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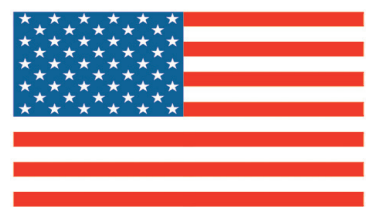
MONDAY EDITION,
 DECEMBER 27, 2021

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VOLUME 117, NUMBER 84

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Upcoming Events

The City of Big Spring has provided two dumpsters for holiday trash, located at Fire Station No. 4, 110 N.E. Eighth St., and Fire Station No. 5, 1701 Wasson Rd. The dumpsters are for holiday boxes, cardboard boxes and Christmas trees only. Today is the final day the dumpsters will be available.

The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra will present "The Music of Queen" featuring Jeans 'n Classics, at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22 at Big Spring High School Auditorium. Visit www.bigspringsymphony.org for more information.

+++
 Send announcements to editor@bigspringherald.com, or call 432-263-7331

City redistricting hearings scheduled in January

By **ROGER CLINE**

Herald Staff Writer

The City of Big Spring will hold a pair of public hearings this month regarding their 2021 Redistricting Project.

According to a press release issued by the city, the two hearing will be January 11 and January 25, both at 5:30 p.m. Each hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth Street.

The press release goes on to explain the reason for the redistricting process.

"According to the 2020 United States Census data, the City's single-member districts from which Council members are elected are not of sufficiently equal population and must be redrawn to comply with the 'one-person, one-vote' principle established by the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended in 1975 and 1982," the release says. "The City Council is considering new boundaries for its single-member districts. The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss potential options for the drawing of those new boundaries in compliance with the



law for the Project."
 Local citizens may try their hand at drawing new boundaries for the city's six districts. Criteria for redistricting established by the City Council at its Dec. 8 special meeting include:
 1. The plan should ensure that all applicable provisions of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, the Voting Rights Act, and the Texas Election Code are honored.
 2. The plan should be drawn in such a manner that the maximum deviation from an ideal size, as determined by di-

viding the total population of the city by the number of single member districts that compose the City Council of the City of Big Spring be not more than plus or minus five (5%) percent for any individual single member district, or a total top to bottom deviation (percentage of deviation below and above the ideal size) between the most populated district and the least populated district by not more than a maximum deviation of no more than ten (10%) percent.

3. The plan should address minority representation, and if at all possible, in conformity with constitutional standards, avoid retrogression in the percentage of population and voting age demographics consistent with existing minority representation.

4. The plan should, avoid fragmentation and preserve minority communities of interest to the maximum extent possible. These communities of interest should be recognized and retained intact where possible. Only when the overall

See **HEARINGS**, Page 3

Drunk and impaired driving involved in nearly one quarter of all holiday traffic deaths

Special to the Herald

A night of drinking at a friend's house for Richie Griffin in Austin led to the holidays spent in the court system after he crashed into a home when he got behind the wheel drunk. This is just one of many stories that highlight the costly and tragic consequences of driving under the influence. This holiday season, TxDOT wants to remind Texans to always find a sober ride.

Throughout December, TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign will host events across the state featuring video testimonials of Texans like Griffin who deal with the daily consequences of drunk driving, either as an offender or survivor. These powerful stories and

drunk driving facts can be found at SoberRides.org.

"It is our hope that these moving, first-hand accounts will encourage all of us to make the right choice and not ever drive after drinking or doing anything that can alter our judgment," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "We don't want to turn a happy time of year into one that could be marked by tragic loss caused by someone's poor decision to drink and drive."
 There were 2,462 DUI-alcohol related traffic crashes in Texas during the holiday



Drinking and driving is 100% preventable and can have serious physical, emotional and financial consequences that can last for years. A DWI can hurt or kill someone, devastating the lives of victims and survivors forever. It can also cause significant and expensive legal issues, create difficulty finding or keeping a job and bring a lifetime of regret.

There are many sober ride

season of December 1, 2020 through January 1, 2021. Those crashes killed 93 people and seriously injured another 215.

options available. Designate a sober driver, call a taxi, use a rideshare service, stay put, call a friend or family member, or use mass transit to ensure you don't drive impaired.

The Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

Check this out at the Library this week

By **SANDRA VERDIN**

Howard County Library



Howard County Library is open from 9 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday, the computer room closes at 5:30 PM. You may reach us at (432) 264-2260 and our fax number is (432)264-2263. Please visit our website at <http://howard-county.ploud.net> and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HowardCoLibrary for more information about our services and any updates.

Howard County Library wishes everyone a happy and prosperous New Year, may it be filled with joy and new reading adventures! The library will be closed Friday, December 31 in obser-

vance of the New Year's Eve. We will re-open Monday, January 3 at 9 AM.

This week's review are fiction titles.

Six years ago, a shocking secret sent Agnes Pratt running in search of a new start in "A Life Once Dreamed" (F FOR R) by Rachel Fordham. She found it in Penance, a rugged town of miners and lumberjacks in the Dakota Territory, where she became Miss Aggie, respected schoolteacher and confirmed old maid. But the past has a way of catching up with people. When childhood friend and former sweetheart James Harris accepts a position as the town doctor, Aggie's pleasantly predictable days suddenly become anything but. James wants to know why Agnes left behind the life they had dreamed of creating for themselves but he is the one person who can never know

In 1933 Louisville, Kentucky, even the ongoing economic depression can-

not keep Piper Danson's parents from insisting on a debut party in "An Appalachian Summer" (F GAB A) by Ann H Gabhart. After all, their fortune came through the market crash intact, and they've picked out the perfect suitor for their daughter. Braxton Crandall can give her the kind of life she's used to. The only problem? This is not the man or the life she really wants. When Piper gets the opportunity to volunteer as a horseback Frontier Nursing courier in the Appalachian Mountains for the summer, she jumps at the chance to be something other than a dutiful daughter or a kept wife in a loveless marriage. The work is taxing, the scenery jaw droppingly gorgeous, and the people she meets along the way open up a whole new world to her. The longer she stays, the more an advantageous marriage

See **LIBRARY**, page 3

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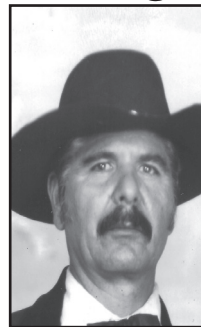
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Obituaries

Santiago "Jimmy" Barraza Abreo



Santiago "Jimmy" Barraza Abreo, 84, went peacefully into the arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the early morning hours of Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Jimmy was born in Big Spring, Texas on March 8, 1937, to parents Domingo W. and Luz B. Abreo of Big Spring. He was the sixth of ten children.

Jimmy grew up in Big Spring, Texas. At the age of nineteen, he enlisted in the United States Army and served as a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division in South Korea.

After being discharged, Jimmy was employed with the Department of Air Force where he earned several certificates. During which time he earned a Diploma of General Dynamics skilled in the 111 Aircraft. In 1969, he began his career at the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

In 1972, Jimmy married Eloisa Recio of Corpus Christi, Texas. Eloisa and Jimmy settled into their home in Howard County, where they still reside 49 years later. Eloisa and Jimmy have two children, Sunday Abreo and Priscilla Glass.

Jimmy was a multi-talented well-rounded musician with the stellar ability to play a multitude of instruments ranging from: guitar, piano, saxophone, violin, and trumpet. With the voice of a mariachi.

He was a master woodworker, welder, electrician

and was known to fix anything he put his hands on. Having a love for fast cars and speed, he was also a skilled auto mechanic. Story has it that he had a long list of citations as a young man for racing on Gregg St. in Big Spring, Texas.

As an avid adventurer and cave explorer, in search of gold and treasures, his metal detector was always packed and ready to go.

Above all else Jimmy was a devoted Christian and a lifelong, faithful member of Iglesia Bautista La Fe in Big Spring, Texas.

Jimmy is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Eloisa, son Sunday Abreo and daughter Priscilla Glass and her husband Jefferson L. Glass; daughters Laura Hernandez and Connie Hernandez, son Anthony Abreo. He was blessed to have several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Noe Abreo and wife Rosa of Lubbock, Texas, brother David Abreo and wife Lisa of Fort Worth, Texas, sister Mary Elizabeth Rainey and husband Roy of Boerne, Texas. He was preceded in death by his daughter Becky Abreo, brother Salvador Abreo, sister Fe Acosta, sister Gloria Galan, brother Efred Abreo, sister Hope DeSilva, and sister Mary Ann Fickie.

