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BIG SPRING HERALD

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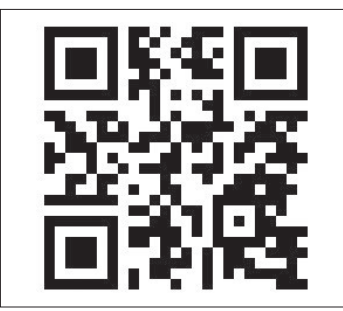
Upcoming Events

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.

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.

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Find us online at:
 www.bigspringherald.com



Looking for a New Years adventure? Check out the rock carvings at Big Spring State Park

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Herald Staff Writer
Editor's note: Information from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Press Office contributed to this story.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently issued a press release urging Texans to take advantage of New Years activities around the state. While the release did not mention any organized activities at Big Spring State Park, a quick search of the website turned up a suggestion that could be done anytime – New Years included – at our local park. According to a guide downloadable from the website at tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/big-spring:
 “Scratched deep in Scenic Mountain’s Edwards limestone, 210 feet above the city of Big Spring, over 300 carvings in Big Spring State Park tell the stories of past visitors. Scenic Mountain is the center point of Big Spring State Park with sweeping views of the surrounding area and town of Big Spring. It’s easy to see why people have been visiting this spot for hundreds and maybe thousands of years. Some of those visitors left their



This rock carving at Big Spring State Park is one of more than 300 known carvings located in the park located on and around Scenic Mountain in Big Spring. Photos and a list of several of the carvings are found in a downloadable guide at tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/big-spring
 mark in the form of rock carvings visible throughout the park.”
 According to the guide, titled “Guide to Historic Rock Carvings on Scenic Mountain,” the carvings were left both by Native Americans and early Anglo-

Warm weather to continue through rest of 2021

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Herald Staff Writer
 This past weekend, Big Spring – along with much of West Texas – enjoyed a bright, sunny, warm Christmas. Scott Kleebauer, a meteorologist with Midland’s National Weather Service, said the area has been unseasonably warm, even venturing into record warm temperature territory.
 “Obviously it’s been really warm across the area,” Kleebauer said. “Midland had set records for consecutive days for highs. Certainly an anomalous stretch. Another cool fact is, Rio Grande Village, the co-op station, on Christmas Day, actually set the record high temperature on Christmas, with a 94-degree reading. So that was an interesting surprise,

but it has been confirmed that 94 was the reading.”
 Big Spring’s temperatures have been – and will continue to be – warm and dry as well, he said.
 “It looks like temperatures will still remain above normal. We’re looking at highs between 69 degrees and 75 degrees all the way until New Years Day,” Kleebauer said. “It does look like we’ll have a cold front come through on New Years Day, and that’s really going to take temperatures down considerably heading into Sunday. It looks like temperatures will still remain on the warm side even for the night of New Years. We’re currently



A Moment in History I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas



At left, a torn photo of a snowman and snow on homes in 1931. At right, 14-month-old Arthur Bennett Jr. plays with toys by the Christmas tree on the porch of his family’s home.

By **TAMMY SCHRECENGOST**
 Special to the Herald
 If you live in Big Spring, Texas, and are dreaming of a white Christmas, chances are you won’t see one. Big Spring had a semi-white Christmas in 1909, when there were a few patches of

snow left from a December 20th snowfall. The same occurred in 1914. 1939 was the first official Christmas snow for Big Spring. It started sleeting and by mid-morning heavy snow was falling. Snow accumulations measured 6 inches, just enough to make that snow-

man in the front yard. I think I can recall it snowing on Christmas in the 90s but maybe it was just wishful thinking. On the positive side, relatives and friends could travel to one another’s

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Obituaries

Shirley Wood Jenkins

Shirley Wood Jenkins, age 83, of Lubbock, and formerly of Big Spring and Coleman, died Thursday, December 23, 2021, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

The family will host a visitation from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, December 26, 2021, at Stevens Funeral Home Chapel. Family and friends are invited to a funeral service at 11 a.m. Monday, December 27, 2021, at Stevens Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jeff Dean, pastor of North Coleman Baptist Church, officiating, and family friend Ron Westbrook assisting. Interment will follow in the Coleman City Cemetery. Services are entrusted to Stevens Funeral Home, 400 W. Pecan Street, in Coleman.

