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# BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018



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## BSSO, BSHS band to go 'Side By Side' in February



HERALD file photo

Big Spring Symphony Orchestra Music Director and Primary Conductor Dr. Keith Graumann, center right, congratulates Concertmaster Dr. Fagner Rocha following the Orchestra's "Home For the Holidays" concert earlier this month. The Orchestra will again take the stage Feb. 9 with Guest Conductor John Giordano at the helm, along with members of the Big Spring High School Band, in a concert titled "Side By Side."

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

Can't get enough of those Big Spring Symphony Orchestra sounds? The BSSO just gave their "Home For the Holidays" Christmas Concert a couple of weeks ago, but they're already hard at work on the next one: "Side By Side," scheduled Feb. 9 at 7:30 in

the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

"It fits our Big Spring Connection, because John Giordano will be our guest conductor, and he's been a friend of the orchestra since the 1980s, so we consider him a Big Spring connection," said BSSO Music Director and Primary Conductor Keith Graumann. "Our guest soloist will be Steve

Hughes, who's a Big Spring native. In fact, he and I graduated the same year. We went to the same All-State. He was in the All-State Orchestra and I was in the All-State Choir the same year. So we're going to feature Steve. He's a clarinetist."

Graumann said Hughes will be featured on pieces by Mozart and by movie composer John Williams.

"He'll be playing a movement from the Mozart Clarinet Concerto...there's only one," he said. "He'll also be playing a modern piece by John Williams, the famous composer and movie score conductor. Conductor Emeritus of the Boston Pops Orchestra. He'll be playing a piece called 'Viktor's Tale.'"

Graumann went on to explain that "Viktor's Tale" is a piece from 2004's "The Terminal," in which Tom Hanks portrays Viktor Navorski, a foreign traveler

See **BSSO**, Page 3

## Jan monthly health focus topic is hypertension



HERALD file photo

The photo above shows the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Dr., where the Senior Center holds their free monthly health focus groups. Their next group meeting will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 8 from 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., and the topic up for discussion will be hypertension.

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**  
 Staff Writer

Regular health exams and tests can help find problems before they start. They also can help find problems early, when your chances for treatment and cure are better. By getting the right health services, screenings, and treatments, you are taking steps that help your chances for living a longer, healthier life.

To better educate the public, the Big Spring Senior Center holds free monthly health focus groups at the Dora Roberts Center with the goal to shed some light on different topics of health to the public each month and how to go about dealing with them.

The first Monthly Health Focus topic for 2019 will be on Hypertension, and will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 8 from 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Dr.

Hypertension is the medical term for high blood pressure. This means that the blood applies too much force against the walls of the blood vessels. According to Medical News Daily, around 85 million people in the United States have high blood pressure. Medical guidelines define hypertension as a blood pressure higher than 130 over 80 millimeters of mercury (mmHg), according to guidelines issued by the American Heart Association (AHA) in November 2018.

Blood pressure is the force exerted by the blood against the walls of the blood vessels. The pressure depends on the work being done by the heart and the resistance of the blood vessels.

Hypertension and heart disease are global health concerns. The World Health Organization (WHO) suggests that the growth of the processed food industry has impacted the amount of salt in diets worldwide, and that this plays a role in hypertension.

The Senior Center Monthly Health Focus will cover more on how you can prevent Hypertension, as well as tips and how to keep a healthy and productive life style. Be sure to come to this free event if you would like free knowledge on this medical condition, or if you or someone you know is dealing with hypertension and would like some advice. Nothing is more important than a healthy you!

By **ANNA GUTIERREZ**  
 Staff Writer

On Sunday, February 24, 2019, Dancing with the Stars Live! will be performing at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center in Midland, TX. Performing will

be many of the fan-favorite professional and troupe dancers including Brandon Armstrong, Gleb Savchenko, Val Chmerkovskiy, Artem Chigvintsev, Sasha Farber, and

See **STARS**, Page 3

## Financial Peace University to kick off 2019 with new classes



Courtesy photo

First United Methodist Church, located at 400 Scurry Street, will be hosting Financial Peace University, a religious financial education program slated to begin during the last week of January, 2019.

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**  
 Staff Writer

If you think about it, money touches every nook and cranny of our lives. We measure our successes and failures by it, and just when we start to feel like we have the hang of it, something always goes wrong. Whether you've got your money tied up in credit cards, medical bills, or whatever it may be, in the end it all adds up and fast.

Most of us have been there, which is why

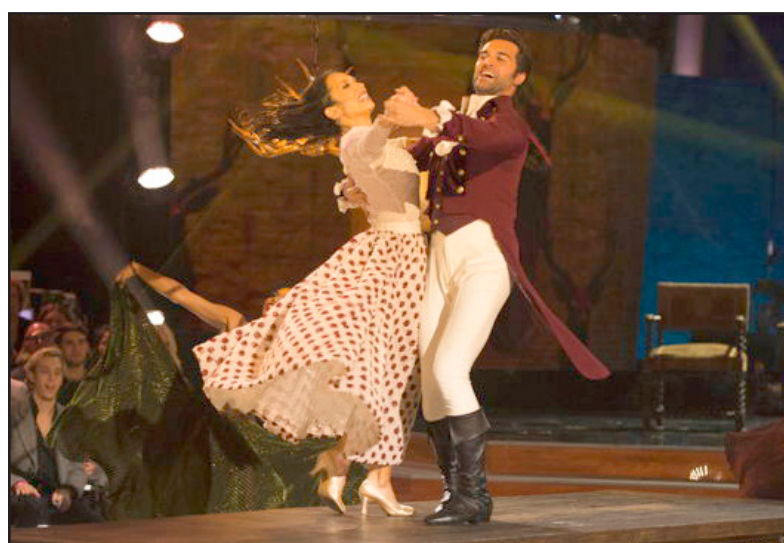
Financial Peace University came about as founder Dave Ramsey started pursuing what God had to say about money, coming up with a new plan that included making (and sticking

ist Church (FUMC) has brought a special event to Big Spring, "Financial Peace University", a financial advice program that teaches about money from a religious point of view. The class will feature special guest speaker Dan Kiley.

See **FPU**, Page 3

## Dancing with the Stars Live coming to Midland

Juan Pablo Di Pace and Cheryl Burke perform their Viennese waltz to "Gaston" from "Beauty and the Beast" on Dancing With The Stars' Disney Night earlier this year, where they tied for first place with the performance.



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## Obituaries

### Michael "Mike" McSwain



Michael "Mike" McSwain, 67, of Midland formerly of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 24, 2018. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Mike was born Feb. 17, 1951, in Big Spring to Ruth Pachall McSwain and Chester McSwain. He married Holly Green on March 28,

1970.

Mike is survived by his wife Holly of Midland; two daughters: Kerry McSwain of Midland and Kris Thomason and her husband Jeff of Tulsa, Oklahoma; one son, Scott McSwain and his wife Stephanie of Midland; one brother, Larry McSwain of Big Spring and one sister, Linda Phillipe and her husband Greg of Big Spring; four grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother: Dewey McSwain.

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

## Police, Sheriff reports

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **SUNDAY CASAREZ LUNA**, 31, was arrested on charges of theft property in between \$750 and \$2,500, and criminal mischief.

- **RODOLFO MUNGUIA**, 19, was arrested on charges of theft property in between \$750 and \$2,500, and criminal mischief.

- **AGAPITO GUTIERREZ**, 55, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- **HERMAN WILLIAM STEELE**, 44, was arrested on charges of evading arrest detention, and resist arrest search or transport.

- **STACY LYNN PENDLETON**, 43, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE**, 56, was arrested on a war-

rant of criminal trespass.

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

- **BRITINEE YOCHAM ASTON**, 34, was arrested by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated, and escape from custody.

- **MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE**, 56, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of criminal trespass.

- **BRYAN LONNIE CHAVEZ**, 29, was arrested by BSPD on charge of possession of controlled substance less than one gram, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- **AGAPITO GUTIERREZ**, 55, was arrested by BSPD on a

charge of driving while intoxicated.

- **SUNDAY CASAREZ LUNA**, 31, was arrested by BSPD on charges of theft property in between \$750 and \$2,500, and criminal mischief.

- **RODOLFO MUNGUIA**, 19, was arrested by BSPD on charges of theft property in between \$750 and \$2,500, and criminal mischief.

- **STACY LYNN PENDLETON**, 43, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **DANIELL ARLISA RAMON**, 25, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of theft of property in between \$100 to \$750.

- **HERMAN WILLIAM STEELE**, 44, was arrested by BSPD on charges of evading arrest detention, and resist arrest search or transport.

## Take Note

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

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

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

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

- Each week Kindred offers free health checks from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Corner House Coffee Shop, 1701 Scurry St.

### Nease Crosby



Nease Crosby, 59, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018, at her residence. A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018, at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Lamesa, 1201 SE 12th Street.

She was born Oct. 13, 1959, in Lamesa, Texas.

Nease is survived by her husband, Danny Crosby of Big Spring; two sons, Hasaan Mitchell and Bryson Mitchell, both of Midland; parents, Lillie ad Jodie Collins of Lamesa; three sisters, Alice Mae Edwards of Amarillo, Aphiea Collins, and Renee Taylor, both of Midland; three brothers, Jodie Lee Collins, Jr. of Midland, Braxton Collins of Lubbock, and Coleman Collins of Ft. Worth; one step-son, Preston Bolton of Lamesa; a numerous grandchildren and other relatives.

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

## Support Groups

### 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.

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

- Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. t 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email [francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org](mailto:francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org), or call 432-268-3003.

- GriefShare is a Biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Meetings are weekly Sept. 13 Dec. 20, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.

### FRIDAY

- Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Fridays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### MONDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinson's Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

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**MEMBER 2018**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

# White House, congressional Democrats see no deal on shutdown

By **JULIET LINDERMAN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chances look slim for ending the partial government shutdown any time soon.

Lawmakers are away from Washington for the holidays and have been told they will get 24 hours' notice before having to return for a vote. And although the Senate is slated to come into session Thursday afternoon, few senators were expected to be around for it.

After a weekend and two holiday days for federal employees, Wednesday was the first regularly scheduled workday affected by the closure of a variety of federal services.

