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VOLUME 115, NUMBER 142

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See Page 3:

SMMC visitor statement regarding COVID-19

Upcoming Event

March 21

Big Spring Symphony Fashion Show Fundraiser
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

April 4

Health Fair
8 a.m. - Noon
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum
Get your booth reserved today!
Call 432-263-7641

Annual Trash Off
9 a.m. - Noon
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum parking lot

April 18

Master the Mountain State Park
9 a.m.
Register online at permanbasinevents.com

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www.bigspringherald.com



United Way agencies presented with allocation during annual meeting

Annual campaign raises 90% of goal, more than \$195,000



HERALD photos/Amanda Duforat

The 14 local supported agencies of the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County received allocation checks from the 2019 campaign during the annual meeting. Pictured above left are the representatives from the agencies. Pictured above right: The incoming board of the United Way is sworn in, during the meeting before allocation checks were handed out.

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
Managing Editor

The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County held the annual meeting at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Thursday afternoon where the 14 local supported agencies were recognized and presented with their allocation checks.

"The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is very important to

this community. The agencies work hard to serve people in different areas of their lives. The majority of our community have probably had one of these agencies touch their lives in one way or another," Kenda Jones, United Way President, said. "Without them some of our local kids or elderly folks wouldn't be able to have food or enjoy after school services. We are dedicated to making this community stronger and

I am excited to see where 2020 takes us." The money allocated to each of our agencies goes a long way to meet the different needs that exist in our community. The money is distributed amongst the agencies through designation from the annual Allocations Committee which is made up of community members, volunteers and board members.

See **UWAY**, Page 3

Public notice issued regarding upcoming public hearing regarding IPP

Regional Water Planning Group requesting comments from community

Special to the Herald

Howard County Judge Kathryn Wiseman's office issued a press release, Tuesday afternoon, informing the community through public notice regarding an upcoming public hearing on the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) of the Regional Water Plan of the Regional Water Planning Group.

The Region F Regional Water Planning Group (RFRWPG) is taking comment on the adopted Region F Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) Water Plan. The comments will be used in developing an approved regional water plan by RFRWPG. The RFRWPG area, also known as Region F, includes the following counties: Andrews, Borden, Brown, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Ector, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Kimble, Loving, Martin, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Mitchell, Pecos, Reagan, Reeves, Runnels, Schleicher, Scurry, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green, Upton, Ward and Win-

kler. The RFRWPG will accept written comments from the date of this notice through June 15 and will accept written and oral comments on the IPP at the public hearing. Prior to taking action on the regional water plan based on the IPP, a public hearing will be held and there will be a public comment period. The deadline for submission of public written comments is June 15, 2020.

A public hearing on the IPP will be held on April 16, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at the Administrative Offices of the Colorado River Municipal Water District in Howard County. The facility is located at 400 E. 24th Street in Big Spring.

In the press release, a summary of the proposed action to be taken was listed, which included taking public comment on the adopted IPP and development of a regional water plan

See **NOTICE**, Page 3

Fashion show aimed at raising funds for Symphony Guild on Saturday, featuring local boutiques

By **SAVANNAH GEER**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Symphony Guild presents their 8th Annual Fundraiser Luncheon and Fashion Show at The Trinity Baptist Church, at the West Gym entrance on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. The fundraising event will be benefitting The Phyllis Graumann Memorial Scholarship Fund, and The Big Spring Symphony.

This years fundraiser theme is "Happy Birthday Beethoven" out of "The Good, The Better, The Beethoven Season" with Beethoven turning 250 this year.

"We are the smallest community in

Texas, maybe even in the entire country to have a Symphony with professional musicians," said Natalie Permenter, Symphony Guild Secretary.

Music is a vital part of our culture, and that is why it is important to support your local symphony.

You can expect a main course lunch of Chicken Isabella with breadsticks and side salad prepared by Chef Moses Mendez from The Yellow Rose Cafe.

There will be a special appearance by The Green Bean Comic, Adrienne Greene. Following with presentations of previous scholarship recipients, and a fashion show featuring selections from Famous Elle, Lulu Blu Boutique,

Maurices, and The Wardrobe. All while a silent auction is being held and door prizes are being given.

"We have such a fabulous time, with food, entertainment, and fellowship every year as we help raise money for a good cause. Once people attend, they want to come back every year" said Natalie Permenter,

Space is limited so reserve your spot now. Tickets are on sale now, and are only \$20 each and children get in free. You can find tickets at H.E.B, The Karat Patch, CVB, and The Big Spring Visitors Center.

See **GUILD**, Page 3

Shannon Clinic Big Spring
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Big Spring natives Christopher Haddad, MD, and Rudy Haddad, MD, see patients each Monday at Shannon Clinic Big Spring.
For appointments and info call (325) 481-2281.

Christopher Haddad, MD Rudy Haddad, MD

Obituaries

John Edward Fierro



John Edward Fierro, 22, died Friday, March 6, 2020. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

John was born Oct. 23, 1997, in Big Spring. He was a sand miner for the oil service. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and a lifetime resident of Big Spring.

John was a young free soul who held the "trophy" as the funniest and loudest person in the family. He was definitely loved by everyone for his generosity and caring heart. He spent most of his time watching movies with his dad and always suggested great movies to others. He could have been a movie critic if he wanted. He will always be remembered

by his laugh and childlike spirit.

John is survived by his mother, Delma Garcia of Big Spring; father, Johnny Fierro of Big Spring; three sisters, Caprise Fierro Carrisalez and her husband, Cordero of Big Spring, Evelyn Fierro of Big Spring, and Makaila Garcia of Big Spring; one niece, Aubrey Hilario; one uncle, Raymond Fierro of Big Spring; three aunts, Mary (Lupe) Fierro of Arkansas, Rosalinda (Charlie) Fierro of Arkansas, and Fabiola Ochoa of Big Spring; and several cousins.

Pallbearers will be Evelyn Fierro, Robert Fierro, Danny Fierro, Cordero Carrisalez, Brandon Aguilar and Robb Deanda, Honorary Pallbearers will be Jon Patrick Rodriguez, Johnny Rodriguez, Rosendo Rodriguez, and Jowaldo Rodriguez.

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

Paid Obituary

Jeremy Alcantar

Jeremy Alcantar, 39, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 10, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police Blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **JONATH MIGUEL SAIZ**, 34, of 3221 Auburn, was arrested on a warrant for theft of property (\$100 to \$750).

