384 yards and two touchdowns, the second a tiebreaking 52-yarder in the fourth quarter, and ran for 109 yards and another score.

Brewer, who was selected MVP, connected with Marques Jones for the 52-yard stroke that made it 45-38 with less than two minutes left. The Bears then stopped Vanderbilt on fourth-and-5 to secure the win.

Brewer's other touchdown pass was a 75-yarder earlier in the fourth quarter, and he scored on a 1-yard run in the third.

The Bears finished 7-6 a year after losing all but one game in Rhule's first season.

"They've just continued to evolve every week into a good team and battled through adversity," he said. "They did it by working hard and working together."

Brewer compared his first two seasons at Baylor.

"It feels a lot better to be in this position than in the position we were in last year," he said.

Vanderbilt (6-7) was led by Kyle Shurmur, who threw for 286 yards and a touchdown, and Ke'Shawn Vaughn, who ran for two touchdowns and set a Texas Bowl record with 243 yards rushing — which ranks second in school history. Shurmur moved past Jay Cutler (8,697) for most career yards passing in school history with 8,865.

Vanderbilt coach Derek Mason raved about Brewer and was disappointed his team couldn't contain him.

"The dual threat at the quarterback position was huge tonight," Mason



AP photo

Baylor quarterback Charlie Brewer (12) looks to pass the ball as Vanderbilt linebacker Kenny Hebert (42) closes in during the first half of the Texas Bowl NCAA college football game Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018, in Houston.

said. "He ran as well as their running backs did. The reality was, he was the difference in this ballgame. He was able to keep drives alive with his legs and that was tough for us."

Baylor led by three with about 10 1/2 minutes left when a pass intended for Denzel Mims bounced off him as he fell in the end zone and was intercepted by Randall Haynie, who grabbed the ball and stood on tiptoes before falling backward out of the end zone.

Two plays later, Vaughn ran 66 yards to get Vanderbilt to the 1, and Khari Blasingame ran it in on the next play to put the Commodores up 35-31. The Bears regained the lead

when Trestan Ebner scored on a 75-yard catch and run on the first play of the next drive.

Vanderbilt tied it on a 33-yard field goal with 3 1/2 minutes remaining.

Ebner's 34-yard touchdown run gave Baylor a 24-21 lead early in the third quarter. The Bears padded the lead when Brewer scrambled for a 1-yard score with about five minutes left in the third.

Vanderbilt had a chance to cut the lead to three after that, but Jared Pinkney fumbled after a 32-yard reception and the Bears recovered it at their own 2. But Baylor couldn't move the ball and had to punt.

Texans need win against Jags to clinch division



AP photo

Houston Texans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins making a touchdown catch on a pass from quarterback Deshaun Watson, not pictured, during the first half of an NFL football game in East Rutherford, N.J. Hopkins has 103 receptions for 1,425 yards which ranks second in the NFL.

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans are already in the playoffs but need a win against Jacksonville on Sunday to clinch the AFC South and have a chance for a first-round bye.

"That's the main thing we're thinking about is clinching this division, nothing else," receiver DeAndre Hopkins said. "In order for us to get to where we want to get we've got to win this game."

Houston (10-5) lost to Philadelphia last week but became the sixth team since 1980 to reach the playoffs after a 0-3 start on Sunday evening when Pittsburgh lost to New Orleans. The Texans would get a bye with a victory and a loss or tie by New England.

The Texans won nine in a row after their winless start to turn their season around, but have lost two of their past three as injuries have started piling up. Hopkins played last week despite

an ankle injury and said he's feeling much better this week, and running back Lamar Miller should return after sitting out last week with an injured ankle. But the Texans will be without receiver Demaryius Thomas, who sustained a season-ending Achilles tendon injury last week.

The Jaguars (5-10), who have lost two of their past three, will wrap up a disappointing season on Sunday. A year after winning the division and reaching the AFC championship game, Jacksonville doesn't have much to play for except the chance to keep the Texans from the division crown.

"Playing a spoiler is kind of bittersweet because playing a spoiler means, obviously, you have no chance," safety Tashaun Gipson said.

"But it's always good to play the Grinch and ruin somebody else's Christmas ...

See **TEXANS**, Page 13

Rushing leader Elliott wants in vs Giants; do Cowboys agree?

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas — Ezekiel Elliott insists he's playing and has no hesitation saying the NFL rushing title is on his mind with the Dallas Cowboys locked into the fourth playoff seed as NFC East champions going into their regular-season finale at the New York Giants.

If the league rushing leader does play, it won't be because coach Jason Garrett wants him to hold off Todd Gurley of the Los Angeles Rams and rookie Saquon Barkley, who will be on the opposing sideline with the Giants (5-10) on Sunday.