She was born Shirley Yvonne Wood on May 31, 1938, in Coleman to Joseph Parmer Wood and Maggie Stratton Wood. Shirley grew up in Coleman and graduated from Coleman High School in 1956. She married Franklin D. Jenkins on April 14, 1957, in Coleman. Shirley and Franklin moved to Big Spring, Texas, where they were members of the Berea Baptist Church. Shirley played the piano for the Berea Baptist Church for 20 years and served as the church secretary for 15 years. Shirley's mu-

sical talent was always enjoyed by her family and friends. She played the piano and sang in church throughout her life. Her talents were recorded and will always be remembered. In 2011, Shirley relocated to Lubbock where she was a member of South Park Baptist Church. Shirley's number one priority was being a servant of God and taking care of her family. In addition to music, her hobbies included working jigsaw puzzles, writing poetry, cheering on her Texas Rangers, and getting excited when Terry found a new tidbit of family history. She was a loving wife, mother, and Nana. Shirley will be missed.

Preceding Shirley in death are her parents, Joseph and Maggie Wood; her husband, Franklin D. Jenkins; four brothers, Burlie Wood, Herbert Wood, Bobby Wood and Billy Wood; and one sister, Ruby Sanges.

She is survived by her children, Vikki Clark and husband, Michael, of Crosby, Texas, and Terry Jenkins and wife, Rhonda, of Lubbock, Texas; and three grandchildren, Christopher Clark, Lindsay Clark, and Jeremy Clark; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Remembrances and condolences can be expressed to the family via the virtual guestbook at www.stevensfuneralhome.com.

Stevens Funeral Home is honored to serve the Jenkins family.

Paid obituary

Wayne Barber

Wayne Barber, 71, of Greenwood passed away December 23, 2021.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton, Texas.

He was born May 22, 1950, in Lamesa, Texas, and married Brenda Graves January 25, 1969, in Big Spring.

Wayne worked at Safeway for several years before going to work for the United States Postal Service where he worked many years. He enjoyed fishing and hunting and loved spending time with his family and telling BIG stories.

He was a member of Greenwood Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda Barber; one son, Donald Barber and wife, Laura; one daughter, Jill Moss; one brother, Bobby Barber and wife, Cheryl; one sister, Sylvia Rodriguez; and six grandchildren, Hannah Moss, Jeromy Moss, Chelsea Barber, Ashlin Barber, Clayton Barber and Carson Barber.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Billy and Bennie Holland Barber; and one sister, Louise Huitt.

The family suggest memorials to the Kidney Foundation at www.kidneyfund.org or to Greenwood Baptist Church, 10909 FM 307, Greenwood, Texas 79706.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Terry Beeler



Terry Beeler, 66, of Big Spring, went home to be with his Lord and Savior Saturday, December 18, 2021.

A memorial service will be Monday, December 27, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Hillcrest Baptist Church.

He was born October 28, 1955, in Abilene to Ken and Wanda Beeler. He married Bonnie Merritt on August 25, 1988, in Big Spring, where they still reside.

He worked along side his father at the family-owned business Big Spring Instruments Inc. from 1987 to 2009. He enjoyed bowling, fishing, leatherwork and building and racing stock cars. Terry was a jokester and always enjoyed putting a smile on people's faces and making them laugh. He was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Beeler of Big Spring; son, Richard Merritt and Kellie of Big Spring; daughter, Tara Stiles and husband, Chase, of Garden City; one brother, David Beeler; and sister, Michelle Machwart and Ralph Rollins of Big Spring; five grandchildren, Holley Stiles, Owen Merritt, Coby Merritt, Kenzie Stiles, and Emmitt Hungerford, all of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ken and Wanda Beeler; and one brother, Wade Beeler.

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

Paid obituary

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 with Western music is Jan. 21, 2022. Entry fee is \$5 and includes a snack. For more information call 517-9097.

• Drive-through COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics are held from 3-6 p.m. each Thursday afternoon at Whately 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.

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Support Groups

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

Submit your Support Group information to be included or updated. Email information to editor@BigSpringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

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.
- 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. at 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email 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); there is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held three times per year on Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the GriefShare Ministry of TBC Facebook page. You can also call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

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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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CARVINGS

Continued from Page 1

American visitors to and residents of the area. Many of the carvings were made during the 1930s by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who built many of the roads, rock buildings and other structures in the park.

The guide lists just 22 of the hundreds of known carvings in the State Park, and provides photographs and maps to let visitors to the park locate the historical graffiti during trips to Scenic Mountain.

