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# BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018



VOLUME 114, NUMBER 66 COPYRIGHT 2018 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## Howard College Board enjoys holiday meal, holds regular meeting



**By ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

The Howard College District Board of Trustees meeting Monday was a festive event, as board members and their spouses congregated in the school's Tumbleweed Room for a holiday meal. Along with the meal, HC board members were gifted Howard College jackets for their work in service of the college.

"You guys and gals are making dreams real for many, many people, and you just don't understand the impact you have as a Board of Trustees," said Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks. "We take what you all do very seriously as far as your leadership and your guidance. You set the course for vision and mission, give us policies, and then we try to take it from there. We know how serious you are about our students, and I always

See **BOARD**, Page 3

HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Members of the Howard College District Board of Trustees and their spouses visit before partaking in their Holiday luncheon Monday. The luncheon was held prior to the group's regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

## BSHS career event this Thursday



**Vonnie Anderson**  
 By ANNA GUTIERREZ  
 Staff Writer

If you are interested in a military or law enforcement career, there will be a recruitment information night this Thursday, December 20, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Big Spring High School Library. According to Vonnie Anderson, the College, Career and Technical Education Director at Big Spring High School, there will be military recruiters on site, along with recruiters from the Big Spring Police Department, the Big Spring Fire Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Game Warden Law Enforcement Division.

"Mainly, we just want to be sure it is clear that this event is for the juniors and seniors in high school, or those who are recently graduated students within the area (within the past 2 years). This is a come and go event for those who attend," she said.

For more information, please contact Vonnie Anderson at Big Spring High School by calling 432-264-3641 ext. 1419.

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

**By AMBER MANSFIELD**  
 Staff Writer

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and Big Spring residents are proud to show it. In an effort to help spread a little holiday cheer throughout the community, KBest Media started a new Christmas tradition last December with the KBest Christmas Lights Contest. Since the event was such a success, they brought it back this year and extended the contest to all of Howard County! All of this year's scores have been tallied up, and the results are in! The 2018 KBest Christmas Lights Contest winners are:

- District 1  
 1st Place-1619 Harding St., 2nd Place-806 San Antonio St., 3rd Place - 1616 Harding St.
- District 2  
 1st Place- 1005 Howell St., 2nd Place-623 State St., 3rd Place-1000 Howell St.
- District 3  
 1st Place- 4101 Parkway, 2nd Place-4213 Hamilton, 3rd Place- 2512 Gunter Circle
- District 4  
 1st Place- 609 W 17th St., 2nd Place- 420 Dallas, 3rd Place- 415 Westover
- District 5  
 Grand Prize Winner and 1st Place- 707 Colgate Ave., 2nd Place- 806 Kent Ave., 3rd Place- 3206 Auburn
- District 6

## The results are in!



Courtesy photo

The photo above shows the Grand Prize Winner and District 5 1st place winner of the 2018 KBest Christmas Lights Contest. This beautiful display is located at 707 Colgate Ave. here in Big Spring.

- 1st Place- 1314 Mt. Vernon, 2nd Place- 1423 E 6th St., 3rd Place- 1113 E. Lloyd Highland South
- 1st Place- 101 N 2nd St., Coahoma, 2nd Place- 405 Todd Rd., South of Big Spring, 3rd Place- 300 South Ave., Coahoma Howard County Precinct 3
- 1st Place- 705 Oak Glen Dr., 2nd Place- 704 Highland Dr., 3rd Place- 502 Highland Dr. Howard County Precinct 1
- 1st Place, 1302 Hwy 176 Howard County Precinct 2-
- 1st Place- 4204 W FM 818, 2nd Place- 5211 Longshore Rd. Howard County Precinct 4

See **RESULTS**, Page 3

**Big Spring Herald's Christmas Countdown**



**Rick** says  
 "Only 7 Days 'til Christmas!"  
 (Rick Nunez, Publisher)

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## BSHS students throw Christmas party for younger kids



**By ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

A group of Big Spring High School students did their part to spread the spirit of Christmas to some kids in need Monday night.

"We got names from the West Side Daycare of kids who might not have the best Christmas," said sophomore Anna Elam. "So my teacher came to me and asked if I

See **PARTY**, Page 3

HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Big Spring High School Students interact with an elementary-school child at the Christmas party held Monday night at the Staked Plains Masonic Lodge, 215 S. Main St. The party was originally planned by the high school's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America club, but other groups at the school quickly became involved, including the Family Consumer Science classes and the Art classes.

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## Obituaries

### Delmar Leland "Del" Hartin

Delmar Leland "Del" Hartin, 83, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018, at Midland Memorial Hospital. The family will receive friends from 7

p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **PEGGY ANN FORD**, 39, of 608 Bell St. was arrested on a warrant for theft of property (\$2,500 to \$30,000).
- **MOBEY CORDELL LEWIS**, 26, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 50 was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **CHRISTOPHER YANEZ**, 40, of 1425 E. Sixth St. was arrested on a warrant for evading arrest or detention, and on another outstanding warrant.

• **DAVID ERNEST WHEELER**, 60, of 1014 Sycamore St. was arrested on a charge of noise.

- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1100 block of West Interstate 20 and the 1000 block of North San Antonio St.
- **FOUND PROPERTY** was reported in the 3600 block of West Highway 80.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 400 block of State Street and the 800 block of West Interstate 20.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 6600 block of the North Service

Road of Interstate 20 and in the 1500 block of West Fifth St.

- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 2600 block of Albrook Drive and the 1900 block of North Highway 87.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1000 block of South Runnels Street and at the intersection of 21st and Scurry streets.
- **WELFARE CONCERN** was reported in the 1400 block of East Sixth Street.

## Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of West 17th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Donley. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Highway 176 and County Road 21. Three people were transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAUMA CALL** was reported in the 1200 block of North Midway Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 400 block of Ryon. One person was treated at the scene.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of South Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of N.W. 10th St. One person was treated at the scene.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Baylor. One person was treated at the scene.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of East 25th Street. One person was trans-

ported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Highway 350 and Hilltop Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

## Take Note

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

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

• 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.



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### Laverne Wegman Barr

Laverne Wegman Barr, 93, of Midland, died Sunday, December 16, 2018, at her home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory in Big Spring.

## Sheriff

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 74 inmates at the time of this report.
- **JESSICA MICHELLE DOTSON**, 33, was booked by HCSO on charges of displaying fictitious motor vehicle registration, and possession of a controlled substance (Penalty Group 1, less than 1 gram).
  - **PEGGY ANN EDMONDSON**, 39, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for theft of property (\$2,500 to \$30,000).
  - **BRANDON SCOTT HAYMAN**, 30, was booked by HCSO on charges of possession of a controlled substance (Penalty Group 1, less than 1 gram) and wrong, fictitious, altered, or obscured license plate.
  - **MOBEY CORDELL LEWIS**, 26, was booked by BSPD on a parole violation.
  - **CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY LOPEZ**, 20, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance (Penalty Group 3, less than 28 grams).
  - **JONATHAN LEE MCDONALD JR.**, 17, was booked by BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief (less than \$100).
  - **BERTHA MUNOZ RUBIO**, 47, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for bail jumping/failure to appear.
  - **CHELSEA SAWYER**, 24, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for failure to appear/evading arrest or detention.
  - **DAVID ERNEST WHEELER**, 60, of was booked by BSPD on a charge of noise.
  - **CHRISTOPHER YANEZ**, 40, of 1425 E. Sixth St. was arrested on warrants for evading arrest or detention, and a probation violation for kidnapping/unlawful restraint.

## Support Groups

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

### WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 432-517-9207 for more information.

### THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

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# 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press  
Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

## 1. WHO IS HEADED FOR SENTENCING

Michael Flynn, the former national security adviser, will probably walk out of a courtroom a free man due to his extensive cooperation with federal prosecutors.

## 2. HOW THE BORDER WALL IMPASSE IS MORE OF THE SAME

The standoff over President Donald Trump's \$5 billion wall funds deepens, threatening a partial government shutdown in a standoff that has become increasingly common in Washington.

## 3. WHERE TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY HIT A SNAG

Federal judges in California are putting the brakes on some of the administration's efforts to curb immigration.

## 4. WHAT THE BIGGEST THREAT TO TRUMP'S RE-ELECTION BID COULD BE

The greatest threat to President Trump's re-election bid may not be the slew of investigations closing in on his Oval Office but a possible economic slowdown. And the president knows it.

## 5. WHY STOCK MARKETS ARE SLIPPING

World markets are mostly lower, tracking losses on Wall Street as traders braced for an interest rate hike by Federal Reserve.

## 6. WHY U.S. LIFE EXPECTANCY IS DECLINING

One state offers clues about what's happening: West Virginia. Public health problems such as drug overdoses, suicides and obesity became widespread in the state before the rest of the country, the AP finds.

## 7. WHO WON'T GET A GOLDEN PARACHUTE

Former CBS CEO Les Moonves won't receive his \$120 million severance package after the company's board of directors determines he was fired "with cause" over sexual misconduct allegations.

## 8. WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Ruinous conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq seem to be winding down. Yet the potential for unrest remains high, including in countries that escaped civil war after the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings, such as Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

## 9. WHO IS TAKING HIS TIME BEFORE DECIDING ON A PRESIDENTIAL RUN

Beto O'Rourke's team says he has no timeline or road-map for deciding if he'd like to parlay a surprisingly close loss to Republican Sen. Ted Cruz into a White House try.

## 10. WHICH LEADER OF AN ICONIC SOCCER TEAM GOT FIRED

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho is out after 2½ seasons.

# El Chapo trial becomes New York's latest tourist attraction

By CLAUDIA TORRENS

Associated Press

NEW YORK — There was a time, after a spectacular prison escape, when Joaquin Guzman was the most wanted man in the world.