Funeral services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday, December 29th, 2021, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel, 301 E. 24th St., Big Spring, Texas. Graveside services will follow at Mount Olive Cemetery in Big Spring

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

Paid Obituary

Marie Woody



Marie Woody of Stanton, Texas passed away Wednesday, December 22, 2021. She is survived by her children Linda (Steve) Cobb, Carolyn (Michael) VanDyke, Jim (Julie) Woody, six grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and loving nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Acey Vandever, her husband Pete, and loving sister Billie Jean Lively.

Marie was born in San Angelo, Texas on September 25, 1928, to Charles and Acey Vandever. She grew up in Tyler, Texas and graduated from John Tyler High School. She attended Lamar University and earned a Bachelor's in History degree and a Master's in Education degree at the University of North Texas. She was an elementary school teacher in Banquete and Baytown, Texas before joining her sister, Billie Jean Lively, in Stanton where she taught 1st and 4th grade. She met and married J.N. "Pete" Woody, a local farmer and rancher in February 1956.

Marie loved the companionship within the Stanton community and was an active member of the United Methodist Church in Stanton until retiring to The Village at Manor Park. She was a member of the Stanton Chapter of Eastern Star for 61 years and the Big Spring Chapter of the Social Order of the Beauceant for over 20 years. She was a supporter of the Martin County Library encouraging all to be strong and avid readers. Marie enjoyed volunteering and visiting with her friends at the Martin County Senior Center. She was active in City of Midland and Midland YMCA water exercise programs as a student and substitute instructor for many years. Determined to earn the physically challenging water instructor certificate at Texas Tech University she succeeded despite being 40 years senior to the next eldest student in the program.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Monday, December 27, 2021, at Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton. Services will be held at 1:00 pm Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at Evergreen Cemetery Chapel.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com

The family suggests memorials to Martin County Library, P.O. Box 1187, Stanton, Texas 79782, or Martin County Senior Citizens, 210 Convent St, Stanton, TX 79782.

Paid Obituary

Support Groups

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.
- Caregivers Support Group, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are held at the Senior Citizens Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. These meetings are open for any caregiver, whether medical professional or family member. For more information, please call Becky Letz at 267-1628.
- Al-anon family group meets at 8 p.m. at 615 Settles.
- DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible? There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- 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

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Announcing
Completion of Emergency Department Expansion/Renovation Phase I

Effective 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 28, 2021. Patients will now enter the Emergency Department at the back of Martin County Hospital, as was done prior to this construction project. The driveway is accessed via turning east off Beaugard. Parking is available immediately adjacent to the new area.

Signage will be placed to clearly guide the patient to the Emergency Department Entrance.

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HEARINGS

Continued from Page 1

minority population of the county is sufficiently large to require more than one minority district should minority populations be divided, and only then to the least degree possible.

5. The plan should not, however, attempt to unreasonably join geographically remote minority populations into a single precinct unless there are strong and genuine connections between these communities as reflected by common schools, churches, or cultural ties. For example, minority populations in two separate neighborhoods, located miles apart, may not have sufficient links or common political cohesion to justify joining these two minority population centers into a single electoral group. Particularly when dealing with distinct minority groups, such as Black and Hispanic populations, a general assumption that separate minority populations will vote in a "block" may be unsupported in fact.

6. The plan should seek compact and contiguous political boundaries. Physical boundaries of cultural or economic significance, such as rivers, multi-laned control access highways or turnpikes, which tend to divide populations in fundamental ways, should be recognized and where possible, should only serve as necessary to achieve recognized objectives. Communities of interest should

be retained intact where possible. To the maximum extent possible, clearly recognized boundaries, such as streets and highways, should be used to facilitate ease of voter identification of boundaries, as well as election administration.

7. Where possible, well-recognized and long used election precinct boundaries should be retained intact (within the limitations imposed by state and federal law) or with as little alteration as possible.

8. Election precincts in the plan should be sized in conformity with state law. For example, in counties that use traditional, hand counted paper ballots, no election precinct may contain more than 2000 voters. In jurisdictions with voting systems that allow for automated ballot counting, this number may be increased to as many as 5000 registered voters.

9. The plan should afford incumbent office holders with the assurance that they will continue to represent the majority of individuals who elected these incumbents, and all incumbents' residential locations should be retained in their reformed precincts to ensure continuity in leadership during the remaining term of incumbents to the extent possible.