"We don't talk very much about individual statistics for any of our players," Garrett said. "What we're trying to do is prepare the right way and play the right way each week to make our team the best it could be. And that's really where our sole focus is."

With 1,434 yards rushing, Elliott is 183 ahead of Gurley, who could miss the game against San Francisco with a minor knee injury as the Rams try to secure a first-round bye along with top-seeded New Orleans.

Barkley trails by 236 yards, so even if Elliott doesn't play, it would take a huge game from one of the two behind him to keep the former Ohio State star from winning his second rushing title in three years.

Elliott led the NFL as a rookie with 1,631 yards in 2016, and had the highest yards-per-game average last season when he served a six-game suspension for domestic violence allegations.

The 2016 All-Pro said it's easier to consider individual honors with the focus already shifting to the playoffs before a Week 17 game with nothing on the line.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 14



AP photo

Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott (21) attempting to evade a tackle by Tampa Bay Buccaneers safety Jordan Whitehead (31) after Elliott caught a pass in the first half time of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas. Elliott leads NFL with 1,434 yards rushing and 2,001 yards from scrimmage. He is looking for ninth straight game with 100 yards from scrimmage.

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Public Notice

Texas Commission on
Environmental Quality

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
AND PRELIMINARY
DECISION
FOR AN AIR QUALITY
PERMIT

AIR QUALITY PERMIT
NUMBERS: 6580 AND
PSDTX151M2

APPLICATION AND PRE-
LIMINARY DECISION. Tokai
Carbon CB Ltd., formerly Sid
Richard Carbon Ltd, 201
Main Street Suite 3000, Fort
Worth, TX 76102-3135, has
applied to the Texas Com-
mission on Environmental
Quality (TCEQ) for the
amendment of State Permit
6580 and modification of Pre-
vention of Significant Deteri-
oration (PSD) Air Quality Per-
mit PSDTX151M2, which
would authorize modification
to the Big Spring Carbon
Black Plant at 1211 North
Midway Road, Big Spring,
Howard County, Texas
79720. This application was
processed in an expedited
manner, as allowed by the
commission's rules in 30
Texas Administrative Code,
Chapter 101, Subchapter J.
This application was submit-
ted to the TCEQ on June 14,
2018. The existing facility will
emit the following air contam-
inants in a significant amount:
particulate matter including
particulate matter with dia-
meters of 10 microns or less
and 2.5 microns or less and
sulfuric acid mist. In addition,
the facility will emit the follow-
ing air contaminants: ammo-
nia.

A full PSD increment analy-
sis was not required because
the predicted impacts of all
pollutants subject to PSD in-
crement review were below
the significant impact level for

Public Notice

each pollutant.

The executive director has
determined that the emis-
sions of air contaminants
from the proposed facility
which are subject to PSD re-
view will not violate any state
or federal air quality regula-
tions and will not have any
significant adverse impact on
soils, vegetation, or visibility.
All air contaminants have
been evaluated, and “best
available control technology”
will be used for the control of
these contaminants.

The executive director has
completed the technical re-
view of the application and
prepared a draft permit
which, if approved, would es-
tablish the conditions under
which the facility must oper-
ate. The permit application,
executive director's prelimi-
nary decision, draft permit, and
the executive director's pre-
liminary determination sum-
mary and executive director's
air quality analysis, will be
available for viewing and
copying at the TCEQ central
office, the TCEQ Midland re-
gional office, and at the
Howard County Library, 500
South Main Street, Big
Spring, Howard County,
Texas, beginning the first day
of publication of this notice.
The facility's compliance file,
if any exists, is available for
public review at the TCEQ
Midland Regional Office,
9900 West Interstate 20 Suite
100, Midland, Texas.

INFORMATION AVAIL-
ABLE ONLINE. These docu-
ments are accessible through
the Commission's Web site at
www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid:
the executive director's pre-
liminary decision which in-
cludes the draft permit, the
executive director's prelimi-
nary determination summary,
the air quality analysis, and,
once available, the executive
director's response to com-
ments and the final decision
on this application. Access
the Commissioners' Integ-
rated Database (CID) using
the above link and enter the
permit number for this applica-
tion. The public location
mentioned above, the
Howard County Library, 500
South Main Street, Big
Spring, Howard County,
Texas, provides public ac-
cess to the internet. This link
to an electronic map of the
site or facility's general loca-
tion is provided as a public
courtesy and not part of the
application or notice. For ex-
act location, refer to applica-
tion.
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/as-sets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=32.27446&lng=-101.4048&zoom=13&type=r>.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUB-
LIC MEETING. You may sub-
mit public comments or re-
quest a public meeting about
this application. The purpose
of a public meeting is to
provide the opportunity to
submit comment or to ask
questions about the applica-
tion. The TCEQ will hold a
public meeting if the execut-
ive director determines that
there is a significant degree
of public interest in the ap-
plication, if requested by an