The thrill of being able to see the man known as El Chapo up close — and live to tell the tale — has been drawing curious New Yorkers, fans of TV crime shows and even tourists to the Brooklyn courtroom where the infamous Mexican drug trafficker is being tried on charges that could put him in a U.S. prison for life.

Some days, they are just two people among all the prosecutors, reporters, security officials and team of lawyers who fill up the courtroom. Other days you may see five. They sit up straight in the spectator area and look up so they can see Guzman's face. They also look with curiosity at his wife, Emma Coronel, who sits in the courtroom's public gallery nearly every day.

"It was surreal. It was like I was seeing the (Netflix) TV show 'El Chapo,'" said spectator Peter Stolt, 23, who attended three days of the trial in November and hopes to show up for at least one more.

Stolt, who recently graduated from Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania and is interviewing for jobs in New York, said he has stood in line outside the building at around 6:30 am to make sure he gets a seat. What impressed him most, he said, was when Miguel Angel Martinez, a former assistant to Guzman who is now a prosecution witness, testified in dramatic detail how he survived several attempts on his life that he claimed were ordered by Guzman, one after an ominous serenade by a Mexican brass band.

"The grenade, the song. ... It's crazy. That was scary. It's crazy that we are hearing this firsthand," he said.

The diminutive Guzman, whose nickname means "Shorty" in Spanish, was extradited to the United States last year to face charges accusing him of running the Sinaloa cartel, which smuggled tons of cocaine into the U.S.

The six weeks of testimony from law enforcement officials, an imprisoned cocaine kingpin from Colombia and flashy Mexican drug smugglers have contained enough material to fill several seasons of "Miami Vice" or "Narcos." There has been testimony

about secret smuggling tunnels built beneath the border, assassination attempts, bribery of high level police officials, private jets filled with millions of dollars in cash, and factories churning out cocaine-filled cans disguised as hot pepper containers.

Guzman's lawyers say the lowlife cooperators are lying in an attempt to frame him and get an easier sentence in their own drug-trafficking cases.

Joaquin Martinez, a 55-year-old Mexican who has lived in New York for more than a decade, said seeing El Chapo in person was worth the trip from Manhattan to Brooklyn. However, he expected him with a moustache, like in many of the photos people have seen of him over the years.

"It took me a couple of seconds to realize it was him. To be honest, he looked like ... a regular person," he said.

He was more impressed by Coronel, Guzman's wife, who he thought walked around the courtroom confidently, as if she were in her own home. She sat in a bench in front of him.

"I could smell her perfume," said Martinez, who owns and manages several restaurants in New York. Hearing phone recordings of drug dealings in the courtroom impressed him, he said, but also when prosecutors showed as evidence a photograph of Amado Carrillo, a Mexican drug lord who is famous in his home country and who died in 1997 in a plastic surgery operation to change his face.

Spectators go through security in the lobby of the building and need to remove their shoes to go through a second metal detector and X-ray bag scanner on the eighth floor. Then they sign up on a sheet.

## PARTY

Continued from Page 1

would like to participate or help in any way, and that's what I've been doing."

The party took place at the Staked Plains Masonic Lodge, 215 S. Main Street.

"I just want to thank the Masonic Lodge for letting us do this here," Elam said.

The high school kids decorated the lodge with traditional Christmas decorations including a brightly lighted Christmas tree, garlands, and large paper snowflakes created by Art students. Treats including cookies and cupcakes, soda, and punch were set out for those attending the party.

"We're going to have people come in and they can get food if they like, and then they'll go to the main area. And we're going to have kids get to sit with Santa, take pictures, and they get to pick a couple of presents from under the tree," Elam said. "The main event is for those kids to sit in a circle and open up all their presents that a bunch of the students have gotten them. Their parents are the ones who told us what they like and what they needed, and that's what we got them. We're expecting nine kids."

By all accounts, those in attendance at the party had a wonderful Christmasy time.

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

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Jeannie Darden, 78, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 1 PM today at the First Baptist Church of Coahoma with burial at the Coahoma Cemetery.

Felipe "Israel" O'Guin, 20, passed away Saturday. Services are pending.

Delmar Leland "Del" Hartin, 83, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 7 PM until 8 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

## BOARD

Continued from Page 1

like to relay that to everyone, that you just care very much about our students. I know that because I hear those passionate questions about our students. And that's what it's all about."

After lunch, the board got down to work at their regular scheduled monthly meeting.

Board members heard an update on the informational meeting held Nov. 29 about TechTeach, a program being organized between Howard College, local school districts, and Texas Tech University which will allow students to receive a bachelor's degree in education and a teaching certificate in just three years, instead of the usual four.

"To be honest with you, I wasn't really sure how that would turn out. One, it was at night, and we don't usually have a good turnout at night.

Two, we just weren't sure how many people would be interested. So we were expecting maybe 10 students. We

would have been really happy with that," said Administrative Dean of Instruction and Student Services for the Lamesa site Erin MacKenzie. "Financial Aid was there, our Business Office was there, Student Services, Student Support, the Registrar's Office, and then Dual Credit. So we had a bunch of people out representing those areas. We had the tables set up, Student Services brought cookies, and all that kind of stuff. When I got there...I arrived about 10 or 15 minutes early...we already had about five people there. So I was thinking, 'Hey, we're doing great!' And then it just kept getting bigger and bigger. We had to keep bringing in more and more and more chairs. It was pretty big. Not only did they have a couple of cookies and listen, but they stayed around afterwards and asked a lot of questions. So I'd say it was pretty successful."

MacKenzie said about 70 potential TechTeach students were present at the informational meeting.

In other business, the college board:

- Heard an update on installation of a new scoreboard in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum;
- Heard an update on the renovation of the Big Spring campus Security Building;
- Heard an update on a building project at the Lamesa campus;
- Heard an update on renovation of the Construction Trades building at the San Angelo campus.
- Heard updates on ac-

countability measures including Continuing Education/Workforce Training, Strategic Planning, Low Enrollment Programs, and Student Roundtable Reports.

• Considered bids on Snack and Drink vending services at the San Angelo campus.

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

## RESULTS

Continued from Page 1

1st Place- 7405 N. I-20 Service Rd, 2nd Place- 10307 County Road 24, 3rd Place- 108 N. Moss Lake Road

These winners from each area will receive: first place - \$500, second place - \$250, and third place - \$100. Everyone who entered the contest was eligible for the Grand Prize, a holiday in San Antonio which included a stay at the Hilton, Six Flags tickets, entry to visit the Alamo, a river cruise and a \$100 gas card. The grand prize winner was 707 Colgate Ave from District 5!

Be sure to take a drive by all of the beautifully illuminated homes that were selected as winners.

"A big thanks to Big Mike's Farm Store and all the businesses for contributing over \$10,000 in cash in prizes this year! Make sure to visit all the houses who participated," said Malinda Flenniken, Managing Partner of KBest. "They really helped contribute Christmas spirit to Howard County!"

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(Offices In Big Spring, Odessa & Midland)

**LORI STAFFORD, D.O.**  
(Offices In Midland & Odessa)

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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## Not into bingo, 84-year-old Texas woman gets college degree



AP photo

In this Dec. 10, 2018 photo, Janet Fein, 84, poses for a photo in Richardson, Texas. Fein completed her bachelor's degree and will graduate from the University of Texas at Dallas with the winter undergraduate class.

By **JAMIE STENGLE**

Associated Press

**RICHARDSON, Texas** — After raising five kids and retiring at age 77 from her secretarial job, Janet Fein couldn't be blamed for finally relaxing, but that's not her.

Fein, now 84, went back to school and will accomplish a long-held goal this week when she graduates from the University of Texas at Dallas with a bachelor's degree.

"I didn't have anything to do in retirement and I didn't think that playing bingo was up to my speed," said Fein, who majored in sociology because she felt it was "substantial."

She said she enjoyed all the reading and writing papers. "With each class I already knew a lot, but then I also learned a lot. And that made me happy," she said.

People 65 and older make up less than one percent of U.S. college students. In 2015, they accounted for about 67,000 of about 20 million college students, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

"Keeping oneself active and vital and giving yourself something to look forward to like that is just a really positive move," said Dr. Carmel Dyer, executive director of the UTHealth Consortium on Aging at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Fein took part in a state program that allows people ages 65 and older to take up to six credit hours for free at public universities in Texas. About 2,000 people took advantage

of the offer last year, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Fein said she wanted the degree "with all of my heart" and kept going to classes even as she transitioned from living on her own and driving herself around to needing a walker and oxygen and eventually moving to a senior living facility. Then her knees gave out, so she did a semester of independent study and took online classes to fulfill her degree requirements.

"She did not give up in the midst of her challenges ... she just kept plugging along," said Fein's college adviser, Sheila Rollerson.

Tracy Glass, 40, befriended Fein after they both took front-row seats in a class.

"I sat right next to her and over the course of the semester built a fast friendship with her," said Glass, who said Fein's firsthand memories of world events — like the women's movement — enlivened discussions.

Carol Cirulli Lanham, a senior lecturer in sociology, said, "She would speak up a lot in class and I think that it just made for a more interesting class ... because she literally remembered some of the times we were talking about."

Fein, who grew up in the Bronx in New York City, said that in high school she just wanted to graduate and get a job. After graduating early — at the age of 16 — she went to work as a secretary at a dress manufacturer. She married, spent 18 years staying home with her

See **WOMAN**, Page 5

## After the Fed's likely rate hike this week, all bets are off



AP photo

In this Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, file photo Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell waits to address the Federal Reserve Board's 15th annual College Fed Challenge Finals in Washington.

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON** — Having raised interest rates with steady regularity in recent months, the Federal Reserve may embrace a new message this week: Flexibility.

On Wednesday, the Fed is set to announce its fourth rate hike of the year. But after this week, no one is sure what it will do. Neither, most likely, is the Fed itself.