10. The plan should address fundamental and necessary governmental functions, and to the extent possible, ensure that these functions are enhanced rather than impaired. Election administration should not be unduly complex as a result of election boundaries.

11. The plan should attempt to locate polling places in convenient, well-known locations that are accessible to disabled voters to the maximum extent possible. Public buildings should be utilized to the maximum extent possible as polling places. Where necessary, buildings routinely open to the public, such as churches, retail businesses, or private buildings dedicated to public activities, can be used as polling places.

12. If the reduction of polling places can be accomplished, without impinging upon voter convenience and minority voting rights, such reductions can be considered.

13. Citizen input should be encouraged, but in order to minimize cost and to have sufficient information to evaluate such proposals fairly, the City will only consider proposed plans submitted to the City for evaluation by individual citizens or groups if the proposed plan is submitted to the City in a commonly used GIS format, such as .SHP, .MAP, .KLM, .GPX, .MOB, along with maps and demographic data sufficient to address voting rights concerns.

Those with questions regarding the public hearings can contact City Secretary Tami Davis at City Hall, 310 S. Nolan, or by phone at 432-264-2513.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson
267-8288

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME, BIG SPRING, 432-267-8288

Terry Beeler, 66, died Saturday. Memorial service will be Monday, Dec. 27 at 11 a.m. at Hillcrest Baptist Church

Santiago "Jimmy" Abreo, 84, died Tuesday. Visitation will be Tuesday 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service Wednesday 2 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive

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Take Note

• Food distribution at Three Angels Food Pantry is held every third Tuesday of the month at the Big Spring Seventh-Day Adventist Church, located at 4319 Parkway Rd. Food is provided by the West Texas Food Bank. People will need to bring ID and plastic bags, and answer a few questions to pick up food. The food pantry also has a Facebook page where they will post any updates. <https://www.facebook.com/healthynuggetsofgold44>.

• Senior Citizens Dances are held the third Friday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center. The next dance is Jan. 21, 2022. Music will be Western style. Entry fee is \$5 and includes a snack. For more information call 517-9097.

• The Big Spring Art Association is looking for community businesses to display pieces of their artwork. In an effort to build awareness for the importance of the arts and highlight local talent, the Big Spring Art Association displays different art pieces across the community. If you would like a piece of art work displayed in your business lobby contact any member of the Big Spring Art Association.

• Drive-through COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics are held from 3-6 p.m. each Thursday afternoon at Whatley Plaza, located on the northwest part of the Scenic Mountain Medical Center campus, 1601 W. Martin Luther King Boulevard, also known as 1601 W. 11th Place. The vaccination is free. For more information, visit www.scenicmountainmedical.org/vaccine.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of

the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you. For more information, call 432-263-4155; Michelle Worthan at 325-227-3911; Kay Smith at 432-213-1153; or Ruby Bruns at 432-664-1943. The November featured artist/special speaker will be Denise Malm. The next meeting is Nov. 20.

• The Big Spring Symphony is celebrating 40 years. Shows remaining this season include: Jan. 22: 'The Music of Queen' at Big Spring High School; Feb. 19 "Winter Wonderland"; and Spring Pops Concert on April 23. Venues for the February and April concerts will be announced at a later date. Tickets can be purchased in season passes or per concert. For updates and general information, follow The Big Spring Symphony Facebook page or go to www.bigspringsymphony.org.

• The Great Courses history video lecture series is taking place each Wednesday in the Theater Room in the First Presbyterian Church, located at 701 Runnels Street. No charge for the lectures.

• Howard County Community Health Center is offering the Moderna – a two dose and Janseen – a single dose, Covid-19 vaccine to those over the age of 18. Businesses, churches, groups or organizations of 10 members or more who would like the vaccine can schedule a time to have a mobile vaccine clinic. The staff will to the business, church, or organization to administer the vaccine. For ore information, call 806-894-7842 ext 178 or 124 or e-mail Covid19@sprhs.org

LIBRARY

Continued from page 1

slips from her grasp. But something much more precious, true love, is drawing ever closer.