Public Notice

interested person, or if re-
quested by a local legislator.
A public meeting is not a con-
tested case hearing. **You
may submit additional writ-
ten public comments with-
in 30 days of the date of
newspaper publication of
this notice in the manner
set forth in the AGENCY
CONTACTS AND INFORM-
ATION paragraph below.**

After the deadline for public
comment, the executive dir-
ector will consider the com-
ments and prepare a re-
sponse to all public comment.
**The response to com-
ments, along with the exec-
utive director's decision on
the application will be
mailed to everyone who
submitted public com-
ments or is on a mailing list
for this application.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR A
CONTESTED CASE HEAR-
ING. A contested case hear-
ing is a legal proceeding sim-
ilar to a civil trial in a state
district court. **A person who
may be affected by emis-
sions of air contaminants
from the facility is entitled
to request a hearing. A
contested case hearing re-
quest must include the fol-
lowing: (1) your name (or
for a group or association,
an official representative),
mailing address, daytime
phone number; (2) applic-
ant's name and permit
number; (3) the statement
“I/we request a contested
case hearing;” (4) a specifi-
c description of how you
would be adversely af-
fected by the application
and air emissions from the
facility in a way not com-
mon to the general public;
(5) the location and dis-
tance of your property re-
lative to the facility; (6) a de-
scription of how you use
the property which may be
impacted by the facility;
and (7) a list of all disputed
issues of fact that you sub-
mit during the comment
period. If the request is
made by a group or associ-
ation, one or more mem-
bers who have standing to
request a hearing must be
identified by name and
physical address. The in-
terests the group or associ-
ation seeks to protect must
also be identified. You may
also submit your proposed
adjustments to the applica-
tion/permit which would
satisfy your concerns. Re-
quests for a contested case
hearing must be submitted
in writing within 30 days
following this notice to the
Office of the Chief Clerk, at
the address provided in the
information section below.**

A contested case hearing will
only be granted based on dis-
puted issues of fact or mixed
questions of fact and law that
are relevant and material to
the Commission's decisions
on the application. The Com-
mission may only grant a re-
quest for a contested case
hearing on issues the re-
questor submitted in their
timely comments that were
not subsequently withdrawn.
Issues that are not submitted
in public comments may not
be considered during a hear-
ing.

Public Notice

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ACTION.** If a timely con-
tested case hearing request
is not received or if all timely
contested case hearing re-
quests are withdrawn, the ex-
ecutive director may issue fi-
nal approval of the applica-
tion. The response to com-
ments, along with the execut-
ive director's decision on the
application will be mailed to
everyone who submitted pub-
lic comments or is on a mail-
ing list for this application,
and will be posted electronic-
ally to the CID. If any timely
hearing requests are re-
ceived and not withdrawn,
the executive director will not
issue final approval of the
permit and will forward the
application and requests to
the Commissioners for their
consideration at a scheduled
commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. You may ask
to be placed on a mailing list
to obtain additional informa-
tion on this application by
sending a request to the Of-
fice of the Chief Clerk at the
address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND
INFORMATION. Public com-
ments and requests must be
submitted either electronic-
ally at
[www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/e
Comment/](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/), or in writing to the
Texas Commission on Envir-
onmental Quality, Office of
the Chief Clerk, MC-105,
P.O. Box 13087, Austin,
Texas 78711-3087. Please
be aware that any contact in-
formation you provide, includ-
ing your name, phone num-
ber, email address and phys-
ical address will become part
of the agency's public record.
For more information about
this permit application or the
permitting process, please
call the Public Education Pro-
gram toll free at
18006874040. Si desea
información en Español,
puede llamar al
1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also
be obtained from Tokai Car-
bon CB Ltd. at the address
stated above or by calling Mr.
Long Nguyen, EHS Manager
at (817) 390-8604.

