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# HERALD

**BIG SPRING** THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019



VOLUME 114, NUMBER 80

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## Annual Chamber Extravaganza approaching



By **ANNA GUTIERREZ**  
 Staff Writer

Want to showcase your business and meet other business owners? This year's Chamber Extravaganza will be held on Tuesday, February 5 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at 7 p.m. Debbye Valverde, Executive Director with the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, says this event has been a tradition since 1972 when the first Man and Woman of the Year were announced, but it may even be longer than

that. The theme will be the same as last year, "Where Business Means Business."

A tradition that comes along with this event is the table decorating. Businesses and organizations will purchase a table and decorate it to represent or showcase themselves. There will be 45 tables available this year, so grab one while you can!

"Chamber members will decorate their table to

See **CHAMBER**, Page 3

*HERALD file photo*

**Dene Sheppard (right) and Mike Abusaab (left), last year's Man and Woman of the Year award recipients, pose for a photo with their plaques honoring them for their outstanding service to the community.**

## County swears in elected and appointed officials

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

County officials were sworn into office Wednesday morning at a special meeting of Howard County Commissioners Court.

"The Howard County Elections Administrator Jodi Duck – we accepted her review of election results and candidate confirmation," said County Judge Kathryn Wiseman. "And then we swore in the new county elected and appointed officers. Some of them had been appointed and this was their first time to be



**Judge Kathryn Wiseman**

elected. One of them was appointed."

Those sworn in at the meeting, held at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

## Comanche Trail Lake to be restocked with more rainbow trout



*HERALD file photo*  
 This January 2018 file photo shows the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department restocking our Comanche Trail Lake with rainbow trout. The lake was last stocked with rainbow trout on December 4, 2018, and will be stocked once more on Friday, January 11.

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**  
 Staff Writer

If you don't mind the cool temperatures, the fish will be biting at the Comanche Trail Lake come later this January.

Once again, the City of Big Spring will be partnering with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) in re-stocking Comanche Trail Lake with Rainbow Trout. The first stocking took place on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, and now is the time for the additional stocking of rainbow trout, which was originally scheduled for Friday, Jan. 4, 2019, but according

to TPWD's website, they have rescheduled their additional stocking for Friday, Jan. 11.

"Between the two stocking days, over 4,000 catchable size trout will be released into the lake," said Manny Negron, Big Spring Tourism Coordinator.

There is no length limit while fishing for trout, however, fishermen cannot bag more than five trout at a time. Adults are required to purchase a fishing license before taking to the waters. Those aged 17 and under are not required to have a fishing license.

See **LAKE**, Page 3



Find us online at:  
 www.bigspringherald.com



## SMMG late opening notice

Special to the Herald

Due to weather and road conditions not expecting to improve over the next couple of days, Scenic Mountain Medical Group (all providers and locations) will be opening at 1 p.m. on Thursday, January 3 and at 9 a.m. on Friday, January 4.

The safety of our patients and staff is important. Sick visits can be made by calling your Primary Care provider or by visiting www.scenicMountainAnytime.com. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. Be safe if you need to get out on the roads, and exercise caution while driving. Drivers are encouraged to stay home if possible.

## You can help Food2Kids make a difference



*HERALD file photo*

In the photo above, Food2Kids volunteers prepare brown paper bags of food earlier this school year. Food2Kids will be back at it again, and volunteers are more than welcome to stop by and help prepare the food bags for our local students in need. The next Food2Kids brown bag sacking is scheduled for Monday, January 7 and Tuesday, January 8.

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**  
 Staff Writer

It takes the power of many to end childhood hunger. That's what Food2Kids believes as they ask for volunteers to come help sort and package food for the hungry children of Big Spring. Food2Kids volunteers will start up again next week and pack up all of the food that is to be distributed to area school children who qualify by filling hundreds of brown paper bags with food.

Food2Kids is an outreach program that began a few years ago by members of First Methodist Church and has now grown into a life of its own. A few days out of the month, volunteers meet at the old Lakeview High

School gym to sack food for hundreds of Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends.

"It all started because there were some staff of the local schools who felt some children were not eating until they came back to school Monday," said Food2Kids volunteer Muffet Bomar. "So that's when we started and were able to provide them with something that will sustain the children through the weekend."

Food2Kids makes sure these kids get enough food for two meals for the weekend during the school year.

"We sack the food for the kids that teachers recommend who need it on the scheduled Mondays and Tuesdays each month."

said Bomar. "It's not their parents, it's just the situation. We just want to do our part to help our children. It's very gratifying to know these kids who need it are getting some food."

The sacking location for Food2Kids is the old Lakeview High School. To get there, drive North on Gregg St. past Carlos Restaurant to the traffic light at Sgt. Paredez St. Turn left, and follow Sgt. Paredez street all the way to the end where you will see a lake, and then turn right. The school is up the street about a block on the left side.

"All volunteers are welcome, and we always appreciate anyone who comes to volunteer," said Bomar. "It only takes just

See **FOOD**, Page 3

**Shannon Clinic Big Spring**

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## Obstetrics & Gynecology

**Robert Meyer, MD**

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## Obituaries

### Josefina "Josie" Hernandez



Josefina Hernandez, 80, passed away peacefully at home Friday, Dec. 21, 2018. The rosary will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019, at Myers and Smith Chapel with the burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Josie was born on April 21, 1938, in Big Spring, Texas, to Jose and Juanita Lopez. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She married Apolonio Hernandez on Feb. 19, 1955, in Big Spring, Texas.

Josie was preceded in death by her daughter, Joanna Hernandez; one son, Reynaldo Sr. Hernandez; her husband, two sisters, and one brother.

She is survived by four sons, Domingo Hernan-

dez, Rafael Hernandez and wife Irene, Antonio Hernandez and wife Christy, Jaime Hernandez and girlfriend Janet DeLeon; grandchildren, Rey Jr. Hernandez and wife Valerie, Erick Hernandez, Gene Hernandez and wife JoJo, Victoria Taylor, Diana DeLeon and husband Nathan, Michael Hernandez and wife Valerie, Tracie Hendrix and husband Robert, Tim Davila, Angelica Hernandez, Alicia Hernandez, Tyler Hernandez and girlfriend Alejandra Segovia; numerous great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Four brothers, Marcos Lopez and wife Dora, Ramon Lopez and girlfriend Diana Martinez, Manuel Lopez and wife Alma, Alberto Lopez and wife Carrie; two sisters, Beatriz Rodriguez and Amparo Tijerina.

Arrangements are made by Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

*Paid Obituary*

### Arnold Uribe



Arnold Uribe, 79, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 31, 2018. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Arnold was born Nov. 3, 1939, in Big Spring to Beatrice Perez Uribe and Ramon Uribe. He served in the U. S. Navy for 30 years. He went twice to Viet Nam. He retired as Sr. Chief Petty Officer. He and his wife owned La Vadera for 37 years.

Arnold is survived by his wife, Libby Uribe of Big Spring; six children, Lynne Ross and her hus-

band David of Columbus, Ohio, Angelica Uribe and her husband Lague of Big Spring, Timothy Arnold Uribe of Big Spring, David Anguiano and his wife Sandra of Lewisville, Dimas Anguiano of Big Spring, and Lisa Franco and her husband Gilbert of Ft. Worth; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren; five sisters and two brothers, Rose Calderon of Ft. Worth, Lillian Uribe of Big Spring, George Uribe of Eagle Pass, Irma Pineda of Chula Vista, California, Hilda Uribe of Big Spring, David Uribe of San Antonio, and Irene Nieves of Big Spring.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Albert Uribe and Rey Uribe; and one sister, Lucy Uribe.

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

### Robert "Rob" Roberson



Robert "Rob" Roberson, 82, of Lubbock, formerly of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Rev. Derrell Patterson, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Survivors include his wife, Luci Roberson of Lubbock; two sons, Don Roberson and wife, Dana of Plano and Ron Roberson and wife, Jan of Lubbock; one daughter, Lauri Phillips and husband, Jason of Forsan; six grandchildren; and one brother, David Roberson and wife, Jody.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one sister, Bettye Turner.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

### Marcelina Rodriguez Luera



Marcelina Rodriguez Luera, 78, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating.

Marcelina was born Jan. 16, 1940. She moved to Big Spring in 1999, from Falcon Heights, Texas.

Marcelina is survived by three sons, Luis Luera, David Luera, and Juan Luera, all of Big Spring; and three daughters, Maribel Luera of Big Spring, San Juanita Luera of Baltimore, Maryland, and Marcelina Sanchez of Big Spring.

Marcelina was preceded in death by her husband, Alonzo Luera.

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

## 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 in need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

- The Howard County Democrats will meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at

5:30 pm.at the Howard County Democratic Headquarters, 1408 Scurry, behind Prosperity Bank .

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

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

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

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

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

- Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

Cost has dropped to \$5 per person thanks to a sponsor Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road.

- Howard County Republicans meet the second Monday of each month. Club members meet in the Cactus Room at Howard College at 11:30 a.m. for Dutch treat lunch and meeting at 12 p.m.

- The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

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

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

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

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

- The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or [danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us)

- Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to visit patients. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

## 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, every Thursday, at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.



**HERALD**

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**MEMBER**  
**2018**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**



Courtesy photo

Retiring Justice of the Peace Bennie Green, left, administers the oath of office Wednesday to several Howard County officials. Shown, left to right, are Green; Howard County Commissioner for Precinct 2 Craig Bailey; County Judge Kathryn Wiseman; Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2 Connie Shaw; newly appointed Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1, Place 1, Angela Griffin; County Commissioner for Precinct 4 John Cline; County Clerk Brent Zitterkopf; and Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1, Place 2, Robert Fitzgibbons.

## COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

third-floor courtroom of the County Courthouse, included Wiseman and 118th District Judge Timothy Yeats; District Clerk Colleen Barton; Howard County Commissioner for Precinct 2 Craig Bailey; Howard County Commissioner for Precinct 4 John Cline; County Clerk Brent Zitterkopf; newly appointed Justice of the Peace

for Precinct 1, Place 1, Angela Griffin; JP for Precinct 1, Place 2, Robert Fitzgibbons; and JP for Precinct 2 Connie Shaw.

The next regular Commissioners Court meeting is scheduled Jan. 9 at 3:30 p.m. For more information contact Judge Wiseman at 432-264-2202.

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

## CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1

showcase their business, but we also encourage them to visit other tables and meet other Chamber members. That's what the Chamber Extravaganza is all about; showcasing your business and getting to know other businesses in the area," said ValVerde.

During the extravaganza, there will also be the passing of the gavel from outgoing president Manny Negron to incoming president Randy Johnson, the superintendent of Forsan ISD. They will also be announcing the Man and Woman of the Year Awards.

"The selection will be made on the basis of all-around contributions to the community, not just for extraordinary performance in the individual's business or employment," said ValVerde. "The nominee should have a consistent track record of accomplishments rather than being honored for a single act of merit, although a single contribution or achievement is not ruled out if it is of sufficient importance."

The chamber committee will begin calling businesses soon to see if they want to buy a table or to be a corporate

sponsor of the event, but you don't have to be a Chamber member to attend.

"This is a great opportunity to come and get to know your local businesses. If you're a non-member, please come in and get to know what the Chamber is all about."

Nominations are still being accepted through Monday, January 7 for Man and Woman of the Year. For any information regarding the event or for how to nominate someone for Man or Woman of the Year, please contact Debbye ValVerde at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641, or by email at debbye@bigspringchamber.com.

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



HERALD file photo

Relay for Life's decorated table stands out during a previous year's Chamber Extravaganza. The theme was Mardi Gras. If you would like to showcase your business or organization, please contact Debbye ValVerde at 432-263-7641.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

### By The Associated Press

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

#### 1. TRUMP, LAWMAKERS STILL AT LOGGERHEADS

No one budes at the president's closed-door meeting with congressional leaders, so the partial government shutdown persists over his demand for billions of dollars to build a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico.

#### 2. WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT NEW CONGRESS

The 116th U.S. Congress is making history for seating a record number of women and becoming the most racially and ethnically diverse.