Listed in the guide are:

- 1 – Jimmy Garza's Sailor – carved name and picture of a sailor. The guide says "Jimmy Garza" is listed on the CCC's Company 1857 roster. The company was active in the park from 1934-35.
- 2 – Man In Hat – located near Garza's carvings are a carved picture of a man in a tall hat, similar to a 10-gallon cowboy hat.
- 3 – Wood Weaver of San Angelo – Weaver was another member of the CCC from San Angelo.
- 4 – Quarry Rock Holes
- 5 – Neighbors – carved names of Edgar Dikes of Brownwood, dated 1915, and Paul Crank.
- 6 – Blank Scroll – the guide estimates this carved picture of a scroll bearing no message is about 100 years old.
- 7 – Carved Bench – a recessed bench carved into a boulder. The bench is covered with additional tex-

tual carvings.

8 – Fancy Script Signatures – the guide lists two signatures in a Gothic-style font, those of Leonard Fisher and Barney Russell, as well as a well-done but plainer font carving of "Mark Harwell." All three date from the early 1900s.

9 – Floyd Collins – the guide notes Collins was a spelunker – a cave explorer – from Kentucky who visited Big Spring in search of a cave in the area. He is credited with discovering the famous Crystal Cave in 1917, which is part of Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky.

10 – Cupules – carved dots, known by archaeologists as "cupules," were likely made before 1881 by Native Americans. Their significance is unknown.

11 – From a Far-Off Land – the guide notes Bobie and J.A. of New Mexico carved their names at Scenic Mountain in 1917.

12 – Cursive Signatures – "Clay and Lillie" was carved into the limestone, apparently in 1883. The guide notes this is when the courthouse in Big Spring was built.

13 – Paved Design – a design, partially covered by a park roadway, bears the name of G.H. Brown. The guide notes a Mr. G.H. Brown married Fannie Leatherwood Oct. 1, 1903.

14 – Lovely Lady – a three-dimensional bas-relief carving of a woman. Unfortunately, the carving has been damaged by foot and vehicle traffic in the park.

15 – Geologic Rock Hammers – J.J. O'Connor's

carved name with a pair of crossed rock hammers above.

16 – Mr. Anderson – carved name of Alf. Anderson with the date 1888.

17 – Horned Head – possibly a carved bison skull or a carving with spiritual significance. Archaeologists believe the carving was made by Native Americans before 1881.

18 – Paint Brush – a carving resembling a wide paint brush.

19 – Cup and Spoon – a cup or bowl accompanied by a spoon. The guide speculates the carving was created by a member of the CCC.

20 – Scribble Rock Basin – a naturally occurring rock basin containing several carved initials, as well as a rectangular carved shape which the guide says resembles a tombstone.

21 – Geometric Pattern – a series of carved triangles and other shapes which may form a raised "WM".

22 – Eagle – An American eagle likely carved by a member of the CCC stationed in Big Spring.

Other New Years events mentioned in the TPWD press release include the Sixth Annual Dino Dive at Dinosaur Valley State Park in Glen Rose, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 1; a late-night hike at Fort Parker State Park in Mexia, from 10:30 p.m. Dec. 31 to 12:30 a.m. Jan 1; and the First Day Bike Ride at San Angelo State Park, which starts at 2 p.m. Jan. 1.

Visit www.texasstateparks.org for more information.

WEATHER

Continued from Page 1

looking at temperatures, it looks like they're going to be a little bit above normal, so things won't be too bad, as long as the timing of the front doesn't speed up. Then the front comes through on Saturday, and it looks like temperatures are going to be pretty dang chilly the day after New Years, as long as everything holds up. Low temperatures on the morning of the 2nd could get down into the 20s for a large portion of the area, especially the Permian Basin. Then temperatures that day might struggle to get much warmer than 50 degrees. We'll just have to see how things pan out. That's in the long range."

But there's no precipitation in the outlook along with the chill.

"For the upcoming pattern, unfortunately, still dry. We're really not expect-

ing much precipitation," he said. "That's a bummer for a lot of people, including us. We really could use some rain. But it still looks to remain on the dry side for the time being. At least the next five days."

Snow? Probably out as well, but Kleebauer didn't dash all snowman hopes.

"At the time being, it doesn't look like it, but we will be keeping an eye on things," he said. "I know right now, some of the guidance does want to put some snow well north of here. I mean, we're talking north of Lubbock, so it would still be quite a ways away to get down here. The one guarantee is, it looks like it will at least be chilly."

Weather further out than this weekend is still too speculative to comment on, he added. So get ready to break out the sweaters over the weekend, but you can leave the snow man fixings packed up for the time being.

HISTORY

Continued from Page 1

homes on safe dry roads. Kids could go outside and ride those new bikes that Santa delivered while, burning off some of that holiday energy.

Have you noticed the Christmas movies all have snow scenes? Heavy snowfalls and crystal snowflakes everywhere. Just another Hollywood illusion to conjure in our minds that Christmas must be white to be merry.