A confluence of factors — a global slowdown, a U.S.-China trade war, still-mild inflation, stomach-churning drops in stock prices — may have left Fed officials weighing a shift in policy. Many analysts think the Fed will signal Wednesday that it's considering whether to slow or suspend its rate hikes in 2019 to avoid weakening the economy too much. And some predict that the rate increases, which began

three years ago, will end altogether next year.

In September, Fed officials collectively forecast that they would raise rates three times in 2019. But this week, in the view of many analysts, the central bank could indicate that no more than two rate hikes are likely next year.

Yet the overarching message — in a statement after its latest policy meeting, in updated forecasts for the economy and interest rates and in a news conference by Chairman Jerome Powell — may be that the Fed plans to suit its rate policy to the latest economic data. In Fed parlance, it will be "data-dependent."

The idea, some analysts say, is that the Fed may want to pause in its credit-tightening to assess how the economy fares in the

See **HIKE**, Page 5

## US stocks drop to a 14-month low as tech, health care drop

By **MARLEY JAY**

AP Markets Writer

**NEW YORK** — U.S. stocks are skidding Monday as another day of big losses takes the market to its lowest level in more than a year. Retailers and technology stocks are sinking, and health insurers and hospitals are falling after a federal judge in Texas ruled that the 2010 Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional.

Some of the biggest losses are going to utilities and real estate companies, which have done better than the rest of the market during the turbulence of the last three months.

The price of oil closed below \$50 a barrel for the first time since October 2017.

The S&P 500 skidded 56 points, or 2.2 percent, at 2,543 as of 3:25 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 523 points, or 2.2 percent, to 23,577. The Nasdaq composite fell 162 points, or 2.4 percent, to 6,748. The Russell 2000 index dipped 26 points, or 1.9 percent, to 1,384.

The S&P 500 dropped in early trading and briefly recovered before falling again. It's now on track for its lowest close since October 2017. The U.S. benchmark index has fallen more than 13 percent since it set a

See **STOCKS**, Page 6

## Two-story space cowboy to be erected along Route 66

**TULSA, Okla. (AP)** — A new lofty landmark is on its way to Route 66.

Mary Beth Babcock, owner of Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios, plans to erect a 20-foot space cowboy outside her gift shop.

The store's mascot, "Buck," will be an example of a Muffler Man, one of the large Fiberglas advertising icons that came to symbolize the Mother Road during its heyday.

"I've always just loved Route 66, and the roadside attractions are the main things the people get excited about while traveling the route," Babcock told the Tulsa World.

The project originated after Babcock watched an online presentation by Joel Baker, a Coloradoan who has tracked down and restored about 150 of the Muffler Men over the years.

"I just got the bug," she said. "I thought, 'Oh my gosh. What if we could build a roadside attraction here at Buck's?' I just fell in love with the idea of it."

After Baker concluded it was best for Babcock to build her own behemoth, she reached out to Enchanted Castle Studios' Mark Cline, who has constructed about 15 of the bigger-than-life figures.

To underwrite Cline's building of Buck, Babcock set up a gofundme.com page geared to raise at least \$25,000. More than \$13,000 has been contributed.

The money will go toward Buck's construction, the cost of transporting him to Tulsa from Natural Bridge, Virginia, and setting him up along the Mother Road. Keri Fothergill, a city staffer Babcock knew from her days at Oklahoma State University, helped her through the permitting process.

"This was the cool thing," Babcock said. "The city wants to see stuff like this. So they were like, 'We want to see how to make this happen.'"

Buck will be set up around April. Local artist Chris Wolard is building the rocket the space cowboy will be holding.

Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios opened in June and celebrates

the Mother Road with themed items such as books, shirts, buttons and signs. It is at the former site of a 1950s PEMCO gas station.

"I have this 1950s shop and I want to keep the wanderlust of Route 66 and keep that history but also have something new," Babcock said. "Being in retail, I realize the importance of what something like this can do for the route and the community and for Tulsa."



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# After judge's ruling against Obamacare, what happens now?

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge's ruling would, if upheld, wipe away the entire Affordable Care Act, the health care overhaul championed by President Barack Obama and twice sustained by the Supreme Court.

Judge Reed O'Connor's opinion was issued late Friday and supporters of the law vowed to appeal and take other steps to preserve health benefits in the law sometimes called Obamacare.

Some questions and answers about O'Connor's ruling:

**WHAT IS THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF THE RULING FOR AMERICANS COVERED UNDER THE ACA?**

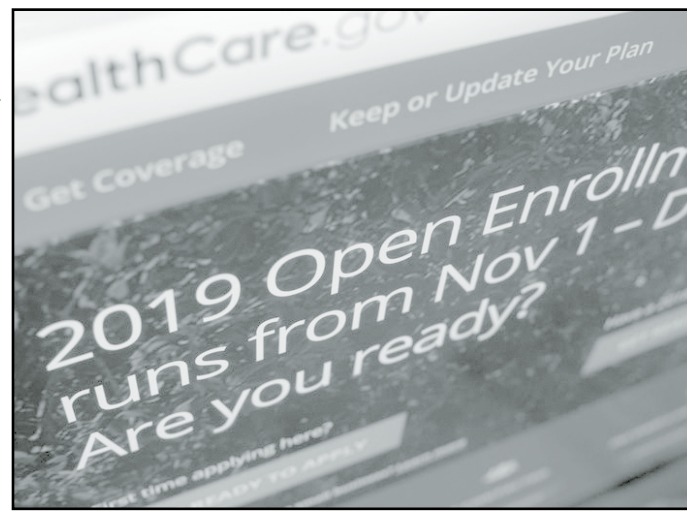
In a word, nothing. Although O'Connor said the entire law must fall, he did not grant a request from its opponents to have his ruling take effect immediately. That means that all the law's provisions remain in effect. The federal Health and Human Services Department put out a statement making clear that it "will continue administering and enforcing all aspects of the ACA as it had before the court issued its decision."

**HOW WOULD THE AVERAGE PERSON'S**

**HEALTH CARE BE AFFECTED IF THE RULING IS UPHeld?**

The impact would go well beyond the more than 20 million people who are directly covered through the Obama health law.

More than 170 million Americans are covered by employers and they could lose no-cost preventive care, from screening tests like colonoscopies to birth control for women. Employers would no longer be required to keep young adult children of their workers covered up to age 26. Gone would be limits on annual out-of-pocket expenses, which provide greater financial protection for people with job-based coverage. Another kind of limit — lifetime caps on what insurance will pay for medical bills —



This Oct. 23, 2018 file photo shows HealthCare.gov website on a computer screen in New York.

AP photo

could stage a comeback.

Medicare would be affected because the ACA expanded no-cost coverage of preventive services and reduced the bills of seniors with high prescription drug costs. Program finances would also take a hit. Medicaid, the federal-state program for low-income people, was expanded under the ACA. So about 12

See RULING, Page 6

## HIKE

Continued from Page 4

coming months in light of the headwinds it faces. Contributing to this view was a speech Powell gave last month in which he suggested that rates appear to be just below the level the Fed calls "neutral," where they're believed to neither stimulate growth nor impede it. Powell's observation suggested that the Fed might be poised to soon slow or halt its rate hikes.

For now, most U.S. economic barometers are still showing strength. The unemployment rate is 3.7 percent, a 49-year low. The economy is thought to have grown close to 3 percent this year, its best performance in more than a decade. Consumers, the main driver of the economy, are spending freely.

In such an environment, the Fed would normally keep gradually raising rates to make sure the economy didn't overheat and ignite inflation. But this time, risks to the economy appear to be rising. From China to Europe, major economies are weakening. President Donald Trump's trade conflict with Beijing could, over time, undermine the world's two largest economies.

There are also fears that the brisk pace of U.S. growth this year reflected something of a sugar high, with the economy artificially pumped up by tax cuts

and a boost in government spending. The benefit of that stimulus will likely fade in 2019, slowing growth to a more modest pace.

"Uncertainties about how the economy will perform next year have ballooned," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at SS Economics. "I think 2019 could be a difficult year for the Fed."

Sohn is forecasting that after expanding nearly 3 percent this year, the economy will grow closer to a middling 2 percent in 2019. As a result, like many economists, he predicts that the Fed will raise rates only twice next year.

David Jones, an economist and author of several books on the Fed, goes further. He foresees just one rate increase in 2019.

"The Fed is going to be much more cautious about rate hikes next year as the economy slows significantly," Jones said. "The Fed will truly be data dependent as economic forecasting gets much murkier."

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, is more hopeful about growth in 2019 because he thinks the stimulus from tax cuts and government spending increases won't yet fade significantly. As a result, Zandi doesn't expect the Fed to slow its credit tightening much next year. But by 2020, Zandi foresees a sharp drop in economic momentum and a rising risk of a recession.

"While the Fed will probably signal this week that they only expect two rate hikes next year, I think their forecast will be wrong and they will end up raising rates three times,"

Zandi said. "I think the economy will remain strong enough that unemployment will fall further and wage pressures will rise."

Lawrence White, an economics professor at New York University's Stern School, said he expects the Fed to remain mindful of the mistakes of the 1970s, when officials allowed inflation to erupt, requiring sharply higher interest rates and a painful recession to root out.

"We have not had such low unemployment in almost 50 years," White said. "The Fed has to be cautious."

Economists appear unified, though, in the view that whatever the Fed does, it won't be influenced by the attacks Trump has made on the central bank and on Powell personally since the stock market began tumbling this fall. In a highly unusual move for a president, Trump has publicly called the Fed and its string of rate hikes this year "my biggest threat."

On Monday, Trump reiterated his view via Twitter. "It is incredible that with a very strong dollar and virtually no inflation, the outside world blowing up around us," Trump tweeted, "the Fed is even considering yet another interest rate hike."

Powell, who was Trump's hand-picked choice to be chairman, has stressed that the Fed will pursue its mandate of managing rates to maximize employment and stabilize prices, regardless of any outside criticism.