Trump vowed to hold the line on his budget demand, telling reporters during his visit to Iraq on Wednesday that he'll do "whatever it takes" to get money for border security. He declined to say how much he would accept in a deal to end the shutdown. "You have to have a wall, you have to have protection," he said.

Back from the 29-hour trip to visit U.S. troops, Trump said in a Thursday tweet "we desperately need" a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, funding for which has been a flashpoint between the White House and Congress ever since Trump took office.

He called on Democrats in Congress to fund his wall, saying the shutdown affects their supporters. He asserted without evidence: "Do the Dems realize that most of the people not getting paid are Democrats?"

Virginia Democratic Sen. Mark Warner called Trump's comments "outrageous." In his tweet, he added: "Federal employees don't go to work wearing red or blue jerseys. They're public servants. And the President is treating them like poker chips at one of his failed casinos."

The shutdown started Saturday when funding lapsed for nine Cabinet-level departments and dozens of agencies. Roughly 420,000 workers were deemed essential and are working unpaid, while an additional 380,000 have been furloughed.

While the White House was talking to congressional Democrats — and staff talks continued on Capitol Hill — negotiations dragged Wednesday, dimming hopes for a swift breakthrough.

Republican Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina, a Trump ally who has been involved in the talks, said the president "is very firm in his resolve that we need to secure our border." He told CNN, "If they believe that this president is going to yield on this particular issue, they're misreading him."

The impasse over government funding began last week, when the Senate approved a bipartisan deal keeping government open into February. That bill provided \$1.3 billion for border security projects but not money for the wall. At Trump's urging, the

House approved that package and inserted the \$5.7 billion he had requested.

But Senate Republicans lacked the votes they needed to force the measure through their chamber. That jump-started negotiations between Congress and the White House, but the deadline came and went without a deal.

The shutdown has been playing out against the backdrop of turmoil in the stock market.

Kevin Hassett, the chairman of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, said the shutdown does not change the administration's expectation for strong growth heading into 2019. He told reporters a shutdown of a few weeks is not going to have any "significant effect on the outlook."

Among those affected by the shutdown — the third of 2018 — are the departments of Homeland Security, Transportation, Interior, Agriculture, State and Justice. Those being furloughed include 52,000 workers at the Internal Revenue Service and nearly everyone at NASA. About 8 in 10 employees of the National Park Service are staying home, and many parks have closed.

The shutdown didn't stop people from visiting the White Sands National Monument in southern New Mexico, where hundreds of unauthorized visitors have in recent days climbed over a fence to enter the monument, according to The Alamogordo Daily News. State highway workers were sent to the area Monday to erect "no parking" signs along U.S. 70 outside the monument.

Trump has claimed federal workers are behind him in the shutdown fight, saying many told him, "stay out until you get the funding for the wall." He didn't say who told him that. Many workers have gone to social media with stories of the financial hardship they expect to face because of the shutdown.

One union representing federal workers slammed Trump's claim. Paul Shearon, president of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, said the union has not heard from a single member who supports Trump's position.

"Most view this as an act of ineptitude," he said.



AP photo  
People visit the Capitol as a shutdown affecting parts of the federal government appeared no closer to ending, with President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats locked in a hardening standoff over border wall money, in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018.

## BSSO

Continued from Page 1

trapped by a visa snafu and unable to leave the terminal at JFK Airport in New York.

So what does "Side By Side" mean in relation to this concert?

"What we'll do in addition to that is, we'll have some of the best members of the Big Spring High School Band come to play a finale — actually two," said Graumann. "They'll be playing a huge piece by Sibelius called 'Finlandia.' Of course, Sibelius was Finnish, and he's like a national hero for Finland. This is a huge piece, and we'll have members of the Big Spring Band play side by side with us for this final piece, plus we'll do an encore with those same people. We hope to feature them, and maybe have their parents stand, and that kind of thing."

In addition, the audience can expect to recognize a couple of pieces.

"We'll also be doing some familiar pieces. For example, we'll be opening with Rossini's 'William Tell Overture,'" Graumann said. The "William Tell Overture" was made famous as the theme song from "The Lone Ranger."

"Another piece you might want to mention is the Gershwin 'An American in Paris,' which is another famous tune which I don't think we've ever played," he said. "It's a recognizable tune, and it's kind of unusual because it actually has a car horn that plays in the piece."

For more information, visit [www.big-springssymphony.com](http://www.big-springssymphony.com).

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at [reporter@big-springherald.com](mailto:reporter@big-springherald.com).

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Nease Crosby, 59, died Wednesday. A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Lamesa.

Josefina Hernandez died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Arthur Islas, Jr. died Friday. Funeral service was at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Roger Sparks died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Michael "Mike" McSwain, 67, died Monday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

## FPU

Continued from Page 1

to) a budget, saving an emergency fund, and getting and staying out of debt. Now he wants to share his plan with others and as he has

done so for thousands of people.

"Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University has changed the lives of many families," said Derrell Patterson, Senior Pastor of FUMC. "Those who come to the Financial Peace University classes will find freedom from debt and learn how to handle money God's way. This course will teach those who join how to pay off debt, master budgeting, and plan for your future."

During Financial Peace University, there will be lessons taught such as: building a starter emergency fund and learn how to budget, pay off all debt, save a fully funded emergency fund, and invest for the future and build wealth.

According to FUMC, there will be several classes offered on different days of the week and at a variety of times. New classes of Financial Peace University will begin the last week of January 2019. To be a part of this program, you would need to purchase the Financial Peace University book and kit.

FUMC is located just off Gregg Street at the corner of Fourth and Scurry in downtown Big Spring. For more information on the book and kit needed to attend, additional information regarding the program, or to come and be apart of Financial Peace University, please visit the website at [www.fumcbs.com](http://www.fumcbs.com) or call the FUMC office at 432-267-6394.

How would you like to financially bless your family, church and others because you handled money the right way? Financial Peace University says it can happen. It won't happen overnight, but it starts with making the right choices, one step at a time.

## STARS

Continued from Page 1

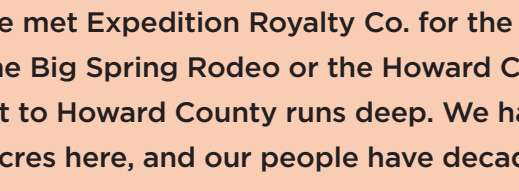
Alan Bersten. Female professionals will be Whitney Carlson, Hayley Erbert, Jenna Johnson, Emma Slater and Brit Stewart. Joining them is guest star Juan Pablo Di Pace from the Netflix series Fuller House and semi-finalist on season 27 of the hit show Dancing with the Stars.

This is a brand new production showcasing many types of dance styles seen on ABC's hit show Dancing with the Stars ranging from ballroom and jazz to modern and hip-hop.

For tickets and pricing information, please go to [dwtstour.com](http://dwtstour.com) or call the Wagner Noel at 432-552-4430.

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

You may have met Expedition Royalty Co. for the first time when we sponsored the Big Spring Rodeo or the Howard County Fair this fall. Our commitment to Howard County runs deep. We have made deals for thousands of acres here, and our people have decades of experience serving Permian Basin mineral rights owners. We're proud to be part of the community, sponsoring and participating in big events year-round. But we're even prouder to be your mineral advisor in the Permian every day. Get in touch today for a free evaluation of your property and its mineral rights.



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OUR DOWNTOWN BIG SPRING OFFICE WILL BE OPEN SOON!

## Texas adds to population but growth rate slowing down

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — U.S. Census figures show Texas added more people to its population than any other state during the past year.

But the Austin American-Statesman reports Texas' growth rate has slowed down.

Texas added 379,128 people from July 1, 2017, to July 1, 2018, a growth of 1.3 percent. The state's population is nearly 29 million.

In 2017, the population grew by 1.4 percent. In

2016 it grew by 1.6 percent and in 2015, it grew by 1.8 percent.

Lila Valencia, a senior demographer with the Texas Demographic Center, says there were slightly fewer births in 2018 compared to 2017 and the impact from Hurricane Harvey could have also made people move away or delayed births.

Nevada and Idaho tied for having the fastest growth rates at 2.1 percent.

## Some facts about immigrant children in US custody

By The Associated Press

The deaths of two migrant children in U.S. custody this month are bringing increased attention to how the nation is grappling with a surge of families and children traveling alone across the southern border, especially from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

The Christmas Eve death of an 8-year-old Guatemalan boy in New Mexico follows the Dec. 8 death of another Guatemalan child, a 7-year-old girl. The U.S. government's system for detaining migrants crossing the border is severely overtaxed, and the children's deaths come amid the dispute between President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats over funding for a border wall.

Here are some things to know about immigrant children in U.S. custody:

### CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

Most children initially are taken into the custody by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which typically holds them for no more than a few days. With border crossings surging, CBP reported that border agents detained 5,283 children who weren't accompanied by a parent in November alone. Agents last month also apprehended 25,172 "family units," or parents and children together.

Officials at the Department of Homeland Security, the Border Patrol's parent agency, would not say how many children are in Border Patrol custody.

But the federal agency that is often next to oversee the care of migrant children, the Office of Refugee Resettlement, reported that it had 14,314 migrant youth in its custody as of Dec. 17. Most of those — about 11,600 — are being housed by the five largest providers: Austin, Texas-based Southwest Key; San Antonio-based BCFS Health and Human Services; Comprehensive Health Services Inc., based in Cape Canaveral, Florida; Cayuga Centers in Auburn, New York; and Chicago-based Heartland Alliance.

### WHO ARE THESE CHILDREN?

The kids in these programs range in age from toddlers to 17-year-olds. The vast majority crossed the border without their parents, but some were separated from their families at the border earlier this year.

### WHERE ARE THEY STAYING?

The care they receive varies greatly across a network of providers that has included 150 different facilities over the last 20 months in 17 states: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington state. Some children live with foster families and are treated to Broadway shows, while others sleep in canvas tents in the Texas desert.

### ARE THOSE NUMBERS INCREASING?

The number of migrant children caught by immigration officials and turned over to the Office of Refugee Resettlement has dropped under Trump: there were 49,100 during the 2018 fiscal year, compared to a high of 59,170 during the 2016 fiscal year, when a surge of youth border crossings led the Obama administration to open emergency shelters at military bases.