#### 3. THE "DARK" SIDE OF THE MOON

Venturing into a largely unexplored terrain, a Chinese spacecraft Change 4 has made the first-ever landing on the far side of the moon and sent back a photo showing a small crater and a barren surface.

#### 4. PUBLIC RECKON-

#### ING UNDERWAY IN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Since the release of a shocking grand jury report in Pennsylvania four months ago, nearly 50 dioceses and religious orders across the U.S. have publicly named more than 1,000 predator priests.

#### 5. PYONGYANG'S TOP DIPLOMAT IN ITALY SAID TO BE HIDING

A high-profile defection by one of North Korea's elite would be a huge embarrassment for leader Kim Jong Un as he pursues diplomacy with Seoul and Washington and seeks to portray himself as a player in international geopolitics.

#### 6. WHY WALL STREET HAS THAT SINKING FEELING

Apple acknowledges that demand for iPhones — the company's most profitable product — is waning as China's economy slows and trade tensions grow.

#### 7. NASA UNVEILS SNAPSHOTS FROM SPACE

A spacecraft 4 billion miles from Earth yields its first close-up pictures of the most distant celestial object ever explored — depicting what looks like a reddish snowman.

#### 8. WHO WAS FREQUENT VISITOR TO RUSSIA

As a Marine stationed in Iraq, Paul Whelan enjoyed fine cigars and showed an affinity for Russia, even spending two weeks of military leave in the country where he's now being held on spying charges.

#### 9. ESPORT LEAGUES EAGER TO ADD WOMEN

Most professional esports are devoid of female players at their highest levels, even though 45 percent of U.S. gamers are women or girls.

#### 10. 'CAPTAIN' OF CAPTAIN & TENNILLE DIES AT 76

Daryl Dragon teamed with then-wife Toni Tennille on such easy listening hits as "Love Will Keep Us Together" and "Muskat Love."

## FOOD

Continued from Page 1

about an hour, and it's like a well oiled machine when everyone is working together. It works perfectly and efficiently."

The Food2Kids Sacking Schedule for 2019 includes:

- Monday, January 7, and Tuesday, January 8
- Monday, February 4, and Tuesday, February 5
- Monday, March 4, and Tuesday, March 5
- Monday, April 1 (last sacking day of the school year).

"We also are always accepting donations. To donate you can call or mail it to First United Methodist at P.O. Box 1641," said Bomar. "Bottom line: God intended us to do this."

For more information about Food2Kids, please call 432-935-3998.

Contact Staff Writer Amber Mansfield at 432-263-7331 ext. 234, or by email at life@bigspringherald.com.

### COWBOYS STEAKHOUSE AND RESTAURANT

\$1.00 Off Adults  
50¢ Off Children  
Sunday Only  
11-3 Buffet or  
Any Entree \$9.00 or above  
1 Coupon Per Person  
Must Be Presented For Discount  
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## LAKE

Continued from Page 1

Below is an excerpt of a letter from Mr. Carl J. Kittel, Program Director – Trout – Texas Parks & Wildlife Department:

"The goal of the TPWD's rainbow trout stocking program is to release catchable size rainbow trout in select waters in Texas to provide a unique winter fishing opportunity, to provide additional fishing opportunities in urban areas, and to provide support to educational fishing programs. Since 1966, the TPWD has stocked rainbow trout into numerous locations around the state. To date, the total number of trout stocked exceeds 8.2 million.

The lake must have water temperatures cool enough to sustain trout from December through February in most areas of the State. The stocking site must be open to the public and approved by the TPWD Inland Fisheries Biologist in your area," the letter continued. "The trout remain the property of the state of Texas and subject to TPWD regulations. Since 1994, the TPWD has sought to expand this very popular program by creating partnerships with municipalities, corporations and special organizations with a common goal of providing unique winter fishing opportunities in Texas. By participating in the program, these entities ensure that this unique fishing opportunity continues to be available to the public in their area. Thanks again for your support and interest in participating in the program."

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department is a Texas state agency that oversees and protects wildlife and their habitats. In addition, the agency is responsible for managing the state's parks and historical areas.

For additional information, please contact Big Spring Convention and Visitor Bureau Tourism Coordinator, Manny Negron at 432-263-8235.

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson  
267-8288

Josefina Hernandez, 80, died Friday, Dec. 21, 2018. Vigil service at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside memorial service will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park.

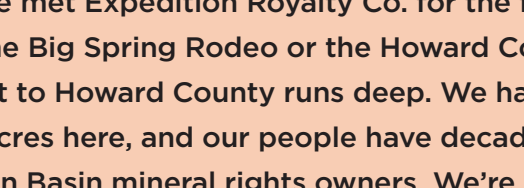
Marcelina Rodriguez Luera, 78, died Saturday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Arnold Uribe, 79, died Monday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Michael "Mike" Spivey, 42, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

THIS ISN'T  
OUR  
FIRST  
RODEO

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.



REACH US TODAY BY PHONE OR EMAIL.

Matt Scott 432-755-7065 matt.scott@expeditionroyalty.com  
Rayne Austin 432-755-7065 rayne.austin@expeditionroyalty.com

OUR DOWNTOWN BIG SPRING OFFICE WILL BE OPEN SOON!

# Hello, 2019: Revelry and reflection greet new year



AP photo

**A reveler celebrates as confetti falls during a New Year's celebration in New York's Times Square, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019.**

**By The Associated Press**

Fireworks, concerts, spiritual services and political addresses abounded to mark the transition to 2019 as revelers around the globe bid farewell Monday to a year filled with challenges to many of the world's most basic institutions, including in the realms of politics, trade, alliances and religion.

A look at how the world is ushering in 2019:

## NEW YORK

A drenching rain couldn't keep crowds from packing Times Square for the traditional crystal ball drop and a string of star performances.

Christina Aguilera pumped up the crowd, performing in a snow-white dress and coat while partygoers danced in their rain ponchos.

Bebe Rexha sang John Lennon's "Imagine" just before the midnight ball drop.

The celebration took place under tight security. Partygoers were checked for weapons and then herded into pens, ringed by metal barricades, where they waited for the stroke of midnight.

But the weather forced police to scrap plans to fly a drone to help keep watch over the crowd.

Revelers paid up to \$10 for plastic ponchos trying to stay dry. Umbrellas were banned for security reasons.

## RIO DE JANEIRO

More than 2 million people celebrated the new year on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro.

A 14-minute fireworks display ushered Brazil into 2019 only hours before far-right politician Jair Bolsonaro will be sworn in as president.

Many Brazilians were on the road to the capital of Brasilia on Monday night to watch the former army captain's inauguration Tuesday afternoon.

The last evening of 2018 in Rio was 85 degrees Fahrenheit (29 degrees Celsius), and many Brazilians took a dip in the water and made their offerings to Yemanjá, a sea goddess in the Afro-Brazilian Candomblé faith.

## LONDON

Britons ushered in the new year with the familiar chimes of Big Ben, even though the world famous clock has been disconnected for more than a year because of a conservation project.

Parliament announced last week that the clock's massive bell would sound to mark the new year with the help of a specially built electric mechanism to power the hammer, which weighs about 440 pounds (200 kilograms). The clock mechanism, which has kept time since 1859, has been dismantled as part of the renovation work.

New Year's Eve without Big Ben would be positively un-British. The comforting chimes are used by TV and radio stations throughout Britain to herald the moment of transition from the old to the new year.

## PARIS

Parisians and tourists gathered on the Champs-Élysées to celebrate New Year's Eve under heavy security.

Anti-government protesters from the yellow vest movement have issued calls on social media for "festive" demonstrations on the famous avenue.

Paris police set up a security perimeter in the area, with bag searches, a ban on alcohol and traffic restrictions. The Interior Ministry said Sunday that the heavy security measures are needed because of a "high terrorist threat" and concerns about "non-declared protests."

President Emmanuel Macron gave his traditional New Year address to briefly lay out his priorities for 2019, as some protesters angry over high taxes and his pro-business policies plan to continue their demonstrations in coming weeks.

Ahead of midnight, a light show with the theme of brotherhood took place on the Arc de Triomphe monument at the top of the Champs-Élysées.

## BERLIN

Tens of thousands of people celebrated the start of 2019 at Berlin's landmark Brandenburg Gate.

The annual New Year's celebrations took place amid tight security, with about 1,300 officers deployed throughout the heart of the German capital and revelers banned from taking fireworks, bottles or large bags into the fenced-off party zone.

By midnight, Berlin police reported fewer incidents than in previous years.

## VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis has rounded out the most problematic year of his papacy by presiding over a vespers service and praying before the Vatican's giant sand

# Shutdown Day 12: Lawmakers to hear wall plea at White House

By **ZEKE MILLER**  
and **LISA MASCARO**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

— President Donald Trump said Wednesday the partial government shutdown will last "as long as it takes" as closures entered a 12th day over his demands for billions of dollars from Congress to build a border wall with Mexico.

"Could be a long time or could be quickly," Trump said during lengthy comments at a Cabinet meeting at the White House, his first public appearance of the new year.

The president said his Homeland Security officials will "make a plea" for the border wall during a briefing for congressional leaders later Wednesday at the White House.

But Trump also rejected his own administration's offer to accept \$2.5 billion for the wall. That offer was made when Vice President Mike Pence and other top officials met with Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer at the start of the shutdown.



**Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt, left, and acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, right, listen as President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting at the White House, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019, in Washington.**

Instead, Trump repeatedly pushed for the \$5.6 billion he has demanded.

Trump made his case ahead of the afternoon session with Democratic and Republican leaders about the migrants arriving at the border in recent days. He said the current border is "like a sieve" and noted the tear gas "flying" overnight to deter arrivals. He called the border "very tough" at keeping immigrants out.

"If they knew they couldn't come through, they wouldn't even start," Trump said at the meeting, joined by Cabinet secretaries and top advisers, including Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump.

The meeting came as the shutdown dragged through its second week, closing some parks and leaving hundreds of thousands of federal employees without pay.

Trump complained that he had been "lonely" at the White House during the holiday break, having skipped his getaway to Mar-a-Lago in Florida. He

AP photo

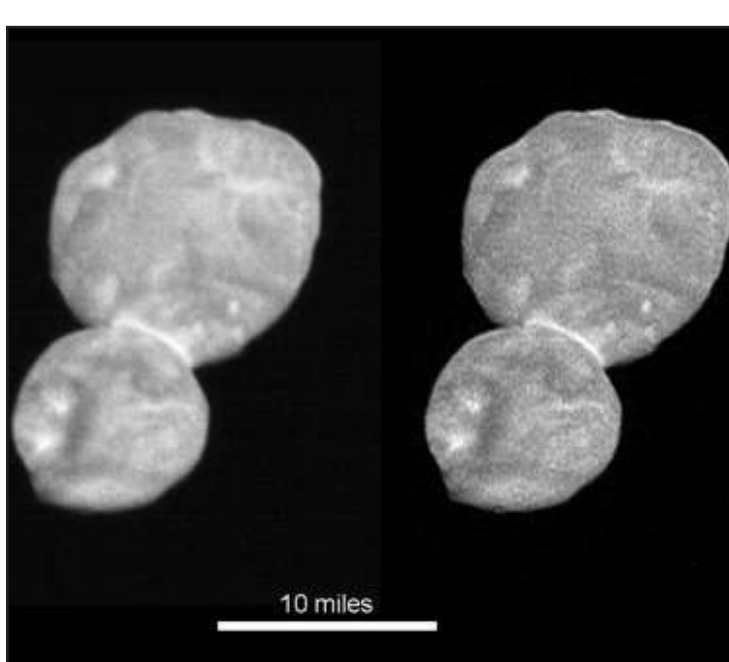
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See **PLEA**, Page 5

# NASA: Icy object past Pluto looks like reddish snowman



AP photo

**This image made available by NASA on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019 shows the size and shape of the object Ultima Thule, about 1 billion miles beyond Pluto. The New Horizons spacecraft encountered it on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019.**

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

LAUREL, Md. — A NASA spacecraft traveling 4 billion miles from Earth has sent back its first close-up pictures of the most distant celestial object ever explored, and it looks like a reddish snowman.

Ultima Thule, as the small, icy object has been dubbed, is an elongated body about 20 miles long, consisting of two fused-together spheres.