Notice Issuance Date:
December 18, 2018

#10032 Dec. 28, 2018

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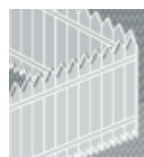
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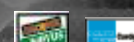
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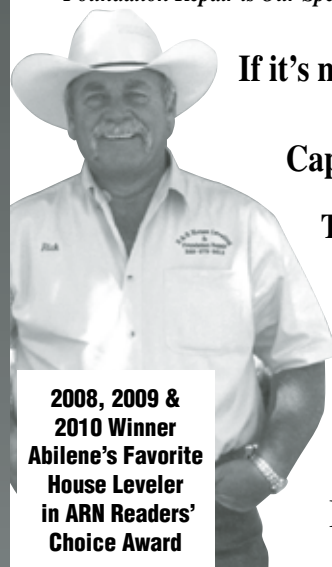
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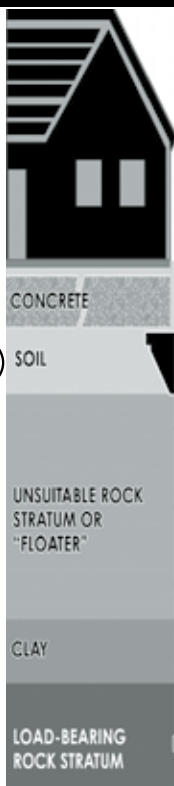
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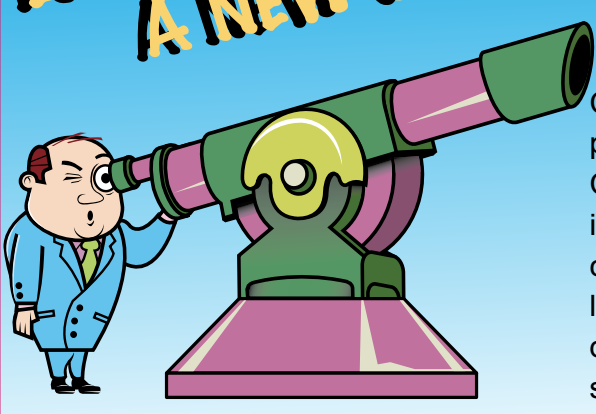
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are West, defending against Three Notrump, South having opened one notrump (12 to 14 points) and North having bid three notrump. You lead the four of spades, and South takes your partner's king with the ace. South then returns the nine of spades. Plan your defense.

North
♠ 8 3 2
♥ A 10
♦ A J 8 7 5
♣ Q 7 2

West
♠ J 7 5 4
♥ J 7
♦ 9 6 3
♣ A J 8 5

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the six of clubs, and you win South's eight with the jack. How would you play the hand?

West
♠ Q 10 8 3
♥ A 8
♦ A 10 9 2
♣ K J 7

East
♠ A J 9
♥ K J 10 9
♦ K Q J
♣ 5 3 2

1. You shouldn't assume that South has lost his mind when he leads a spade; he's probably trying to put something over on you. For his play to make sense, he must have started with the A-Q-10-9. Furthermore, having disregarded dummy's diamonds, declarer probably has the K-Q. If these assumptions are cor-

rect, it would be fatal to duck the nine of spades, because South would then have nine tricks consisting of three spades, five diamonds and a heart.

You should therefore take the spade nine with the jack and shift to a club, but not just any club. To give yourself the best chance, you should lead the jack of clubs, playing declarer for something like:

♠ A Q 10 9
♥ Q 8 2
♦ K Q 2
♣ 10 6 3

Such a holding would be consistent with his one-notrump bid and his spade play at trick two. Note that if you lead any club other than the jack at trick three, South can make the contract with proper play.

2. To ensure the contract beyond the shadow of a doubt, lead a diamond to the jack, play the nine of hearts and let it ride. Even if the finesse loses, you are certain of at least nine tricks — one spade, three hearts, four diamonds and a club.

You cannot afford to take a spade finesse at trick two because South might win with the king and return a club, and you'd finish behind the eight ball if North started with the A-Q-10-6-4 of clubs.

Observe that the two-way heart finesse is taken against South, so it can lose only to North, who cannot harm you with any return.

Tomorrow: Reducing the luck factor.
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Maturing Moon

Maturity advances us through different ways of seeing life. Melodramas develop into nuanced character studies. "Outside" becomes "scenery." Villains turn into imperfect humans; angels also transform into imperfect humans. It gets harder to tell the two apart. The moon change allows for a little maturation over the course of but a few hours.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). This issue you're dealing with will be solved with a new frame of mind. Finding the frame of mind can be as easy as finding a picture frame. You simply experiment. What looks good to you? What works for the space you have?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can tell that someone is dangling a carrot to get you to move forward in the direction of their choosing. But as long as they actually give you the carrot, and it's a direction that's OK with you, all will be well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As a leader, your role will be to make sure everyone else has a role. You'll be in a position to check in with each person, informing and course correcting where necessary.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The mental exercise that will help you make a decision will include posing hypothetical questions, for instance, "What would someone who's madly in love with you suggest you do in this scenario?"

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know yourself



BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

beyond your own situation into the heart of the world. And yet, some compartmentalization is appropriate. Knowing what is and is not your problem will help you live well today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Most people think to ask for spiritual guidance when things aren't going well. But why not seek spiritual guidance when things are going just fine? It will make a good time even better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Achieving more success is never the answer. Before long, expectations and desires will rise in tandem. Do what it takes to be happy now. An attitude shift might be all that's necessary.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). We organize our lives around the meaning of things, and yet what a thing means isn't a fixed fact. Rather, it's either an agreement you make with yourself or one you come to with others. Just know that meanings can change.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 28). You know what you want, but what do you do to get there? Simple. Do what it takes. Through determination and tenacity, your life moves in the direction of your vision. Highlights of the solar return include: a beautiful love letter, a trip by boat and the receipt of a check of which you'll want to take a picture. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 33, 31 and 16.