### HOW LONG ARE CHILDREN STAYING IN CUSTODY?

The average length of stay has increased from about 34 days in January 2016 to around 60 days, according to government reports. In October, the average length of stay reached 89 days, according to data from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services provided to members of Congress, who shared it with the AP.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The ORR migrant children's program has already cost taxpayers more than \$1.5 billion, according to federal grant disclosures. Another \$1.1 billion has been requested as part of the 2019 budget.

# Trump makes first visit to US troops in harm's way

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

AL-ASAD AIRBASE, Iraq — In an unannounced trip to Iraq on Wednesday, President Donald Trump staunchly defended his decision to withdraw U.S. forces from neighboring Syria despite a drumbeat of criticism from military officials and allies who don't think the job fighting Islamic State militants there is over.

Trump, making his first presidential visit to troops in a troubled region, said it's because the U.S. military had all but eliminated IS-controlled territory in both Iraq and Syria that he decided to withdraw 2,000 forces from Syria. He said the decision to leave Syria showed America's renewed stature on the world stage and his quest to put "America first."

"We're no longer the suckers, folks," Trump told U.S. servicemen and women at al-Asad Airbase in western Iraq, about 100 miles or 60 kilometers west of Baghdad. "We're respected again as a nation."

The decision to pull U.S. forces from Syria, however, stunned national security advisers and U.S. allies and prompted the resignations of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who was not on the trip, and the U.S. envoy to the coalition fighting the Islamic extremist group. The militant group, also known as



AP photo

Members of the military cheer as President Donald Trump speaks at a hanger rally at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018. President Donald Trump, who is visiting Iraq, says he has 'no plans at all' to remove US troops from the country.



AP photo

President Donald Trump speaks at a hanger rally at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018.

ISIS, has lost nearly all its territory in Iraq and Syria but is still seen as a threat.

Iraq declared IS defeated within its borders in December 2017, but Trump's trip was shrouded in secrecy, which has been standard practice for presidents flying into conflict areas.

Air Force One, lights out and window shutters drawn, flew overnight from Washington, landing at an airbase west of Baghdad in darkness Wednesday evening. George W. Bush made four trips to Iraq as president and President Barack Obama made one.

During his three-plus hours on the ground, Trump did not meet with any Iraqi officials, but spoke on the phone with Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi. He stopped at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany on his way back, for a second

unannounced visit to troops and military leaders.

Trump's Iraq visit appeared to have inflamed sensitivities about the continued presence of U.S. forces in Iraq. The two major blocs in the Iraqi parliament both condemned the visit, likening it to a violation of Iraqi sovereignty.

The airbase where Trump spoke is about 155 miles (250 km) from Hajin, a Syrian town near the

See VISIT, Page 5

## Wall prototypes sit on the US-Mexico border

By DANIEL

OCHOA DE OLZA

Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Border wall prototypes stand in San Diego near the Mexico-U.S. border as President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats are locked in a standoff over border wall funding that has shut down parts of the U.S. government.

The shutdown started Saturday, when funding lapsed for nine Cabinet-level departments and dozens of agencies, and threatens to carry over into January.

The impasse over government funding began last week, when the Senate approved a bipartisan deal keeping government open into February. That bill provided \$1.3 billion for border security projects but not money for the wall. At Trump's urging, the House approved that package and inserted the \$5.7 billion he had requested.

But Republicans in the Senate lacked the 60 votes needed to force the measure with the wall funding through their chamber. That jump-started negotiations between Congress and the White House, but the deadline came and went without a deal.

Trump, who was elected in 2016, campaigned on a promise to build a "big, beautiful wall"



AP photo

Border wall prototypes stand in San Diego near the Mexico U.S. border, seen from Tijuana, Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018. The U.S. federal government remains partially closed in a protracted standoff over President Donald Trump's demand for money to build a border wall with Mexico.

made of concrete, rebar and steel across the length of the southern border. He said he would make Mexico pay for it, but Mexico has refused.

Lawmakers have limited the administration to replacing or strengthening existing barrier designs, rather than building Trump's new wall prototypes.

In budget year 2017, Congress provided \$292 million to the Department of Homeland Security to build a steel-bollard wall to replace

"ineffective" barriers along the border with Mexico. More than 31 of 40 miles have been constructed, and nine more are scheduled to be completed by 2019.

In March, Congress also approved funding for 84 miles (135 kilometers) of construction along the southern border.



These Financial Institutions will observe the following Holiday Hours for New Year's:

**Citizens Federal Credit Union**

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Jan. 1st - CLOSED



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# Markets roil, futures slump after Dow's record, one-day gain



AP photo

Traders Peter Tuchman, right, slaps a high five before the closing bell on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018. The Dow closed up more than 1,000 points in best day for Wall Street in 10 years as stocks rally back from Christmas Eve beating.

By DAVID McHUGH and ANNABELLE LIANG

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — More wild market swings appeared imminent Thursday, with U.S. stocks heading sharply lower after the largest single-day point gain in history for the Dow.

Slowing economic growth globally and a partial U.S. government shutdown heading into its sixth day whipped markets from Europe to Asia. Dow futures pointed to a 400-point loss less than two hours before the opening bell, following a 1,000-point gain the previous day.

Trading resumed in European markets which had been closed for the Christmas holiday, and the German DAX slid 1.7 percent to 10,447.53. France's CAC 40 gave up 0.1 percent, to 4,619.74. Britain's FTSE 100 fell a full percentage point to 6,616.55.

Futures for the broad S&P futures slumped 1.5 percent to 2,430.50 and the battered Nasdaq, down more than 18 percent in the past three months, slid 1.6 percent, to 6,188.50.

On Wednesday, U.S. markets snapped a four-day losing streak and clocked their best

day in more than 10 years as the Dow jumped 5 percent, or 1,086 points, to 22,878.45. Advisers to President Donald Trump said there were no plans to oust Fed chairman Jerome Powell, though his sentiment on the man he nominated, played out it tweets, seem as volatile as the stock markets. Strong holiday sales, up more than 5 percent during the holiday season in the U.S., also lifted spirits in the shortened trading week. Mastercard SpendingPulse said U.S. shoppers spent more than \$850 billion this year.

"The question, of course, is whether this is just a snap-back bear market rally, or as Trump said, a tremendous opportunity to buy stocks?" Chris Weston of Pepperstone Group Limited said. "We can assess the fundamental drivers, such as poor global economics, the Fed not altering its forward guidance or providing flexibility to the pace of balance sheet normalization, and ascertain nothing has really changed here," he added.

Bloomberg reported that the U.S. will send a government delegation to hold trade talks with Chinese officials in Beijing in the week starting Jan. 7. It cited two people familiar with the matter. This follows

a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Argentina earlier this month. The two leaders agreed to hold off on additional tariffs for 90 days, to work on disagreements on trade and technology policies.

Nikkei 225 index rebounded 3.9 percent to 20,077.62. It tumbled more than 5 percent on Tuesday before recovering slightly a day later. South Korea's Kospi was less than 0.1 percent higher at 2,028.44. The Shanghai Composite index lost 0.6 percent to 2,483.09. The Hang Seng index was 0.7 percent lower at 25,478.88 while Australia's S&P-ASX 200 jumped 1.9 percent to 5,597.20. Stocks climbed in Taiwan and throughout Southeast Asia.

Benchmark U.S. crude dropped 86 cents to \$45.36 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract posted its biggest one-day gain in more than two years and settled at \$46.22 a barrel in New York on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, shed \$1.11 to \$53.36 a barrel.

The dollar fell 0.52 percent to 110.76 yen. The euro rose 0.4 percent to \$1.1391.

# VISIT

Continued from Page 5

Iraqi border where Kurdish fighters are still battling IS extremists. Trump has said IS militants have been eradicated, but the latest estimate is that IS still holds about 60 square miles (100 square km) of territory in that region of Syria, although fighters also fled the area and are in hiding in other pockets of the country.

Mattis was supposed to continue leading the Pentagon until late February but Trump moved up his exit and announced that Patrick Shanahan, deputy defense secretary, would take the job on Jan. 1 and he was in "no rush" to nominate a new defense chief.

"Everybody and his uncle wants that position," Trump told reporters traveling with him in Iraq. "And also, by the way, everybody and her aunt, just so I won't be criticized."

Critics said the U.S. exit from Syria, the latest in Trump's increasingly isolationist-style foreign policy, would provide an opening for IS to regroup, give Iran a green light to expand its influence in the region and leave U.S.-backed Kurdish forces vulnerable to attacks from Turkey.

"I made it clear from the beginning that our mission in Syria was to strip ISIS of its military strongholds," said Trump, who wore an olive green bomber style jacket as he was welcomed by chants of "USA! USA!" and speakers blaring Lee Greenwood's song, "God Bless the USA."

"We'll be watching ISIS very closely," said Trump, who was joined by first lady Melania Trump, but no members of his Cabinet or lawmakers. "We'll be watching them very, very closely, the remnants of ISIS"

Trump also said he had no plans to withdraw the 5,200 U.S. forces in Iraq. That's down from about 170,000 in 2007 at the height of the surge of U.S. forces to combat sectarian violence unleashed by the U.S.-led invasion to topple dictator Saddam Hussein.

Trump spoke on the phone with the prime minister, but the White House said security concerns and the short notice of the trip prevented the president from meeting him face-to-face.

The prime minister's office said "differences in points of view over the arrangements" prevented the two from meeting but they discussed security issues and Trump's order to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria over the phone. Abdul-Mahdi's office also did not say whether he had accepted an invitation to the White House. But Trump

press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters on the flight back that the Iraqi leader had agreed to come.

Trump said that after U.S. troops in Syria return home, Iraq could still be used to stage attacks on IS militants.

"We can use this as a base if we wanted to do something in Syria," he said. "If we see something happening with ISIS that we don't like, we can hit them so fast and so hard" that they "really won't know what the hell happened."

Trump said it's time to leave Syria because the U.S. should not be involved in nation-building, and that other wealthy nations should shoulder the cost of rebuilding Syria. He also said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has agreed to battle "any remnants of ISIS" in Syria, which shares a border with Turkey.

"The nations of the regions must step up and take more responsibility for their future," Trump said, promising a "strong deliberate and orderly withdrawal" of forces from Syria.

Trump had faced criticism for not yet visiting U.S. troops stationed in harm's way as he comes up on his two-year mark in office. He told The Associated Press in October that he "will do that at some point, but I don't think it's overly necessary."