NASA's New Horizons, the spacecraft that sent back pictures of Pluto 3½ years ago, swept past the ancient, mysterious object early on New Year's Day. It is a billion miles past Pluto.

The pictures from Ultima Thule were revealed Wednesday.

Scientist Jeff Moore says that the two spheres formed when small, icy pieces coalesced in space billions of years ago. Then the spheres slowly spiraled closer to each other and stuck together.

Ultima Thule has a mottled appearance the color of light brick. Scientists say no impact craters could be seen in the latest photos.

An earlier, fuzzier image made it look like a bowling pin.

# Sports betting will be no home run for state budgets

By **WAYNE PARRY**  
and **GEOFF MULVIHILL**

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

— The race to legalize sports betting is on now that the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed it in all 50 states, but will it provide enough extra tax revenue to make much of a difference for schools, roads or pension debt?

Don't bet on it.

Just look to the states that capitalized immediately after the court's ruling last spring and to Nevada, which previously had an effective monopoly on sports gambling. Even though the market is still developing, the returns to date have been modest.

In Nevada, revenue from sports betting has accounted for roughly one half of 1 percent of the entire state budget.

"Everything I've seen so far suggests that this would not be what one would consider to be a pot of gold," said Ohio state Sen. John Eklund, a Republican who introduced legislation to legalize sports betting in his state.

Delaware, Mississippi, New Jersey, Pennsyl-



AP photo

**This July 14, 2018 file photo shows gamblers placing bets on sports events at the FanDuel sports book at the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford, N.J., on the day it opened.**

vania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia legalized sports betting last year after the Supreme Court decision, as did the District of Columbia. Although New Mexico has not passed a sports betting law, the Santa Ana Star Casino & Hotel started taking bets in October through a tribal gambling

compact.

Lawmakers in Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia already have filed bills to allow sports betting, and those who track the industry expect a total of 30 states to consider

See **BETTING**, Page 5



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# PLEA

Continued from Page 4

claimed his only companions were the "machine gunners," referring to security personnel, and "they don't wave, they don't smile." He also criticized Nancy Pelosi, the House Democratic leader, for visiting Hawaii.

At the Capitol on Wednesday, Pelosi said she hoped Republicans and the White House "are hearing what we have offered" to end the shutdown.

So far, the administration has rejected a proposal from Democrats to re-open government without money to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trump contended the Democrats see the shutdown fight as "an election point" as he celebrated his own first two years in office. He promised "six more years of great success."

The partial government shutdown began on Dec. 22. Funding for the wall has been the sticking point in passing funding bills for several government departments.

The Wednesday afternoon briefing with the congressional leaders is taking place the day before Democrats are to assume control of the House and end the Republican monopoly on government.

The session will be held in the high-security Situation Room at the White House, which is typically used to handle sensitive information. The location means the conversation will not be televised, unlike the volatile sitdown during which Democratic leaders talked back to Trump last month.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and the top incoming House Republicans — Kevin McCarthy of California and Steve Scalise of Louisiana — planned to attend, according to aides. The departing House speaker, Paul Ryan, was not expected.

Pelosi, who is expected to become speaker on Thursday, and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer planned to attend. Pelosi said Tuesday that Democrats would take action to "end the Trump Shutdown" by passing legislation Thursday to reopen government.

"We are giving the Republicans the opportunity to take yes for an answer," she wrote in a letter to colleagues. "Senate Republicans have already supported

this legislation, and if they reject it now, they will be fully complicit in chaos and destruction of the President's third shutdown of his term."

The White House invitation came after House Democrats released their plan to re-open the government without approving money for a border wall. They planned to pass them as soon as the new Congress convenes Thursday.

Trump spent the weekend saying Democrats should return to Washington to negotiate, firing off Twitter taunts. Aides suggested there would not necessarily be a traditional wall as Trump has repeatedly insisted since his presidential campaign, but he contradicted them.

On Tuesday morning, after tweeting a New Year's message to "EVERYONE INCLUDING THE HATERS AND THE FAKE NEWS MEDIA," Trump tweeted: "The Democrats, much as I suspected, have allocated no money for a new Wall. So imaginative! The problem is, without a Wall there can be no real Border Security."

But he seemed to shift tactics later in the day, appealing to Pelosi. "Let's make a deal?" he tweeted.

Whether the Republican-led Senate would consider the Democratic funding bills — or if Trump would sign either into law — was unclear. McConnell spokesman Donald Stewart said Senate Republicans would not take action without Trump's backing.

Even if only symbolic, passage of the bills in the House would put fresh pressure on the president. At the same time, administration officials said Trump was in no rush for a resolution to the impasse, believing he has public opinion and his base on his side.

The Democratic package to end the shutdown would include one bill to temporarily fund the Department of Homeland Security at current levels — with \$1.3 billion for border security, far less than Trump has said he wants for the wall — through Feb. 8 as talks continued.

It would also include another measure to fund the departments of Agriculture, Interior, Housing and Urban Development and others closed by the partial shutdown. That measure would provide money through the remainder of the fiscal year, to Sept. 30.

# BETTING

Continued from Page 4

similar ones this year.

The expected stampede of states seeking to legalize it has parallels to the growing trend toward legalizing recreational marijuana, which 10 states have done and others are considering.

As with marijuana, lawmakers say they are motivated in large part because sports betting has been a black market activity outside Nevada. Legalizing it would allow states to impose regulations and take in at least some money.

"I keep telling them this is not like a craps table or a slot machine," said Mark Sickles, a Democratic state lawmaker in Virginia who has sponsored a bill that would place a 15 percent tax on sports betting in the state. "My main purpose is to take something that's currently being done illegally and get some tax revenue from it."

Revenue from legalized pot makes up just a small portion of state revenue, even in the states with the most mature markets — about 2 percent in Colorado and a little over 1 percent in Washington, according to a May report from Moody's Investors Service. That's still a far larger portion of revenue than even the most optimistic projections for sports betting.

New Jersey was the first state to legalize sports betting after the Supreme Court decision last May.

The state's gambling industry took in \$928 million worth of sports bets since the first one was taken on June 14 through the end of November. From that, the state received less than \$8 million in tax revenue.

Even if the state meets its projection of \$25 million in sports betting tax revenue for a full year, that would amount to well under one 10th of 1 percent of the state's \$37.4 billion budget.

Former New Jersey state Sen. Raymond Lesniak began the effort to legalize sports betting there 10 years ago with what at the time seemed like a quixotic lawsuit against the federal government. He said sports gambling was not supposed to be a big moneymaker for the state.

"It wasn't intended to do that," he said. "I was driven by the fact that the Atlantic City casino industry was dying and the horse racing industry was on life support. It needed an injection of new money and new people that would come, fill up rooms, eat in restaurants, spend money."

Lesniak expects sports betting to eventually generate over \$100 million in taxes for the state once all New Jersey's casinos and racetracks have sports books up and running for a full year. That would be 10 times the level of tax revenue being generated right now, when many sports betting operations in New Jersey are in their infancy.

Yet experts say sports betting revenue in New Jersey and elsewhere is likely to be diluted as more and more states jump into the game.

New Jersey's market is being squeezed on one side by Pennsylvania, which recently began offering sports betting, and on the other by New York, which is likely to pursue legalization this year.

For perspective, New Jersey's casino revenue at the end of 2006, when Pennsylvania opened its first casino, was \$5.2 billion. A decade later, that number had been cut in half and Pennsylvania had more casinos.

The states that have launched sports betting this year expect they will bring in tax revenue that ranges from about \$5 million in Mississippi and West Virginia to \$25 million in New Jersey. In each state, hitting those targets would account for just a fraction of 1 percent of state spending.

Even Rhode Island, which has the highest sports betting tax rate at 51 percent, estimates it will take in \$23.5 million a year, or a quarter of 1 percent of the state's budget.

Those revenue projections are in line with expectations from the municipal ratings firm Moody's Investor Service. Baye Larsen, who analyzes state finances at Moody's, expects sports betting to account for a "very, very small slice" of state revenue and will do little if anything to help cover their rising pension, Medicaid, education or infrastructure needs.

Instead, some lawmakers said they will try to direct the money to specific projects. A bill in Missouri, for example, would send some of the revenue to the capital improvement fund of the state Veterans Commission, while some of New Jersey's online sports betting revenue is targeted to an Atlantic City promotion campaign.

"Legalized sports gambling is not a way to raise revenue for the government; it is not a mechanism to create jobs," said Minnesota state Rep. Patrick Garofalo, a Republican. "It's a high-volume, low-margin business."

# 2019

Continued from Page 4

sculpture Nativity scene.

During his homily Monday, Francis lamented how many people spent 2018 living on the edge of dignity, homeless or forced into modern forms of slavery.

Accompanied by his chief almsgiver, Francis then walked out into St. Peter's Square, where he greeted pilgrims and prayed before the Nativity scene, carved out of 720 tons of packed sand.

On Tuesday, Francis will celebrate Mass to mark the start of a new year and officially leave behind 2018, which saw a new eruption of the clergy sex abuse scandal.

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Fireworks crackled at Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, as hundreds of thousands of spectators gathered downtown to watch the spectacular display.

The fireworks replaced last year's somewhat anticlimactic LED lightshow that ran down the facade of the 828-meter-tall (2,716-foot-tall) tower.

Cafes and restaurants with a view of the Burj Khalifa charge a premium for their locale on New Year's Eve. Casual sandwich chain Pret a Manger, for example, charged \$817 for a table of four. That price gets you hot and cold drinks and some canapes. For burgers near the action, fast food chain Five Guys charged \$408 per person for unlimited burgers, hotdogs, fries, milkshakes and soda.

Elsewhere in the United Arab Emirates, the emirate of Ras al-Khaimah attempted to set a new Guinness World Record with the longest straight-line display of fireworks reaching 7.35 miles (11.83 kilometers).

## THAILAND

While many celebrate New Year's Eve with fireworks, hundreds of Thais traveled to Takien Temple in a suburb of Bangkok to lie inside coffins for traditional funeral rituals.

Participants believe the ceremony — symbolizing death and rebirth — helps rid them of bad luck and allows them to be born again for a fresh start in the new year.

They held flowers in their hands as monks covered them with pink sheets and chanted prayers for the dead.

"It wasn't scary or anything. It is our belief that it will help us get rid of bad luck and bring good fortune to our life," said Busaba Yookong, who came to the temple with her family.

## PHILIPPINES

Dozens of people have been injured ahead of New Year's Eve, when many across the Philippines set off powerful firecrackers in one of Asia's most violent celebrations

despite a government scare campaign and threats of arrests.

The Department of Health said it has recorded more than 50 firecracker injuries in the past 10 days. That is expected to increase as Filipinos usher in 2019.

Officials have urged centralized fireworks displays to discourage wild and sometimes fatal merry-making.

The tradition stems from a Chinese-influenced belief that noise drives away evil and misfortune.

Earlier Monday, suspected Muslim militants remotely detonated a bomb near the entrance of a mall in Cotabato as people did last-minute shopping ahead of celebrations. Officials said at least two people were killed and nearly 30 wounded.

## CHINA

New Year's Eve isn't celebrated widely in mainland China, where the lunar New Year in February is a more important holiday. But countdown events were held in major cities, and some of the faithful headed to Buddhist temples for bell-ringing and prayers.

Beijing held a gala with VIP guests at the main site of the 2008 Summer Olympics. The event looked ahead to the 2022 Winter Games, which also will be held in the Chinese capital.

Outdoor revelers in Beijing had to brave temperatures well below freezing.

Additional police were deployed in parts of Shanghai, where a New Year's Eve stampede in 2014 killed 36 people.

In Hong Kong, festive lights on skyscrapers provided the backdrop for a fireworks, music and light show over Victoria Harbor on a chilly evening.

## KIRIBATI

The Pacific island nation of Kiribati was the first in the world to welcome the new year, greeting 2019 with muted celebrations after spending 2018 on the front line of the battle against climate change.

Kiribati is made up of low-lying atolls along the equator which intersect three time zones, the first of which sees the new year 14 hours before midnight in London.