"This is a Fed that has gone through some pretty heavy criticism during the financial crisis, and they kept doing what they needed to do," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton. "At this stage of the game, the president's criticism is just noise."

## WOMAN

Continued from Page 4

children and worked several jobs over the decades, including a 20-year stint as a secretary at a Dallas orthopedic hospital — the job she retired from in 2012. She also worked on her associate degree for two decades before earning it in 1995.

Renee Brown, a certified nursing assistant who is one of Fein's caregivers, said Fein has inspired her. At 53, she plans to enroll in a program to become a licensed vocational nurse.

"She said, 'Renee, you can do it. If I can do it you can do it and you will feel so good about it,'" Brown said.

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# Silicon Valley East: Google plans \$1B expansion in New York



AP photo

In this Dec. 4, 2017, file photo, people walk by Google offices in New York.

By MAE ANDERSON

Associated Press

Silicon Valley is becoming Silicon Nation.

Google announced Monday it will spend more than \$1 billion to build a new office complex in New York City that will allow the internet search giant to double the number of people it employs there.

It is the tech industry's latest major expansion beyond the Seattle-San Francisco Bay corridor. It follows recent steps by Amazon and Apple to set up operations well outside their home turf.

Tech companies are "coming to the realization that the Bay Area, which has traditionally been the major center of tech activity in the U.S., is getting expensive and crowded," said Andrew Bartels, principal analyst at Forrester Research.

"A lot of vendors are coming to the realization that 'We can probably find top talent elsewhere at a more affordable costs, and perhaps a better style of life for employees who may be struggling to make ends meet.'"

The Northeast is attractive because of its large concentration of highly educated young people. New York in particular also offers proximity to Wall Street and already has the second-biggest concentration of tech startups behind the Bay Area and a large base of tech employees, Bartels said. Facebook, based in Menlo Park, California, has over 2,000 employees in New York.

Google, based in Mountain View, California, will fashion a complex of more than 1.7 million square feet along the Hudson River in the city's West Village neighborhood, Ruth Porat, senior vice president and chief financial officer, said in a blog post.

Google opened its first office in New York nearly

See GOOGLE, Page 6

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## RULING

Continued from page 5

million people who gained coverage could be left uninsured. Efforts to counter the opioid epidemic would be dealt a severe blow, since Medicaid has become a mainstay for treatment.

HealthCare.gov and state insurance markets offering subsidized private insurance would disappear, potentially leaving 10 million people or more uninsured.

And the list would go on. The health law made hundreds of changes.

### WHAT WAS THE JUDGE'S REASONING IN STRIKING DOWN THE ENTIRE HEALTH CARE LAW?

A key part of the Affordable Care Act that Obama signed into law in 2010 was the provision requiring people to have health insurance or pay a penalty if they refused. The Supreme Court upheld this individual mandate in 2012. Congress reduced that penalty to zero as part of the tax legislation it passed and President Donald Trump signed in 2017. That means that beginning in January, there no longer will be a penalty for not purchasing health insurance.

O'Connor agreed with Texas and other Republican-led states that challenged the law that the elimination of the penalty rendered the requirement to have health insurance unconstitutional. In a crucial step in his logic, O'Connor then held that because the individual mandate is so important to the overall law, the whole thing can no longer stand. The legal explanation is that O'Connor found that the mandate could not be severed from the rest of the law, meaning he struck it down in its entirety.

### HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT HIGHER COURTS WILL AGREE WITH

### O'CONNOR'S RULING?

Even some opponents of the health care law, including the Wall Street Journal editorial page, have said O'Connor went too far and predicted he would be reversed in the appeals process. Congress did indeed render the individual mandate unenforceable when it reduced the penalty for not complying to zero. But that very same Congress left the rest of the law intact. What's more, Republican efforts to repeal the ACA failed in the same Congress. In addition, even if the federal appeals court that oversees Texas were to agree with O'Connor, it seems improbable at best that Chief Justice John Roberts, who twice wrote opinions upholding the law — in 2012 and 2015, would now strike it down.

### WHO WILL APPEAL THE RULING, AND HOW LONG MIGHT THE PROCESS TAKE?

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, the leader of a coalition of states defending the law in court, already has promised to appeal. The process will take months at a minimum, even with the states pressing for a speedy resolution because of the uncertainty O'Connor's ruling creates and the potential effects on the insurance markets.

If the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit reverses O'Connor, chances that the Supreme Court would hear the case are slim. If the 5th Circuit agrees with O'Connor, high court review becomes very likely because the justices almost always weigh in when a federal law has been struck down. But even then, the Supreme Court wouldn't hear the case before the fall of 2019 at the earliest, with a decision unlikely before the spring of 2020 — in the midst of the presidential and congressional campaigns.

# Deported immigrants get their last flight on 'ICE Air'

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT and ANGELIKI KASTANIS**

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Shackled at their ankles and wrists and their shoelaces removed, a long line of men and women waited on the tarmac as a team of officers patted them down and checked inside their mouths for anything hidden.

Then one by one, they climbed a mobile staircase and onto a charter plane the size of a commercial aircraft.

This was a deportation flight run by ICE Air. The chains would be removed and the shoelaces returned when the plane landed

in El Salvador.

An obscure division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operates hundreds of flights each year to remove immigrants. Deportation flights are big business: The U.S. government has spent approximately \$1 billion on them in the last decade, and the Trump administration is seeking to raise ICE's budget for charter flights by 30 percent.

ICE Air Operations transports detained immigrants between American cities and, for those with final removal orders, back to their home countries. About 100,000 people a year are deported on such flights.

While Mexican immigrants are generally flown to southern U.S. cities and then driven to the border so they can cross over, Central Americans have to be transported by air. And the large numbers of Mexicans who used to cross the border have largely been replaced by migrants from three impoverished Central American countries: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

According to flight-tracking data, deportation flights to Guatemala and Honduras have sharply increased this year. And ICE's budget request for charter flights increased 30 percent last year compared to the

year before.

The agency estimated last year that it spends about \$7,785 per hour on the flights.

ICE shifted to chartering private planes about a decade ago after previously using a government service with the U.S. Marshals. The agency says moving to private flight saves about \$25 million a year and gave it more flexibility. Charter flights also avoid putting large numbers of deported immigrants on commercial planes, which requires buying tickets for deportation officers accompanying them, or holding them in the U.S. for longer than necessary and tying up space in detention centers.

## GOOGLE

Continued from Page 5

20 years ago and now employs 7,000 people in the city. Its footprint is expanding rapidly. Google said earlier this year that it would buy the Chelsea Market building for \$2.4 billion and planned to lease more space at Pier 57, both along the Hudson about a mile north of the newly announced complex.

Porat telegraphed Google's plans to double down in New York a month ago during a technology conference.

"Not everybody — big surprise — wants to live in Silicon Valley, so we want to make sure we have the opportunity to build vibrant centers across the country," she said.

The news follows Seattle-based Amazon's announcement a month ago that it would set up new headquarters in New York's Long Island City neighborhood and in Arlington, Virginia, creating up-

wards of 25,000 jobs in each location.

But it's not just the East Coast that is benefiting from the expansion. Apple, based in Cupertino, California, said last week that it plans to build a \$1 billion campus in Austin, Texas, that will create at least 5,000 jobs.

Even as it looks elsewhere, Google is still buying offices and drawing up plans to construct new campuses near its headquarters, as it tries to build upon its success in internet search, email, web browsers, digital mapping, online video and smartphone software to make money in other markets such as health care and internet-connected homes.

The company recently agreed to pay more than \$100 million for a swath of land in downtown San Jose, California, for a big new campus that will include employee housing.

Microsoft likewise is overhauling its headquarters in Redmond, Washington, with

an 18-building construction project that will make room for an ad-

ditional 8,000 workers. It currently employs about 47,000 in the area.

But the competition for programmers is driving salaries higher, which in turn is catapulting the average prices of homes in many parts of the San Francisco Bay Area above \$1 million. Many high-tech workers are choosing to live elsewhere, forcing major tech companies to look in new places for the employees they need.

Google hopes to move into the new campus by 2020. Porat said that the company's most recent investments give it the ability to more than double the number of Google employees in New York over the next 10 years.

Tech companies see New York as a way to gain a new perspective, one that is different from that of Silicon Valley, which can be seen as an "out-of-touch echo chamber," Bartels said.

"New Yorkers consider themselves to be more in tune with the reality of life in U.S. urban centers and believe this helps them innovate products and services that are more closely aligned with the needs of the average American," he said.

## STOCKS

Continued from Page 4

record high in late September. The Russell 2000 has done significantly worse: it's down 20 percent since it finished at its last record high at the end of August. Wall Street calls a 20 percent decline a "bear market," and it's considered a major downturn.

The S&P Small Cap 600 index went into a bear market Friday as investors continue to lose confidence in the U.S. economy's growth prospects. Smaller companies are considered more vulnerable in a downturn than larger companies because they are more dependent on economic growth and tend to have higher levels of debt.

Hospital operator HCA dropped 3.2 percent to \$122.69 while health insurer UnitedHealth lost 2.9 percent to \$257.27. Centene, a health insurer that focuses on Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act's individual health insurance exchanges, fell 5.1 percent to \$121.07 and Molina skidded 10.2 percent to \$118.30.

Many experts expect the ruling will be overturned, but with the markets suffering steep declines in recent months, investors didn't appear willing to wait and see.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.85 percent from 2.89 percent.

The Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates again Wednesday, the fourth increase of this year. It's been raising rates since over the last three years, and

investors will want to know if the Fed is scaling back its plans for further increases based on the turmoil in the stock market over the last few months and mounting evidence that world economic growth is slowing down.

The S&P 500's index of financial stocks is down 10 percent in the last month, worse than any other part of the market. For the year it's down 14 percent, much worse than the 4.2 percent decline in the S&P 500.