Trump told reporters that he had planned to make the trip three or four weeks ago, but word of the trip started getting out and forced him to postpone it.

Iraqi leaders declared an end to combat operations against IS a year ago but the country's political, military and economic situation remains uncertain. It continues to experience sporadic bombings, kidnappings and assassinations, which most people attribute to IS.

On Dec. 15, the U.S.-led coalition launched an airstrike in support of Iraqi troops who were chasing IS fighters toward a tunnel west of Mosul. The strike destroyed the tunnel entrance and killed four IS fighters, according to the U.S. military in Baghdad. The last U.S. service member to die in Iraq was in August, as the result of a helicopter crash in Sinjar.

Trump had planned to spend Christmas at his private club in Florida, but stayed behind in Washington due to the partial government shutdown.

Trump campaigned for office on a platform of ending U.S. involvement in foreign trouble spots, such as Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. The Pentagon is also said to be developing plans to withdraw up to half of the 14,000 American troops still serving in Afghanistan.

# Legal marijuana industry had banner year in 2018

By GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore.

— The last year was a 12-month champagne toast for the legal marijuana industry as the global market exploded and cannabis pushed its way further into the financial and cultural mainstream.

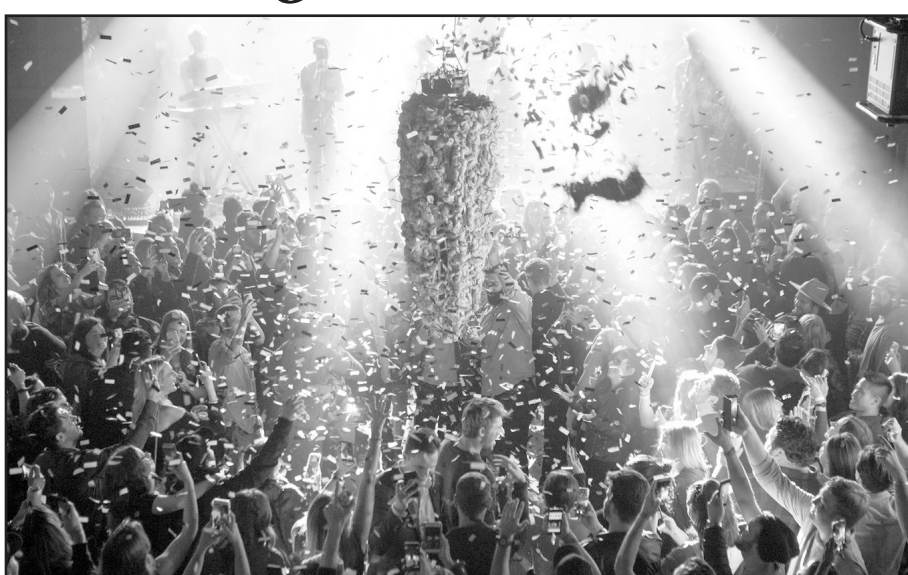
Liberal California became the largest legal U.S. marketplace, while conservative Utah and Oklahoma embraced medical marijuana. Canada ushered in broad legalization, and Mexico's Supreme Court set the stage for that country to follow.

U.S. drug regulators approved the first marijuana-based pharmaceutical to treat kids with a form of epilepsy, and billions of investment dollars poured into cannabis companies. Even main street brands like Coca-Cola said they are considering joining the party.

"I have been working on this for decades, and this was the year that the movement crested," said U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, an Oregon Democrat working to overturn the federal ban on pot. "It's clear that this is all coming to a head."

With buzz building across the globe, the momentum will continue into 2019.

Luxembourg is poised



AP photo

In this Oct. 17, 2018, file photo a depiction of a cannabis bud drops from the ceiling at Leafly's countdown party in Toronto as midnight passes and marks the first day of the legalization of cannabis across Canada.

to become the first European country to legalize recreational marijuana, and South Africa is moving in that direction. Thailand legalized medicinal use of marijuana on Tuesday, and other Southeastern Asian countries may follow South Korea's lead in legalizing cannabidiol, or CBD. It's a non-psychoactive compound found in marijuana and hemp plants and used for treatment of certain medical problems.

"It's not just the U.S. now. It's spreading," said Ben Curren, CEO of Green Bits, a San Jose, California, company that develops software for marijuana retailers and businesses.

Curren's firm is one of

many that blossomed as the industry grew. He started the company in 2014 with two friends. Now, he has 85 employees, and the company's

See YEAR, Page 14

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ANSWER: MORE THAN 24

## What's the Difference?

There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

**A**



**B**



Answers: 1. Missing second hand 2. Extra dots in center of hat 3. Two blue ribbons on right 4. The "8" on clock is now "6"

THIS DAY IN...



**HISTORY**

- **1776:** GEORGE WASHINGTON CROSSES THE DELAWARE RIVER AT NIGHT IN A SURPRISE ATTACK ON HESSIAN FORCES.
- **1868:** CONFEDERATE VETERANS ARE GRANTED UNCONDITIONAL PARDONS BY PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON.
- **1926:** HIROHITO BECOMES EMPEROR OF JAPAN. HE REMAINED EMPEROR UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1989.

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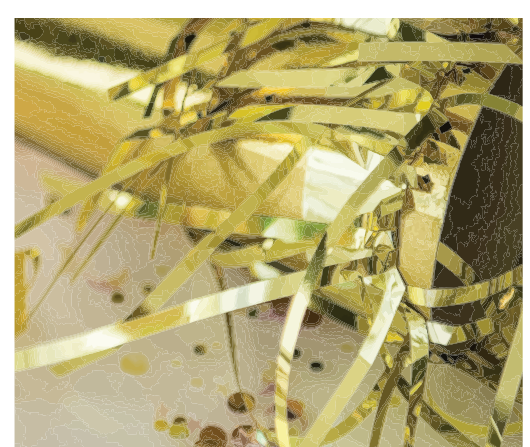
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the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PARTY NOISEMAKER

### TCU beats Cal 10-7 in overtime of wild Cheez-It Bowl

By JOHN MARSHALL

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX — TCU swapped kickers after California called a timeout at the end of regulation — and missed.

Faced with a similar decision in overtime, the Horned Frogs stuck with their original kicker.

Jonathan Song delivered on his second-chance kick, ending a strange night in the desert.

Song kicked a 27-yard field in overtime after being replaced at the end of regulation, lifting TCU to a 10-7 win in an interception-filled Cheez-It Bowl on Wednesday night.

"They talked me out of it," TCU coach Gary Patterson said. "I obviously got a chance to tell them they were wrong on the headset. We got another chance and did it."

TCU and Cal spent the night trading interceptions, turning the Cheez-It Bowl by combining for nine interceptions, most in the bowl's 30-year history.

TCU's Jawuan Johnson had the final interception of the night to open overtime, nearly returning it for a pick-six.

At the end of regulation, the Horned Frogs (7-6) followed a Cal timeout by switching from Song to Cole Bunce, who hooked his 44-yard attempt wide left. TCU's Chase Garbers scored in overtime and, after another Cal timeout, opted to leave him.

The junior sent the kick straight through the uprights and the Horned Frogs rushing onto the field after a night of survival.

TCU's Sewo Olonilua ran for 194 yards and a touchdown — one of the few offensive bright spots outside of Song's kick.

"It was a rough day for sure. Ugly win," said TCU quarterback Grayson Muehlstein, who threw four interceptions and had 27 yards on 7-of-20 pass-



AP photo

TCU players celebrate a 10-7 overtime win against California in the Cheez-It Bowl NCAA college football game Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018, in Phoenix.

ing. "Turned the ball over way too many times, but we managed to just hang in there and just keep fighting."

Jaylinn Hawkins had three interceptions, breaking the Cheez-It Bowl record while earning defensive player of the game.

The Bears (7-6) just couldn't overcome their own miscues.

Cal's Chase Garbers threw three interceptions before being replaced by Chase Forrest, who threw two more — including the biggest one by Johnson in overtime.

"We just made too many mistakes during the game to win against a quality opponent like that," Cal second-year coach Justin Wilcox said.

Cal had the first big play after a miscommunication between Muehlstein and Jarrison Stewart led to Hawkins' first interception. Garbers scored two plays later on a 4-yard run.

Five more interceptions followed in the first half — one on a failed TCU trick play — and Cal led 7-0.

Garbers completed 12 of 19 passes, but had three interceptions so Cal's coaches opted to start Forrest in the second half.

"After the first half, you have some decisions like that that," Wilcox said. "Chase Garbers made and a couple of balls he obviously would like to have back. We felt like we needed a little bit of a spark."

TCU left Muehlstein in at quarterback despite three first-half interceptions. Hawkins picked up his third interception of the game on the opening drive and Muehlstein was briefly replaced by true freshman Justin Rogers before returning.

The Horned Frogs finally got something going in the third quarter, scoring their only touchdown on Olo-

nilua's 2-yard run — a run initially ruled short before being overturned on review.

Neither team could get much going the rest of the half and the interceptions continued until Song sent his chance kick through the uprights.

"I'm glad that's over," Patterson said.

#### TAKEAWAY

The Horned got in their own way all night, yet found a way to close out the season with a victory.

The Bears also couldn't get out of their own way, suffering a defeat that will sting all offseason.

#### HIGH-LEVEL TROLLING

Buffalo Wild Wings was the bowl's sponsor from 2012-13 before it became the Cactus Bowl. Cheez-It came on as the title sponsor this year and Buffalo Wild Wings couldn't resist a little Twitter jab as the strange night wore on.

"Cal-TCU is headed to overtime, and we've never owed you a bigger apology," the company tweeted.

#### SID PENALTY

TCU was called for a sideline interference penalty on Johnson's overtime interception when sports information director Mark Cohen stepped onto the field to celebrate.

Patterson was not thrilled and couldn't resist a couple of digs.

"Jiminy Christmas," he said. "Have you guys ever known that, in 150 years of a football that the SID gets a penalty?"

#### UP NEXT

TCU: Robinson transferred to Missouri, but the Horned Frogs hope to have Collins back and healthy next season. Top receiver Jalen Reagor also is a sophomore, so he should be back in 2019.

Cal: RB Patrick Laird and top line-backer Jordan Kunaszyk are seniors, but Garbers is a freshman and the offensive line is relatively young.