Write Holiday Mathis at
HolidayMathis@gmail.com.

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Annie's Mailbox

The Dreaded 'Does This Make Me Look Fat?'

Dear Annie: A friend and I enjoy shopping for clothes together. We always have fun. Over the past few years, she has put on weight. Objectively, she has become obese. That doesn't matter to me. But here is the problem now. Every time she tries on new clothes, she asks me, "Does this make me look fat?" The clothes don't make her look any fatter than she is. So I just say "no" and leave it at that. But the question makes me uncomfortable because I worry that I am not being totally honest. What should I say? -- Feeling Awkward

Dear Feeling Awkward: Take this as your friend's asking whether the clothes flatter her or not, and be honest so you can help her pick outfits that look good on her. If she persistently asks whether she looks fat, you could ask her whether that's a concern for her and then let her lead the conversation from there.

Dear Annie: A while ago, you had a poll asking people whether they'd

decide to have kids if they could go back in time. The following response is specifically directed toward women. I have spent my whole life believing in love and faith, only to have it challenged at every level. If you are ready to sacrifice yourself for the betterment of others, then by all means have children. If you don't think you want to do that, don't have kids. Your choice, but get the facts before you take the plunge. No one tells you how hard it's going to be, and there is no pamphlet out there that can prepare you for the rough road ahead if you decide to have kids. Go in with eyes wide-open. And if you think you can handle it, just wait and see what life throws at you. You'd better have lots of money, patience and fortitude and a self-sacrificing nature, or you will have regrets aplenty. I won't saddle you with the thousands of things that can go wrong, but believe me, there will always be something to challenge you. I am not sure good moments outweigh the rest. Motherhood is the most under-appreciated job on earth. Good luck in whatever you decide. You can't give them back, so make sure you want them. -- Tired

Dear Tired: I won't argue with you that moms work incredibly hard, often without thanks. But not having children is not a guarantee for a smooth road. There will be bumps in our paths, no matter which path we take. It's how we react to them that counts.

Dear Annie: Three of my uncles passed away in 1997 in widely separated locations across the country, none of them near the town where they grew up. I submitted a triple obituary after the last death to newspapers close to where they grew up. Three area newspapers printed the story. It seems to me that someone annually submitted a historical death notice for King Harold II, who died at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Based on this, it is safe to say that there is no time limit on obituaries or death notices. -- History Buff

Dear History Buff: I always appreciate a little history lesson. Thanks for writing.

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

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

ANSWER:

Ten years ago: A bomb-loaded SUV exploded at a military checkpoint in Afghanistan, claiming the lives of 14 school children in a heartbreaking flash captured by a U.S. security camera. The Detroit Lions completed an awful 0-16 season — the NFL's worst ever — with

College Football Playoff teams go national to stock rosters

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Football Writer
ARLINGTON, Texas — Notre Dame has always cast a wide net to find football players.

The Fighting Irish recruit coast-to-coast, befitting of their independent status and necessary for a small Catholic school, with high academic standards, located in a state that does not produce a lot of major-college talent.

The first Notre Dame team to reach the College Football Playoff has players who were signed to scholarships out of high school by the Irish from 24 states, plus Washington D.C. and Canada, the most far-flung roster of four semifinalists. These days, though, Notre Dame's approach is not uncommon — especially among the top programs.

No. 1 Alabama's roster includes recruits signed from 22 states, from Connecticut to California, with pickups from Pennsylvania, Indiana, Utah and Hawaii to go along with all that Deep South talent. The Crimson Tide faces No. 4 Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl semifinal on Saturday. The Sooners have developed productive pipelines into California and Florida to complement a stronghold across the border in Texas.

No. 2 Clemson, Notre Dame's Cotton Bowl opponent Saturday, has lately been taking advantage of a raised profile to stretch outside its Carolinas/Georgia home base.

"It comes with winning," said Mike Farrell, national recruiting director from Rivals. "You don't recruit na-

tionally first. You win first and then you recruit nationally if you're in one of those areas that have a lot of talent."

Over the last decade under coach Nick Saban, Alabama has won more than any program. The Tide is in its fifth straight playoff, looking for a sixth national title since 2009. Alabama's foundation is built in state. The Tide have 20 players signed from Alabama on their roster, nearly double the second-most from a state (Florida, 11). But Alabama also has as many signees from California, including All-America tackle Jonah Williams, on its roster (five) as it has from neighboring Mississippi.

"We have a system of evaluation that we use on players, it doesn't matter where they are," Saban said. "If they meet the criteria we're looking for at a position and we have defined criteria that we're looking for at each position, critical factors that we look for, and when guys have them we start recruiting them."