Living in Big Spring, chances are far greater for a brown Christmas, but the weather should never influence our spirit, generosity, and devotion. Christmas should be about the memories made, the love shared and remembering our Lord and Savior.

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

Dear Editor—

I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so."

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with

the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Francis B. Church Editor of the New York Sun 1897.

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Terry Beeler, 66, died Saturday. Memorial service was Monday, December 27, 2021 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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Analysis: Omicron looms ominously over NFL's playoff races

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**

AP Pro Football Writer

Quick, who's your favorite team's backup quarterback? Or the backup? Who's their best pass rushing proxy? Fill-in cover cornerback? What about the substitute snapper or the stand-in blindside protector?

Who is, as coaches like to say, the next man up? Now's a good time to get to know the bottom of your roster and even the practice squad.

With COVID-19's omicron wave wreaking havoc on rosters and a natural uptick in ailments and injuries from the NFL's new 17-game schedule, there's a decent chance your team's hopes of going far in the playoffs — or even reaching the postseason — will come down to one or more of these men whose uniforms are rarely sullied or even sold in the gift shop on Sundays.

Playing teams were hamstrung in Week 16 while missing key players at key positions.

The Broncos saw their playoff chances dive to less than 1 percent with their 17-13 loss at Las Vegas when Albert Okwuegbunam, Jerry Jeudy and Tim Patrick all dropped crucial passes from Drew Lock, their former starter who was making his first start of the season in place of a concussed Teddy Bridgewater.

Without starting center Lloyd Cushenberry III, who was placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list, the Broncos managed a mere 18 yards rushing on 16 carries, including minus-4 from Melvin Gordon, the worst performance in his 96-game career.

The Lions, Giants and Ravens also lost with backup quarterbacks Sunday, and on Monday night, the Dolphins (8-7) became the first NFL team to win seven straight after losing seven in a row with a 20-3 win over the Saints, who started rookie QB Ian Book because of a COVID-19 outbreak that took out 16 players, including starting QB Taysom Hill and veteran backup Trevor Siemian.

Tim Boyle started for Detroit, with Jared Goff in COVID-19 protocols. He almost pulled off the upset in Atlanta but telegraphed his throw to Kalif Raymond in the closing minute and watched Falcons linebacker Foye Oluokun pick off the pass at the Atlanta 1, preserving the Falcons' 20-16 victory.

The Eagles moved into playoff position in the NFC with a 34-10 rout of the New York Giants, who shut down Daniel Jones for the season with a sprained neck, watched Jake Fromm falter in his first NFL start and then saw Mike Glennon throw a pick-6 during Philadelphia's 31-7 second-half surge.

The Ravens, who were running away with the AFC North a month ago at 8-3, lost their fourth straight game Sunday in Cincinnati, where both teams' QBs made history.

Joe Burrow's franchise record-breaking 525-yard passing performance clearly meant something to the Bengals, who continued calling deep throws for him late in the fourth quarter with a 20-point lead against their division rivals, until the mark was secured.

Only three QBs in NFL history have thrown for more yards in a game. But Burrow was more interested in what the final score — 41-21 — meant for his team, which took over first place in the AFC North with two games left.

"We control our destiny," Burrow said. "Win these next two games, and we've got the division locked."

Burrow broke Boomer Esiason's team record of 522 yards. Only Norm Van Brocklin (554 yards), Warren Moon (527) and Matt Schaub (527) have thrown for more yards in a game.

With Lamar Jackson out with an ankle injury and backup Tyler Huntley on the COVID-19 list, Josh Johnson — signed as a free agent 10 days earlier — started at quarterback for the Ravens (8-7) and threw for 304 yards and two TDs.

Although Johnson became the first player since 2016 to throw a touchdown pass for multiple teams in the same season — he had three TD tosses for

the Jets earlier this year — the Ravens found themselves on the AFC playoff bubble hoping to get key players back from injuries and the COVID-19 list for their final two games, against the Rams and Steelers.

"It's just challenging circumstances all the way around," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "You want to be full strength. You always strive to be full strength with what you have, but that isn't how the world works. That's not the world we live in all the time."

The Vikings were missing star running back Dalvin Cook for their matchup against the Rams and managed a mere 66 yards rushing in their 30-23 loss that seriously damaged their playoff hopes.

COVID-19 threw a wrench into the Chargers' playoff plans in a game featuring lineups that looked more like an exhibition game in August than a post-Christmas matchup.