### TCU wins Diamond Head Classic, 83-69 over Indiana State



AP photo

TCU guard Jaylen Fisher (10) tries to shoot over Indiana State guard Clayton Hughes (13) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game at the Diamond Head Classic Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018, in Honolulu.



AP photo

TCU guard Jaylen Fisher (10) tries to get past Indiana State guard Jordan Barnes during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game at the Diamond Head Classic, Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018, in Honolulu.

#### Associated Press

HONOLULU — Alex Robinson had 15 points, eight rebounds and four assists and TCU withstood a late rally to beat Indiana State 83-69 on Tuesday night in the championship game of the Diamond Head Classic.

TCU led 40-30 at halftime behind a balanced scoring attack as nine of the 10 Frogs who played scored. TCU had its first double-digit lead with 3:23 left in the first half and Indiana State wasn't able to get closer than eight points the rest of the game.

TCU was ahead by 22 points with

9:38 remaining but didn't make another field goal for nearly six minutes as Indiana State went on an 11-0 run to pull to 71-60. But Robinson scored six points during an 8-0 run to seal it.

JD Miller had 12 points, 11 rebounds and four assists for TCU (11-1), which won its eighth straight. The Frogs will stay in Hawaii to face Hawaii Pacific on Friday.

Jordan Barnes, averaging 21.5 points per game, had 14 points, six rebounds and four assists for Indiana State (8-4). Tyreke Key also scored 14 points. The Sycamores were just 8 of 16 at the free-throw line.

### Texas are 6th team since 1980 in playoffs after 0-3 start



AP photo

Houston Texans' D'Onta Foreman, right, and Jordan Akins celebrate after Foreman's touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018, in Philadelphia.

#### By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans are the sixth team since 1980 and the first in 20 years to make the postseason after a 0-3 start.

"When you start off 0-3 and you're sitting here at 10-5 with a chance to win the division on Sunday you've done a lot of good things over the course of those games since we were 0-3," defensive end J.J. Watt said. "But we have to make sure that we do what we need to do to make sure that doesn't all go to waste."

They've lost two of their past three games, capped by Sunday's 32-30 loss at Philadelphia, but earlier had won nine straight games after their dismal start to turn their season around and reach the playoffs for the fifth time in franchise history and first since 2016.

The Texans (10-5) opened with losses to New England, Tennessee and the New York Giants that left them 0-3 and were all close games decided by a total of 15 points.

Houston's rebound began with consecutive three-point wins in overtime against Indianapolis and Dallas before seven-point victories over Buffalo and Jacksonville.

The Texans scored their most points of the season the following week in a 42-23 trouncing of the Miami Dolphins. Their next two wins both came by two points after both Denver and Washington missed long field goals in the final seconds of those games.

The Texans extended their winning streak to nine games with victories over Tennessee and Cleveland before their first loss since Sept. 23 came in a 24-21 defeat against the Colts on Dec. 9.

Houston led early against the New York Jets before falling behind and needing a fourth-quarter rally to get a 29-22 win on Dec. 15.

As the Texans prepare to wrap up the regular season with a visit from the Jaguars where they need a win to clinch the AFC South title, here's a look at the other teams who reached the playoffs after 0-3 starts.

#### 1981 NEW YORK JETS

New York's winless start came thanks to losses to Buffalo, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. The Jets' first win of the season came in a 33-17 defeat of the Oilers before they played to a 28-28 overtime tie with the Dolphins.

They won two in a row after that before a loss to the Seahawks.

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Job Type: Full Time

### Public Notice

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION**  
DISTRICT 08  
Rule 37 Case No. 0316653  
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 4, 2018  
Status/Permit No. 846217  
NOTICE OF PROTEST  
DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 8, 2019  
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas  
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit  
P. O. Box 12967  
Austin, Texas 78711-2967  
Fax: (512) 463-6780  
Email: [SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV](mailto:SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV)

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CALLON PETROLEUM OPERATING CO, [RRC Operator No. 124828] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin.

### Public Notice

Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the lease line distance requirement because the Applicant is less than the required Rule 37 lease line distance to an unleased or non-pooled interest within the subject unit for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 22, Bk. 32 T1N, T&P RR CO / HENDERSON, M E Survey, A-1667, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, HOWARD County, being 5.69 miles NE direction from BIG SPRING, Texas. PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protest should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512)463-6848**. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 **(512)463-6751**. **IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 8, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED**

### Public Notice

**PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY. THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION.** The location and identity of the well is as shown below:  
FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)  
-----  
Lease/Unit Name : PANTHER EAST UNIT  
Lease/Unit Well No. : 1AH  
Lease/Unit Acres : 632.45  
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 1.0  
Lease Lines : 220.0 F North L, 394.0 F East L  
Survey Lines : 220.0 F North L, 394.0 F East L  
Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal  
Rule 37 Case No. 0316653 (Dist. 08) Page 1 Lateral: TH1  
Penetration Point Location  
Lease Lines: 220.0 F NORTH L  
394.0 F EAST L  
Terminus Location  
BH County: HOWARD  
Section: 27 Block: 32 T1N  
Abstract: 141  
Survey: T&P RR CO  
Lease Lines: 100.0 F SOUTH L  
330.0 F EAST L  
Survey Lines: 100.0 F SOUTH L  
330.0 F EAST L  
Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:  
SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.  
This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 8000 feet.  
If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Ryan Emery, at (281)5895200.

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

By HOLIDAY MATHIS



### Working Moon

The royals of the past presumed they were somehow divinely deserving of the riches and power of their station. Not much has changed. But those of truly superior character face their own faults, advantages and disadvantages while working hard to make the most of whatever hand they were dealt -- all favored efforts of the Virgo moon.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Maybe you only know half the story, but it's your half, and therefore the half that counts. You get to tell it the way you want to. Embellishments will happen... and earn you style points!

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Get out and about. If you're alone too much, then you won't get the benefit of seeing how people like and appre-

ciate you. You'll start to forget who you are and what you're good at if there's no one to reflect that to you.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** People who can amuse themselves and carry their happiness inside themselves are the best ones to be around because they won't lean on you emotionally or unload their subtle psychic burdens on you.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Discipline means something different to each person. You'll be exploring the limits of your own willpower, realizing what it's being used for currently and deciding where best to apply it in the future.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** It's like opening a combination lock. You can get all the numbers right, but it's not going to open unless you also get them in the right order. And here's a hint about

the order of things: Your first responsibility is to take care of yourself.

**VRIGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Boredom gets a bad rap. Extreme boredom can cause a person to wander into his or her own brilliance. So when things slow down, don't rush to check your email or get sucked into social media. Sit out the long moment. Ponder.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** It's once again time to ask yourself why you're doing it. The reasons have changed or maybe

gotten lost. A good answer to the question "why?" will be a powerful engine.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Sometimes we

blame others -- partners, employers, the government -- for not giving us what we want when the real problem is that we're just not letting ourselves have it. Open your hands, arms, spirit to the thing.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** If you spend enough time around very selfish or self-absorbed people, then the parts of

you that don't get seen will be in danger of diminishing. Counteract the effect with exposure to the spiritually generous.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** People say the game is rigged, but don't let that stop you from playing. If it's a good enough game, it will be beneficial to play whether or not you win, rendering any "rigging" irrelevant.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** The magic question: What would happen if you had to completely and totally mind your own business for the extent of the journey? There's something that can only be solved by shutting out the rest of the world.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Positive role models are wonderful, and you've known plenty of them, but if they're scarce today. Don't worry -- reverse-role models (who represent

what you don't want) are equally motivating, if not much more so.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 27).** You don't have to win to be confident. Confidence comes from trusting yourself. Trusting yourself comes from learning, loving and accepting yourself. These are the keys to the kingdom this year, which begins by granting one of your fondest wishes. Roll up your sleeves and get ready to earn the next-tier prize. Cancer and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 28, 20, 14 and 8.

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis@gmail.com](mailto:HolidayMathis@gmail.com).  
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1	5		6		2	8		4
8				4	9	5		1
			5	8				
	2	5					6	8
	7		2					
		8						5
	3							9
			7	2				5
			8			1	2	7

Level: Beginner

## 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!

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

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

ANSWER:

## Annie's Mailbox

### Should Dad Cough Up Some Cash?

**Dear Annie:** My ex-wife, "Daisy," has custody of our two children. She makes several times my salary, lives in a home where the mortgage and taxes are sky-high, and has an expensive lifestyle. I live frugally, always pay child support and have visitation rights. Often, my children stand me up when I show up to get them. I'll get to a birthday party or wedding with just my son and have to tell everyone, "My daughter has a migraine." The real answer is, "She is lazy and doesn't want to miss movie night with her friend." Her mother is spineless. My son also has a fluctuating weight problem because he eats too much junk food. At a recent luncheon, he refused to eat but then demanded a piece of chocolate cake and shoved it down his throat. Daisy isn't happy about my not paying that much support and has spoken to the kids about our financial arrangement, which we'd agreed she wouldn't do. She wants to throw our daughter a lavish bat mitzvah for her 13th birthday. The total cost would be five figures. I've refused to pay it because she doesn't need it and it would be a financial hardship for me. Also, given her lack of effort at school and refusal to

attend family functions, I don't think her behavior merits a huge reward. Daisy says that if I refuse to pay, I won't be invited. However, that would be a problem for me, because it would look horrible if I did not attend. And she says that if I refuse to contribute financially but show up anyway, she'll have security throw me out. I don't know whether she'd really do that. My brother and his wife, who get along well with Daisy, have tried to talk some sense into her, but she won't listen. I tried talking to Daisy's father, but she won't listen to him, either. Should I do what my wife wants and cough up the cash, or should I go to the party and get tossed out the door? I'm saving money religiously, because given Daisy's lack of control over my daughter, I'm afraid my daughter will get in trouble. If I have to pay for a lawyer, I'd better be ready financially. -- Stinky Dad and Proud of It

### Dear Stinky Dad:

You should do what is in the best interest of your children, and you and your ex-wife should make every effort to be as amicable to each other as possible. Yes, you should pay a customary and reasonable amount for your only daughter's bat mitzvah. It is not her fault that her parents are fighting over money and parenting philosophies. Whoever's right or wrong

is beside the point. Now is the time to wave the white flag and make peace. Your daughter will never turn 13 again. Make it special for her and leave your baggage and negative feelings at the door. As for the constant headaches from your daughter and her blowing you off, remember that you are the parent and she is the child. Ask yourself why she doesn't want to see you. It may have something to do with the fact that you are so critical about your son's weight. Being embarrassed by your son's behavior might propel you to seek help for him. Let's hope. The human body, especially a growing boy's body, does not feel good just eating cake. But being ashamed of him and criticizing his mother don't do anyone any good. Instead, talk to your son about the importance of eating healthful foods. If that does not work, speak with your pediatrician and see what tools you could use to help him. If indeed you are in financial hardship, tell that to your wife and daughter. Be open and honest with them about your finances, and be open and honest with what your wallet and heart can contribute to your daughter's bat mitzvah.