Much of the nation's land mass, occupied by 110,000 people, is endangered by rising seas that have inundated coastal villages. The rising oceans have turned fresh water sources brackish, imperiling communities and raising doubts the nation will exist at the next New Year.

Former President Anote Tong said the only future for Kiribati may be mass migration.

The new year was welcomed in the capital, Tarawa, with church services and mostly quiet private celebrations.

## AUSTRALIA

An estimated million people crowded Sydney Harbor as Australia's largest city rang in the

new year with a spectacular, soul-tinged fireworks celebration.

One of the most complex displays in Australia's history included gold, purple and silver fireworks pulsating to the tune of "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," made famous by Aretha Franklin, who died in August. The show used 8.5 tons of fireworks and featured more than 100,000 pyrotechnic effects.

Earlier, a thunderstorm drenched tens of thousands of people as they gathered for the traditional display, creating a show of its own with dozens of lightning strikes.

In Melbourne, 14 tons of fireworks deployed on the ground and on roofs of 22 buildings produced special effects including flying dragons. In Brisbane, people watched as fireworks exploded from five barges moored on the Brisbane River.

## SOUTH KOREA

After an eventful year that saw three inter-Korean summits and the easing of tensions over North Korea's nuclear program, South Koreans entered 2019 with hopes that the hard-won detente will expand into a stable peace.

Thousands of South Koreans filled the streets of the capital, Seoul, for a traditional bell-tolling ceremony near City Hall. Dignitaries picked to ring the old Bosingak bell at midnight included famous surgeon Lee Guk-jong, who successfully operated on a North Korean soldier who escaped to South Korea in 2017 in a hail of bullets fired by his comrades.

A "peace bell" was tolled at Imjingak, a pavilion near the border with North Korea.

## LAS VEGAS

No place does flashy like Las Vegas. It rang in 2019 with fireworks shot from casino-resorts and superstar performances from Lady Gaga, Celine Dion, Gwen Stefani and others.

Celebratory midnight toasts were anchored by an 8-minute firework show on the Las Vegas Strip. The pyrotechnics were choreographed to a soundtrack that includes Frank Sinatra's "Luck Be a Lady," Lionel Richie's "All Night Long" and Dion's version of "I Drove All Night".

New Year's Eve is worth more than \$400 million to Vegas.

Security is a high priority for police on the Las Vegas Strip, where a gunman in 2017 opened fire on a country music festival, killing 58 people and injuring hundreds of others.

Police, including rooftop snipers and plainclothes and uniformed officers, were out in full force along with federal agents. Authorities also restricted revelers from bringing backpacks, ice chests, strollers and glass items to the street celebrations.



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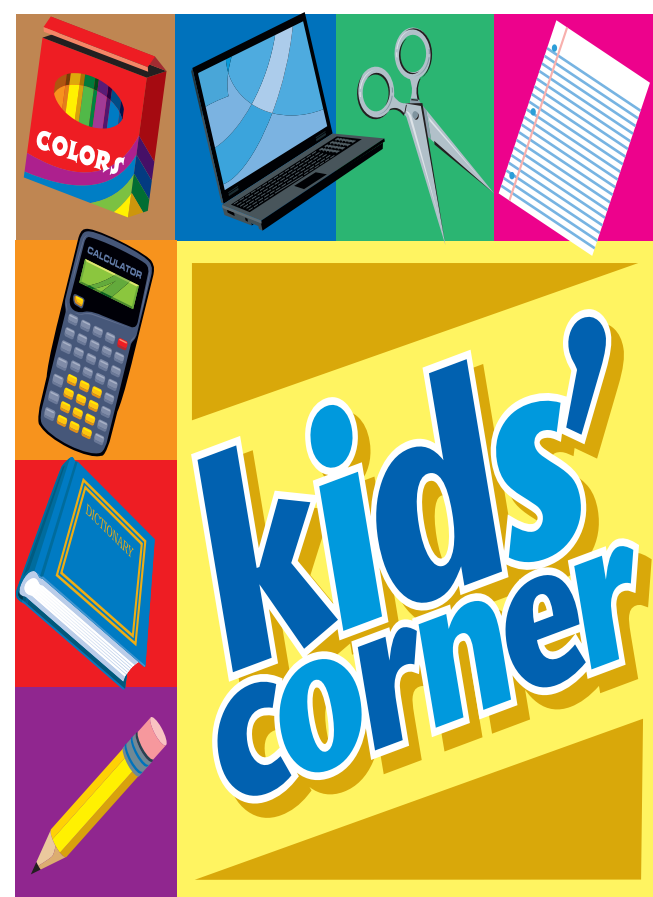
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## Hot Tea Word Find

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

BEVERAGE	LEMON	STEEP
CUP	MILK	SUGAR
HONEY	SAUCER	TEA
INFUSER	SOOTHING	WARM

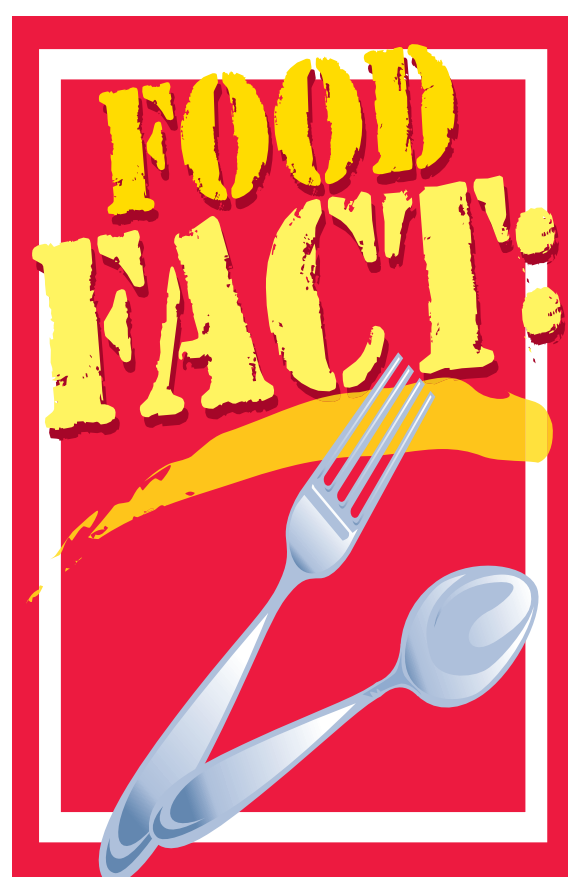
S	K	C	R	Q	Q	Y	M	F	C	N	M
O	T	F	T	R	W	D	O	U	C	O	I
C	C	E	Q	B	X	C	W	P	S	R	L
L	R	B	E	T	M	A	T	O	I	A	K
J	A	E	T	P	R	G	O	Z	P	G	G
Y	H	V	C	M	O	T	U	N	I	U	I
B	T	E	E	U	H	Q	O	Y	Y	S	H
N	U	R	Y	I	A	M	H	O	N	E	Y
X	D	A	N	R	E	S	U	F	N	I	V
J	F	G	Q	L	E	F	I	P	S	F	O
C	J	E	L	I	R	B	G	P	U	B	S
G	W	T	M	R	R	B	I	D	S	C	G

THIS DAY IN...



**HISTORY**

- **1896:** UTAH IS ADMITTED AS THE 45TH STATE IN THE UNITED STATES.
- **1948:** BURMA GAINS ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM GREAT BRITAIN.
- **2007:** CALIFORNIA DEMOCRAT NANCY PELOSI BECOMES THE FIRST FEMALE SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.



THIS BEVERAGE IS ENJOYED BY MULTIPLE CULTURES AND TRACES ITS ORIGINS TO ASIA.

ANSWER: TEA

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

PCU FO ETA

ANSWER: Cup of tea

**New  
Word**

**STEEP**

soak in water to extract flavor

How they  
**SAY** that in...

**ENGLISH:** Cookie

**SPANISH:** Galleta

**ITALIAN:** Dolcetto

**FRENCH:** Biscuit

**GERMAN:** Kekes

**Did you  
KNOW?**

IT TAKES ROUGHLY 2,000 TINY TEA LEAVES TO MAKE JUST ONE POUND OF FINISHED TEA. TEA CAN BE SOLD LOOSE OR ALREADY PACKAGED IN SMALL BAGS.



**GET THE  
PICTURE?**



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PREPARED TEA

### Wednesday's Sports Transactions

By The Associated Press

**BASEBALL**  
American League  
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Named Koby Oriez senior director/international scouting.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Signed DH Nelson Cruz to a one-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE  
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Promoted chief operating officer Erik Greupner to president of business operations.

**FOOTBALL**  
National Football League

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed DL Daniel Ekuale and Devaroe Lawrence, OL Kyle Friend and Brad Seaton, RB Devante Mays, WR Daniel Williams and DBs Robert Jackson, Lenzy Pipkins and Tigie Sankoh to reserve/future contracts.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed LS Taybor Pepper, RB Robert Martin, DB Ronald Zamort, LB Jonathan Anderson, WR Brittan Golden, DEs Myles Humphrey and Jake Ceresna and OTs Victor Salako and Jylan Ware to reserve/future contracts.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed TE Marcus Lucas, CB Tarvarus McFadden, WR Jordan Smallwood, S Terrell Williams Jr. and OL Christian DiLauro and Najee Toran to reserve/future contracts.

**HOCKEY**  
National Hockey League  
CALGARY FLAMES — Recalled G Jon Gillies

from Stockton (AHL).  
DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled D Brian Lashoff from Grand Rapids (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Assigned D Chris Butler and F Jordan Nolan to San Antonio (AHL).

VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Traded G Anders Nilsson and F Darren Archibald to Ottawa for SG Mike McKenna, F Tom Pyatt and a 2019 sixth-round draft pick.

American Hockey League  
GRAND RAPIDS GRIF-FINS — Recalled D Marcus Crawford from Toledo (ECHL).

SOCCER  
Major League Soccer  
LA GALAXY — Named Guillermo Barros Schelotto coach.

National Premier Soccer League  
NEW YORK COSMOS — Named Carlos Mendes coach.

COLLEGE  
FLORIDA — LB Vosean Joseph will enter the NFL draft.

GEORGIA TECH — Named Nathan Burton co-defensive coordinator and Jeff Popovich cornerbacks coach and kickoff and punt coverage coordinator.

ST. JOHN'S — Promoted interim head softball coach Bob Guerrier to permanent head coach.

WASHINGTON — S Taylor Rapp will enter the NFL draft.

WISCONSIN — OT David Edwards will enter the NFL draft.

### Saints, Rams, Bears finish as top 3 in AP Pro32 poll

By SIMMI BUTTAR

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — The chase to Atlanta is on.

The regular season is over and there are 12 teams remaining in the run to the Super Bowl.

And at the top of the AP Pro32 poll, the new year starts right where the previous one ended.

The New Orleans Saints, Los Angeles Rams and Chicago Bears, the top three seeds in the NFC, retained their top three spots in the final AP Pro32 poll of the season.

New Orleans received 11 of the 12 first-place votes for 382 points in balloting Wednesday by media members who regularly cover the NFL. New Orleans will open the playoffs at home in the divisional round on Sunday, Jan. 13.

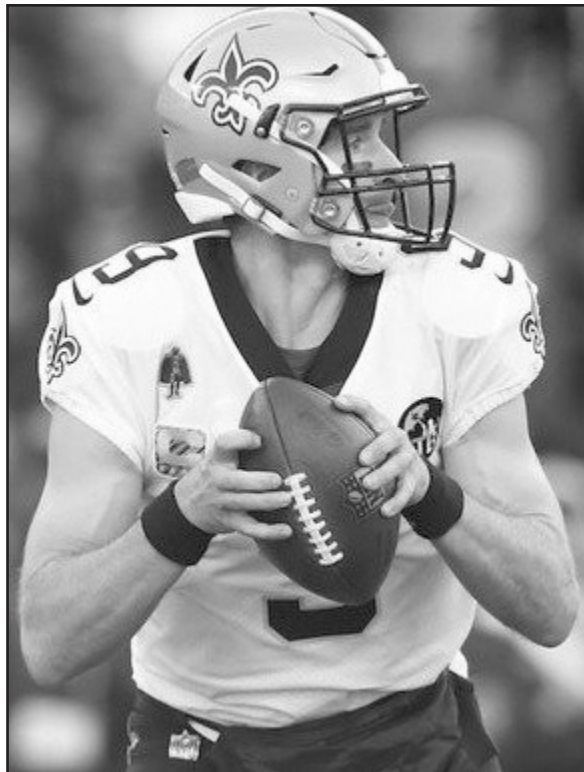
"The Saints lost in Week 1 and Week 17, both at home," said Ira Kaufman of Fox 13 in Tampa, Florida. "In between, Drew Brees and company established themselves as the team to beat in the Super Bowl chase."