And because Alabama churns out NFL players much the way it racks up championships, Saban's staff can get into the conversation with any recruit anywhere — like quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, whose family moved with him from Hawaii to Tuscaloosa. His brother, Taulia Tagovailoa, is part of Alabama's latest signing class.

Even though Alabama is in the Southeastern Conference and Oklahoma is in the Big 12, the Tide and Sooners regularly cross paths on the recruiting trail, especially in Texas.

"Oh yeah, (Oklahoma) recruited



AP photo

Notre Dame head coach Brian Kelly gestures as he speaks to his team during practice at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, Monday, Dec. 24, 2018. Notre Dame is scheduled to play Clemson in the NCAA Cotton Bowl semi-final playoff Saturday.

me," Alabama All-America safety Deionte Thompson said. "But you know, my mom just fell in love with this place, so once mom said 'This is where you're coming,' I didn't have no other choice."

Oklahoma has 23 players on its roster signed from Texas, more than any other state. But under former coach Bob Stoops, the Sooners took advantage of staff connections in California to make it a reliable source of talent. The 2010 class with four-star California recruits Tony Jefferson and Kenny Stills is credited with establishing Oklahoma's western front. The Sooners' nine current California signees are third-most behind Texas and Oklahoma (16).

Now, under coach Lincoln Riley, who came to Oklahoma after a stint as offensive coordinator at East Carolina, the Sooners have some pull in the southeast. Oklahoma has four players signed from North Carolina and four from Florida, including star receiver Marquise Brown.

"I think they have seized a national identity particularly with this offense and particularly with a coach in Lincoln Riley that has the energy and the willingness to really be aggressive on the recruiting trail to go and take on some battles nationally," said Barton Simmons, director of scouting for 247 Sports.

Among the playoff teams, none has a roster more loaded with players signed from its backyard than Clemson. The Tigers have 48 players signed out of North Carolina (10), Georgia (18) and home-state South Carolina (20). Throw in another five from Florida and four from Virginia.

"We love that footprint, for sure," recruiting coordinator and quarterbacks coach Brandon Streeter said.

But as Clemson has become a national powerhouse under coach Dabo Swinney, making the playoff four straight seasons and winning a national title in 2016, recruits from all over have been seeking out the Tigers, similar to the way they do the Tide.

"How do they do they do that? They either contact us or they come see us unofficially," Streeter said.

Linebacker Isaiah Simmons from Olathe, Kansas, said he didn't know anything about Clemson until a year before he enrolled. The school's social media accounts drew his interest and once he took a visit he was hooked on the Southern hospitality.

"Literally everyone there was just ... brought you in like you were their cousin," Simmons said.

Notre Dame treats the big cities not far from South Bend, Indiana, — Chicago, Indianapolis and Detroit — as recruiting focal points, but the Irish currently have as many Illinois signees (10) as Florida (10).

Coach Brian Kelly says his recruiting department has two evaluation units: one for talent and the other for academic and cultural fit. That second part helps narrow the scope.

"Certainly you're going to start with the schools that closely identify with Notre Dame," Kelly said. "That's going to be Catholic schools. Private schools that have a tradition of sending kids to Notre Dame, so we're going to hit those geographical areas concentrated with good football programs that meet that criteria."



AP photo

Alabama head coach Nick Saban coaches Alabama defensive back Josh Jobe during an NCAA college football practice on Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018, in Miami Shores, Fla. Alabama plays Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl on Dec.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 7

getting a win in Houston would be huge and obviously we would mess up a lot of stuff they've got going on over there, which obviously would be fun."

While several Texans are dealing with injuries this week, quarterback Deshaun Watson is much healthier than he was the first time Houston faced the Jaguars this season when he had to ride a bus to Jacksonville because of concerns about his health.

Watson was asked how much better he's feeling now than he was that week when he threw a touchdown pass to help Houston to a 20-7 win on Oct. 21.

"I don't have a collapsed lung or a broken rib, so I guess pretty darn well," he said with a smile. "I feel good, feel solid, able to do everything I want to do and participate, wake up every morning healthy and in good spirits."

Watson has played clean football over the past five games, throwing eight touchdown passes with no interceptions and running for three more scores. He knows this is perhaps the biggest game of his young NFL career, but insists he doesn't feel any added pressure because of what's on the line.

"There's not really pressure for me or anything because every game is a must-win ... I'm not used to losing," he said. "Every game, I put that mindset in my head that we must go in and win. We understand the stakes of this game is the opportunity to clinch, but ... you can't focus on that. You just have

to focus on your job and going out there and performing and let the game come to you. You can't put unnecessary pressure on yourself."

The Jaguars will start Blake Bortles at quarterback against the Texans. Bortles, who has 13 TD passes and 10 interceptions this season, was benched after a loss to Buffalo on Nov. 25.