The Chargers (8-7) had more than a dozen players sidelined due to COVID-19, including pass rusher Joey Bosa, running back Austin Ekeler and receiver Mike Williams.

The Texans were missing 16 players, including top receiver Brandin Cooks and kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn, but routed the Chargers 41-29 in the weekend's biggest shocker.

Although other teams overcame absences to win their games, the omicron variant looms ominously with the dawn of each new day as 2021 winds down.

The Chiefs were without star tight end Travis Kelce and kicker Harrison Butker last weekend, and the Bills were without but guard Jon Feliciano and receivers Cole Beasley and Gabriel Davis.

Both Kansas City and Buffalo managed to win with a bevy of backups, but the playoffs are fast approaching and teams and fanbases alike can only pray that infections and injuries don't waylay their championship aspirations.

Waddle shines, Dolphins beat Saints 20-3 to win 7th straight

By **BRETT MARTEL**

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — A Dolphins defense that intercepted Saints rookie Ian Book twice and sacked him eight times was probably enough to push Miami's winning streak to seven games.

Miami also got a big lift from rookie sensation Jaylen Waddle to outclass New Orleans on both sides of the ball.

Waddle caught 10 passes for 92 yards and touchdown in his return from the COVID-19 list, and the Dolphins beat the short-handed Saints 20-3 on Monday night, becoming the first NFL team to win seven straight after losing seven in a row.

"This team stuck together, really the entire year," said third-year Miami coach Brian Flores, who improved to 19-7 in games played after October. "Obviously, we dealt with a lot of adversity early in the year. It revealed a lot — revealed the character of the guys in our locker room."

"Our guys kept fighting, they kept sticking together, they worked hard," Flores added.

Nik Needham intercepted Book and returned the ball 28 yards for a touchdown to help Miami become one of four 8-7 teams — along with Baltimore, the Los Angeles Chargers and Las Vegas — in contention for one of the final playoff spots in the AFC.

Book started for the Saints (7-8) because of a COVID-19 outbreak that took 16 players off the active roster, including starting QB Taysom Hill and veteran backup Trevor Siemian.

"Rookie quarterback — we mixed up some looks on him," Needham said. "Had him a little confused out there and I think that played a big part."

With the Saints' offensive line missing three starters, including both tackles, Book completed 12 of 20 passes for 135 yards.

"Just keeping him upright tonight was a challenge," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "The first interception was a throw he'll want back, but that's a tough position for him to be in."

The Saints' defense helped keep the game within reach until Waddle scored on a 1-yard shovel pass from Tua Tagovailoa to make it 17-3 with 5:10 left in the third quarter.

Tagovailoa, who entered the game with an NFL best 69.9% completion rate, connected on 19 of 26 passes (73.1%) for 198 yards and the short TD. He also was intercepted by Marshon Lattimore.

THE WADDLE EFFECT

Waddle missed Miami's previous game because of a positive COVID-19 test. He has 96 catches this season, eclipsing New Orleans' Michael Thomas for the second-most receptions by a rookie, and leaving him five short of Anquan Boldin's rookie record of 101 catches in 2003.

Waddle said "it'll obviously be pretty cool" if he breaks the record.

"The NFL is a special league, so anything in this league, to have a record is always big," he said.

BOOK'S OPENING

Book got a roar of encouragement from the crowd when he first took the field and and Saints fans were cheering again two plays later when he completed his first career pass. Then they let out a collective gasp on his second pass — Needham's pick-6.

Needham said a "max blitz" helped set up his first interception for a score at any level of football.

"We knew the ball had to come out quick so I was just staring at the quarterback and right when he said, 'Hut,' he was looking at the slot," Needham recalled. "I think the ball got tipped and it landed right in my hands."

Book's next two series also lasted three plays each and ended on sacks. New Orleans didn't get a first down until the second quarter. That drive lasted five plays.

The Saints finally moved the ball on the fifth series, needing just four plays to pick up three first downs. A roughing-the-passer penalty on a 12-yard completion to Alvin Kamara moved New Orleans to the Miami 23, setting up Brett Maher's field goal to make it 10-3.

"Personally I got a lot to get better at," Book said. "There's things in my mind already that I want back but it felt good to be out there."

Cam Jordan's second sack of the game in the final minute of the second quarter forced Miami to try a 59-yard field goal, which Jason Sanders missed, keeping the Saints' deficit at one touchdown at halftime.

SUPERLATIVES

The Dolphins' eight sacks tied a team record for a game. They became the first team in the Super Bowl era to have that many sacks, score a defensive TD and hold an opponent under 200 total yards while allowing no TDs or third-down conversions. The Saints went 0 for 12 on third down.