The Rams, who also finished 13-3 in the regular season, will start their postseason at the Coliseum on Saturday, Jan. 12.

The Bears will close wild-card weekend when they host the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles on Sunday.

The next six spots in the poll are all taken by the AFC's playoff teams.

The Chiefs, who have the AFC's top seed, are No. 4. Kansas City, which received the remaining first-place vote — from John Czarnecki of Fox Sports — has won the AFC West for three consecutive seasons.



AP photo

**The New Orleans Saints (11-2), led by quarterback Drew Brees (above), met the Carolina Panthers (6-7), led by quarterback Cam Newton, in an NFC South, Week 15 NFL football game on Monday, December 17, 2018 (12/17/18) at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina.**

Bills to make a third successive trip to the big game.

The Chargers, despite finishing with the same record as the Chiefs at 12-4, lost the tiebreaker and are the No. 5 seed in the AFC. They will head to Baltimore to face the AFC North champion Ravens on Sunday. The Ravens are No. 9 in the poll.

AFC South rivals Houston and Indianapolis are Nos. 7 and 8 in the poll. Those teams will open the postseason in Houston on Saturday when they meet for the third time after splitting their previous meetings.

"Just wish they had another WR," Czarnecki

See **POLL**, Page 13

### Clemson carrying memories of year's loss into title game

By PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson center Justin Falcinelli remembers the quiet, hollow feeling in the locker room after last year's Sugar Bowl loss to Alabama.

He vowed not to forget it.

Not that Falcinelli could have even he had wanted to. Clips of the 24-6 defeat to the Crimson Tide in last year's national semifinal are played on the team's giant video board at the Tigers' practice facility. Players regularly field questions from fans eager for Clemson to avenge the loss.

The reminders of the disappointment has motivated and driven the Tigers throughout the season.

Now No. 2 Clemson (14-0) gets its another crack at No. 1 Alabama (14-0) on Monday night in the national championship game in Santa Clara, California.

"It was a bit of a wakeup call," Falcinelli said of the loss. "It's driven us to say, 'We did well, but there was still clearly plenty of room to improve.' We've been focusing on that."

Falcinelli said reflecting on the Alabama loss — Clemson has lost two of three CFP games to the Crimson Tide — was part of the routine during winter workouts, spring drills and summer weightlifting sessions.

"There's always stuff to remind you why you're working" to improve, Falcinelli said.

Last year's Alabama-Clemson contest was the latest episode in the dramatic series, during which the teams have traded nail-biting wins in championship games, Alabama 45-40 in January 2016 and



AP photo

**In this Jan. 1, 2018, file photo, Alabama head coach Nick Saban, left, and Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney talk before the Sugar Bowl semifinal playoff game for the NCAA college football national championship in New Orleans. Swinney and the Tigers play in their third national championship game in four seasons next Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, against top-ranked Alabama.**

not lived up to their potential after the 2017 season and did not want to finish this year in a similar fashion.

What that means, Bryant said, was preparing with success in mind, no matter what the obstacle or the opponent would be.

It's something Clemson coach Dabo Swinney continually talks to his players about — keeping their eyes on themselves when possible and the bar they've set these past few seasons.

"At the end of the day, we just try and be the best version of us, and we're not trying to live up to anybody else's standard," Swinney said. "We've got our own standard here."

Clemson brings a different quarterback into the matchup with freshman Trevor Lawrence taking Kelly Bryant's spot. Lawrence was named the starter in late September and, days later, Bryant

Clemson 35-31 on a last-second TD pass 12 months later.

But unlike those two games, Clemson's offense could never get going against Alabama's fearsome defense last year. Kelly Bryant threw two interceptions, both which led to Crimson Tide touchdowns, and the Tigers ran for just 64 yards in the demoralizing loss.

"That left a sour taste in our mouths," Clemson defensive end Austin Bryant said.

Austin Bryant, a senior who's been part of all three playoff games with Alabama, said the players did not spend all their time consumed with losing to the Tide. They were more bothered that, as defending national champions, they had

### Brown out? Tomlin frustrated with star receiver's antics



AP photo

**Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown stands along the sideline in street clothes before an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018, in Pittsburgh.**

By WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Mike Tomlin doesn't want to say Antonio Brown bailed on the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The longtime head coach is not ruling it out either.

The star wide receiver went radio silent in the days before the team's regular-season finale against Cincinnati last Sunday, in essence abandoning the club in what Tomlin described as its "darkest hour."

Though Brown did make a cameo appearance on the sideline — rocking a fur coat — as the Steelers edged the Bengals, he vanished before the final gun and did not show up on Monday for exit interviews

and to clear out his locker.

Tomlin said Brown arrived at practice last Wednesday reporting discomfort in his lower body. The team gave Brown the day off, did so again on Thursday. On Friday, Tomlin sent Brown home to rest and suggested he get an MRI on the banged up knee.

Tomlin did not hear from Brown on Saturday to get an update. When Drew Rosenhaus, Brown's agent, reached out on Sunday morning to tell Tomlin that Brown was available to play, Tomlin "drew a line in the sand" and said Brown could best serve the Steelers by cheering on the sideline.

While Tomlin

See **BROWN**, Page 13

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### Mercurial Message

A message from Mercury and Uranus: If you set out to make someone's day, you'll have the added benefit of needing to learn how to do this. It requires witnessing the world from another person's point of view, figuring out what that person needs and deciding what might elicit a smile. If you set out to make someone's day, you might just end up making your own.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You can be angry with someone and love that person at the same time. You can be disappointed in an action and still stand behind the general plan. Complexities will come into play, and you'll manage them beautifully.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Get centered and do your best without looking around to see how anyone else is doing.

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### Public Notice

The purpose of this advertisement is to notify a group of qualified contractors that the **Colorado River Municipal Water District (the "District" or "CRMWD")** is requesting competitive sealed proposals for the construction of the following project:

Water Pipeline Cathodic Protection Phase One

for identified segments of the Colorado River Municipal Water Districts water pipelines including Ivie, Big Spring, Moss Creek, Diversion, Spence and Lake J. B. Thomas to install cathodic protection (CP) components per the project drawings and specifications. The work scope includes the installation of cathodic protection test stations, pipeline isolation joints, cathodic protection rectifiers and deep well anode beds.

The sealed proposals must be delivered to the attention of **Mr. John Grant, General Manager, CRMWD** and will be received and accepted at the District's office located at

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

### By HOLIDAY MATHIS

change is enough to change the whole dynamic.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The basics of good communication aren't

universally distributed at birth. Eye contact, listening, affirming through verbal or nonverbal cues... this must be learned. And not everyone you'll deal with today has learned it yet.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Oscar Wilde summed up today's predicament very well when he said, "Anybody can sympathise

with the sufferings of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathise with a friend's successes."

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-**

**Nov. 21).** As an intuitive person, you know that inner guidance can be illogical and sometimes doesn't quite culminate into something you can make sense of. But it does often enough, which is why you'll keep paying attention.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** When you really comb back over

for the multiple pipelines.

Each proposer, must provide, with its proposal, security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions set forth in the Instructions to Proposers. The Security amount shall be five (5) percent of the total amount of the proposal.

No Proposer shall withdraw a proposal within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Within forty-five (45) days after the opening of the proposals, the District shall evaluate and rank each proposal submitted in relation to the selection criteria set forth below and shall determine which proposal offers the best value to the District. Price alone shall not be determinative. The Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria and weighting:

Criteria	Weight
Proposal Price	60%
Contractors	
Qualifications	25%
Safety Record	
Questionnaire	5%
Construction Time	10%
Total	100%

Once the District has selected the proposal that presents the best value to the District the District will attempt to negotiate a contract with the proposer of that selected proposal. The District or its engineer may discuss with the selected proposer options for a scope or time modification and any price change(s) associated with the modification. If the District is unable to negotiate a contract with the first successful proposer, then the District shall withdraw from negotiations in writing and shall seek to go to the next proposal and offer that is in the best value of the District.

The successful contractor selected for this project shall be required to pay no less than the Prevailing Wage Rates set forth in the Contract documents as required by the laws of the State of Texas, to include, but not limited to Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code, or the laws of the United States as may be applicable.

Performance and payment

bonds will be required from the successful proposer as required by Chapter 2253 of the Texas Government Code.

All portions of the project are scheduled to be substantially complete within a maximum of (Three Hundred and Eighty Four) 384 CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR DAYS and to be Final Complete within a maximum of (Thirty) 30 CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR DAYS of substantial completion for a total maximum time of (Four Hundred and Fourteen) 414 CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR DAYS)

The estimated budget for this project is \$3.5 million dollars.

The District, as Owner, reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all proposals for any reason.

#### Colorado River Municipal Water District

**John Grant**  
General Manager

#10036 Jan. 3, 10, & 17, 2019

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one was brought up with the same manners and customs. You may have to gently educate others about what you need.

#### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(Jan. 3).** The beauty of this new chapter is in its breeziness. A burden drops within five week's time, leaving you physically buoyant, mentally unfettered and emotionally exuberant. After that, a bout of financial luck creates further ease. Keep it small, save up and don't complicate things with too many partners or contracts. Gemini and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 31, 4, 47 and 37.

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

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**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Oddly enough, your work will be best noticed when you do not do it. So, pull back on the efforts. Let them feel the void. And then pull back a little more so they can understand the exact nature of your typical contributions.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Basic niceties are well within normal expectations, but the problem is that not every-



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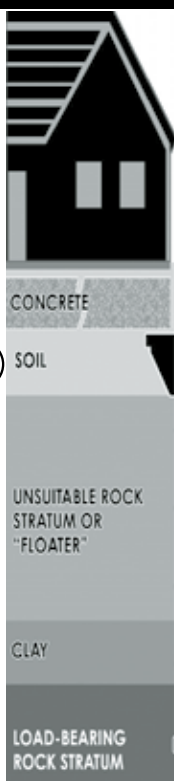
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# SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

### Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

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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!

## Annie's Mailbox®

### Politics at the Dinner Table

**Dear Annie:** Politics took over as the main topic at our holiday dinner. I don't mind open debate among parties with differing views, as long as those debating have logical and fact-supported positions. Our dinner usually goes smoothly, as everyone gets along and, despite differing opinions, we all can adequately defend our positions. Dinner will come and go, and all are happy. This year, my dad's brother joined us for dinner. He recently got divorced and was angry that he was with us and not his family. He was taking outlandish positions and making up arguments to support himself. He attacked everyone. The whole table was ignoring him, but I couldn't help it and continued to engage. It made for an unpleasant experience for me and for all involved. What's the best way to bury my desire to engage with someone like this? -- Hoping for a Better Family Dinner

**Dear Hoping:** As Mark Twain said, "never argue with a fool; onlookers may not be able to tell the difference." Try to bring that quotation to mind the next time your uncle tries dragging you

down into the mud for a fight. Another strategy is counting to 10 and, if you're still angry, counting to 20. If you're still angry after that, try excusing yourself to the bathroom for a few minutes to regain your composure. As far as including him in future plans goes, though it's important to support family during tough emotional times, that doesn't mean enduring verbal abuse. Set boundaries, and don't feel obligated to extend him an invitation to your next gathering if he can't agree to behave in a respectful manner.