British Prime Minister Theresa May said Parliament will vote Jan. 14 on her deal setting terms for Britain's departure from the European Union. She canceled a vote on the deal last week because it was clear legislators were going to reject it. May insists she can save the deal, but pressure is mounting for either a vote by lawmakers or a new referendum on the issue.

Britain is scheduled to leave the EU in late March, and if it does so without a deal in place governing their trade and economic relationships, it could bring huge disruptions to the British and European economies and financial markets.

Germany's DAX lost 0.9 percent. That means the DAX, which represents Europe's largest single economy, is also in bear market territory. France's CAC 40 and Britain's FTSE 100 both fell 1.1 percent.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index added 0.6 percent and the Kospi in South Korea gained 0.1 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was less than 0.1 percent lower. Both the Kospi and Hang Seng are in bear markets as well.

China and the United States

clashed again over their respective trade policies Monday, as China criticized what it calls a "unilateralist and protectionist" approach to trade. The U.S. ambassador to the World Trade Organization said those critiques were unwarranted. The two nations have been embroiled in a dispute over technology policy and other issues for most of this year. With no end to the conflict in sight, investors are growing more concerned that the tensions will drag down the already-slowing global economy.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell 2.6 percent to \$49.88 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dipped 1.1 percent to \$59.61 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline shed 1.7 percent to \$1.41 a gallon and heating oil slid 1 percent to \$1.83 a gallon. Natural gas dropped 7.8 percent to \$3.53 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold rose 0.8 percent to \$1,251.80 an ounce. Silver added 0.8 percent to \$14.76 an ounce. Copper dipped 0.3 percent to \$2.75 a pound.

The dollar slipped to 112.75 yen from 113.29 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1350 from \$1.1303. The British pound rose to \$1.2629 from \$1.2579.

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### Sands shows early promise in tournament play



Courtesy photo

The photo above shows the Sands girls basketball team from left to right: (front row) Alexa Plata, Me-Gonzales, Alexis Gonzales, Landry Morrow, Lakyn Sandlin. (back row) Yesenia Reyna, Kaylee French, Lili Porras and Myra Diaz.



Courtesy photo

The photo above shows the Sands varsity Boys team from left to right: Markus Ybarra, Easton Sandlin, Caleb King, Tristan Reid, Will Thomas, Cody Staggs, Riley Webb, Aaron Thomas, Jayden Wigington, Hunter Rich and Landon Morrow.

#### Special to the Herald

Ending the tournament season, the Sands boys

placed 3rd in their tournament, while the Sands Lady Stangs beat Westbrook for the tournament Championship, Saturday evening in Ackerly. Boys

record so far this season is 7-8 and the girls record is an impressive 15-1. Sands last game before the holiday break will be Tuesday in Wellman.

### Gay scores 21 as the Spurs defeat 76ers 123-96



AP photo

San Antonio Spurs' DeMar DeRozan, right, drives against Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, in San Antonio.

#### By RAUL DOMINGUEZ

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — While the San Antonio Spurs search for their identity as a team, Rudy Gay is showing that he has returned to form.

Gay had 21 points and LaMarcus Aldridge and DeMar DeRozan each added 20 as San Antonio defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 123-96 on Monday night.

"I think we're starting to figure out each other more than anything," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Who's got the mismatches out there. Usually your best players look for those mismatches and our guys are starting to figure that out. Defensively, we've got a little bit more rhyme and reason to what we're doing and it's shown in this homestand. I'm pleased with the progress (but) we still have a long way to go."

Aldridge added 10 rebounds and DeRozan had seven assists for the Spurs, who closed a six-game home stand at 5-1.

San Antonio bounced back after squandering a 21-point lead in a loss to Chicago on Saturday night. It was the fifth straight game the Spurs held an opponent under 100 points.

J.J. Redick and Ben Simmons each had 16 points to lead the 76ers on the second night of a back-to-back. Joel Embiid was limited to 13 points on 6-for-17 shooting and finished with 11 rebounds. Jimmy Butler had six points on 3-for-13 shooting.

Philadelphia shot 41 percent from the field and 30 percent on 3-pointers in losing for the third time in four outings.

"Defensively, they put us in tough situations to execute our offense," Embiid said. "I had a pretty bad shooting

night, Jimmy did (too). They made us uncomfortable."

When the Spurs' lead over the 76ers swelled to 29 points, Popovich didn't need to remind his team about the Bulls' rally.

"There was nothing to say, we were engaged," Gay said. "We were really engaged. I think it was pretty clear that we messed up last game, we let that one go. Two games in a row? Can't happen. Can't happen."

Gay was key to the Spurs maintaining the lead. The 13-year veteran took advantage of mismatches when he wasn't outworking Butler.

Gay had 11 points in the third as he continued his solid play in his comeback from a ruptured left Achilles tendon two years ago. The 6-foot-8 forward is averaging 14 points this season, but has averaged 18.8 points in his last seven games.

"He's got a little spunk in his step," Popovich said. "He likes the group. He's worked hard to understand defensively and rebounding what we want and, of course, he can score."

Gay has scored 20-plus points five times through 27 games. He accomplished that feat in 57 games last season.

Philadelphia raced to a nine-point lead in the opening quarter behind Redick's outside shooting and Embiid's inside dominance. The duo combined to shoot 8 for 13 and scored nine points apiece in the first quarter, including a 3-pointer by Redick and a dunk by Embiid.

The Spurs rallied by limiting the 76ers to eight field goals and 17 points in the second quarter, and by forcing five turnovers.

See SPURS, Page 13

### Harden's 47 points lead Rockets over Jazz 102-97



AP photo

Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) drives the ball against Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, in Houston.

#### By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni has witnessed James Harden have the only 60-point triple-double in NBA history, lead Houston to the Western Conference finals and win his first MVP award.

But what Harden has done for the previously underperforming Rockets in the last three games has topped anything the veteran coach has seen from his superstar player.

"I know he's the MVP and everything, but this level the last three or four games is where it's really high," D'Antoni said. "It's as good as he's ever played."

Harden scored 47 points to help the Rockets hold off the Utah Jazz 102-97 on Monday night for their fourth straight win.

It was Houston's first victory over the Jazz this season after dropping the first two meetings. The team's current winning streak comes following a three-game skid.

Monday's performance came after Harden had 50 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists in a win over the Lakers on Thursday and another triple-double of 32 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists in Saturday's win at Memphis.

"He's the best offensive player I've ever seen — like, seriously," teammate Chris Paul said. "He can drive. He can shoot. He's got ballhandling, so it's going to be a tough night for you, whoever it is. I don't care what you're doing."

Houston led by double digits early in the fourth quarter, but poor shooting left the Rockets tied with about two minutes left. A 3-pointer by

Harden put Houston back on top and he added two free throws with about a minute remaining to make it 99-94.

Donovan Mitchell was fouled by Eric Gordon on a 3-pointer and made all three free throws to cut the lead to two with 35 seconds left.

Then, under heavy pressure from Ricky Rubio, Harden stepped back and hit a 3 to make it 102-97 with 13.3 seconds left, securing the victory.

Harden brushed off talk of his recent dominance, insisting that it's something he has to do with the Rockets (15-14) in 10th place in the Western Conference.

"We're in a hole," he said. "I keep saying the same thing, but if you look at the standings it (stinks) to look and see you're not where you're supposed to be. We just continue to work and build our way up there."

Mitchell had 23 points for the Jazz, who have lost four of five.

"We had a hard time scoring for a while, and that was about the same time we weren't close enough to (Harden), and he rose up and hit a big 3 and made a series of plays," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said.

Harden, who hit 15 of 16 free throws, had six rebounds, five assists and five steals.

"He's been getting really hot the last week, playing really aggressive, and we let him get to the free throw line, which was one of the things that we were talking about trying to avoid," Rubio said.

The Rockets had a 10-point lead after three periods and Harden put them up by 11 on a 3-pointer with about nine minutes left in the fourth.

See ROCKETS, Page 13

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Application has been made with Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a mixed beverage permit by La Posada Food, LLC dba La Posada Restaurant located at 206 NW 4th St. Big Spring, Howard, Texas. Officers of said limited liability company Michael A. Smith, Member and Emerlinda-Brito-Smith, Member.

#10025 Dec. 18 & 19, 2018

**Notice of Application for Commercial Fluid Injection Well Permit**

On Point Oilfield Operations LLC, Bldg. B, Ste. 120, 13215 Bee Cave Pkwy, Austin, TX 78738, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Ellenburger, Cisco, Canyon Reef, Strawn, and Cambrian Sand Forma-

**Legals**

tions, Hull SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed injection well is located 10.04 miles NW of Coahoma, TX in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, in Howard County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 7,800 to 13,000 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

#1002# Dec. 18, 2018

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

By HOLIDAY MATHIS



**Sagittarian Solar Advice**

These last days of the Sagittarian sun will be an education. Being able to differentiate between what you know and don't know -- that's the trick. And it's a lot more difficult than it seems. There are many assumptions people make in this regard, as humans love to feel knowledgeable, but the wise will step back and wonder.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You're not asking much out of this day, but you would like to know that you've made a difference in the experience of others. You'll get the feedback you desire.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** There was a time when it took extra energy to be thoughtful and considerate. But that was long ago, when you were still learning how

you wanted to operate in the world. Now it takes no energy. It's just who you are.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You pay attention to the tone of interactions and try to raise the energy level, if only just a little so that you're always leaving people in a better mood than they were in when you started.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** While it may feel like you're giving more love and attention to someone than you're getting back, that's only if you're capping off the count at the end of the day. Extend the deadline. This has potential to be a long relationship.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** There are more moving parts today but don't let it overwhelm you. The only moving part you need to concern yourself with is your own, and you

can trust that it will connect beautifully where it's supposed to.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** People respect your power because you use it quietly, applying influence only where you really think it is necessary, and where it will do the most good for the situation.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The third eye is the one that sees what's really important. But it's vision can vary in accuracy,

which is why it will be interesting to write down your predictions so you can look back later and track what you got right.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Sure, you have your preferences -- certain people you care to be around more than others -- but you see things to love in many people around you today. Do you think it's possible to love everyone?