INJURIES/COVID-19

Dolphins: Miami went into the game missing seven players because of COVID-19.

Saints: In addition to having 16 players removed from the active roster by positive COVID-19 tests, New Orleans scratched starting left tackle Terron Armstead, who was not yet ready to return from a knee injury that also kept him out the previous week. Reserve right tackle Caleb Benenoch was treated on the field for an injury in the fourth quarter. Receiver Tre'Quan Smith left the game with a chest injury.

UP NEXT

Dolphins: Visit Tennessee on Sunday before closing out the regular season at home against AFC East rival New England.

Saints: Host NFC South foe Carolina on Sunday before traveling to Atlanta to end the regular season.

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Invitation To Bid Howard County RFB 2022001 "2022 Sealcoat"

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 AM on January 6, 2022. This bid requires prequalification with Howard County Road and Bridge Department, specifications may be obtained at that office, 3604 Old Colorado City Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720. The work is to supply labor, materials and equipment to sealcoat various county roads.

Bids may be mailed to the Howard County Auditor, at P.O. Box 1949, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1949 or delivered to the Auditor's Office, Room 202, Howard County Courthouse. **Mark Sealed Envelope "RFB2022001"**

Bids will be presented to the Commissioner's Court at 3:30 PM January 10th for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jackie Olson-Howard County Auditor

#11167
Invitation To Bid Howard County RFB 2022002 "Inverted Prime"

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 AM on January 6, 2022. This bid requires prequalification with Howard County Road and Bridge Department, specifications may be obtained at that office, 3604 Old Colorado City Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720. The work is to supply labor, materials and equipment to invert prime various county roads.

Bids may be mailed to the Howard County Auditor, at P.O. Box 1949, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1949 or delivered to the Auditor's Office, Room 202, Howard County Courthouse. **Mark Sealed Envelope "RFB2022002"**

Bids will be presented to the Commissioner's Court at 3:30 PM January 6th for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jackie Olson-Howard County Auditor

#11166

New Years Deadlines

Monday 12/27	by 5pm	Tuesday 12/21
Tuesday 12/28	by 10am	Wednesday 12/22
Wednesday 12/29	by 5pm	Wednesday 12/22
Thursday 12/30	by Noon(12pm)	Monday 12/27
Friday 12/31	by Noon (12pm)	Tuesday 12/28
Weekend 01/01-02	by 5pm	Tuesday 12/28
Monday 01/03	by 10am	Wednesday 12/29

Public Notice

Invitation To Bid Howard County RFB2020023 GRH CR 29

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 AM on January 6, 2022. This bid requires prequalification with Howard County Road and Bridge Department, specifications may be obtained at that office, 3604 Old Colorado City Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720. The work is to supply labor, materials and equipment to rehabilitate CR yy from aa to bb. Work includes reshaping ditches, widening subgrade, additional base, scarifying and shaping roadway, inverted prime & surface treatment.

Bids may be mailed to the Howard County Auditor, at P.O. Box 1949, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1949 or delivered to the Auditor's Office, Room 202, Howard County Courthouse. **Mark Sealed Envelope "RFB20200xx"**

Bids will be presented to the Commissioner's Court at their regular meeting 3:30 PM January 10th for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jackie Olson - Howard County Auditor

#11163

Invitation To Bid Howard County RFB2020024 GRH CR

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 AM on January 6, 2022. This bid requires prequalification with Howard County Road and Bridge Department, specifications may be obtained at that office, 3604 Old Colorado City Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720. The work is to supply labor, materials and equipment to rehabilitate CR 31 from CR 34 to FM 846. Work includes reshaping ditches, widening subgrade, additional base, scarifying and shaping roadway, inverted prime & surface

Public Notice

treatment.
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Bids will be presented to the Commissioner's Court at their regular meeting 3:30 PM January 10th for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jackie Olson - Howard County Auditor

#11164

Invitation To Bid Howard County RFB2020025 GRH CR 36

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 AM on January 6, 2022. This bid requires prequalification with Howard County Road and Bridge Department, specifications may be obtained at that office, 3604 Old Colorado City Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720. The work is to supply labor, materials and equipment to rehabilitate CR 36 from CR 31 to FM 669. Work includes reshaping ditches, widening subgrade, additional base, scarifying and shaping roadway, inverted prime & surface treatment.