**Dear Annie:** A while ago, you polled readers on whether or not they'd have children if they had it to do all over again. I wanted to share my story. When I was in first grade, our teacher asked us what we wanted to be when we grew up. I said a mother and a teacher. Well, motherhood came first. Three years after I married, I started having children, two boys and two girls in five years. I enjoyed it. But there were hard times, too. The worst thing that happened was losing a child. My eldest son died of cancer in my arms when he was 17. Now to fulfilling my first-grade dream in another way. A year after he died, I went to college and became a third-grade

teacher when I graduated. I loved teaching this grade, with the children's eagerness to learn and their love of their teachers. I taught for 20 years and retired when the new principal and state laws had us only teaching to the tests and it was no longer any fun for the students or me. Now my three living children are grown. I have six grown grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. After my husband left me, I bought a small farm, and my living son remodeled the pathetic old house for me and bought 8 acres next to me, where he now lives. So yes, I'm happy to have had children, and even dealing with the death of one, I still have my memories of what a special son he was -- a musician, magician, poet and reader with a sense of humor. -- 80-Year-Old Happy Grandmother

**Dear Happy Grandmother:** Thank you so much for sharing your inspiring story. It sounds as if your son was a beautiful soul. May he rest in peace. I wish you and the rest of your family a blessed 2019.

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

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# All Aboard

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## BIG SPRING HERALD

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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Try the impossible

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

### NORTH

♠ K 10 5 3  
♥ 6  
♦ J 4 3  
♣ Q 8 5 4 2

### WEST

♠ Q 8 7 4  
♥ 8 5  
♦ A K Q 2  
♣ A J 9

### EAST

♠ J 6 2  
♥ 9 7 3 2  
♦ 10 9 8 5  
♣ 10 6

### SOUTH

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Dble	1 NT	Pass
4♥			

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

There are times when declarer is playing a contract that seems impossible to make. There are also times when a defender finds it impossible to defend successfully. When both of these conditions happen to coincide, a victor must necessarily emerge.

Take this case where South was in four hearts and West led the K-A-Q of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and needed to avoid two club losers.

Superficially, this would seem impossible against proper defense. But South managed his assignment

very well and made the contract, and East-West found themselves helpless in the matter.

Declarer began by cashing the A-K-Q of trumps, producing this position:

### North

♠ K 10 5 3  
♣ Q 8 5

### West

♠ Q 8 7 4  
♣ A J 9

### East

♠ J 6 2  
♥ 9  
♦ 10  
♣ 10 6

### South

♠ A 9  
♥ J 10  
♣ K 7 3

South next led the jack of trumps, and it was this play that knocked West out of the box. If he discarded a spade, declarer would throw a club from dummy, then cash the A-K of spades and ruff a spade, establishing the ten as a trick. A club lead toward dummy's queen would then allow South to score the ten of spades and queen of clubs as the game-going tricks.

If West instead discarded the nine of clubs on the jack of trumps, declarer would discard a spade from dummy and then lead a club to limit himself to one club loser.

Either way, South would get home with 10 tricks.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

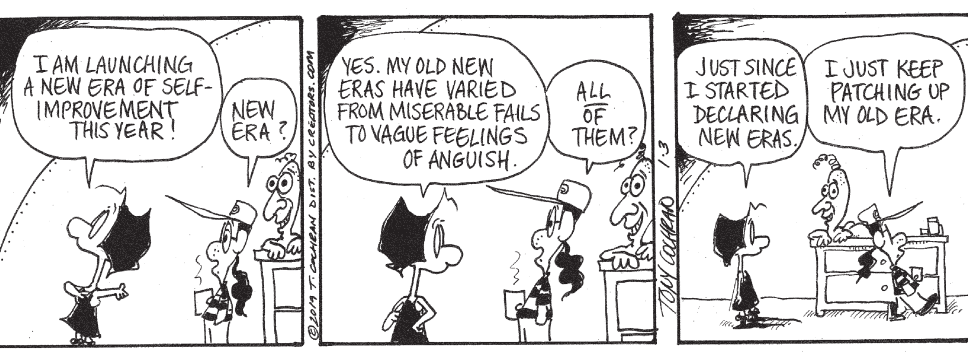
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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Big 2 ABC	P. Luche	Broke Girl Mom	CBS 7	Tele Noticias	News	Lasting	Mind Business	Mama's Jeffsons	American American	Fam. Guy	Bones	SportsCenter	High School Football: Under Armour All-American Game.	ACC Polo	NCIS (DVS)		Naked and Afraid
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Way of M:25	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Bones	College Basketball	Women's College Basketball	Women's College Basketball	NCIS (DVS)	Live PD: Rewind	Naked and Afraid
7:PM	Conners	Jesús	Gotham (DVS)	Big Bang Sheldon	(:05) La sultana (SS)	The Titan Games	News	Pilchuck	Griffith	Supernatural	Seinfeld	NBA Basketball: Raptors at Spurs	Women's College Basketball	College Basketball	NHL Hockey: Devils at Stars	NCIS (DVS)	Live PD	Naked and Afraid
8:PM	The Last Days of JFK Jr.	Mi marido	FOX 24 News at 9	S.W.A.T.	Señora Acero (SS)	The Blacklist	Light of Southwest	Confucius Was	Heroes	Page Six	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Rockets at Warriors	College Basketball: Stanford at UCLA.	SportsCenter	College Basketball: Georgetown at Butler.	Mod Fam	(:13) The First 48	Naked and Afraid
9:PM	Big 2	Impacto	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	Israel	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	Gold	Big Bang	College Basketball: Stanford at UCLA.	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	College Basketball: Georgetown at Butler.	Mod Fam	(:03) Live PD	Naked and Afraid
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Falsa identidad (SS)	Tonight Show	Families	This Old House Hr	Perry Mason	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	College Basketball: Stanford at UCLA.	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	College Basketball: Georgetown at Butler.	Mod Fam	(:03) Live PD	Naked and Afraid
11:PM	Nightline	Deportivo	Funny	James	Señora Acero (SS)	Seth Meyers	Shofar	Two Men Corden	Being	Craft in America	Hitchock	Inside the NBA	SportsCenter	Basket NFL Live	High School Football	Chicago P.D.	(:03) 60 Days In	Naked and Afraid
12:AM	Extra	Cachito de Cielo	Two Men Simpsons	Access	Daly	News	Light of Southwest	Great Performances	Mannix	Top 30	Brooklyn	NBA Basketball: Raptors at Spurs	SportsCenter	NFL Live	High School Football	Chicago P.D.	(:03) 60 Days In	Naked and Afraid
1:AM	Paid Prg.	En tierras salvajes	Pawn	ET	Programa	News	Light of Southwest	Great Performances	Mannix	Top 30	Brooklyn	NBA Basketball: Raptors at Spurs	SportsCenter	NFL Live	High School Football	Chicago P.D.	(:03) 60 Days In	Naked and Afraid

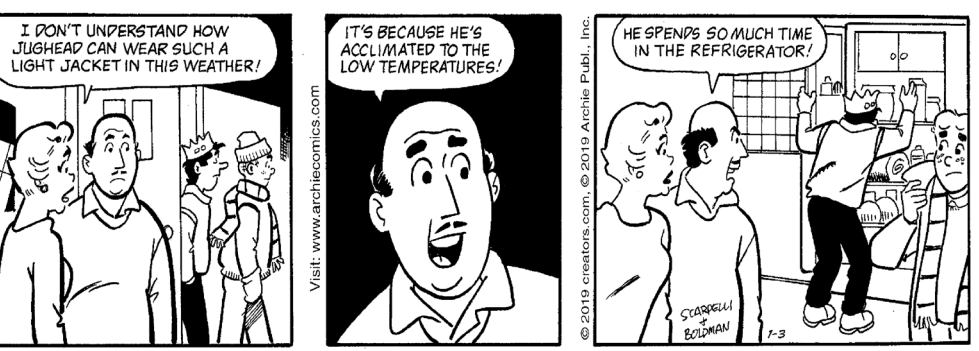
**ANDY CAPP**



**AGNES**



**ARCHIE**



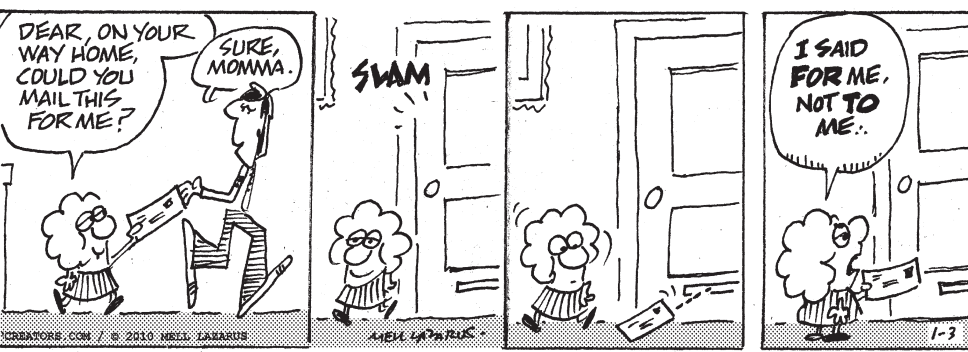
**ONE BIG HAPPY**



**NEST HEAD**



**MOMMA**



**This Date In History**

Today is Thursday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2019. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 3, 1977, Apple Computer was incorporated in Cupertino, California, by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Mike Markkula Jr.

On this date: In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X.

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1868, Japan's Meiji (may-gee) Restoration re-established the authority of the emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as shoguns; the upheaval paved the way for Japan's drive toward becoming a modern power.

In 1938, the March of Dimes campaign to fight polio was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who himself had been afflicted with the crippling disease.

In 1958, the first six members of the newly formed U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held their first meeting at the White House.

In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state as President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation.

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the United States was formally terminating diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba.

In 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, died in a Dallas hospital.

In 1980, conservationist Joy Adamson, author of "Born Free," was killed in northern Kenya by a former employee.

In 1993, President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the START II missile-reduction treaty in Moscow. (However, the agreement ultimately fell apart.)

In 2008, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama won Democratic caucuses in Iowa, while Mike Huckabee won the Republican caucuses.

In 2013, students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, reconvened at a different building in the town of Monroe about three weeks after the massacre that had claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and six educators. The new 113th Congress opened for business, with House Speaker John Boehner re-elected to his

post despite a mini-revolt in Republican ranks.

Ten years ago: After seven days of pummeling the Gaza Strip from the air, Israel launched a ground offensive; Hamas vowed that Gaza would be a "graveyard" for the Israelis. Veteran actor Pat Hingle died in Carolina Beach, N.C., at age 84.

Five years ago: The secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court ruled again that the National Security Agency could keep collecting every American's telephone records every day. Phil Everly, who with his brother Don formed an influential harmony duo, died in Burbank, California, at age 74. No. 12 Clemson rallied to beat No. 7 Ohio State 40-35 in the Orange Bowl.

One year ago: President Donald Trump signed an executive order disbanding the controversial voter fraud commission he had set up to investigate the 2016 presidential election after alleging without evidence that voting fraud cost him the popular vote; the White House blamed the decision to end the panel on more than a dozen states that refused to cooperate. A brutal winter storm delivered a rare blast of snow and ice to the coastal Southeast, giving parts of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina their heaviest snowfall in nearly three decades.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dabney Coleman is 87. Journalist-author Betty Rollin is 83. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Hull is 80. Singer-songwriter-producer Van Dyke Parks is 76. Musician Stephen Stills is 74. Rock musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 73. Actress Victoria Principal is 69. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 63. Actress Shannon Sturges is 51. Actor John Ales is 50.

**Thought for Today:**

"The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't."