Investigative reporter Rae Burke will do anything to find her missing sister-in-law, even if it means facing Liam McKade, a man who almost lost his life saving hers in "Don't Keep Silent"-Uncommon Justice Series BK# 3 (F GOD E) by Elizabeth Goddard. A former DEA agent, Liam thought he could find peace at his Wyoming ranch, but he doesn't feel at home anywhere anymore. When the reporter who blew his cover on an important investigation inserts herself back into his life, he's less than thrilled. But Rae's keen investigative skills have led her down the right path and directly into the dragon's mouth leaving Liam no choice but to protect her. As the danger increases, the past they both tried to flee catches up to them, along with the feelings they once had for each other.

After Savannah Mast's fiancé dumps her a week before their wedding, she flees

California for the safety of her Amish grandmother's farm near Nappanee, Indiana, where she used to spend her summers in "Don't Keep Silent"-Uncommon Justice Series BK# 3 (F GOD E) by Elizabeth Goddard. Savannah intends her stay to be brief, but when an Amish woman goes into labor in the middle of a blizzard and needs Savannah's help, she finds herself unexpectedly entangled in their family's drama. The woman's oldest daughter, Miriam, goes missing and Savannah's childhood friend Tommy Miller is implicated. Jane Berger, the local historian and owner of a nearby quilt shop, tells her a similar tale of another woman's disappearance in the 1800s, inspiring Savannah to do all she can to help with the search for Miriam. But when Tommy's own cousin testifies against him, she isn't sure who she can trust. And when events stir up painful memories of her mother, she must face her own truth: that her engagement isn't the only thing in her life that is broken.

"Tomorrow, is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one."
- Brad Paisley

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BIG SPRING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2021

	General Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:			
Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 28,843,558	\$ 4,699,988	\$ 33,543,546
State Program Revenues	7,294,775	541,531	7,836,306
Federal Program Revenues	838,854	5,840,104	6,678,958
Total Revenues	\$ 36,977,187	\$ 11,081,623	\$ 48,058,810
Expenditures:			
Instruction	\$ 19,751,095	\$ 1,997,540	\$ 21,748,635
Instructional Resources and Media Services	426,815	17,521	444,336
Curriculum and Staff Development	171,553	904,442	1,075,995
Instructional Leadership	416,934	166,021	582,955
School Leadership	2,557,631	36,689	2,594,320
Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	922,420	698,658	1,621,078
Social Work Services	34,971	10,935	45,906
Health Services	412,794	3,804	416,598
Student Transportation	2,533,753	9,123	2,542,876
Food Services		2,297,823	2,297,823
Extracurricular Activities	1,484,355	101,206	1,585,561
General Administration	998,117	5,580	1,003,697
Plant Maintenance and Operations	6,140,359	190,714	6,331,073
Security and Monitoring Services	53,163		53,163
Data Processing Services	1,069,178	17,663	1,086,841
Debt Service - Principal		1,575,000	1,575,000
Debt Service - Interest		1,868,400	1,868,400
Debt Service - Fees		1,700	1,700
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,062,127		1,062,127
Other Intergovernmental Charges	418,153		418,153
Total Expenditures	\$ 38,453,418	\$ 9,902,819	\$ 48,356,237
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Under Expenditures	\$ (1,476,231)	\$ 1,178,804	\$ (297,427)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Other Uses	\$ 0	\$ (3,150,246)	\$ (3,150,246)
Total Other Financing Sources	\$ 0	\$ (3,150,246)	\$ (3,150,246)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (1,476,231)	\$ (1,971,442)	\$ (3,447,673)
September 1 - Fund Balance	27,659,357	6,069,113	33,728,470
Prior Period Adjustment - GASB 84		160,371	160,371
August 31 - Fund Balance	\$ 26,183,126	\$ 4,258,042	\$ 30,441,168

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.


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Prescott, Cowboys celebrate with 56-14 rout of Washington

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dak Prescott and the Dallas Cowboys didn't have to worry about the NFC East title anymore once they kicked off against Washington.

So they took care of the star quarterback's slump instead.

Prescott threw four touchdown passes, DeMarcus Lawrence returned an interception for a score and the Cowboys celebrated their clinching of the division crown with a 56-14 rout of Washington on Sunday night.

The Cowboys (11-4) tied the franchise record for points in a first half while taking a 42-7 lead and frustrating Washington to the point that defensive tackles Jonathan Allen and Daron Payne scuffled on the sideline.