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5:AM	Big 2 Good Morning Basin	Como dice el dicho	FamFeud Business	CBS7 Wake Up	Al rojo vivo (SS)	Newsweek 9	Shepherd Dr. Wil	Cat in the Hat Ready Jet Set Go	Paid Prg.	Paid Prg.	Matters	Charmed	SportsCenter	Keyshawn, JWill and Max	Paid Prg.	NCIS: Los Angeles	Jeremiah Joyce M.	MythBusters
6:AM		Despierta America!	Les Feld Robison	CBS7 Wake Up	Hoy día (SS)	Newsweek 9 Sunrise	Families News	Peg & Cat Super	Paternity Court	Highway Thru Hell	George George	Charmed	SportsCenter		NHL Hockey: Predators at Stars	NCIS (DVS)	Parking	MythBusters
7:AM	Good Morning America		Good Morning Basin	CBS Mornings		Today	Light of Southwest	Tiger Tiger	CBS7 Wake Up	Divorce Jerry	George	Charmed	Get Up	SportsCenter		NCIS (DVS)	Parking	MythBusters
8:AM			FamFeud				Light of Southwest	Sesame Elinor	CBS7 Wake Up	Mauri	Broke Girl	Charmed		SportsCenter	Cowboys	NCIS (DVS)	Parking	MythBusters
9:AM	The 700 Club		Wendy Williams	Kelly and Ryan	Caso cerrado (SS)	Today 3rd Hour	The Is	Clifford Dinosaur	Kelly Clarkson	Steve Wilkos Show	Broke Girl	Supematural	First Take	Get Up	OU Re Focused	NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	MythBusters
10:AM	The View	Como dice el dicho	The Real	The Price Is Right	Caso De siones	Today-Hoda	The China	Go Luna Curious	Drew Barrymore	Mauri	Friends	Supematural			NBA Basketball: Mavericks at Trail Blazers	NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	MythBusters
11:AM	Jeopardy News	Noticiero	Tamron Hall	Young & Restless	Más sabe Noticias	The Dr. Oz Show	The Gath	Nature	The Doctors	Nick Cannon	Friends	Supematural	College Football: Ticksma at Birmingham Bowl	SportsCenter		NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	MythBusters
12:PM	GMA3: What	Hoy (SS)	TMZ Live	News Pasión de gavilanes	Days of our Lives	Hidden	Hero		Dateline	Hot	Friends	Supematural		Port of San Diego Holiday	NCIS (DVS)	Shipping	Airplane Repo	
1:PM	General Hospital	Amor eterno	The People's Court	The Talk	En casa con	Blast	House	Cyber	The First 48	Relative	Friends	Supematural	This Just In		Sports	NCIS (DVS)	Storage	Airplane Repo
2:PM	Rachael Ray	La madrastra	Judge Mathis	Let's Make a Deal	(1:58) Sueña la sopa	Ellen DeGeneres	Light of Southwest	Elinor	Monk	Jerry	Friends	Movie: 42, Nicole Beharie	College Football: Servpro First Responder Bowl - Air Force vs Louisville.	Must SC: Best of SportsCenter	College Hockey: Friars vs Falcons	Movie: Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Vince Vaughn	Storage	Airplane Repo
3:PM	Jdg Judy	El gordo y la flaca	FamFeud	Kelly Clarkson	(2:58) Al rojo vivo	Dr. Phil	Light of Southwest	Curious	Chicago Fire	Divorce	Friends						Storage	Airplane Repo
4:PM	You Bet Jeopardy!	Primer impacto	Two Men	News	En casa con	News	Retro	Almas	25 Words	Steve Wilkos Show	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo
5:PM	Big 2 ABC	Noticiero	Big Bang	CBS	Noticias	News	MMTV	Molly	King	Nick Cannon	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo
6:PM	News	¿Qué le pasa a	Sheldon	CBS 7	Por amor o por	News	You Need	Wild Kratt	Last Man	Fam. Guy	Big Bang						Storage	Airplane Repo
7:PM	Wheel	Rosa de Guadalupe	College Football: San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl	FBI: International	Maiverde: el santo	New Amsterdam	Light of Southwest	Cyber	Mike	Mike	Gold						Storage	Airplane Repo
8:PM	black-ish	Vencer el pasado	La de-salmada	Noticiero	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Burgers	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo
9:PM	black-ish	La de-salmada	Noticiero	Noticias	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Burgers	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo
10:PM	black-ish	La de-salmada	Noticiero	Noticias	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Burgers	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo
11:PM	black-ish	La de-salmada	Noticiero	Noticias	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Burgers	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo
12:PM	black-ish	La de-salmada	Noticiero	Noticias	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Burgers	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo
1:PM	black-ish	La de-salmada	Noticiero	Noticias	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Burgers	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo
2:PM	black-ish	La de-salmada	Noticiero	Noticias	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Burgers	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo
3:PM	black-ish	La de-salmada	Noticiero	Noticias	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Burgers	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo
4:PM	black-ish	La de-salmada	Noticiero	Noticias	Noticias	News	Being	Pink	Friends	Burgers	Sheldon						Storage	Airplane Repo