Henry Ward Beecher, American clergyman (1813-1887)

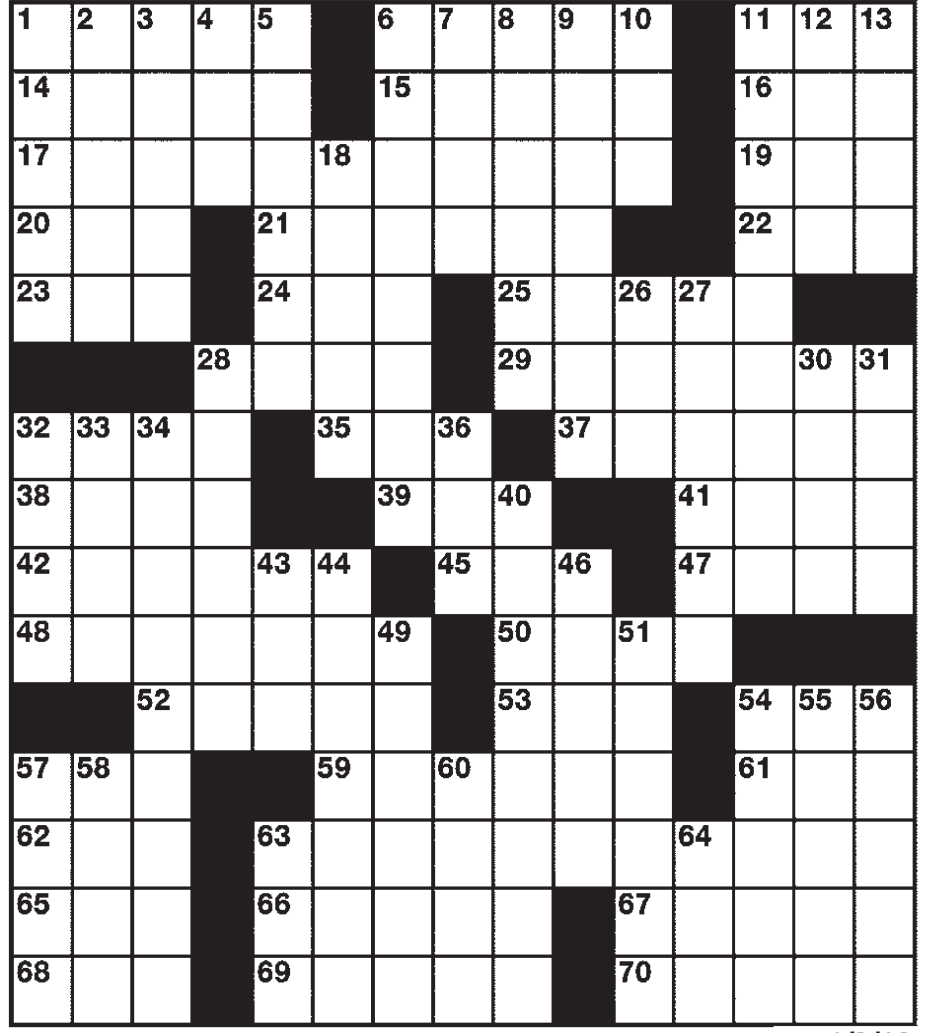
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**Newsday Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Certain Scandinavians
  - 6 Fallen angel
  - 11 Any liner
  - 14 Supremely perfect
  - 15 Ahead of time
  - 16 Crucial
  - 17 Place to see a pole
  - 19 Wrath
  - 20 Trike rider
  - 21 Bite-sized appetizers
  - 22 Cabbage color
  - 23 Pinafore designation
  - 24 GPS reading
  - 25 Dissect grammatically
  - 28 Fiber source
  - 29 Goes by
  - 32 Prefix for virus
  - 35 NL Central team
  - 37 Become a participant
  - 38 What to call Knight Commanders
  - 39 Comprehend
  - 41 Vocal recital piece
  - 42 Auto identifiers
  - 45 Env. insert
  - 47 Short news story
  - 48 Untold stories
  - 50 Exclamation of frustration
  - 52 Holy book
  - 53 Miner matter
  - 54 Before today
  - 57 Houston, for example
  - 59 Plaid fabric
  - 61 Air conditioner setting
  - 62 Falsification
- DOWN**
- 1 President Monroe's position
  - 2 Figure of speech
  - 3 Hornets' homes
  - 4 Casual denial
  - 5 Small burger
  - 6 Talk show components
  - 7 Sounds satisfied
  - 8 Traveling entertainers
  - 9 Supreme Court, until 1981
  - 10 Netflix science show host
  - 11 Place to see poles
  - 12 "Take this"
  - 13 Examined
  - 18 Spanish girls
  - 26 Scrammed
  - 27 66 Across ailment
  - 28 Informal eatery
  - 30 Writer Wiesel
  - 31 Poetry contest
  - 32 Certain cobras
  - 33 Locale for 32 Down
  - 34 Place to see poles
  - 36 Poe's "Annabel \_\_\_"
  - 40 Spoke in favor of
  - 43 Occupational ending
  - 44 Endurance
  - 46 Sapphire measure
  - 49 Snide
  - 51 Secondhand transaction
  - 54 Assumed name
  - 55 Aesopian source of gold
  - 56 Finished paying off
  - 57 Pig's meal
  - 58 Right-hand person
  - 60 Editor's order
  - 63 Smashing, in the '60s
  - 64 "Green" or "black" beverage

**POLE SIGHTINGS** by Carolyn Stewart Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com



# Houston hires coach Dana Holgorsen away from West Virginia

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
AP College Football Writer

Houston hired West Virginia's Dana Holgorsen as its coach Wednesday, ending his eight-year run with the Mountaineers.

Holgorsen was 61-41 and 33-30 in the Big 12 as he helped guide West Virginia through the transition from the Big East. Houston competes in the American Athletic Conference, which was formed from the remnants of Big East football after it was torn apart by realignment earlier this decade.

Holgorsen spent two seasons as Houston's offensive coordinator in 2008-09, when it was in Conference USA, before serving a season in the same position under Mike Gundy at Oklahoma State in 2010.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dana back to Houston as the next leader of our football

program. His offensive acumen with an emphasis on student-athlete development, on and off the field, is a perfect fit for our program, university and city," athletic director Chris Pezman said.

Houston fired coach Major Applewhite on Sunday after two underwhelming seasons. Applewhite, who took a school-friendly deal in 2016 to replace Tom Herman, went 15-11.

Holgorsen is making a unique move, leaving a Power Five school for one outside the high revenue conferences. No coach has willingly made that move since the College Football Playoff was established in 2014.

But Holgorsen was in a tricky spot at West Virginia. He had probably has most talented team in Morgantown, West Virginia, this season. Led by quarterback Will Grier, the Mountaineers were in contention for a Big 12 title and playoff spot entering November.

"They fell short of a spot in the Big 12 title game, losing to Oklahoma at home in the regular-season finale to finish 8-3. With Grier and star offensive tackle Yod-



In this Nov. 3, 2018, file photo, West Virginia head coach Dana Holgorsen calls out to his team during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Texas, in Austin, Texas. Houston has hired West Virginia's Dana Holgorsen as its coach, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019, ending his eight-year run with the Mountaineers.

AP photo

buyout.

"I want to thank coach Holgorsen for his eight years at West Virginia," West Virginia athletic director Shane Lyons said. "Our national search for his replacement has already begun, and I know it will be a successful one."

Holgorsen initially was hired as West Virginia's offensive coordinator and head coach-in waiting in December 2010. Fans were never fully enamored with Holgorsen after he replaced the popular Bill Stewart at the start of the 2011 season. A month after an intoxicated Holgorsen was escorted out of a West Virginia casino, he was named Stewart's replacement after a former sports writer said Stewart approached him shortly after Holgorsen's hiring to "dig up dirt" on his eventual successor.

Inheriting players recruited by Stewart, West Virginia beat Clemson 70-33 in the Orange Bowl after the 2011 season to finish 10-3. Holgorsen was given a five-year contract extension at the end of the 2016 regular season, when WVU also went 10-3.

ny Cajuste sitting out, the Mountaineers lost the Camping World Bowl to Syracuse last week. West Virginia is facing a significant rebuild next season with Grier, Cajuste, star receiver David Sills V and linebacker David Long all headed to the NFL.

Houston has been trying to work its way into a Power Five conference, preferably the Big 12, and is hoping Holgorsen can help make them a viable option in a process in which the school has little control.

Holgorsen is two years into a contract that runs through the 2021 season and pays him \$3.5 million per year. Houston will owe West Virginia a \$1 million

# Former USC assistant coach pleads guilty in corruption case



AP photo

Former Southern California assistant basketball coach Tony Bland, left, arrives at federal court in New York, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019.

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A former assistant basketball coach for the University of Southern California pleaded guilty Wednesday to conspiracy to commit bribery, admitting he accepted \$4,100 in cash to steer players at the school to certain financial advisers and business managers.

Tony Bland's plea in Manhattan federal court makes it likely he will spend little or no time in prison after he is sentenced April 2.

"On July 29, 2017, I met with others in Las Vegas, Nevada, to discuss my participation in the scheme and received a payment of \$4,100," he told U.S. District Judge Edgardo Ramos.

Bland admitted to federal authorities after his September 2017 arrest that he took a cash payment to steer players to advisers and managers and that he knew it was wrong, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eli Mark said.

Bland, 38, was among four assistant coaches charged in the crackdown on college basketball recruiting corruption.

Former Auburn assistant coach Chuck Person and another man are scheduled to go on trial in February. Former Arizona assistant Emanuel Richardson and former Oklahoma State assistant Lamont Evans are defendants in a trial set for April.

Prosecutors say the coaches teamed up with a top Adidas executive and others to trade hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to influence star athletes' choice of schools, shoe sponsors, agents and even tailors.

In October, a Manhattan federal court jury convicted three men of fraud charges for channeling secret payments to the families of top-tier basketball recruits to influence their choices of schools, apparel companies and agents.

Former Adidas executive James Gatto, business manager Christian Dawkins and amateur league director Merl Code are scheduled to be sentenced in March.

More than two dozen schools have been tainted by the scandal since the 2017 arrests, for everything from paying for meals to six-figure payments to recruits' families.

Duke, Oregon, Louisville, North Carolina State, Creighton and Texas were among the schools mentioned in testimony during the October trial.

Bland had been preparing for an April trial before working out his plea deal last month with prosecutors. In the deal, Bland pledged not to appeal any sentence of six months or less in prison.

Last month, NCAA President Mark Emmert said a new independent enforcement body that would adjudicate major infractions cases could be in place by August, as part of a reform package to curb some of the seedy recruiting practices.

The panel, which would include business leaders and former politicians, was among reforms recommended by a commission led by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Outside the courtroom, a relaxed and good-natured Bland declined to comment except to say "Happy New Year" and shake the hand of a reporter.

Defense attorney Jeffrey Lichtman called it a "very tragic sad ending for somebody who's given so much to so many people."

"It's a tragic, tragic day," he said.

Lichtman said he could not fault prosecutors for trying to force change to college basketball, which he said had been relying too long on a "very broken, antiquated system."

"If the NCAA is unwilling to police themselves ... somebody's got to do it," he said.

"This is a long and winding road that will ultimately lead to construction of new rules," Lichtman said.

As for his client, he said Bland was "looking to get on with his life" after a prosecution that "drives a stake into the heart of his career."

He would not speculate as to whether Bland, who was on a trajectory to become a head coach someday, could ever coach again. "He came from nothing and he rose to the pinnacle of his profession," the lawyer said.

## TITLE

Continued from Page 7

left the program and has since transferred to Missouri.

Lawrence has led Clemson's offense on high-scoring run. The Tigers have averaged more than 45 points a game in his 10 starts, including a 30-3 win over Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl last week to advance where Lawrence threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns.

Alabama left tackle Jonah Williams said the Tide will have their hands full stopping Clemson.

"They have the capacity to beat us every year," he said. "They did my freshman year and almost did the year before. So you have to play your best and you have to execute."

Despite the respect Clemson gets, Tigers defensive end Clelin Ferrell said the Alabama loss last season stands out as a glaring breakdown in the level of success they have achieved. He said the Tigers worked hard to follow up their national championship season with another strong year. And while 12-2 and the 2017 Atlantic Coast Conference title might satisfy most programs, Ferrell said their performance left the Tigers flat.

Ferrell simply sums up their motivation, saying, "We don't want to feel that way again."

## POLL

Continued from Page 7

said of the Texans. Houston's DeAndre Hopkins finished second in the NFL with 1,572 yards, but the depth took a hit when Demaryius Thomas was lost for the season with an Achilles tendon injury.

Seattle and Dallas, who meet Saturday night in Texas, are 10th and 11th in the poll. The Seahawks and Cowboys both finished 10-6. They met in Seattle in Week 3, when the Seahawks won 24-13.