Dallas didn't need to win to add the division title to the playoff berth that was sealed with San Francisco's loss to Tennessee three nights earlier. Las Vegas' 17-13 victory over Denver took care of that about an hour before kickoff, giving the Cowboys a tiebreaker over Philadelphia.

Prescott and company didn't seem to care, and now the Eagles can't tie them for the division title after Dallas scored its most points, playoffs included, since a 59-14 victory over San Francisco in 1980.

"I don't know if many people knew that we'd clinched before the game. I didn't," Prescott said. "I don't know if we're in the world or in the business of trying to send messages more than we're just trying to get better."

Washington (6-9) allowed its most points since 2010 in the most-lopsided loss for either team in a storied rivalry played 124 times. Washington's playoff hopes are faint, but not gone.

"I told them you play this game long enough, you're going to get beat like this," coach Ron Rivera said. "How you respond to it, how you bounce back, how you play, that tells more about you than any-

thing else."

Prescott tied the club record for passing TDs in a half with four before halftime — one each to a running back (Ezekiel Elliott), a tight end (Dalton Schultz), a receiver (Amari Cooper) and a backup tackle (Terence Steele, who was lined up as a tight end when Prescott faked the handoff for an easy 1-yard score).

Taylor Heinicke, making a second consecutive start against Dallas after missing the game in between because of COVID-19, gave up Trevon Diggs' NFL-leading 11th interception on the first offensive play for Washington, which was playing five days after a coronavirus-delayed loss to Philadelphia.

The Dallas offense took it from there, recording 389 yards before halftime as Prescott ended a run of mediocre showings by completing 22 of his first 25 passes and finishing with the most yards in a first half in his career with 321. He was 28 of 39 for 370 yards when he left for good in the third quarter.

"I thought he was in total control," coach Mike McCarthy said. "His numbers in the first half reflect that. Had some shot opportunities, was patient with the checkdowns. I really like the way he played tonight."

The Cowboys were already up 14-0 late in the first quarter when Lawrence, a defensive end, deflected Heinicke's pass with his right hand, corralled the ball and rumbled down the left sideline 40 yards for a TD.

"Nothing was more impressive than D'Law's pick-6," said Elliott, who scored once each on a run and a catch. "I was impressed with the stiff arm, the high knees, making the last guy miss on the sideline. I think he said he was an all-state tight end on the sideline. You saw that today."

Lawrence was mobbed by other members of his defensive line, just as Steele was by fellow Dallas blockers on his score. It was a different scene for the guys in the trenches for Washington.

The defensive linemen were on the Washington

bench when Allen and Payne appeared to exchange words before both got up and Allen, a team captain, threw a punch at his former Alabama teammate.

COPYCAT LEAGUE

The Washington scuffle happened on benches the club brought in, adorned with its "W" logo, after the Cowboys did the same thing when visiting its NFL East rival two weeks ago.

The difference is, the rematch was in climate-controlled AT&T Stadium. The retractable roof was closed. Regardless, temperatures were in the 70s.

The Cowboys pulled the stunt because temperatures were in the 40s and they had been told the warmers on the benches were unreliable.

SACK TIME

While Dallas' three-game streak of forcing four turnovers ended with just the two first-quarter takeaways, but the Cowboys recorded five sacks. Micah Parsons had his 13th, and is 1 1/2 from Jevon Kearse's NFL rookie record for Tennessee in 1999.

INJURIES/COVID-19

Washington rookie linebacker Jamin Davis was after reporting to team doctors with possible COVID-19 symptoms before the game. The club said there wasn't enough time to process a COVID-19 test before reporting the inactive players so Davis was held out as a precaution. ... Dallas LT Tyron Smith (ankle) missed his second consecutive game and fifth overall. ... Dallas DBs Malik Hooker and Jourdan Lewis went on the COVID-19 reserve list during the week.

UP NEXT

WASHINGTON: The home finale is against Philadelphia next Sunday. It's the fourth of five consecutive division games to finish the regular season. A loss will eliminate Washington from the playoffs.

Cowboys: The No. 1 seed in the NFC is still in play for Arizona's visit next Sunday. Dallas and the other teams trailing Green Bay (12-3) need the Packers to lose.

Texans run past Chargers 41-29, ding LA's playoff hopes

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — After a loss to the lowly Houston Texans on Sunday, Los Angeles Chargers coach Brandon Staley was quick to remind his players they still have plenty to play for.