- **JERRICK DECOVA STRAUGHTER JR.**, 20, of 1604 E. 6th St., was arrested on warrants for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, theft of a firearm, possession of alcohol by a minor, and failure to appear.

- **MICHAEL CLAY MCCUNE**, 47, of 1715 E. Hwy 350, was ar-

rested on a charge of forgery of a check or credit card, a warrant for possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 (less than one gram), and two other outstanding warrants from other agencies.

- **ALBERT RAY BUSTAMANTE**, 26, of 3310 Gail Hwy., was arrested on charges of criminal mischief (\$750 to \$2,500), and possession of marijuana (less than two ounces).

- **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported at FM 700 and Virginia, and in the 1200 block of S. Doug-

las St.

- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore St.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 500 block of E. FM 700.

- **FORGERY** was reported in the 1800 block of S. Gregg St.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3300 block of Gail Hwy.

- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 87 inmates at the time of this report.

- **ELOISA CESPEDES**, 37, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant for motion to revoke-theft of property (\$50 to \$500).

- **PATRICK ALLEN GLENN**, 58, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for capias pro fine-evading arrest with a vehicle.

- **MADISON LEA GRAVES**, 23, was arrested by BSPD on warrants for consumption of alcohol by a minor and failure to identify-fugitive giving false or fictitious information.

- **ELVIS EUGENE LANG JR.**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or deten-

tion, and warrants for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and a parole violation-evading arrest with a vehicle.

- **RUBEN PERALTA**, 42, was arrested by HCSO on charges of public intoxication and resisting arrest, search or transport.

- **CODY WAYNE ROBERTSON**, 36, was arrested by BSPD on warrants for driving with invalid license with previous conviction, and bailing jumping and failure to appear.

- **JERRICK DECOVA STRAUGHTER**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on charges of deadly conduct-discharging firearm at an individual, and tampering or fabricating physical evidence.

- **ALBERT RAY BUSTAMANTE**, 26, was arrested by HCSO on charges of criminal mischief (\$750 to \$2,500), and possession of

marijuana (less than two ounces).

- **MICHAEL CLAY MCCUNE**, 47, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument, a warrant for bondsman off bond-possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 (less than one gram), and two warrants for bail jumping and failure to appear.

- **JONATH MIGUEL SAIZ**, 34, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for theft of property (\$100 to \$750).

- **JERRICK DECOVA STRAUGHTER**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on warrants for theft of a firearm, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, minor in possession of alcohol, and violating promise to appear.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported on I-20 mile marker 174. No transport was required.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of S. Gregg St.

One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of Langley. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2000 block of Scurry. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2600 block of Birdwell

Lane. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Main St. No transport was required.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **RECREATIONAL CAMPER FIRE** was reported in the 200 block of Tubb Loop Rd. Fire was contained.

Take Note

- AARP Driver Safety Course will be taking place on Thursday, March 12, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The course is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Class takes place at the Big Spring Senior Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. Why take the AARP Smart Driver Course? Because driving has changed since you first got your license and doing so could save you money. Please call 267-1628 for more information.

- The Alzheimer's Association West Texas Chapter will host the Big Spring Community Forum on March 26, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Big Spring Senior Center, located at 100 Whipkey. The event is free, but space is limited. RSVP to WestTexas@alz.org, call 1-800-272-3900, or go to the link at bit.ly/ConfBS20. More information can also be found at www.alz.org/west-texas.

- Scenic Volunteers will be having their annual jewelry sale April 7 and 8, 2020, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Medical Plaza, right next door to the hospital.

March Your Way To Fitness!

Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center

306 W. 3rd St. Big Spring, TX 79720 432-267-3806

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. 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 to 8 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.

FRIDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinson's Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's Disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- 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.

- Al-anon family group meets at 8 p.m. at 615 Settles.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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YMCA

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MEMBER 2020

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

UWAY

Continued from Page 1

Over a two night period, the supported agencies present to the committee about services offered and proposed utilization of the monies requested. The financial requests are reviewed and then each member of the committee makes a recommendation. Those recommendations are then averaged together among all the committee members. This year the campaign almost tripped the funds raised from last year, bringing them to over 90% of the goal - \$195,235.

"Allocations are a vital part of what we do in the United Way," Staci King, secretary, said. "The process is put in place to ensure the money raised and dispersed by the United Way is done so in the most ethical and efficient manner possible."

A few of the fundraisers that made the campaign possible included: Kick off Fiesta, Expedition Royalty fundraiser, Wine and Pumpkins and Empty Bowls, along with the new tradition Tour of Homes. As part of the annual meeting, the incoming board of directors was installed. The incoming board members are: Kenda Jones, president; Alicia Kay Yanez-Fischer, first vice president; Eric Roberson, 2nd vice president; Staci King, secretary; and Nick

Ornelas, treasurer.

"I just wanted to give recognition where it is well deserved. We have an outstanding group of volunteers and sponsors this year," Christian Fair, United Way Executive Director, said.

Throughout the year several local businesses, area agencies, and community members have showed their support for the United Way and as an addition the program, recognition was given to those outstanding partners.

Amongst those recognized were: Expedition Royalty who donated a new Expedition for a fundraiser which drew in more than \$30,000 for the campaign in a six-week period; H-E-B who has once again gone above and beyond with their internal store campaign; and NuStar who has served as a main sponsor for the majority of the events for the 2020 campaign. Other recognized businesses included, Big Spring Ford, SM Energy, Blue Energy, Home Realtors, Delek, Surety Title, C. Larson Real Estate, Keystone Pipeline, Stephanie Guzman, Genia Phillips, Donna Wright, Jim and Tammy DePauw, and others who supported the agencies with more than \$500 sponsorships.

"Whether you gave money or gave your time it is all so greatly appreciated," Fair said. "Our community partners make it possible for us to do what we do and we can't fully express the gratitude we

have."

The 2020 supported agencies included: Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts, Spring of Siloam, CASA of West Texas, Council on Aging Mobile Meals, Emergency Services Chaplains Corp., Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest, Head Start Readiness Academy, Howard County Children's Advocacy Center, The Salvation Army, Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, Victim Services, West Side Community Day Care, and YMCA of Big Spring.

"We appreciated the support we receive on our fundraisers throughout the year," Jones said. "We are one of about 1,800 United Ways. The challenges we face are too big for one entity to tackle. As a community we live united truly."

Applications are now being accepted for the 2020 campaign year for non-profit agencies who would like to apply to be considered as a supported agency. To request an application stop by 215 W. Third or call 432-267-5201.

"We are extremely grateful for our partner agencies and for the great work you all do for the people in our community you make life better and you are greatly appreciated," Staci King said.

Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Weather



Tonight: A chance of showers before 1am, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 1am and 4am, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4am. Cloudy, with a low around 58. West wind around 5 mph becoming east after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Friday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 1pm. Cloudy, with a high near 68. East wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

(Weather courtesy National Weather Service via forecast.weather.gov)

NOTICE

Continued from Page 1

by the Region F Regional Water Planning Group (RFRWPG).

A copy of the IPP is available for viewing at the Region F Regional Water Planning Group (RFRWPG) Administrative Office, Colorado River Municipal Water District, located at 400 E. 24th Street. A copy of the IPP will also be accessible at the web-

site address www.regionfwater.org.

A copy of the IPP will also be available for viewing at the office of the County Clerk and public library, in each of the respective counties located in Region F and is to be there by March 16, 2020.

For those who have questions or requests of additional information, contact John W. Grant at 432-267-6341 or by mail at Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 79721. The CRMWD is the Administrator for the RFRWPG.

Odessa Police investigating explosive device found in Northeast Odessa
Suspect in custody by Wednesday night

Special to the Herald

On March 10, 2020 at approximately 2127 hours, Odessa Police responded to 4101 East 42nd Street (Lowe's Home Improvement) in reference to a suspicious person. Investigation revealed that an unknown male subject placed an object on the east side of the building and fled the scene. The complainant then heard an explosion coming from the east side of the building. The OPD Bomb Squad responded to the scene and retrieved the item, which appears to be a homemade explosive device.

There were no reports of any injuries.

ries.

An update from the OPD was issued around 6:15 p.m. Wednesday evening stating a suspect had been taken into custody. Information provided stated that over the course of the investigation the suspect was identified and later located in the 3100 block of Eastover and placed into custody. There were no reports of any injuries and there was never any threat to the public.

This is a joint investigation with the OPD and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. At this time charges are pending and the investigation continues.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center issues new visitor policy regarding COVID-19

Editor's Note: The following statement was issued by SMMC on Wednesday evening. Other health care facilities in the community have also limited visitations.

Special to the Herald

As we continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 across the United States, Scenic

Mountain Medical Center remains focused on doing all we can to protect our employees, patients and the community we serve.

Per Steward Health Care's system-wide policy, effective March 10, children age 12 and under who are not seeking medical treatment will not be allowed to visit any Steward hospitals until further notice.

Any person older than age 12 who feels sick and is not seeking care is asked to avoid visiting hospitals or other health care facilities for the protection of patients, hospital staff and the broader community.

Thank you for your cooperation and helping us to keep our communities safe.

COWBOYS STEAKHOUSE AND RESTAURANT

\$1.00 Off Adults
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Sunday Only
11-3 Buffet or
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Must Be Presented For Discount
Expires 03-31-20 309991

GUILD

Continued from Page 1

For more information or questions you can call 432-270-2125 "We are working hard to make this a memorable event and we would love for

you to come out and join us," said Permenter.

Savannah Geer is a Staff Writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, email Reporter@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331 ext.235

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Arthur Jackson, 53, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

John Edward Fierro, 22, died Friday. Vigil service will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Raymond Hall, 72, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 2:00 PM until 3:00 PM Friday. Memorial service will be at 3:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Stanley Bogard, 93, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jeremy Alcantar, 39, 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.



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Matt Scott
432-755-7065

Rayne Austin
432-755-7065

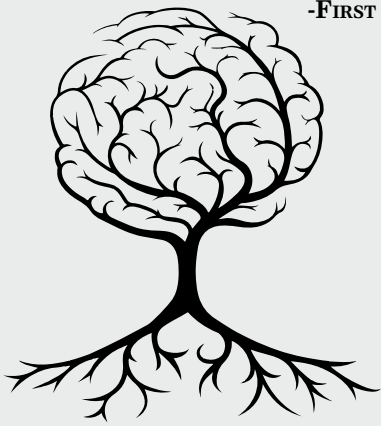
matt.scott@expeditionroyalty.com rayne.austin@expeditionroyalty.com

OUR DOWNTOWN BIG SPRING OFFICE WILL BE OPEN SOON!

Opinion

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

-FIRST AMENDMENT



Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

LETTERS POLICY

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Form letters, letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

CONTACT US

- The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:
- In person at 710 Scurry St.
 - By telephone at 263-7331
 - By e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.
 - By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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Scott Emerson
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Home Country: Double Feature

The problem was Mrs. Doc, you see. Oh, don't misunderstand. She's a perfectly wonderful lady and we all think the world of her, and as far as we know she has yet to burn down a house or start a war or anything.

The problem is, we don't know her first name.

If you just come out and flat ask her, she'll smile and say, "Well, don't you think Mrs. Doc is a nice name? I've had it for a long time now." But I guess there's something deep inside us that hates a vacuum ... a vacuum of knowledge, that is. We're still curious about exactly where Old Man Jenkins' cabin is, for example. While he was alive, we never thought to bug him about where he lived, because we also cherish a man's right to privacy. But Jenkins died on one of his trips to town, and we still didn't know where his cabin was.

So that began a number of semi-serious expeditions into our nearby mountains to try and solve the mystery. Hasn't happened yet, but there's always hope deep in the souls of true explorers.

And so it is with Mrs. Doc. She introduced herself to all of us as

Mrs. Doc, and ... as wife of our local sawbones ... she automatically deserves respect, even if that respect means maintaining a mystery.

But in a way, Mrs. Doc has added something tangible to our little society here in Home Country, because if we should ever falter for a subject of intense discussion, we have her first name to fall back on.

Doc's a true pal, of course, but there's no way he'd betray his missus on this. We did ask him one time if he actually knew her first name. He gave us the strangest look and said, "What do you think? I met this girl in college named Mrs. Doc and asked her to marry me?"

The speculation has run the gamut of everything from her having a first name meaning a poisonous flower, to body parts, battleships, national parks, and disastrous storms. If we did accidentally trip over her real name, neither she nor Doc would confirm it.

So while we're looking for Jenkins' cabin, we can contemplate that very nice lady ... Mrs. Doc.



SLIM RANGLES

.....

"So how about this?" Dud said, grinning. "We get somebody to pretend to be an oil tycoon's executive director or something, and we have him talk to Delbert about where to build the refin-

ery." The other members of the Mule Barn truck stop's world dilemma think tank looked at Dud and sipped coffee and silently shook their heads.

"Okay, Dud said," and why not?"