Some things to know about the Jacksonville-Houston game.

RUNNING ON EMPTY
Jacksonville is one

of two NFL teams (along with Philadelphia) that haven't had a 100-yard rusher this season. Leonard Fournette gained 95 yards on the ground in consecutive games last month, but hasn't topped 50 yards rushing in the four weeks since.

The Jaguars will try to end the season-long skid against Houston, which ranks fourth in the league against the run and hasn't allowed anyone to top the century mark since Frank Gore ran for 100 yards in the 2017 finale against Indianapolis.

HOPKINS CHASING RECORDS

Hopkins has 103 receptions for 1,425 yards which ranks second in the NFL. He needs just nine catches and 97 yards receiving to surpass his career highs of 111 receptions and 1,521 yards set in 2015. But he's not just close to outdoing his own numbers, he has a chance to pass Andre Johnson for two franchise receiving records with a big game on Sunday.

Hopkins needs 13 catches to move past Johnson (115) for most catches in a season in team history and he's 174 yards away from Johnson's team record of 1,598 yards receiving set in 2012.

O-LINE SHUFFLE

The Jaguars, who already are down to their fourth left tackle because of injuries, are expected to start their third right tackle of the season. Corey Robinson is planning

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Tokai Carbon CB Ltd., formerly Sid Richardson Carbon Ltd., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for amendment of State Permit Number 6580 and modification of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Air Quality Permit PSDTX151M2, which would authorize modification to a Big Spring Carbon Black Plant at 1211 North Midway Road, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79720. This application was processed in an expedited manner, as allowed by the commission's rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Subchapter J. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

to step in for backup Josh Wells, who is dealing with a concussion. It would be the eighth different starting O-line combination for Jacksonville in the past 15 games. The Jaguars have allowed 50 sacks this season, including 28 in the past six games.

"I appreciate the effort, but obviously we need more production," coach Doug Marrone said.

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Harden's 45 lead Rockets in 127-113 win over Celtics

Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden thinks he should be in the MVP discussion again this season and showed why on Thursday night.

Harden had 45 points and six assists, Clint Capela added 24 points and 18 rebounds, and the Houston Rockets beat the Boston Celtics 127-113 for their eighth win in nine games.

"Of course, I should be in that conversation," Harden, the reigning MVP, said. "I received a lot of hate, but it won't stop me from going out there and killing it every single night and being the dog that I am. You can name a few other people that can be in that conversation, but realistically, it's coming back."

Harden, who was playing on a bruised left calf, had 17 points in the first quarter and finished 11 of 26 from the field, including 9 of 18 on 3-pointers.

"You take those shots, you're confident in those shots and those shots will go in," Harden said. "Sometimes they might not go in, but mostly, they'll go in. I just have to keep going, keep working."

Eric Gordon scored 20 points for Houston, which shot 48 percent while improving to a season-high four games above .500. Houston finished 18 of 45 on 3-pointers.

"He has a mastery of the game and a control and an ease of which he plays," Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said of Harden. "It's fun to watch."

Harden has scored at least 30 points



Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) applies defensive pressure against Boston Celtics guard Kyrie Irving during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018, in Houston.

in eight straight games, the longest such streak since Russell Westbrook had eight straight 30-point games in November 2016. Harden has scored at least 35 points in six straight games, the longest streak since Carmelo Anthony had six straight in April 2013. "I think what James is doing is really special because he's really carrying us right now," Gerald Green said. "Not only is he scoring, he's leading us."

Kyrie Irving had 23 points and 11 assists, Marcus Morris added 19 points before being ejected midway through the fourth quarter, and Jaylen Brown had 18 points off the bench for Boston, which shot 47 percent but was out-rebounded 54-38.

"The first 18 minutes and then the

last 24 minutes, the glass killed us," Boston coach Brad Stevens said. "I thought the restricted area generally on both sides of the floor, our finishing and our lack of rebounding were separators."

The Rockets used a 14-4 run to end the third and start the fourth to open up a 103-90 lead on back-to-back 3-pointers by Green with 9 minutes remaining. Boston got no closer than 10 the rest of the way.

"We just weren't covering up for one another consistently enough," Irving said. "That's really what it comes down to."

Houston opened up a 41-24 advantage a minute into the second on 3-pointer by Danuel House Jr. Trailing 50-33, Boston used a 22-7 run to end

the half, aided by three technical fouls against the Rockets in barely a minute, to cut the lead to 57-55 on Marcus Smart's 3-pointer. Irving had seven in the run.

TIP-INS

Celtics: Aron Baynes (broken finger) missed his fourth straight game. ... Robert Williams missed the game with a sore left leg. ... Al Horford had 15 points, and Smart scored 11.

Rockets: James Ennis missed his eighth straight game with a strained right hamstring, but D'Antoni said he was "close" to returning. ... Green and Austin Rivers each scored 10 points.