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

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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## A psychological ploy

North dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

### NORTH

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

### WEST

♠ Q J 8 6 2  
♥ 2  
♦ J 9 5 4  
♣ 10 7 5

### EAST

♠ A 10 4 3  
♥ J 9 6 5  
♦ 10 7 3  
♣ 6 4

### SOUTH

♠ K 9 5  
♥ A Q 10 4  
♦ A 8 6  
♣ Q 9 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♥	

Opening lead — queen of spades.

There are times when a defender must make what is called a "mandatory falsecard." The purpose of the falsecard is to present declarer with an alternative line of play in a position where he could not otherwise go wrong.

Consider today's deal where East won the spade lead with the ace and returned a spade to South's king. With 12 tricks assured if the hearts were divided normally, declarer turned his attention to the trump suit.

He planned to follow the standard procedure with this combination: cash the ace and then cross to the king. This would leave him in position to finesse against East's jack if West showed out on the second round.

But when South played the trump ace at trick three, East shrewdly dropped his nine on the trick! This presented declarer with an entirely different way to play the suit, since if East's nine was a singleton, it would be possible to overcome West's remaining trumps by continuing with the queen. Then, after East showed out, declarer could finesse against West's jack on the third round.

South realized, of course, that if the missing trumps were actually divided 3-2, the contract was safe regardless of how he continued. He was also aware that East might have dropped the nine from the J-9-x-x. After agonizing over his options, declarer finally chose to play the queen, and the slam went down the drain.

While East's play of the nine on the first trump lead was not guaranteed to succeed, the fact remains that if East had woodenly followed suit with the five or six, South would have had no choice but to find the winning line of play. That's why the nine is a mandatory falsecard.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:30 PM	Big 2 ABC	P. Luche Noticiero	Broke Girl CBS 7	CBS 7	Tele Noticias	News	Lasting HaYesod	Mind Business	Mama's Jeff'sons	American American	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Bones	stripes Bowl -- Miami vs Wisconsin.	SportsCenter	Cowboys OU Re	(01) Movie: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1	The First 48	Naked and Afraid
6:30 PM	Jeopardy! Wheel	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang CBS 7	ET	Caso Cer-rado	News	Way of M:25	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Bones	World Axe Throwing League	SportsCenter	Stars In. Stars Pre.		Live PD	Naked and Afraid
7:30 PM	Charlie Brown	Jesús	Last Man Cool Kids Sheldon	Big Bang	(:05) La sultana (SS)	I Feel	News	Test Kitchen	Griffith Griffith	Supernatural	Seinfeld Seinfeld	NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics at Houston Rockets.	Scores	Dodgeball	NHL Hockey: Dallas Stars at Nashville Predators.	Harry Potter and Deathly Hallows	Live PD	Naked and Afraid
8:30 PM	Rudolph's New Year	Mi marido	Last Man Cool Kids Neighbor	(:01) Mom	Falsa identidad (SS)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Light of Southwest	Great Performances	G. Pyle WKRP	Legacies	Big Bang Big Bang	College Football: Academy Sports & Outdoors Texas Bowl	SportsCenter	Rangers	Mod Fam	Live PD	Naked and Afraid	
9:30 PM	Connors Kids	Amar a muerte	FOX 24 News at 9	S.W.A.T.	Señora Acero (SS)	Light of Southwest	Israel	Amanpour-Co Perry Mason	C. Burnett	Gold	Seinfeld Seinfeld	NBA Basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at Utah Jazz.	SportCtr	College Football: Walk-On's Independence Bowl	Outlaw: Life, Death	Mod Fam	Live PD	Naked and Afraid
10:30 PM	Big 2 Jimmy Kimmel Live	Impacto Noticiero	TMZ Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares Falsa identidad (SS)	Seth Meyers	Our Mess Families	Amer. Experience	Twi. Zone	Rules	Brooklyn Brooklyn	Inside the NBA	SportsCenter	NHL Hockey: Stars at Predators	Chicago P.D.	Live PD	Naked and Afraid	
11:30 PM	Nightline	Extra	Cachito de Cielo	Two Men Simpsons	Access	Señora Acero (SS)	Daly	Behind	Hitchcock	Rules	Brooklyn Brooklyn	Inside the NBA	SportsCenter	NHL Hockey: Stars at Predators	Chicago P.D.	Live PD	Naked and Afraid	
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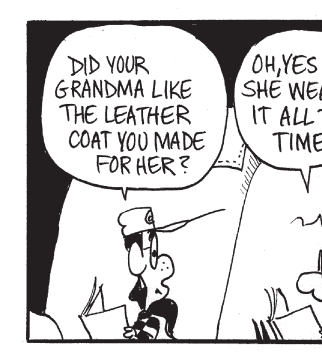
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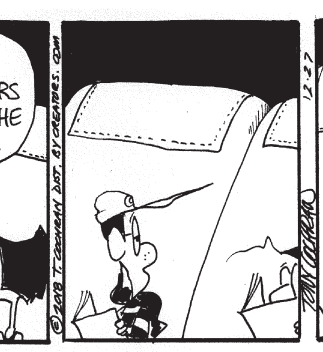
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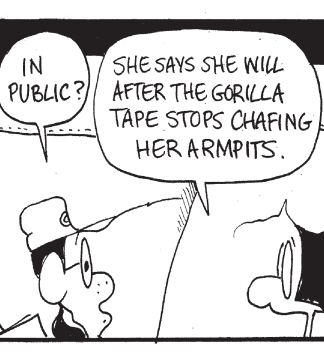
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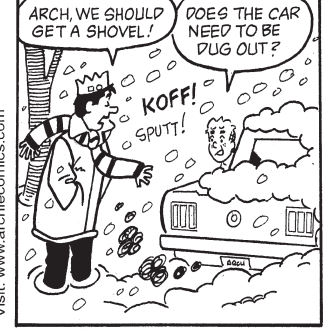
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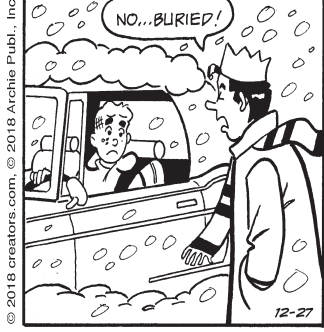
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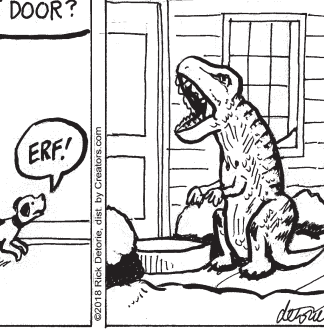
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2018. There are four days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 27, 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin (hah-FEE'-zoo-lah ah-MEEN'), who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

On this date: In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.

In 1904, James Barrie's play "Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.

In 1945, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were formally established.

In 1947, the original version of the puppet character Howdy Doody made his TV debut on NBC's "Puppet Playhouse."

In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act recognizing Indonesia's sovereignty after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

In 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

In 1970, the musical play "Hello, Dolly!" closed on Broadway after a run of 2,844 performances.

In 1981, composer and bandleader Hoagy Carmichael ("Stardust") died in Rancho Mirage, Calif., at age 82.

In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; 19 victims were killed, plus four attackers who were slain by police and security personnel. American naturalist Dian Fossey, 53, who had studied gorillas in the wild in Rwanda, was found hacked to death.

In 1995, Israeli jeeps sped out of the West Bank town of Ramallah, capping a seven-week pullout giving Yasser Arafat control over 90 percent of the West Bank's one million Palestinian residents and one-third of its land.

In 2001, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld announced that Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners would be held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2002, A defiant North Korea ordered U.N. nuclear inspectors to leave the country and said it would restart a laboratory capable of producing plutonium for nuclear weapons; the U.N. nuclear watchdog said its inspectors were "staying put" for the time being.

Ten years ago: Israel bombed security sites in Hamas-ruled Gaza in retaliation for rocket fire aimed at civilians in southern Israeli towns, opening one of the Mideast conflict's bloodiest assaults in decades. Tens of thousands of people in Pakistan paid homage to Benazir Bhutto on the one-year anniversary of her assassination.

Five years ago: Connecticut police released thousands of pages from their investigation into the Newtown massacre, providing the most detailed and disturbing picture yet of the Dec. 14, 2012, shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School that left 20 first-graders and six educators dead.

One year ago: Freezing temperatures and below-zero wind chills socked much of the northern United States. Houston Astros star second baseman Jose Altuve was named AP Male Athlete of the Year after leading the team to its first World Series title. A power outage struck parts of Disneyland in California, forcing some guests to be escorted from stalled rides.

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Amos is 79. ABC News correspondent Cokie Roberts is 75. Rock musician Mick Jones (Foreigner) is 74. Singer Tracy Nelson is 74. Actor Gerard Depardieu is 70. Jazz singer-musician T.S. Monk is 69. Singer-songwriter Karla Bonoff is 67. Rock musician David Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 66. Actress Tovah Feldshuh is 65. Journalist-turned-politician Arthur Kent is 65. Actress Maryam D'Abo is 58. Country musician Jeff Bryant is 56. Actor Ian Gomez is 54. Actress Theresa Randle is 54. Actress Eva LaRue is 52. Wrestler and actor Bill Goldberg is 52. Actress Tracey Cherelle Jones is 49. Bluegrass singer-musician Darrin Vincent (Dailey & Vincent) is 49.

Thought for Today:

"A dollar saved is a quarter earned."

Oscar Levant  
American composer, musician, actor  
(born this date in 1906, died in 1972).