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your mind doesn't always fire off thoughts that create the neural pathways to feeling good, but luckily today you can take hold of the situation and feed it what it needs to get some favorable chemistry going.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Doing what you don't want to do because you feel you should is the most direct route to wasted time. Your best bet is to either figure out a better reason to follow through, or bail fast.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Don't worry about success or winning or anything along the lines of gaining approval. The only approval you need now is your own. Honest contemplation is in store. Can you still stand behind your choice?

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Mostly, things are going in your favor, and will continue to do so, as you show more enthusiasm for your good fortune, however small it may seem.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 18).** You never stop educating yourself this year, and you become freer with every hour of study. Knowing how things work -- emotionally, spiritually, practically -- gives you advantages you'll use time and again. Major fun at the start of 2019 happens because you dare to do things different from your predecessors. Leo and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 20, 14, 4 and 32.

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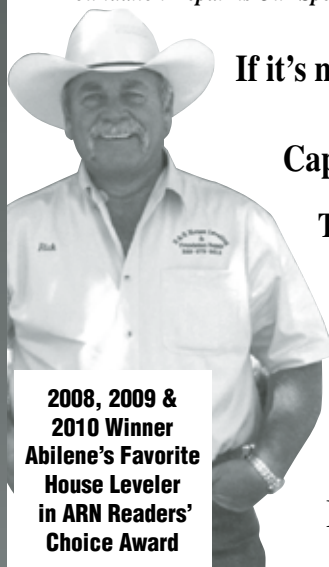
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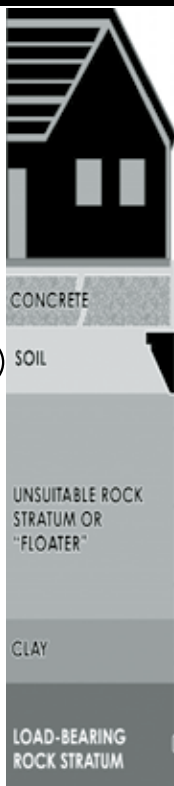
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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Sylvia plays duplicate bridge

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

<b>NORTH</b>			
♠	9		
♥	A K 4		
♦	A Q J 9 4		
♣	A Q 4 3		
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
♠	A 10 8 5 4 2	♠	K J
♥	10 7	♥	J 9 6 3
♦	8 7	♦	K 3 2
♣	J 8 5	♣	10 9 7 2
<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠	Q 7 6 3		
♥	Q 8 5 2		
♦	10 6 5		
♣	K 6		

The bidding:  

<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	

 Opening lead — five of spades.

Sylvia never did like duplicate bridge. What she enjoyed most was playing rubber bridge with the experts at the club, even though she realized she was outclassed. She felt that the level of skill in the duplicate game did not present her with as much of a challenge — not to mention the chance to improve her game — as did the experts' rubber-bridge game.

This deal occurred on a night when Sylvia made one of her rare appearances at the club duplicate. At each of the 12 tables, South became declarer at three notrump.

At 11 tables, South made four notrump after East won the opening spade lead with the king and returned the jack. Declarer ducked and eventually finished with 10 tricks after losing a diamond finesse to East.

But at Sylvia's table, South went down two after West led a spade and Sylvia (East) played the jack instead of the king! South did not dare refuse to take the jack, since it appeared certain that West had the A-K. So he won with the queen and staked his all on the diamond finesse, leading the ten and letting it ride.

Sylvia took the ten with the king and returned the king of spades. West overtook with the ace and cashed his spades, and declarer wound up down two.

There was not much point in asking Sylvia to explain her jack play, because everyone knew how reluctant she always was to part with a king. In fact, had anyone asked, Sylvia no doubt would have been surprised to learn that any play other than the jack could even be contemplated.

Tomorrow: A very delicate decision.  
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### Annie's Mailbox

#### Therapist Recommends Unfamiliar Treatment

Dear Annie: A therapist recommended that I try EMDR in order to process past traumas. It sounds intriguing and fancy, but I don't really understand what it involves. Could you explain what EMDR is and how it works? I'm uninformed and skeptical. -- Curious but Confused

#### Dear Curious but Confused:

EMDR stands for eye movement desensitization and reprocessing. Francine Shapiro developed the form of psychotherapy in the late 1980s. It involves asking individuals to recall traumatic events while giving themselves some sensory input -- such as crossing their arms and tapping their shoulders or looking from side to side. It's often recommended for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. According to the American Psychological Association, EMDR "is associated with a reduction in the vividness and emotion associated with the trauma memories." There is some controversy regarding the treatment's efficacy over other methods of psychotherapy. Don't be shy about asking your therapist for more information. It is your right to understand modalities of treatment before trying them out, and it's your therapist's job to inform you.

Dear Annie: Years ago, Ann Landers had a column about hate. I'm sorry to say I lost the paper. It was about how when you hate other people, it's you hating yourself. I've always said that if you like yourself, then you can like other people. I always accept people the way they are. We do not think the same way or like the same things all the time. I hope you can find the column. -- C.L.L., Canfield, Ohio

#### Dear C.L.L.:

I believe you're referring to "Rules for Being Human," a piece of unknown origin that Ann Landers printed several times. It contains some real gems, such as the passage you mentioned about hate, and it's my pleasure to reprint it.

#### Rules for Being Human

You will receive a body. You may like it or hate it, but it will be yours for as long as you live. How you take care of it or fail to take care of it can make an enormous difference in the quality of your life. You will learn lessons. You are enrolled in a full-time school called Life. Each day, you will be presented with opportunities to learn what you need to know. The lessons presented from those you THINK you need. There are no mistakes -- only lessons. A lesson is repeated until it is learned. A lesson will be presented to you in

various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it (as evidenced by a change in your attitude and behavior), then you can go on to the next lesson. Learning lessons does not end. There is no stage of life that does not contain some lessons. As long as you live, there will be something more to learn. "There" is no better than "here." When your "there" has become a "here," you will obtain another "there" that will again look better than your "here." Don't be fooled by believing that the unattainable is better than what you have. Others are merely mirrors of you. You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects something you love or hate about yourself. When tempted to criticize others, ask yourself why you feel so strongly. The answers are within you. The solutions to all of life's problems are within your grasp. All you need to do is ask, look, listen and trust. You will forget all this. Unless you consistently stay focused on the goals you have set for yourself, everything you've just read won't mean a thing.

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

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

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

Here's How It Works:  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:



When what to her wondering eyes should appear...

Share the Journey

Read

with your child

	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWWT (14)	KWES2 (15)	WTBS (33)	TNT (34)	ESPN (35)	ESPN2 (36)	FSN (38)	USA (55)	A&E (58)	DISC (60)	
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Midland	Atlanta	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Sports	New York	New York	Discovery	
5:PM	Big 2	P. Luche	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	Dollars	Focus	Mama's	American	Fam. Guy	In Sixty Seconds (DVS)	SportsCenter	College Basketball: Princeton at Duke.	Road/Champ.	Mod Fam	The First 48	Dirty Jobs	
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	Shofar	Business	Jeff's sons	American	Fam. Guy					Mod Fam			
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Our Mess	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy		College Football: Cherubundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl	College Basketball: Buffalo at Syracuse.	Stars In.	Mod Fam	Leah Remini	Dirty Jobs	
6:30	Wheel		Big Bang	ET		News	House		M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang								
7:PM	Conners	Jesús	Lethal Weapon	NCIS (DVS)	(:05) La sultana (SS)	The Voice	News	We'll Meet Again	Griffith	Countdown	Big Bang	Movie: Law Abiding Citizen (DVS)			Mavericks	WWE SmackDown!	Leah Remini	Take Back-Harbor	
7:30	Kids								Griffith		Big Bang								
8:PM	blackish	Mi marido	The Gifted	FBI	Falsa identidad (SS)	The Voice	Light of Southwest	Lidia Celebrates	G. Pyle WKRP	Holiday Video	Big Bang				NBA Basketball: Mavericks at Denver Nuggets.		Leah Remini	(:01) Dirty Jobs	
8:30	Splitting										Big Bang								
9:PM	The Rookie	Amar a muerte	FOX 24 News at 9	NCIS: New Orleans	Señora Acero (SS)		Light of Southwest	Frontline	Heroes	Page Six	Big Bang	Movie: London Has Fallen (DVS)	SportsCenter	Women's College Basketball		Chrisley	Elizabeth Smart	(:01) Dirty Jobs	
9:30									Heroes	Gold	Guest					Chrisley	Elizabeth Smart	(:01) Dirty Jobs	
10:PM	Big 2	Impacto	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	Creation	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	Gold	Conan				Mavs		Chrisley	Elizabeth Smart	(:01) Dirty Jobs
10:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	M:25		Perry Mason	Seinfeld							Chrisley	Elizabeth Smart	(:01) Dirty Jobs
11:PM	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	Funny	James Corden	Falsa identidad (SS)	Seth Meyers	Way of	We'll Meet Again	Tw. Zone	Rules	New Girl	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	Road/Champ.	Chrisley	Leah Remini	Take Back-Harbor	
11:30	Extra	Cachito de Cielo	Two Men	Simpsons	Señora Acero (SS)	Daly	On the	(Off Air)	Hitchcock	Rules	New Girl	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter	First Take	NBA Basketball: Mavericks at Nuggets		Chrisley	Leah Remini	(12:01) Dirty Jobs
12:30	Paid Prg.								Hitchcock	King	New Girl	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter				Chrisley	Leah Remini	(:01) Dirty Jobs
1:AM	Paid Prg.	En tierras salvajes	Pawn	ET	Programa	News	Light of Southwest		Mannix	Top 30 Paid Prg.	Broke Girl	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter				Chrisley	Leah Remini	(:01) Dirty Jobs

### ANDY CAPP

Panel 1: Andy Capp: "I'M NOT THE WORST HUSBAND IN THE WORLD." Wife: "YOU ARE." Panel 2: Andy Capp: "I COME HOME EVERY NIGHT, DON'T I?" Panel 3: Andy Capp: "THAT'S THE WORST THING."