"Won't work," said Steve, brushing sweet roll crumbs off his walrus moustache. "Dud, the nearest oil to this valley is sold in cans down at the Gas Station Gun Shop."

"Yeah, I see what you mean." Doc said, "I realize we have to come up with some super April Fools Day hoax. Stands to reason. We only have this excuse once each year to act completely stupid and still be socially acceptable."

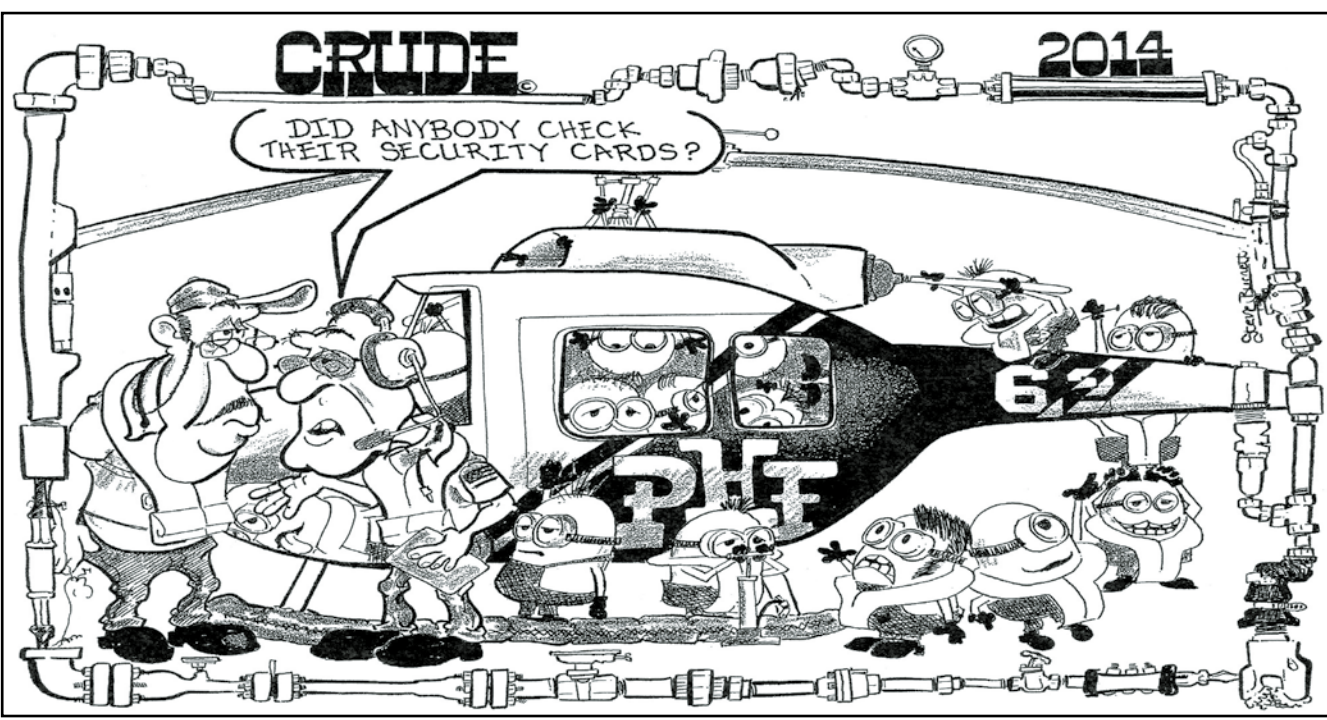
"We're socially acceptable?" "Well ... I was accused of it once," Doc said.

After the laughing and Loretta topping off the coffee cups, Herb leaned over and whispered something in Dud's ear. Dud nodded.

"You fellas just leave this to Dud and I," said Herb. "We'll take care of it and you won't have to do a thing."

"Well ... what is it?" "Doc," Herb said, "that would spoil the surprise."

Brought to you by Home Country with Slim Randles, the radio show. Check it out on a classic country music station near you. Slim Randles can be contacted at 7308 Painted Pony Trail NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120 or by e-mail at homecountry8@gmail.com.



The Postscript: In defense of Pollyanna

I think Pollyanna might have gotten a bum rap.

More than once in my life I've been accused of having a "Pollyanna attitude." I didn't actually know what this meant, except that it was not a good thing. Being "a Pollyanna" implied having an unrealistically sunny view of whatever was happening. Since Pollyanna and I had been linked so often, I thought I should finally read the book.

For children's literature, Pollyanna is one dark book.

Spoiler alert for those of you who haven't read it: Pollyanna is more like "The Book of Job" than any children's book I've ever read. Written in 1913, the story tells how Pollyanna's parents die and she moves in with an aunt who doesn't want her. She is given a room in the attic, forbidden from mentioning her dead father and, in the horrible climax, is injured by one of the still rare and widely distrusted automobiles, and paralyzed from the waist down.

Through it all, she plays "The Glad Game," in which she challenges herself to find something to be glad about in every situation—no matter how horrific. I have to admit... I loved it.

Earlier this week, I had dinner with my former brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Mandy and Tom. (Except Mandy insists that, since she can't be my sister-in-law anymore, she is now my sister.) Since his stroke, Tom has made massive improvements but he remains stubbornly nonverbal. Tom understands everything

that is said in conversation but has no words to participate. He can say, "Yeah," and "No." Over the past few years, this has elevated Mandy's charade guessing skills to professional league.

"Was it a long time ago?" Mandy asks. "Yeah!" "Did it happen in Mexico?" "No." "Was this in the water?" "Yeah!"

The fact that Tom is able to communicate at all is amazing. But more amazing yet is that, through it all, Tom

smiles. Tom smiles when no one understands what he's saying. Tom smiles when people guess wrong. Tom smiles when people sometimes have to give up in confusion. Of course, Tom must become frustrated at times. No person in his position could not be wildly frustrated.

But Tom continues to smile, to laugh out loud, to let us know that he is not angry or depressed but that this is just... the way

things are. Spending the evening with Tom and Mandy, I realized my Pollyanna status was strictly amateur.

Maybe folks are right. Maybe being a Pollyanna can mean ignoring reality and being in denial about how bad things really are. Maybe there is the danger I won't take action when I should or stop bad things from becoming worse. I understand all this and I'll accept the occasional correction if my rose-tinted glasses are no longer letting in the light of day.

But, for the most part, I am glad to be a Pollyanna because I know—beyond a shadow of a doubt—that bad things do happen and that some of those bad things will happen to me.