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Answer to previous puzzle

SHED	ATMS	LEVEL
HOME	PREP	OXIDE
ALOE	PINA	WILDE
PETROLEUM	JELLY	
EYE	TED	AREA
STS	CUD	SNAP
ORATE	SATED	OWE
NATURE	PRESERVES	
CNN	SLEEP	LEAST
EGOS	ADS	TAX
POST	KIN	ELI
GOTTEN	INTO	AJAM
CAIRO	OVAL	LETS
PINUP	GAVE	ACHE
ANTES	ONES	STET

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Unkempt hair
  - 5 Operatic instruction
  - 10 CFO, possibly
  - 13 Brasserie handout
  - 15 WWII menace
  - 16 Spot for a tot
  - 17 Starting with nothing
  - 19 Virtuoso
  - 20 Driving test maneuver
  - 21 Tricky curves
  - 23 Golf scorecard abbr.
  - 24 Exploitation
  - 25 Becomes friendlier
  - 27 Tom Hanks pilot role
  - 31 Arboreal primates
  - 34 Towel off
  - 35 Brasserie beverage
  - 36 Where the Renaissance was born
  - 37 Single thickness
  - 38 Mr. Clean alternative
  - 40 Fair-hiring letters
  - 41 Mai \_\_\_
  - 42 Whipped dessert
  - 43 Bit of bad fortune
  - 47 Predicaments
  - 48 Schedule datum: Abbr.
  - 49 Price displayer
  - 52 Much, informally
  - 54 Spaghetti staple
  - 56 Filing deadline mo.
  - 57 Wafer holding circuitry
  - 60 Symbol of 42 Down
- DOWN**
- 61 Piece of land
  - 62 Down source
  - 63 Activate, as an alarm
  - 64 Jazz band participants
  - 65 Snack for a finch
  - 10 Lacking tact
  - 11 Walk anxiously
  - 12 Orangs, for instance
  - 14 River mouth area
  - 18 Pointed ends
  - 22 Dallas sch.
  - 25 Thin, yet tough
  - 26 No particular
  - 27 \_\_\_ de sac
  - 28 Go off script
  - 29 Thailand neighbor
  - 30 This season
  - 31 Stead
  - 32 School town on the Thames
  - 33 Powerful whirlpool
  - 37 Is worth doing
  - 38 What some street sections are for
  - 39 Hearty laugh
  - 41 Certain prf. of purchase
  - 42 Venerable film studio, for short
  - 44 Increases
  - 45 Moves without effort
  - 46 Gives one's impressions
  - 49 Water near Carson City
  - 50 Crop up
  - 51 Showed disbelief
  - 52 Refrain snippet
  - 53 Letters near O
  - 54 Cinderella's horses, after midnight
  - 55 Sgts., e.g.
  - 58 Investment plan, initially
  - 59 Far from strict

DAMAGE CONTROL by Mark McClain

Edited by Stanley Newman  
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# DeRozan, Aldridge lead Spurs past Nuggets 111-103

By RAUL DOMINGUEZ

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs got a big win and an even bigger boost in confidence.

DeMar DeRozan had 30 points, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 27 and San Antonio defeated the Denver Nuggets 111-103 on Wednesday night.

Bryn Forbes added 15 points for the resurgent Spurs (19-16), who have won eight of 10 to move within two percentage points of first-place Houston in the Southwest Division.

"It just shows you that we can go out there and compete with the best and why we should look at ourselves as one of the best teams in this league as well," DeRozan said. "Because when we go up against the best, we perform and come out like we did tonight. It's definitely a confidence builder for all of us to understand we can do this."

The Nuggets (21-11) lost their second consecutive game and fell just behind Golden State for the best record in the Western Conference. Denver, which leads the Northwest Division by a half-game over Oklahoma City, is 13-3 at home but 8-8 on the road.

The Nuggets were without injured starters Gary Harris, Will Barton and

Paul Millsap but still had an 80-79 lead with 10 minutes remaining before they were outscored 23-4.

"They're a hell of a team," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Really well-coached, really active, really execute well. So, it's a fine win for us. We feel really good about it, but realize we've still got a long way to go."

Juancho Hernangomez tied a career high with 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for Denver. Malik Beasley added 22 points and Monte Morris had 15, both off the bench, for the Nuggets. Denver center Nikola Jokic was held to four points on 1-for-5 shooting in 31 minutes.

"They played really good defense on Joker," Hernangomez said. "They tried to keep him out of the game. They doubled every time, so I was open most of the time. I've been struggling. ... I'm happy right now to make some shots."

The Nuggets entered shooting 46 percent from the field this season but were limited to 39 percent by the Spurs. San Antonio also blocked four shots, all in the second half.

"It was us turning the ball over, careless passing, missing a lot of open shots," Denver coach Michael Malone

said. "You also have to give them credit. They've been playing at a high level on both ends of the floor."

The Spurs went on a 15-0 run after falling behind 80-79 and won for the eighth time in 10 home games.

"We showed that we can play great team defense with a lot of effort, playing together, especially in that second half," said center Jakob Poeltl, who had six points and 11 rebounds.

Spurs guard Derrick White blocked Jamal Murray's layup attempt on a fast break, which led to a driving dunk by White for a 91-80 lead with 7:28 remaining.

Murray was held to nine points and fellow backcourt starter Torrey Craig had 10.

The Spurs, who led by as many as 18, were ahead at the end of every quarter despite a drought in the second period. Denver held San Antonio scoreless for 2:42 beginning midway through the second, but the Spurs closed the half on a 10-3 run to claim a 55-53 lead.

TIP-INS

Nuggets: Barton (right hip), Millsap (broken right toe), Harris (right hip), Isaiah Thomas (right hip surgery), Michael Porter Jr. (lower back sur-

gery) and Jarred Vanderbilt (right foot surgery) all missed the game due to injury. ... The team's previous win in San Antonio came on March 4, 2012. Denver is 19-74 in San Antonio, but holds a winning record over the Spurs at home (48-43).

Spurs: Rookie guard Lonnie Walker IV was active for the first time this season after injuring his right knee during the preseason, but did not play. Walker missed the first 20 games and spent the past 14 assigned to the team's G League affiliate. ... Aldridge failed to hit the rim on his only 3-point attempt. ... DeRozan rolled his ankle late in the first half but quickly got up and remained in the game following a timeout.

JUST BECAUSE

Popovich is not a fan of playing the same opponent in back-to-back games, as the Spurs will do in facing the Nuggets again Friday in Denver.

"I hate them, they're awful," Popovich said. "We have six of them this year; some teams have one or two."

Why such disdain?

"I hate them. I just hate them. I can hate them for whatever reason. You do that in the playoffs, you don't do that now," he said.

## TEXANS

Continued from Page 7

A season-long five-game winning streak followed before the Seahawks downed them once again. But they bounced back with two wins to wrap up the regular season and finish 10-5-1 and second in the AFC East.

They hosted the Bills in the wild-card game and scored 14 points in the fourth quarter to cut the deficit, but came up just short in the 31-27 loss.

1982 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

This team is different than the others on this list because Tampa Bay's turnaround from 0-3 to the playoffs came in a season that was shortened to just nine games because of a 57-day strike by the players. Because of the strike the league adopted different rules for qualifying for the playoffs that weren't tied to division standings, leading to two teams Cleveland (4-5) and Detroit (4-5) making the postseason despite losing records.

Tampa Bay won its next two after starting 0-3 before a loss to the Jets. The Buccaneers, who were led by quarterback Doug Williams then won their last three regular-season games, capped by a 26-23 overtime victory against the Bears to finish 5-4 and reach the postseason.

But just as the Jets had a year before, the Buccaneers fell in the wild-card game when Williams threw three interceptions, one of which was returned for a touchdown, in a 30-17 loss to the Cowboys.

1992 SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

It would be a decade until another team opened the season 0-3 to make the playoffs, and the San Diego Chargers stand out on this list because they are the only team to drop their first four games and reach the postseason.

The Chargers fell in the huge hole early after Stan Humphries threw eight interceptions with just one TD in the first four games. San Diego got going after that, winning four in a row to reach .500 before its sec-

ond loss of the season to Kansas City. The Chargers rebounded the next week with a win to start a seven-game streak to end the season at 11-5 and give them the AFC West title.

They became the first of these teams to win a playoff game when they beat Kansas City 17-0 in the wild card after the Chiefs beat them twice in the regular season.

Their season ended when Humphries threw four interceptions and Dan Marino had three touchdown passes in a 31-0 win by the Dolphins in the divisional round.

1995 DETROIT LIONS

The Lions won two in a row after their 0-3 start but then lost their next two to fall to 2-5. Another win followed by their sixth loss came after that before they finally got rolling, winning their last seven regular-season games to finish 10-6 and second in the NFC Central.

Barry Sanders ran for 1,500 yards and 11 touchdowns that season, with 10 of those scores coming in Detroit's wins.

Detroit met Philadelphia in the wild-card and Sanders managed just 40 yards rushing as Rodney Peete threw three touchdowns to lead the Eagles to a 58-37 win.

1998 BUFFALO BILLS

Former Texans defensive coordinator Wade Phillips coached the 1998 Bills when they turned their season around to reach the playoffs after a 0-3 start. The Bills opened the season with Rob Johnson at quarterback, but Doug Flutie took over during the fifth game when Johnson was injured and helped them to a 31-24 comeback win over the Colts. The next week Flutie made his first NFL start since 1989 and led the Bills to a 17-16 win over the Jaguars for their first loss of the season.

Those two wins were part of a five-game streak that came after the winless start. The Bills won four of six after that streak and ended the regular season with a loss to the Jets and a win over the Saints to finish 10-6 and in third place in the AFC East.

The Bills lost to Miami 24-17 in the wild card when Flutie threw an interception and they lost four fumbles.



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## YEAR

Continued from Page 5

software processes \$2.5 billion in sales transactions a year for more than 1,000 U.S. retail stores and dispensaries.

Green Bits raised \$17 million in April, pulling in money from investment firms including Snoop Dogg's Casa Verde Capital. Current hopes to expand internationally by 2020.

"A lot of the problem is keeping up with growth," he said.

Legal marijuana was a \$10.4 billion industry in the U.S. in 2018 with a quarter-million jobs devoted just to the handling of marijuana plants, said Beau Whitney, vice president and senior economist at New Frontier Data, a leading cannabis market research and data analysis firm. There are many other jobs that don't involve direct work with the plants but they are harder to quantify, Whitney said.