### AGNES

Panel 1: Agnes: "OK! TIME TO FASTEN THIS WHOLE MESS TOGETHER INTO A FINE LEATHER RAIMENT." Panel 2: Agnes: "SHEESH! THIS STUFF IS TOUGH AS COWHIDE! I CAN'T EVEN GET A NEEDLE THROUGH IT! DO YOU HAVE A GLUE GUN OR A STAPLER?" Panel 3: Agnes: "GORILLA TAPE? I'LL GO CHECK MY MOMS NIGHTSTAND."

### ARCHIE

Panel 1: Archie: "HELLO?" Panel 2: Archie: "NOW HERE'S A LESSON WORTH LEARNING..." Panel 3: Archie: "NEVER LEAVE YOUR CELLPHONE SITTING TOO NEAR YOUR BLUE-RAY CONTROLLER, YOUR TABLET, YOUR..."

### ONE BIG HAPPY

Panel 1: Grandpa: "WHEN I WAS A KID, WE WERE TOLD THAT IF WE WERE NAUGHTY, SANTA WOULD LEAVE COAL AND SWITCHES IN OUR STOCKING." Panel 2: Grandpa: "WHAT ARE SWITCHES, GRANDPA?" Panel 3: Grandpa: "SO, IF IT WAS REAL COLD, YOU COULD USE THE SWITCHES TO LIGHT THE COAL!" Panel 4: Grandpa: "EVEN IF YOU WERE NAUGHTY, SANTA WANTED YOU TO BE COMFORTABLE."

### NEST HEAD

Panel 1: Nest Head: "DID YOU SEND YOUR ENGLISH PROFESSOR A CHRISTMAS CARD, ALBERT?" Panel 2: Albert: "YEAH, ONE I MADE MYSELF. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT PUT HIM IN A GOOD MOOD WHEN HE GRADES MY EXAM." Panel 3: Nest Head: "WHY? DID HE SEND ONE TO ME?" Panel 4: Albert: "NO, HE SENT YOURS BACK WITH THE SPELLING CORRECTED."

### MOMMA

Panel 1: Momma: "WELL, I'VE GOT ALL YOUR TEST RESULTS MRS. HOBBS, AND WE'VE FOUND NOTHING THAT WOULD ALARM OR WORRY YOUR CHILDREN!" Panel 2: Momma: "OH, DEAR... NOW ALL I CAN DO IS PRAY..."

## This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2018. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 18, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

On this date: In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1892, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia; although now considered a classic, it received a generally negative reception from critics.

In 1916, during World War I, the 10-month Battle of Verdun ended with French troops succeeding in repulsing a major German offensive.

In 1917, Congress passed the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting "the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors" and sent it to the states for ratification.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler signed a secret directive ordering preparations for a Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the government's wartime evacuation of people of Japanese descent from the West Coast while at the same time ruling that "concededly loyal" Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first nuclear facility to generate electricity in the United States, went on line. (It was taken out of service in 1982.)

In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 11 days later.)

In 1987, Ivan F. Boesky was sentenced to three years in prison for his role in a major Wall Street insider-trading scandal. (Boesky served about two years of his sentence).

In 1992, Kim Young-sam was elected South Korea's first civilian president in three decades.

In 1998, the House debated articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton. South Carolina carried out the nation's 500th execution since capital punishment resumed in 1977.

### Thought for Today:

"It's a complex fate, being an American."

Henry James  
American author  
(1843-1916).

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## Newsday Crossword

### ACROSS

1 Backyard storage structure

5 Art \_\_ (retro building style)

9 Abstains from eating

14 Aviation-related prefix

15 " \_\_ out?" (card dealer's query)

16 Opening statement, for short

17 Be patient

18 Entryway with a bug barrier

20 Campaigner's oration

22 Hard-to-please actress

23 Summer hours in CA

24 Scottish girl

26 Local sandwich shop

28 Paper-repairing roll

34 Crunchy sandwich, for short

35 Top poker card

36 Checklist line

37 \_\_ 1 (speed of sound)

39 Trimmed off, as a rind

42 Flower stalk

43 Workplace protection agcy.

44 Spanish cheer

45 "Poison" climbing plant

46 Border around some schoolyards

52 Speckle-coated horse

53 Video arcade giant

54 Commotion

57 Spot of land in the ocean

59 Usual

### DOWN

63 Auto's front glass

66 Speed contest

67 Game show host

68 Author Wiesel

69 Vegetable in gumbo

70 Appears to be

71 Took advantage of

72 Unwanted garden plant

9 Last song in a show

10 "In addition . . ."

11 Eight-sided street sign

12 Trampled (on)

13 Arrange into stacks

19 \_\_ so (nevertheless)

21 Baseball great Ripken

25 Pet adoption org.

27 "You know how \_\_"

28 Don't go together, as plaids with stripes

29 \_\_ Sketch (drawing toy)

30 Long-legged wading bird

31 Home's upper storage area

32 Pet \_\_ (ongoing annoyance)

33 Television award

34 Popular college guy, for short

38 Salon sweepings

40 Antlered animals

41 Stood up for

47 Annoying sounds

48 Place for mascara

49 Taking the place (of)

50 Self-esteem

51 Not very wide

54 Amazes

55 Thinnest American coin

56 A single time

58 Electrified fishes

60 Manufacture

61 Farmland measure

62 Starring role

64 Republican's opponent: Abbr.

65 Tell untruths

Answer to previous puzzle

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

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# Saints keep finding ways to grind out wins, stay atop NFC

By **STEVE REED**

AP Sports Writer  
 CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — On a night when the high-powered offense was stuck in neutral, the New Orleans Saints still found a way to grind out a 12-9 win over Carolina behind their ever-improving defense.

That could bode well for these Saints (12-2) as they prepare to make a run at the Super Bowl.

For years, they've relied on star quarterback Drew Brees to score a lot of points, put up big yardage and win games for them. But suddenly the Saints have a defense that is not only keeping them close when the offense sputters, but might be one of the best in the NFL. New Orleans has not allowed more than 17 points in any of its last six games.

"That's what the great teams find a way to do," said Brees, who was limited to 203 yards passing and intercepted once Monday night. "Despite what happens in the first three quarters or maybe the mistakes that were made prior to that, they just make the plays you need to make to win the game."

Brees likes that the Saints have found many different ways to win, even though not all of them have been pretty. The 12 points against the Panthers marked the fewest for New Orleans in a victory since 1998.

For most of the season the Saints relied on an electrifying offense, scoring 40 points or more six times. But recently it is the defense that has stepped up to make big plays.

"There's a lot to be said for that — finding ways



**New Orleans Saints' Drew Brees (9) looks to pass under pressure from Carolina Panthers' Kawann Short (97) in the second half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.**

AP photo

to win," Brees said. "Battle-tested. These last two weeks, we've had to win in the fourth quarter, had to come back and win in the fourth quarter. On the road, divisional games, those are going to be hard-fought. Those are going to be tough and the great teams find a way. Our guys believe we're all going to step up, we're going to do this together, somebody's going to make a play."

The Saints didn't make a lot of plays Monday, but they made enough.

There was Eli Apple's interception of Cam Newton's pass in the end zone with 10 seconds left before halftime. There was Von Bell's strip of wide receiver

D.J. Moore on an inside handoff and A.J. Klein's recovery, which led to the go-ahead score. There were four players who sacked Newton — and none were named Cam Jordan. Alvin Kamara had a 50-yard kickoff return.

The little plays all add up. "We are playing hard and playing for each other," Apple said.

Unlike some of the NFL's other top teams — namely, the Rams and Chiefs — the Saints found a way to grind it out without their A game on offense this week.

It didn't matter that the offense failed to gain more than 30 yards on seven of its first eight drives. It didn't matter because New Orleans could count on its defense.

Jordan called it the best he's ever played on.

"I believe in us, game in and game out, first quarter to fourth quarter," Jordan said. "If it comes down to a crucial play, I believe in us. If we need a turnover, I believe in us."

New Orleans has already wrapped up the NFC South title and can clinch home-field advantage throughout the playoffs with a victory in either of its last two games, both at home, against Pittsburgh and Carolina.

Looking for their second Super Bowl championship in a decade, the well-rounded Saints might just be the favorites heading into the postseason.

"We were just trying to stack weeks because you know you want to play your best ball in December," said Bell, who also had seven tackles and a sack. "That's what people remember and going into this last stretch we wanted to finish strong."

## ROCKETS

Continued from Page 7

Mitchell had a nifty spinning layup before the Rockets missed five shots over their next two possessions and Danuel House turned it over the next time down.

Mitchell's layup started a 9-0 run for the Jazz, capped by a 3 from Rubio that got them to 90-88 with about 5 1/2 minutes left.

Harden scored Houston's first points in more than 3 1/2 minutes after that, and things between him and Rudy Gobert got a little testy after that. Gobert fouled Harden as he drib-

bled down the court and Harden approached Gobert after the call. There was some minor pushing between the two before Harden walked away.

The Rockets led by 13 at halftime but Utah opened the third quarter with a 12-2 run to get to 52-49 with about 8 1/2 minutes left in the period.