I don't know when, or what the precise nature of my misfortune will be, but I know that life has a heck of a lot of variety and that variety includes both wonderful things—and a lot of things like Tom's stroke. Yet Tom has figured out a way to smile. And so, like Pollyanna, I figure it doesn't hurt to look for reasons to be glad today—when I've got so much to be glad about.

If that makes me a Pollyanna, I guess I'll be glad about that too.

Till next time,

Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

Do you have a passion for writing? Do you want to share your work with others? Submit your column for consideration to editor@bigspringherald.com.

DAILY PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to spread Your love to everyone we see. Amen

Virus locks down Italy amid push to contain outbreak

Special to the Herald

ROME (AP) — The boisterous hum of Rome dwindled to a whisper and police patrols kept people apart in cafes as Italy enforced an extraordinary, sweeping lockdown in hopes of not becoming the next epicenter of the spreading coronavirus epidemic now that life in China is edging back to normal.

Infections in Italy topped the 10,000 mark — more than anywhere but China — and the number of deaths from the virus rose Tuesday to 631 from 463 a day earlier, Italian Civil Protection authorities said.

Police across the country patrolled cafes to ensure owners kept customers 1 meter (3 feet) apart during daylight hours and then enforced a strict 6 p.m. closure order.

"It's bad. People are terrorized," said Massimo Leonardo, who runs a market stall. "I've never seen anything like it."

For most, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for a few, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illnesses, including pneumonia. More than 119,000 people have been infected worldwide and over 4,200 have died.

By encouraging many of Italy's 62 million people to stay home and further drying up what was left of the country's already battered tourism industry, the lockdown could increase the likelihood of a recession, dealing another blow to reeling global markets.

Italy's economy, the third-largest of the 19 countries that use the euro currency, relies heavily on industries requiring the physical presence and proximity of workers: tourism, manufacturing, and retail.

Italians shouldn't leave home unless for work, health care or "necessities" such as grocery shopping, the premier's office said. Early closures of

shops, cafes and restaurants amounted to a seismic restriction in a country that prizes its gastronomy, luxuries and cafe culture.

"I'll do whatever they tell me to do," Rome florist Stefano Fulvi said. "If I have to close, I'll close."

Italy also found itself increasingly sealed off as other countries sought to keep infections contained.

Malta and Spain announced a ban on air traffic from Italy. British Airways and Air Canada suspended all Italy flights. Austria barred travelers from crossing the border without a medical certificate. Slovenia closed its border with Italy, and Albania banned Italy air and ferry traffic. Britain, Ireland, Hong Kong and Germany strengthened travel advisories and urged their citizens to leave. Even the Vatican erected a new barricade at the edge of St. Peter's Square.

"Get out of northern Italy if you're there," said Erik Broegger Rasmussen, head of consular services for Denmark's foreign ministry.

But in China, the diminishing threat prompted President Xi Jinping to visit the central city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, on Tuesday and declare: "We will certainly defeat this epidemic."

It was the latest sign that China is edging back toward normal after weeks of extreme quarantine measures. A day after Xi's visit to Wuhan, China reported just 24 new infections Wednesday, down from thousands each day last month.

"Things are slowly returning to normal," said Yang Tianxiao, a finance worker in Beijing, where the city government is gradually easing restrictions.

In a reversal of positions, China is seeing new cases brought in from overseas. In Beijing, the capital, all the new cases of COVID-19 reported on Wednesday came from outside the country, five from Italy and one from the United States.

Improving reports continued to come from South Korea, too, with 242 new cases reported Wednesday, a considerable drop from its highs.

But in growing swaths of the globe, virus-related disruptions were increasingly the new normal. More than 100 countries — over half of the United Nations' membership — have now confirmed cases.

France's government advised voters to bring their own pens to local elections Sunday so they won't have to share. The United Nations announced the closure of its New York headquarters complex to the general public. Albania told its citizens to stay home — banning public gatherings and shuttering schools, entertainment centers, gymnasiums and public pools.

The virus reached into the corridors of power. In the United States, several senior politicians were self-quarantined, and in Spain, a leading member of a far-right party tested positive for the virus. British health minister became the first UK lawmaker to be diagnosed with the disease.

At least two top European military commanders also tested positive after a conference on an American military base in Germany, and the commander of U.S. Army in Europe isolated himself in case he also was exposed.

New York's governor announced he is sending the National Guard to scrub public places and deliver food in a New York City suburb that is at the center of the nation's biggest known cluster of infections.

In Washington state, where 19 of its 24 deaths have been connected to a Seattle-area nursing home, Gov. Jay Inslee announced new rules for screening health care workers and limiting visitors at nursing homes. Inslee was planning a news conference for Wednesday morning to announce a ban on gatherings of more than 250 people, a person involved in planning the decision told The Associated Press.

And in California, thousands of restless passengers stuck on a cruise ship hit by the coronavirus waited their turn to get off the vessel and head to U.S. military bases or their home countries for two weeks of quarantine.

Saudi Aramco to boost capacity; Abu Dhabi to increase supply

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia steamed ahead on Wednesday with its new energy play by directing the kingdom's oil company Aramco on Wednesday to increase its maximum production capacity, while Abu Dhabi's oil and gas company ADNOC followed suit by saying it was boosting output by 25% to 4 million barrels per day.

Abu Dhabi's decision to increase production comes after Saudi Arabia took steps to essentially flood the market to dominate a greater share, after major oil producer Russia refused to go along with more production cuts. Meanwhile, global demand for oil is slowing down due to the outbreak of a new virus that's hampered travel and business.

Saudi Arabia said this week it would increase its crude oil production to 12.3 million barrels a day starting in April. That's 300,000 barrels per day more than Aramco's current

maximum sustained capacity. Now the company says it is boosting that output capacity to 13 million barrels per day, giving the kingdom greater maneuverability.

Aramco did not say when that capacity increase would happen, according to Wednesday's announcement on the Saudi Tadawul stock exchange. Late last year, the company floated 1.7% of its shares on the Tadawul, raising nearly \$30 billion in the largest IPO in history.

Aramco said the decision was a directive from the Saudi Energy Ministry. The kingdom's energy policy is largely directed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the country's Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman. The two are half-brothers and sons of the king.

Saudi Arabia has been producing around 9.8 million barrels per day, carrying the bulk of cuts that were agreed upon by OPEC members and

other major oil producers, namely Russia, to stave off an oversupply in the market that would further push prices down.

Over the weekend, the kingdom's strategy dramatically pivoted when Russia refused to cooperate on further and deeper production cuts. It was expected that other OPEC member-states would follow suit and increase production in response to Saudi Arabia's moves.