Investors poured \$10 billion into cannabis in North America in 2018, twice what was invested in the last three years combined, he said, and the combined North American market is expected to reach more than \$16 billion in 2019.

"Investors are getting much savvier when it comes to this space because even just a couple of years ago, you'd throw money at it and hope that something would stick," he said. "But now investors are much more discerning."

Increasingly, U.S. lawmakers see that success and want it for their states.

Nearly two-thirds of U.S. states now have legalized some form of medical marijuana.

Voters in November made Michigan the 10th state — and first in the Midwest — to legalize recreational marijuana. Governors in New York and New Jersey are pushing for a similar law in their states next year, and momentum for broad legalization is building in Pennsylvania and Illinois.

"Let's legalize the adult use of recreational marijuana once and for all," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said last week.

State lawmakers in Nebraska just formed a campaign committee to put a medical cannabis initiative to voters in 2020. Nebraska shares a border with Colorado, one of the first two states to legalize recreational marijuana, and Iowa, which recently started a limited medical marijuana program.

"Attitudes have been rapidly evolving and changing. I know that my attitude toward it has also changed," said Nebraska state Sen. Adam Morfeld, a Democrat. "Seeing the medical benefits and seeing other states implement it ... has convinced me that it's not the dangerous drug it's made out to be."

With all its success, the U.S. marijuana industry continues to be undercut by a robust black market and federal law that treats marijuana as a controlled substance like heroin. Financial institutions are skittish about cannabis businesses, even in U.S. states where they are legal, and investors until recently have been reluctant to put their money behind pot.

Marijuana businesses can't deduct their business expenses on their federal taxes and face huge challenges getting insurance and finding real estate for their brick-and-mortar operations.

"Until you have complete federal legalization, you're going to be living with that structure," said Marc Press, a New Jersey attorney who advises cannabis businesses.

At the start of the year, the industry was chilled when then-U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescinded a policy shielding state-licensed medical marijuana operators from federal drug prosecutions. Ultimately the move had minimal impact because federal prosecutors showed little interest in going after legal operators.

Sessions, a staunch marijuana opponent, later lost his job while President Donald Trump said he was inclined to support an effort by U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, a Colorado Republican, to relax the federal prohibition.

In November, Democrats won control of the U.S. House and want to use it next year to pass legislation that eases federal restrictions on the legal marijuana industry without removing it from the controlled substances list.

Gardner and Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren have proposed legislation allowing state-approved commercial cannabis activity under federal law. The bill also would let states and Indian tribes determine how best to regulate marijuana commerce within their boundaries without fear of federal intervention.

If those provisions become law, they could open up banking for the marijuana industry nationwide and make it easier for cannabis companies to secure capital.

Blumenauer's "blueprint" to legalize marijuana also calls for the federal government to provide medical marijuana for veterans, more equitable taxation for marijuana businesses and rolling back federal prohibitions on marijuana research, among other things.

"We have elected the most pro-cannabis Congress in history and more important, some of the people who were roadblocks to our work ... are gone," Blumenauer said. "If we're able to jump-start it in the House, I think there will be support in the Senate, particularly if we deal with things that are important, like veterans' access and banking."

# How Fox's 25 seasons of doing NFL has changed the game



**This March 5, 2013, file photo shows Jay Glazer, from left, Howie Long, Terry Bradshaw and Michael Strahan attending the Fox Sports Media Upfront party celebrating the new Fox Sports 1 network in New York. Bradshaw thought his career as a football analyst was over in 1993 when CBS lost the NFL rights to Fox. Instead of going back to cattle ranching, he has had a front-row seat to the biggest sports broadcasting story of the past quarter century.**

By **JOE REEDY**

AP Sports Writer

Terry Bradshaw thought his career as a football analyst was over in 1993 when CBS lost the NFL rights to Fox. But instead of going back to cattle ranching, he has had a front-row seat to the biggest sports broadcasting startup of the past quarter-century.

"It seems like an eternity. We all have occasionally talked about where we started. We've had all of these innovations that has transformed broadcasting on television," Bradshaw said.

It was Bradshaw who helped usher in Fox's coverage of the NFL in 1994 riding a horse around Los Angeles before arriving at the Fox set in Hollywood. That entrance helped set the tone that still drives the network's coverage and has included eight Super Bowls.

"Terry is what Fox attitude is all about," said Joe Buck, who has gone from one of the announcers for regional games to the voice of Fox's major properties. "They played that during the preseason seminar this year and I got choked up. It was a beautiful TV moment."

David Hill, who built Fox Sports and came up with many of its innovations, still considers Bradshaw his most important hire.

"He is the core of what Fox Sports is — he's funny, self-deprecating, but gets the job done," Hill said.

That core was put in motion 25 years ago this month when Fox won the rights to broadcast NFL games for \$1.6 billion over four years. Besides its personalities, the network has given us the scoreboard, audio that brings viewers closer to the game, the one-hour pregame show, and a big production feel for sporting events.

The fact that Hill was able to build a sports division from scratch in eight months remains incredible considering most networks now take two to three years to build.

"It was so intense that it stays with you. Thinking back, though, we never had a chance to second guess anything because every day was important," he said.

Many of the announcers and production personnel that started with Fox in 1994 are still there as the network is in its 25th season of broadcasting the NFL. Bart Simpson is still going strong on Sunday night's, but Fox has become a grown-up network.

"We've grown from the rebellious new kid on the block and are now looked at as a responsible producer of major sports. We're now the establishment," said Richie Zyontz, the lead producer for Fox's top NFL game as well as coordinating producer for the network's NASCAR coverage.

The NFL's decision to go with Fox continues to reverberate on a number of levels, not only with football but in the way sports rights costs are perceived among network executives. Among the things we have learned:

#### FOOTBALL IS ENTERTAINMENT

Fox's credo of "same game, new attitude" really applied to Hill. The affable Australian, who had built sports networks in England and Australia, was tasked with building Fox Sports in eight months.

Hill offered a fresh set of eyes when it came to evaluating pro football on television, and the first opinion he had is there wasn't enough fun or entertainment on Sunday broadcasts.

Hill's vision of Fox's philosophy took root with the pregame show. Not only was it an hour, but it was done in Los Angeles instead of New York. He had a simple formula for his pregame crew: a host, former offensive player, former defensive player and coach.

"David understood that he wanted the viewer entertained. We cover the news but we tend to do things a little more jovial," Bradshaw said.

Hill, who now runs his own production company after leaving Fox in 2015, liked Howie Long after seeing one of his interviews, but wasn't sold after an audition. It was so vanilla that Hill told Long to come back the next day with a different attitude. Long was more relaxed in the second audition and was hired.

Bradshaw and Long have been the backbone of Fox's pregame show despite their diverse personalities.

"Terry and I couldn't be more different, but we have caught lightning in a bottle. It just works," Long said.

Hill also suggested having a comedian do predictions

and having a weather report as a segment. The Los Angeles setting also gave the show a different vibe, which is what he wanted all along.

"All the cameramen for the pregame had worked on sitcoms during the week. They all wanted to work on football," he said. "The camaraderie of everyone flowed throughout the entire unit."

The pregame show was a hit from the beginning and also showed that viewers had an appetite to consume as much football content as possible.

"I remember opening weekend when I got home I had a couple college buddies that were raving about the pregame show and how great and fun it was with everyone," said Troy Aikman, who was Cowboys quarterback in 1994 before joining the network seven years later. "It was refreshing, new and unique, and that set the tone for the network."

#### ELEVATING THE GAME

The hiring of Pat Summerall and John Madden as the top broadcast team gave Fox instant credibility, but the network also helped launch the network football careers of Joe Buck, Thom Brennaman, Kenny Albert and Kevin Harlan.

"I was sitting in the room during a seminar and looking at Summerall, Madden, Dick Stockton and Matt Millen while listening to David Hill talk, and I couldn't believe I was in the same room," Buck said. "I had been around my dad (Hall of Fame broadcaster Jack Buck) and knew what the standard was and how it had been done, and now I was hearing how different things were going to be. It was intimidating and exciting."

Production-wise, Fox ushered in the era of the constant time and scoreboard along with audio that brought viewers closer to the action. The scoreboard may look like a simple graphic, but at the time it was a technical marvel. Instead of having a camera fixated on a clock, a black box was embedded in each scoreboard so that the time and other data could be transmitted to Los Angeles and production trucks at the stadium.

"There was a guy named Richard Flanigan who had to go to each stadium with a ladder and screwdriver and put the black box in each scoreboard. But he had to build a black box for each scoreboard because they were all different," said Eric Shanks, a broadcast associate in 1994 and now Fox Sports' executive producer and CEO. "The attitude from David was the bigger, the louder, the better. We were doing things with graphics and sound effects that only used to exist in big production movies."

#### THE NFL RIGHTS ARMS RACE

When the NFL entered television negotiations in 1993, many predicted it would be lucky to get near the \$3.6 billion received from ABC, CBS, NBC, TNT and ESPN for four years in 1990.

Fox's bid of \$1.58 billion, along with increases from ABC, NBC, TNT and ESPN, increased the rights fees to \$4.4 billion — and longtime NFL broadcast partner CBS lost the NFC rights to Fox.

The contracts also ended up benefiting the players. The salary cap started in 1994 and many predicted with decreased rights fees it would be \$32 million per team. However, the surprise influx of cash pushed it to \$34 million.

The NFL received roughly \$5.525 billion this season for television rights, including \$1.760 billion from Fox for Sunday and Thursday games. The salary cap for this season is \$177.2 million per team.

#### WINS AND LOSSES

Most networks lose money on sports rights deals, but you rarely hear executives discuss that because the loss of the NFL can be catastrophic to the bottom line. CBS experienced that in 1993 when it lost the NFC games to Fox and NBC learned those lessons four years later when CBS outbid it for rights to the AFC.

Not only does it decimate sports divisions, but it impacts promotion of prime-time programming.

"Four years later the negative impact was so severe that CBS went to the NFL and said, 'name your price and we'll pay whatever to get a package,'" said Neal Pilson, the former president of CBS Sports who now runs his own sports television consulting company. "We lost affiliates, ratings, the male audience and a lot of sports sponsorships. But when CBS got the NFL back (in 1997), everything picked up again."

AP photo