Utah used a 7-0 spurt later in the quarter to take a 58-57 lead. But Harden took over after that, scoring all of Houston's points in a 9-2 run that gave the Rockets a six-point lead with about 5 1/2 minutes left in the quarter. Harden converted three-point plays on consecutive possessions before hitting a 3 after a turnover by Jae Crowder.

Houston was up by four about a min-

ute later when Harden sailed over the 7-foot-1 Gobert for a one-handed dunk before a 3-pointer by P.J. Tucker made it 73-64. Snyder was handed a technical after that for yelling at the officials, and Harden made the free throw.

TIP-INS

Jazz: Gobert had 18 points and 13 rebounds. ... The Jazz had 23 turnovers. ... Crowder finished with 14 points.

Rockets: Waived F/C Zhou Qi. ... James Ennis missed his third straight game with a strained right hamstring and D'Antoni said Ennis could be out as long as two weeks. ... Brandon Knight had three points and a rebound in his third game back af-

ter missing last season while recovering from knee surgery. ... Paul had 11 points and nine assists.

THEY SAID IT

Harden on his one-handed dunk over Gobert: "I still got some juice in these legs. For you bigs out there that want to keep testing (me)," Harden said before cracking up. "Nah, I'm just playing. The lane was open all night. The bigs were going back, taking away the lob, taking away the lob, so I had to get to the rim and finish."

UP NEXT

Jazz: Host Golden State on Wednesday night.

Rockets: Host Washington on Wednesday night.

## SPURS

Continued from Page 7

"You can talk about Xs and Os, you can talk about a bunch of stuff but to me, our spirit was down," Philadelphia coach Brett Brown said. "We are poor in back-to-backs. That is a fact and we have to find a way to do better."

TIP-INS

76ers: Brown and assistant Monty Williams worked for the Spurs prior to joining Philadelphia. Brown spent 11 seasons as an assistant under Popovich from 2002-2013. Williams played for the Spurs from 1996-98 and returned to serve as vice president of basketball operations from 2016-18. ... Embiid led the team in scoring in four straight games prior to Monday, averaging 30.3 points over that stretch.

Spurs: The Spurs held the 76ers to 17 points in the second quarter, which was two points shy of their season low of 15 for the period at Phoenix on Oct. 31. ... Davis Bertans had 16 points, the most in four games since a two-game absence following the birth of his first child. ... San Antonio's bench outscored Philadelphia's 56-35.

HUMBLED

Popovich spoke of his admiration for Butler, who he is expected to coach on the U.S. Men's Basketball Team in the 2020 Olympics.

"The one thing that stands out to me is he's a competitor," Popovich said. "I love competitors, and

he's that in spades. And he's obviously talented."

Butler was humbled by Popovich's assessment.

"All he wants to ever do is win, but a great guy," Butler said. "He knows the human aspect of the game as well. For him to say that about me, it means a lot. It means I've just got to keep doing what I'm doing."

CATCHING UP

Brown spent time with former Spurs Tim Duncan and Bruce Bowen, who he coached in San Antonio, prior to Monday's game.

"We had a laugh talking about old times," Brown said. "It touched on basketball, but it was way more just catching up with them and seeing how they're doing personally."

UP NEXT

76ers: Host New York on Wednesday night.  
 Spurs: At Orlando on Wednesday night.

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# Monday Sports in Brief

**NHL**  
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Flyers have fired coach Dave Hakstol, with the team having lost 11 of its last 14 games.

General manager Chuck Fletcher announced the move Monday, less than two weeks since taking over for the fired Ron Hextall. Minor league coach Scott Gordon took over as the interim replacement.

The last-place Flyers have lost four in a row and are 12-15-4. Philadelphia went 1-3-1 on the road trip Fletcher said he'd use to evaluate Hakstol, the rest of the coaching staff and the team at-large.

Hired by Hextall from the University of North Dakota in 2015, Hakstol took the Flyers to the playoffs twice in his three full seasons, but they lost in six games in the first round each time.

**NBA**  
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Pacers have hired Kelly Krauskopf as their new assistant general manager, making her the first woman in league history to hold the title.

Krauskopf has a long history with the franchise.

She spent 19 seasons as the top executive of the WNBA's Indiana Fever and helped oversee Indiana's new NBA2K league team. She also served as the WNBA's first director of basketball operations, as an assistant commissioner for the Southwest Conference and on USA Basketball's women's senior national team committee.

**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP) — The Oklahoma City Thunder have exercised their fifth-year option on coach Billy Donovan's contract.

The team announced the move before Monday night's game against the Chicago Bulls, which the Thunder won 121-96.

Donovan is in his fourth season with the Thunder. He has a 169-106 record with Oklahoma City and has led the team to the playoffs in each of his first three seasons.

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

NEW YORK (AP) — Notre Dame's Brian Kelly is The Associated Press college football Coach of the Year and the third coach to win the award twice since it

was established in 1998. Kelly received 16 of 58 first-place votes from AP college football poll voters and 81 total points. Alabama's Nick Saban was second with 16 first-place votes and 66 points and Central Florida first-year coach Josh Heupel was third with 33 points (five first-place votes).

Twelve coaches received at least one first-place vote and eight received at least three for the award announced Monday. Washington State's Mike Leach finished fourth with 26 points (three first-place votes) and Syracuse's Dino Babers was fifth with 25 (five first-place votes).

Kelly joins Saban and TCU's Gary Patterson as two-time winners. Kelly was also coach of the year in 2012.

**TUSCALOOSA, Ala.** (AP) — Alabama coach Nick Saban says quarterback Tua Tagovailoa is "probably ahead of schedule" in recovering from ankle surgery.

The Heisman Trophy runner-up has been practicing for the top-ranked Crimson Tide, which began preparations Friday for an Orange Bowl semifinal matchup with Oklahoma.

Tagovailoa had surgery on his left ankle shortly after the Dec. 1 Southeastern Conference game during which he sustained a high ankle sprain on the first drive against Georgia.

**STANFORD, Calif.** (AP) — Stanford running back Bryce Love will skip the Sun Bowl to prepare for the NFL draft.

Love announced his decision on Monday to sit out the bowl game for the Cardinal (8-4) on Dec. 31 against Pittsburgh (7-6). Love says he wants to be completely healthy for the 2019 draft.

Love had a rough senior season after deciding to bypass the 2018 draft after finishing as Heisman Trophy runner-up.

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP) — Sacramento State has hired Utah offensive coordinator Troy Taylor as its new football coach.

Athletic director Mark Orr announced the move Monday, calling Taylor an innovative play-caller with ties to the Sacramento area.

Taylor has been co-

ordinator for the Utes the past two seasons, helping them win the Pac-12 South this year. He spent the 2016 season as co-offensive coordinator at Eastern Washington after a stint as a high school coach near Sacramento where he tutored Washington quarterback Jake Browning.

**BASEBALL**  
**HOUSTON** (AP) — A person familiar with the negotiations tells The Associated Press the Houston Astros have agreed to a two-year deal with free agent outfielder Michael Brantley.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity Monday night because the club has not yet announced the move.

The 31-year-old Brantley has spent his entire 10-year career with the Cleveland Indians, where he was a three-time All-Star.

Brantley is a career .295 hitter and gives Houston an upgrade to an outfield anchored by center fielder George Springer.

—By AP Sports Writer Kristie Rieken.

**NEW YORK** (AP) — Left-hander J.A. Happ and the New York Yankees have finalized a \$34 million, two-year contract.

Happ gets \$17 million in each of the next two seasons, and his deal includes a \$17 million option for 2021 that could become guaranteed if he has either 27 or more starts as a pitcher in 2020 or 165 or more innings that year.

He is projected to be part of a rotation that includes Luis Severino, Masahiro Tanaka, CC Sabathia and James Paxton, acquired from Seattle in a trade.

**PITTSBURGH** (AP) — Pitcher Jordan Lyles and the Pittsburgh Pirates have finalized a \$2.05 million, one-year contract.

The 28-year-old right-hander can earn additional award bonuses as part of the deal, agreed to last week and announced Monday.

Lyles is 31-52 with a 5.28 ERA in 217 appearances for Houston, Colorado, San Diego and Milwaukee. Though Lyles has worked primarily as a reliever since 2016, Pirates general manager Neal Huntington said Lyles will have an opportunity to earn a spot

in the starting rotation during spring training.

**CLEVELAND** (AP) — The Indians have acquired infielder Andruw Monasterio from Washington to complete the trade that sent All-Star catcher Yan Gomes to the Nationals.

Cleveland dealt Gomes last month for a package that included right-hander Jefry Rodriguez, outfielder Daniel Johnston and a player to be named, who turned to be Monasterio.

**NEW YORK** (AP) — The New York Yankees gave pitcher CC Sabathia a \$500,000 performance bonus, even though the 38-year-old left-hander was ejected from his final regular-season start six outs shy of the 155 innings speci-

fied in his contract for the payment.

Sabathia hit Tampa Bay's Jesus Sucre starting the sixth inning on Sept. 27 with his 55th pitch of the night, retaliation for Andrew Kittredge throwing a pitch behind Austin Romine in the top half.

Sabathia hit Jake Bauers on the knuckles of his right hand with an 88 mph fastball with two outs in the fifth. Kittredge threw a 93 mph fastball behind Romine's neck with his initial pitch in the sixth. After New York opened an 11-0 lead, Sabathia hit Sucre in the lower left leg with a 93 mph cutter on his first pitch in the bottom half.

**LOS ANGELES** (AP) — The Dodgers have

agreed to a contract extension with play-by-play announcer Charley Steiner, who will work a reduced schedule in 2019 at his request.

The team said Monday the deal extends through the 2021 season. Steiner, who is 69, is entering his 15th season with the Dodgers.

**SOCCER**  
Zlatan Ibrahimovic is staying with the LA Galaxy.

A person with knowledge of the deal confirmed the 37-year-old striker will play next season for the Major League Soccer team. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Galaxy had not yet formally announced it.

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