Abu Dhabi's ADNOC on Wednesday said it was responding to current market conditions and would increase output from about 3 million barrels to over 4 million barrels of oil a day starting next month. In addition, the company said it will accelerate plans for its 5 million barrel per day production capacity target.

By increasing output and production, and slashing its official selling prices to Asia, analysts say it appears Saudi Arabia is now looking to pres-

sure Russia by dominating market share, since it was unable to secure market price.

The price war pushed the price of crude down 25% on Monday, the sharpest decline seen since the 1991 Gulf War. The price of international benchmark Brent crude recovered some on Tuesday and was trading around \$36 a barrel on Wednesday.

"The most likely outcome of this crisis is entrenchment into a painful process that lasts several weeks or months, until prices are low enough to change fundamental views in Moscow and Riyadh back to some form of compromise," according to political risk consulting firm Eurasia Group.

Eurasia Group said that the price war will, meanwhile, exert pressure on U.S. crude exports, which recently hit a record 4 million barrels per day, because they will struggle to get their cargoes to clients at profit.

Texas Joins Electronic Registration Information Center

AUSTIN - The Office of the Secretary of State today announced that Texas will become the 30th state to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a non-profit consortium of member states. ERIC's mission is to assist states in increasing voter participation and improving the accuracy of America's voter rolls. ERIC is governed and managed by the member states, and was formed in 2012 with assistance from The Pew Charitable Trusts. During the 2019 session, the 86th Texas Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million for Texas to join the consortium.

Participation in ERIC will assist Texas elections officials in identifying and conducting outreach to eligible but unregistered voters to encourage them to register to vote. The program will also help the State identify voters who have moved within Texas, voters who have moved out of Texas, voters who have died, and voters with duplicate registrations in Texas.

"Today's announcement that the Lone Star State will join ERIC is an important next step as we strive to identify and conduct outreach to eligible

but unregistered voters," said Keith Ingram, Director of Elections. "Through this outreach, our state will continue to foster an active and engaged citizenry by encouraging all eligible Texans to play an active role in our democratic process."

"We're thrilled to welcome Texas as the newest member of ERIC," said Shane Hamlin, Executive Director of ERIC. "Membership in ERIC will improve the accuracy and integrity of Texas' voter rolls, while helping the state more efficiently reach out to millions of eligible but unregistered Texans to give them information on how to register."

"The League of Women Voters (LWV) of Texas is very pleased to hear that Secretary Hughs is moving Texas forward by joining ERIC," said Grace Chimene, President of LWV Texas. "We advocated for Texas' participation, and we applaud the bipartisan legislative effort that funded this program."

Current ERIC member states include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania,

Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The District of Columbia is also a member.



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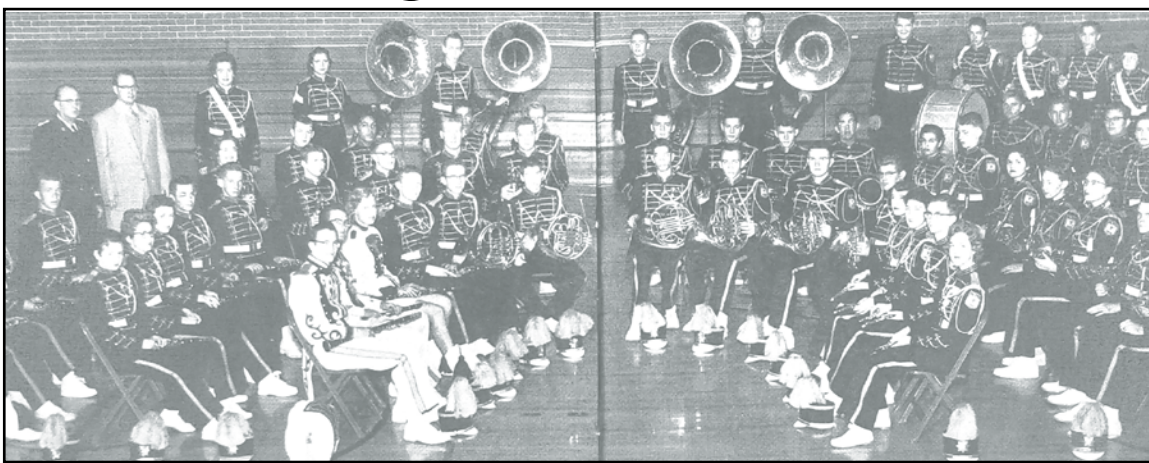


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First game at Memorial Stadium to be recognized in September



Courtesy photos

Do you know someone who was part of the first game played at Memorial Stadium? During the season opener of the 2020 football season on Sept. 4, 2020, those football players, band members, cheerleaders and any who participated in the game will be recognized. If you were involved in that initial game, you are encouraged to reach out to Edward Slate by mail at 813 Vista Ridge, Big Spring, Texas or by phone at 432-270-1995. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with former classmates and relive a piece of Big Spring Steer history.

Officials tell fliers with infected woman to self-isolate

HOUSTON (AP) — A suburban Houston woman has tested positive for the new coronavirus after flying home from Italy, prompting health officials on Tuesday to tell everyone who shared the business/first class sections on the two flights with her to self-isolate and call their doctors.

The woman, who is in her 20s, had been living temporarily in Italy, now one of the hottest COVID-19 infection zones, and flew back in business/first class on March 3 to consult her own doctor. County officials are appealing to everyone who sat in that section on Lufthansa Flight 309 from Florence, Italy, to Frankfurt, Germany, and on United Flight 47 from Frankfurt to Houston on March 3 to self-isolate and call their doctors.

The woman is the latest positive test to be announced in Texas. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as a fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause severe complications, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

The wife and 3-year-old child of a North Texas man found to have the new coronavirus following a trip to California have also tested positive, health officials said Tuesday.

Texas has now more than two dozen confirmed cases of COVID-19. That does not include cases brought in from Wuhan, China, and two cruise ships for quarantine at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio. About 380 passengers from the Grand Princess began arriving Tuesday night in San Antonio.

The family lives in the Dallas suburb of Frisco, and all were in stable condition and under self-quarantine at their home, Collin County Health Care Services said in a statement. Another child in the family was also being retested. The father is believed to be the first person in Texas to contract the virus within the U.S.

Dr. John Hellerstadt, commissioner of the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, said Tuesday that he could not provide lawmakers with the number of people tested for the virus in the state. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has also asked health insurers to waive costs related to diagnosing the virus for families who are on state-regulated insurance plans.