"This is the tough side of the NFL," Staley said. "It's been a fight this entire season for us. It's going to continue to be that way. We still have a lot in front of us."

Rex Burkhead ran for a career-high 149 yards and two touchdowns, and the Texans took advantage of three turnovers to beat the Chargers 41-29 with both teams missing more than a dozen players because of COVID-19 protocols.

The Chargers' playoff chances took a serious blow with the loss. Outside linebacker Joey Bosa, running back Austin Ekeler, receiver Mike Williams and center Corey Linsley were among the major contributors on the COVID-19 list for LA (8-7), which entered in second place in the AFC West.

"We had tons of guys out, they had tons of guys out," Los Angeles cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said. "A lot of guys had an opportunity to step up and show what they could do, and we couldn't really do that today. I don't think we took full advantage of the opportunity we had."

Houston (4-11) had 16 players miss the game on the COVID-19 list — including top receiver Brandin Cooks, center Justin Britt, defensive end Jonathan Greenard and kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn — but managed to win consecutive games for the first time this season. The Texans beat Jacksonville last week.

Coach David Culley was impressed with the players who filled in for the missing starters.

"Those guys came in and they showed that they were ready to do what we needed to get done," he said. "This team is so resilient. They've never really worried about what happens on the outside, all we've tried to do is just get better."

Burkhead had TD runs of 25 yards and 1 yard as the Texans, who entered the game ranked last in yards rushing, ran for a season-high 189 yards. Rookie Davis Mills threw for 254 yards and two touchdowns.

"We played our most complete football game," Culley said.

The Chargers' Justin Herbert threw for 336 yards with a garbage-time touchdown and two interceptions. Justin Jackson ran for 64 yards and two touchdowns and had 98 yards receiving filling in for Ekeler, but his fourth-quarter fumble led to a Houston field goal that hurt LA's comeback bid.

On the Chargers' next possession, Jackson scored on a 9-yard run and Herbert connected with Jared Cook on the 2-point conversion to get the Chargers within 27-23.

But Mills hit Nico Collins for a 13-yard touchdown with less than three minutes left to extend Houston's lead to 34-23. Tavierre Thomas effectively ended with a pick-6 for 48 yards with just under two minutes to go.

Staley took responsibility for the loss, which came after last week's overtime defeat to Kansas City.

"I didn't coach well enough," he said. "I didn't put our guys in a good enough position to be consistent in the game, and that's why we lost."

Burkhead's second TD, a 1-yard run early in the fourth quarter, made it 24-

15.

Three plays later, DeMarcus Walker stripped the ball from Jackson and the ball was recovered by Jonathan Owens, who also created another turnover late in the second quarter that helped Houston take the lead for good. Owens picked off Herbert at the goal line with about four minutes left in the first half.

Owens' girlfriend, Olympic gold medal-winning gymnast Simone Biles, attended the game and was seen on the in-stadium video board clapping and cheering after the interception.

The Texans cashed in on the miscue with a 94-yard drive capped by Mills' 41-yard touchdown pass to Chris Conley for a 17-12 lead at halftime.

Dominik Eberle, signed this week with Fairbairn on the COVID-19 list, made his first NFL field goal on the first attempt of his career — a 51-yarder that cut LA's lead to 12-10 in the second quarter. He finished 2 for 3 on field-goal attempts.

Dustin Hopkins connected on field goals of 50, 46 and 35 yards for the Chargers.

INJURIES

Los Angeles LB Drue Tranquill left in the third quarter with a leg injury.

... Houston WR Phillip Dorsett injured his foot in the fourth quarter and didn't return.

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Annie's Mailbox. Estranged Sisters, Dear Annie, Dear Abandoned in Vegas. Personal letters and advice columns.

Dear Granny. Advice column regarding gift-giving and family relationships.

WINTER SCENES WORD SEARCH. A large grid of letters for finding winter-related words.

- WORDS: ANORAK, ARCTIC, BALACLAVA, BITING, BITTER, BLIZZARD, BLUSTERY, CHILLS, CHIMNEY, COLD, DECEMBER, DRAFTY, DREARY, DUVET, EARMUFFS, EVERGREEN, FIREWOOD, FLANNEL, FLEECE, FLURRIES, GALE, GLOVES, HOCKEY, ICICLE.