TECHNICAL FOULS

Within a 61-second span of the second quarter, Chris Paul, who is out with a left hamstring

strain but was sitting on Houston's bench, D'Antoni and Capela were all called for technical fouls. Capela's, which was the last with 2:28 remaining, was called for hanging on the rim following a dunk.

Morris was called for a technical foul with 9 minutes left in the third after taking the ball to the other end of the court after being called for a foul. Morris was called for his second technical foul with 4:38 left in the fourth after arguing an offensive foul. Smart was called for a technical foul with 24 seconds remaining.

UP NEXT

Celtics: Visit Memphis on Saturday night.

Rockets: Visit New Orleans on Saturday night.

Thursday Sports in Brief

Associated Press

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

LeBron James has been selected as The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year for the third time.

In 2018, he continued to excel on the court, opened the "I Promise" school for at-risk children in his hometown of Akron, Ohio, and further used his voice as an activist who bristled at being told to "shut up and dribble."

James went to the NBA Finals for the eighth consecutive year. He changed addresses again, leaving his

Cleveland home for the second time to join the Los Angeles Lakers in the biggest move of free agency over the summer.

James received 78 points in balloting by U.S. editors and news directors announced Thursday, while Boston Red Sox star Mookie Betts was second with 46. Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals was third, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes was fourth and Triple Crown winner Justify was fifth.

NFL
METIAIRIE, La. (AP) —

New Orleans Saints veteran tight end Ben Watson says he's retiring after this season.

Watson turned 38 this month and is in his 14th NFL season out of Georgia.

His announcement came through an NFL Films video about his family that was posted on Thursday. Watson also confirmed his decision with reporters after Thursday's practice.

Watson has caught 33 passes for 371 yards and two touchdowns this season in helping the Saints capture the top playoff seed in the NFC.

BASEBALL
WASHINGTON (AP) — An-

ibal Sanchez has a new team and his same catcher.

The Washington Nationals agreed to terms on a two-year, \$19 million contract with right-hander Anibal Sanchez on Thursday.

The deal includes a team option for 2021.

Sanchez, 34, will add depth to Washington's new-look rotation after boosting his appeal with a comeback season for NL East rival Atlanta. The Nationals signed Patrick Corbin to a six-year deal earlier this month.

Sanchez said the two-year deal was important at his age.

NHL

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins resigned forward Jake Guentzel to a five-year, \$30 million contract extension Thursday.

The extension runs through 2023-24.

The 24-year-old Guentzel joined the team midway through the 2016-17 season, helping the Penguins win the Stanley Cup. He led all players in the playoffs that season with 13 goals, second-most by a rookie in league history. He had 21 points to tie the NHL rookie record and five game-winning goals to set an NHL rookie mark.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 7

He just doesn't want anyone mistaking that honesty for him being comfortable with the subject matter.

"I don't really like talking about these other little things," Elliott said. "I think we all know what the big goal in mind is, and I think that's what's most important. I think that's what should be talked about."

Elliott is on the verge of joining Earl Campbell, Eric Dickerson, Emmitt Smith and Edgerrin James as backs to win at least two rushing titles in their first three seasons since the 1970 merger.

Campbell, a Hall of Famer along with Dickerson and NFL career rushing leader and former Dallas star Smith, is the only one in that group to do it all three years.

"I think Zeke's had a great year," offensive coordinator Scott Linehan said. "He's earned it. He's had some games where he's had to grind out, old school, 100-yard games. It's not like he had three or four games where he had 200 yards. He's had consistently around 100 each game."

Elliott wants to play because he believes the Cowboys (9-6) need to maintain the momentum of six wins in seven games, a surge that took them from 3-5 to the division title.

Dallas played from ahead after an 11-game winning streak while winning the NFC East two years ago, led by the sensational debuts of Elliott and quarterback Dak Prescott, the NFL Offensive

Rookie of the Year that season.

Prescott missed his backfield mate when the Cowboys lost their first three games without the suspended Elliott last season, a skid that ultimately kept them out of the playoffs even though Dallas wasn't eliminated until Elliott's first game back.

Now things look a lot like they did two years ago: Dallas headed to the postseason with the NFL's leading rusher.

"He doesn't really talk about it too much," Prescott said. "I know he's not a big stats guy but obviously him being the competitor, I know inside he wants it. I know he really wants it as I want it for him and I'm pretty sure the offensive line and everybody on this team wants it for him."

And Elliott wants to play to get it, not sit and wait for it as he did two years ago in a meaningless regular-season finale against Philadelphia before a playoff bye and divisional loss to Green Bay.

"We are built a little bit different," Elliott said. "We definitely rely more on our intensity and how hard we play and be in a groove. This is the right

thing to do."

And by that Elliott means playing the star running back.

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