A dozen cases around Houston have all been related to travelers on an Egyptian cruise.

In Montgomery County, located just north of Houston, health officials said Tuesday that a man in his 40s who was being treated at a local hospital tested positive. Officials said he's a Montgomery County resident and that they are gathering details on his travel history.



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Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar issues statement on the agency's telework exercise

Special to the Herald

"As part of my effort to ensure the Comptroller's office can provide seamless continuity of operations and safeguard the health of our employees, we conducted an agencywide telework exercise on Tuesday, March 10. Approximately 1,800 Comptroller employees, representing the majority of our workforce, worked regular hours from home. Critical operations of the agency functioned normally, including call center agents who handled normal call volumes while teleworking.

"I want to stress that this was a scheduled business continuity exercise designed to simulate a scenario in which Comptroller employees were required to work from home. This exercise will allow the agency to identify and address any weaknesses in our continuity plan under controlled conditions. The time to prepare is before an emergency arises, and I am grateful for the hard work my staff has done to ensure this

exercise was successful.

"Since taking office, I have worked to create a more nimble, responsive and dynamic workforce and workplace by utilizing technology that allows for greater workforce flexibility while at the same time maintaining critical security. When working remotely, CPA employees use the same security-hardened laptops they use when in the office. In addition to the hard drives being encrypted, these laptops enforce secure connections back into the agency. This ensures agency remote workers are protected by the same multi-layered security controls they enjoy when in the office.

"We are all living and working in uncertain conditions. While panic will only exacerbate problems, taking practical, pragmatic steps now can ensure we maintain healthy working conditions and safeguard the continuity of critical state functions. I'm proud of our employees for taking a leadership role in these efforts."

Tarrant County also reported its first case Tuesday, described as a person who had recently traveled to a conference in Kentucky. The county provided no other information.

Also Tuesday, Dallas County reported its first positive case, a 77-year-old from out of state. The person, who has an extensive travel history, is being treated at a Dallas-area hospital. Later, county officials reported that a person close to the 77-year-old, this one aged in the 50s, also had tested positive.

The Northeast Texas Public Health District on Tuesday reported a case in Gregg County. That patient, who traveled within the U.S., was isolated at home.

Collin County officials said the father was in his 30s and is believed to have been exposed to the virus during a trip to Silicon Valley in February. The county said the family's children had no symptoms and were not contagious while attending school.

In Austin, the MotoGP racing series on Tuesday postponed the annual Grand Prix of the Americas that was scheduled for April until Nov. 15. Local organizers said MotoGP's decision was based on global travel considerations and noted that many of the race teams are based in Italy.

"The risk of shipping everything here, having fans coming here, and then not having an event, that was too big a risk to take," said Bobby Epstein, chairman of the Circuit of the Americas race track where the grand prix is held.

Meanwhile, the first planeload of passengers arrived at Kelly Field in San Antonio shortly after 8 p.m. Tuesday. The masked passengers deplaned to vehicles that whisked them to the adjoining Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

It was the first of two planeloads of ship passengers to make the deliveries Tuesday night. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 380 Grand Princess passengers are expected to be quarantined at the base.

The 380 either live in Texas or surrounding states, San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg has said.

More than 230 people, caught by the quarantine in Wuhan, China, or stranded by a quarantine aboard the cruise ship Diamond Princess in Japan, were repatriated to Lackland earlier this month. Eleven were isolated after they were diagnosed with the virus, the others have been released.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.



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Big Spring Showtime Steers All-District selections named



By SHAWN MORAN
Herald Sportswriter

The Big Spring Showtime Steers had a solid season on the hardwood and a handful of players were recognized in the season-ending District awards. Big Spring was led on offense throughout the season by the play of guard Kyler Seymore, who was named Offensive MVP of the district. Seymore's trademark turn-around mid-range jumpshot was almost impossible for opponent's to stop during the 2019-20 season. The junior made a huge leap this past season and recorded his 1,000th point of his career. He is sure to be the team captain once again next season and everyone is intrigued to see how the high-scoring offensive weapon produces in his senior season. In addition to Seymore, senior center and self-declared "trash man" for all of the dirty work he does on the low block, Abel Clark was named to the All-District First Team. Clark made a huge difference down-low for the Steers and was a rebounding machine for his squad. Senior guard Gabriel Gomez was named to the All-District Second Team and

was a big producer from the perimeter all-season long. Whenever the Steers needed a big basket, Gomez seemed to be the one to deliver. Another senior who was recognized was guard Zephaniah Nelson. His endless energy and tenacious defense on the court caused problems for opposing offenses for the entire season. Nelson was also a solid offensive player who did most of his damage driving through the lane. It is rare that a guard leads your team in rebounds, but Nelson had a few games where he did just that. Lastly, Dillan Guzman, Keagan Mitchell, and Seymore were all named to the All-Academic Team. These players are student-athletes and it is always important to get the work done in the classroom. These three players exemplify the hard work that they each put in both in the classroom and on the hardwood.

Shawn Moran is the sportswriter at the Big Spring Herald. To contact him, email sports@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Athletic Support: "Girlfriend getting in the way"

By ELI CRANOR
Special to the Herald

Dear Athletic Support: My son will be the starting quarterback for his high school football team next fall. He's only a sophomore, and I couldn't be any prouder. But there's just one problem—his new girlfriend. She's a sweet young lady, but she is literally all my son thinks about. As soon as he gets home from school, he's texting her, Instagramming her, or whatever the heck it is kids do these days. He's not even sixteen yet. He has the rest of his adult life to worry about women, but only one shot at being a high school quarterback. I just want what's best for him, but I know if I try to talk to him about this, it will only make things worse. Help, please. — Dotting Daddyy



Eli Cranor

team down. I wasn't focused like I needed to be, and we lost because of it. A few years later, I signed a contract to play quarterback for a team in France after winning the equivalent of the Super Bowl in Sweden. I was single and as focused as I'd ever been, but then I met another girl. One date led to another, and about a month before I was set to fly to Cannes (home of the Cannes Film Festival and the French Riviera), I backed out of my contract and decided to become a high school football coach. Nine months later, I was married to Mallory, my wife of seven years.

I tell both of these stories to point out the subjectivity of both football and young love. There's no way to tell whether your son's new girlfriend will be his future wife or the reason his high school team loses in the second round of the playoffs. I do think you should talk to him about it, though. Sit him down and speak from the heart. Tell him about the times when you were blinded by passion and what it cost you. But also tell him how you met his mother. Make sure he understands the power of true love. If you don't have any crazy stories, no fourth-and-long tales or French connections, maybe you could share this column with him. Lord knows I'll share it with my son one day, and you can bet I'll pass it along to my daughter too.