The team that made the biggest climb from the first poll, which was released before the season started, was the Bears, who started out at No. 28 and finished at No. 3. And the team that had the biggest drop was the Jacksonville Jaguars, who began at No. 7 and ended up at No. 28.

The Arizona Cardinals, who finished with the worst record in the NFL at 3-13 and have the No. 1 pick in April's draft, were a unanimous choice for last place in the poll.

## BROWN

Continued from Page 7

demurred when asked during his season-ending news conference on Wednesday if Brown "quit," the longtime head coach offered little in defense of the perennial Pro Bowler, whose historic production has become increasingly at odds with his erratic off-the-field behavior.

"The bottom line is we were playing a significant game and he didn't do a good enough job of communicating of being available in the hours leading up to that performance," Tomlin said.

"So we needed to make decisions pertinent to getting to play in that performance. So, I've been real clear at outlining what transpired, the level of communication, things of that nature. Obviously there are some things within that that you can infer, certainly."

Rather than spend time elaborating on how the Steelers went from 7-2-1 the week before Thanksgiving to 9-6-1 and missing the postseason for the first time since 2013 — a collapse Tomlin plans to "wallow" in over the next few weeks — he spent the majority of his time Wednesday responding to questions about Brown.

It's nothing new. The 30-year-old is the only player in NFL history with six straight 100-catch seasons, but has become adept at drawing headlines for things that have nothing to do with football, be it livestreaming from the postgame locker room in Kansas City two years ago to threatening a reporter from ESPN on social media in September to suggesting on Twitter he should be traded.

It hasn't stopped. As Tomlin spoke, Brown — who has two years remaining on his four-year, \$72 million deal he signed in the spring of 2017 — published a post on Instagram to

his 3.1 million followers saying "I am divinely blessed with free will. I utilize that gift, choosing to take charge of my life." Brown also appeared with former teammate James Harrison, who promised an exclusive "interview" with Brown.

Tomlin has long had a policy of trying to tune out what his players say or do on social media, but admitted there's a level of "disappointment" when it comes to Brown's actions before adding it's immaterial to his job.

Asked if there's a point with Brown or any player where the distractions can outweigh the on-the-field benefits, Tomlin said "certainly."

Whether the Steelers are at that point is unclear. Tomlin said the team has not received any "formal" trade requests from Brown's camp.

Tomlin declined to get into what punishment Brown may face in the future, saying the club is still gathering information. Tomlin does believe that Brown was dealing with some type of injury, but added to his knowledge that Brown has not undergone the MRI.

"Like we do in all circumstances, we will deal with it appropriately and deal with it in-house," Tomlin said.

Brown's future status is just one of a number of questions the Steelers will face over the next few months, starting with the coaching staff. The defense and special teams both had critical missteps this season and offensive line coach Mike Munchak is in the mix for several open head coaching positions.

"When you lack success, when you fail, change is a part of it," Tomlin said. "We talk about it. As a staff we talk about it. As players, in exit meetings. That's just our business."

So lately, has been addressing the perpetual drama surrounding one of the NFL's most talented and mercurial players.

# Ex-inmate to keep making podcast that helped him win freedom



*AP photo*  
In this Dec. 19, 2018, photo, Earlone Woods shows recording equipment similar to what he used in San Quentin State Prison to produce his podcasts, during an interview in Oakland, Calif.

By **OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ**  
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — In California, inmates typically are granted parole by doing good deeds or showing they have been rehabilitated by becoming pastors, drug counselors or youth advocates. For Walter "Earlone" Woods, the path to freedom was podcasting.

Woods, 47, was recently released from San Quentin State Prison after California Gov. Jerry Brown commuted his 31-years-to-life sentence for attempted armed robbery. Brown cited Woods' leadership in helping other inmates and his work at "Ear Hustle," a podcast he co-hosts and co-produces that documents everyday life inside the prison.

Woods has since been hired as a full-time producer for the often funny and at times heart-wrenching podcast, which has been a smashing success since its launch in 2017. The show's roughly 30 episodes have been downloaded 20 million times by fans all over the world.

Listeners have praised "Ear Hustle" online as "eye-opening" and "incredibly humanizing." For Woods, one of the most meaningful reviews came from the governor's office when they called with the good news.

"The one thing that the lady said, you know, she told me, 'We love the podcast in this office,'" Woods told The Associated Press of the commutation call from Brown's office. "I don't know if the governor listens, but people in his office listen. People really like what we do."

During their podcast, Woods and fellow creator and outside co-host, prison volunteer Nigel Poor, give listeners a peek into the hardships and small joys of men incarcerated at the medium-security facility.

In interviews with the hosts, inmates discuss struggles such as finding a compatible cellmate to share a 5-by-10-foot (1.5-by-3-meter) cell, share why they take care of frogs or black widow spiders as if they were pets, or describe the impact of solitary confinement or being on death row.

Woods, an affable man with a quick smile and

a sharp sense of humor, helps listeners understand prison life, while Poor brings an outsider's perspective, asking insightful questions that at times push inmates to reflect on what put them behind bars.

The podcast offers listeners an intimate look into lives society doesn't spend much time thinking about, said Woods, who spent 21 years behind bars. "People get to see the car chases. They get to see the trial. But they don't know what happens after you get to prison," Woods said. "We've been able to really humanize people, and people realize that those in prison are just people who made dumb decisions."

Brown agreed, and in his commutation letter, issued the day before Thanksgiving, the governor said Woods "has clearly shown that he is no longer the man he was when he committed this crime."

"He has set a positive example for his peers and, through his podcast, has shared meaningful stories from those inside prison," Brown wrote.

The podcast project started after Poor, a San Francisco Bay Area artist who has volunteered at San Quentin since 2011, approached Woods.

In 2016, Poor saw Public Radio Exchange's Radiotopia network was sponsoring a podcast talent contest, and she asked Lt. Sam Robinson, San Quentin's spokesman, for permission to enter. Another co-creator, Antwan Williams, who is serving 15 years for armed robbery, came on board to do its sound design.

Their pitch beat more than 1,500 contestants from 53 countries, and they received the backing of a group of radio professionals, Poor said.

"Everyone was shocked when we won, especially the prison. Lt. Robinson told me he let us enter because he never thought we would win," she said, laughing.

"Ear Hustle," — eavesdropping, in prison slang — has found international success, with fans sending cards and letters from as far as New Zealand, Qatar in the Middle East, and Mauritius in East Africa. The free show also can be accessed in prisons throughout Cali-

fornia and the United Kingdom. New episodes are posted every couple of weeks.

Julie Shapiro, Radiotopia executive producer, describes the podcast as a "roller coaster of emotions" that challenges what people understand about life in prison.

"People don't expect to have something in common with those telling their stories from prison, but the details of their lives resonate with listeners because they hear these men encounter daily life in some of the same ways that we do," Shapiro said.

The outpouring of love and appreciation for the show has grown since Woods announced on a Nov. 24 episode that Brown commuted his sentence.

The first thing Woods did after walking through the prison gates on Nov. 30 was take in the view of the San Francisco Bay and of the ocean "as far as the eye can see." An episode featured his first moments as a free man.

Since then, he's been noticing new styles, like women everywhere in yoga pants, and people walking through the streets with their heads bowed. He quickly realized they were looking at their smartphones, which didn't exist when he started his sentence in 1997.

Woods has also spent time people-watching at a high-end department store, visited Disneyland and recently made eggs for the first time in two decades.

The fourth season of "Ear Hustle," which will be released this summer, will feature stories of his re-entry to society and interviews with other inmates released after long sentences. He and Poor also plan to visit maximum-security prisons and tell the stories of prisoners there.

"There's a lot of people that's in there that should be out," Woods said. "I created a podcast, but I'm not the exception."

# Why slowing economies could prod US and China to reach

By **PAUL WISEMAN** and **JOE MCDONALD**  
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration and China are facing growing pressure to blink in their six-month stare-down over trade because of jittery markets and portents of economic weakness.

The import taxes the two sides have imposed on hundreds of billions of each other's goods — and the threat of more to come — have heightened anxiety on each side of the Pacific. The longer their trade war lasts, the longer companies and consumers will feel the pain of higher-priced imports and exports.

Their conflict is occurring against the backdrop of a slowdown in China and an expected U.S. slump that a prolonged trade war could worsen — a fear that's weighing on financial markets. Yet those very pressures, analysts say, give the two countries a stronger incentive to make peace.

"The U.S. and China now have a strong shared interest in striking a deal in order to halt the downward spiral in business and investor confidence, which have taken a beating in both their economies," said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University.

The economic threats, agreed Wang Yong, an international relations specialist at Peking University, "might be conducive to negotiations" by nudging Beijing toward market-oriented changes long sought by the United States.

Still, it will hardly be easy to bridge the complex differences between the world's top two economies. They range from President Donald Trump's insistence that China buy more U.S. products to widespread assertions that Beijing steals trade secrets from foreign companies operating in China.

Negotiations between the two nations are expected to resume next week. Gao Feng, a spokesman for China's Commerce Ministry, said last week that the two sides have "made specific arrangements for face-to-face meetings" and are talking by phone. Gao offered no details, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative declined to confirm the talks.

The world is watching anxiously. China and the United States, the two largest economies, are the "main engines of the world," noted Song Lifang, an economist at Renmin University in Beijing. That makes their dispute "a matter not only for the two countries but for the world," he added.

The dispute is "a major factor" in a slowdown in global growth, Song said, and a settlement would "help in arresting the decline of the economies of the two countries and of the world."

Trump has long complained about America's gaping trade deficit with China: The gap between what Americans sold and what they bought from China in 2017 amounted to \$336 billion and will likely be higher in 2018. But the dispute goes far deeper than lopsided exports and imports. It's fundamentally a high-stakes conflict over the economy of the future.

The U.S. accuses China of deploying predatory tactics in a drive to surpass America's technological supremacy. A report in March by the

U.S. Trade Representative accused China of hacking into U.S. companies' computer networks to steal secrets and coercing American companies to hand over technology as the price of admission to the Chinese market.

To try to compel China to reform its ways, Washington has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports; Beijing has counterpunched by taxing \$110 billion in U.S. goods. Trump had been set to raise the tariffs on most of the Chinese goods on Jan. 1. But he and President Xi Jinping agreed to a 90-day cease-fire to try to resolve their differences.

Since then, the case for peace has strengthened as economic risks in the U.S. and China have grown and financial markets have reeled. For 2018, the Dow Jones Industrial Average — America's highest-profile stock market benchmark — fell nearly 6 percent, its worst performance since 2008. China's Shanghai Composite Index sank nearly 25 percent.

On top of concerns about collateral damage from the U.S.-China trade war, investors in the U.S. markets are worrying about rising interest rates and a wobbly U.S. real estate market. Fears are growing that the second-longest economic expansion in U.S. history could slide to a halt next year or in 2020. Cutting a deal with Beijing could help at least reduce the threat.

China's economy has been decelerating since the government pulled back on bank lending a year ago to try to curb a run-up in debt. The International Monetary Fund estimates that China's economy grew about 6.6 percent in 2018, down from 6.9 percent in 2017. But heavy government spending masked weakness in private-sector activity. In December, factory activity shrank for the first time in more than two years.

Auto sales in China plunged 16 percent in November from a year earlier. It was the fourth month of contraction, and it put annual sales in the world's biggest auto market on track to contract for the first time in three decades.

Despite its softening economy, China will likely find it difficult to comply with U.S. demands to slow its economic ambitions. Those ambitions cut to the heart to China's drive to become the world's 21st century economic superpower.

"It is difficult to solve the trade dispute immediately because the U.S. demands are too high, especially demands for changes in China's economic and social systems, which it is difficult for China to accept," said Song, the economist at Renmin University.

Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator, said the U.S. likely can't realistically settle for anything less than an agreement by Beijing to reform how it does business.

"There are certainly compelling reasons for both sides to reach a deal and avoid further tariff increases," said Cutler, now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "However, these reasons can only take you so far... Without a strong deal that addresses structural issues, it sets the administration up for critics to say, 'You took us into a trade war for this?'"

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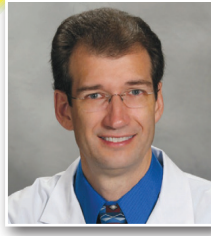
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