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Famous Hand – Part 2

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 5 3 2
♥ 6
♦ A K 10 9 4
♣ Q 9 5 3
EAST
♠ A 9 4
♥ J 10 8 6
♦ 7 3
♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ Q 7
♦ J 8 5
♠ A K 10 8 7 2
♣ 6 4
SOUTH
♠ K Q 7
♥ A K Q J 10 4
♦ 6 3 2
♠ J

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 2♣ 2♦ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Yesterday we described a series of fine defensive plays made by the young French star Jean-Marc Roudinesco, who held the West hand. He led the king of clubs, shifted to a low spade, and when declarer won and played the A-K-Q of trump, he discarded the queen of diamonds!

Without this extraordinary discard, South would have made the contract easily. He would have led diamonds twice toward dummy and allowed West to hold the trick whenever he played the queen.

Tomorrow: Psychological warfare.
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Wisdom From 'Walden'

Dear Readers: I hope you enjoy some quotes below from one of my favorite poets, Henry David Thoreau. May he inspire you to live your lives to the fullest, spend time with nature, seek truth and always choose kindness and love. Follow your dreams; live deliberately, wild and free.

"I learned this, at least, by my experiment: that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

"Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth."

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practise resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to

live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms."

"The question is not what you look at, but what you see."

"Dreams are the touchstones of our characters."

"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation. What is called resignation is confirmed desperation. From the desperate city you go into the desperate country, and have to console yourself with the bravery of minks and muskrats. A stereotyped but unconscious despair is concealed even under what are called the games and amusements of mankind. There is no play in them, for this comes after work. But it is a characteristic of wisdom not to do desperate things."

"You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment. Fools stand on their island of oppor-

tunities and look toward another land. There is no other land; there is no other life but this."

"If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."

"Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations."

"Do not be too moral. You may cheat yourself out of much life so. Aim above morality. Be not simply good, be good for something."

"All good things are wild and free."

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately."

"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity."

"We need the tonic of wildness ... At the

same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be infinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of Nature."

"Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all."

"Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth."

"I learned this, at least, by my experiment; that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

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on Christmas morning. Recreating that magic for a youngster can be as joyous for gift givers as it is for kids.

That's especially so when shoppers make it a point to give safe, age-appropriate gifts. Whether shopping for their own children or their grandkids, nieces or nephews, shoppers can keep these tips in mind to ensure they give toys that are as safe as they are fun.

• Speak to Mom and Dad first. When buying for a grandchild, niece or nephew, shoppers should first ask Mom or Dad for suggestions. Parents will know which types of toys their children like, and they'll also know the

child's level of maturity. Some kids may not be mature enough to play with otherwise age-appropriate toys, while others may be mature beyond their years and enjoy more complex toys than their age would suggest. Parents will know what makes a good toy and what doesn't.

• Learn what to look for on labels. Toy labels are great sources of information, but shoppers must know what to look for. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that toy labels include information about age-appropriateness (i.e., "Ages 3 & Up") as well as directions regarding how to use the toy. If the instructions seem a bit complex for

the child the item will be for, look for something else. Children's toy labels also include additional information that consumers may not be familiar with.

For example, toys labeled "ASTM F963" meet the latest safety standards from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. An "ASTM D4236" label indicates the materials associated with the art toy have been reviewed and deemed safe by a toxicologist.

More information about toy label requirements can be found at cpsc.gov. The AAP advises that electric toys should only be given to kids if they include the UL label. That means

the toy has been certified by the global safety certification company UL, LLC.

• Avoid certain features. The AAP notes that toys that are loud, shoot objects into the air or contain small pieces pose a threat to children. Especially loud toys can damage children's hearing, while projectiles can increase the risk of eye injuries or choking.

Toys with small pieces also pose a choking risk to young children who may try to put the pieces into their mouths.

• Err on the side of caution. Consumers who are uncertain about the safety of a

given toy, even after reading its label, should err on the side of caution and only give toys they're confident won't pose a safety risk. Even toys that may seem safe could be dangerous to kids who might otherwise seem old enough.

For example, the AAP advises against giving kids under 12 hobby kits and chemistry sets. That's because such kits may contain dangerous chemicals that even pre-adolescents are not old enough to handle safely.

Shoppers must consider a host of factors when looking for safe toys for kids this holiday season.