Eli Cranor is a former professional quarterback and coach turned award-winning author. Send questions for "Athletic Support" to eli.cranor@gmail.com or visit elicranor.com.

SMU's Dickerson, Alcorn's McNair selected to college hall

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

Eric Dickerson from SMU, Heisman Trophy winner Eric Crouch from Nebraska and the late Steve McNair from Alcorn State are among 17 players selected for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

The other inductees announced Wednesday by the National Football Foundation include Florida offensive lineman Lomas Brown, Ohio State running back Keith Byars, LSU defensive lineman Glenn Dorsey, Michigan offensive lineman Jumbo Elliott, Washington State kicker Jason Hanson, Maryland linebacker E.J. Henderson, Alabama linebacker E.J. Junior, UCLA quarterback Cade McNown, Oklahoma State defensive lineman Leslie O'Neal, Virginia defensive back Anthony Poin-dexter, Minnesota defensive end Bob Steina, Colorado receiver Michael Westbrook, Houston receiver Elmo Wright and Georgia defensive end David Pollack, who is now a prominent college football analyst on ESPN.

NCAA Baseball Top 25 (USA Today Coaches' Poll)

Ranking	Team	Points	Overall	Prev
1	Florida	771	16-0	1
2	Georgia	699	14-2	3
3	Texas Tech	683	16-1	4
4	UCLA	645	13-2	2
5	Ole Miss	601	14-1	8
6	Louisville	597	11-4	6
7	Vanderbilt	536	12-5	5
8	Miami	531	11-4	9
9	North Carolina State	499	13-2	7
10	Arizona State	435	13-4	13
11	Duke	431	12-3	12
12	UCF	403	15-2	15
13	Oklahoma	360	13-4	16
14	Auburn	290	13-3	17
15	Arkansas	272	9-5	10
16	Florida State	240	10-5	14
17	Mississippi State	200	10-4	19
18	Long Beach State	195	10-5	21
19	LSU	184	11-5	22
20	Tennessee	164	14-2	11
21	Alabama	156	15-1	25
22	Texas	154	13-3	22
22	Texas A&M	147	14-3	24
24	Pepperdine	134	12-3	NR
25	Clemson	119	12-3	NR

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:

Tulane (105), TCU (88), Dallas Baptist (87), UC Santa Barbara (82), Virginia (77), East Carolina (40), Michigan (39), Oklahoma State (27), Georgia Tech (21), Baylor (10), Wichita State (6), Santa Clara (6), San Diego (6), Notre Dame (6), Belmont (5), Samford (4), Hawaii (4), Texas-Arlington (3), San Diego State (3), Ohio State (3), New Mexico (2), Navy (2), Wake Forest (1), Old Dominion (1), New Mexico State (1)

DROPPED OUT:

TCU (18), Michigan (20)

NCAA Softball Top 25 (USA Today Coaches' Poll)

Ranking	Team	Points	Overall	Prev
1	UCLA	799	25-1	1
2	Washington	765	23-2	2
3	Texas	732	24-3	3
4	Arizona	695	21-3	4
5	LSU	660	20-3	5
6	Oklahoma	636	20-4	6
7	Florida	598	21-4	7
8	Louisiana	536	16-6	8
9	Oregon	500	21-2	11
10	Alabama	491	14-8	9
11	Kentucky	471	18-4	10
12	Florida State	453	17-6	12
13	Oklahoma State	414	18-5	13
14	Georgia	396	22-5	14
15	Arizona State	280	20-7	17
16	South Carolina	275	15-6	15
17	Virginia Tech	267	19-4	19
18	Michigan	256	15-8	16
19	Minnesota	176	14-9-1	18
20	Arkansas	162	17-6	20
21	Mississippi State	149	23-3	24
22	UCF	137	19-5-1	22
23	Missouri	135	19-6	23
24	Baylor	134	17-5	21
25	Fresno State	106	21-4	25

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:

Stanford (36), North Texas (23), San Jose State (23), Utah (23), Duke (21), Texas Tech (14), Houston (12), Wisconsin (8), Clemson (6), Cal State Fullerton (5), James Madison (5), North Carolina State (1)

DROPPED OUT:

None

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Love and the Scorpio Moon

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No one can give another person confidence, but you can certainly be a springboard for another person and provide the kind of lift that invites the spirit of success.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As long as you have your phone with you, you're never alone. Creativity and vitality spring alive as you disconnect from the digital world for a spell and reconnect to your inner world.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may feel like an actor today cast in the role of "the expert." It's a common feeling that you wouldn't be having if you were deluded. You know enough to know you don't know everything. Hold your head high and proceed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Peril in the fight; glory in the triumph. The opposite is also true. If getting there weren't a little hard, then it wouldn't be fun. So don't worry if things get a little hard. It's all part of the plot.

LEO (July 23-Aug.

22). You may not be sure what to believe about a situation yet, but you're quite willing to look at it straight on, in the best light available, unblinkingly. Do this long enough and an impression will be made.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). While it's kind to lend a hand, be judicious. You don't want to rob anyone of the chance to learn skills, solve problems and have the pride of solo-completion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're sensitive to the buzz and whirl of the world around you. It may seem counter-intuitive, but it's the absence of color and light that will be the most stimulating. Blank spaces invigorate your most creative instincts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have

ideas but you don't know how to make them fly in the current circumstances. You imagine one way and then another, but each has its drawbacks. Until you see the light, the best move is no move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your gift for noticing the minutiae of your surroundings is sometimes hurtful, sometimes happy and always life-enriching. Today, you encounter a stranger who reminds you of something noble in people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Do you get the impression that there is secret information being passed between people and over networks to which you're not privy? The tinge of paranoia is a sign to pay attention.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's really something to watch the race from the stands. You can see what those who are in the throes of it can't. But of course, no one ever won a race watching from the stands.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Henrik Ibsen said, "The strongest man upon the earth is he who stands most alone." Who has that approach ever worked for? Use the strength and skill of communication and teamwork, and together you'll be mighty.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 12). This year will offer a variety of frameworks for you to operate within. You're like an actor who gets to play several roles. Tight relationships will be the best part, and your personal life will play out like a beautiful dance. There's an opportunity to mix into a professional area you've been intrigued with for years. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 30, 12, 26 and 37.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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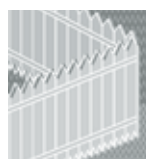
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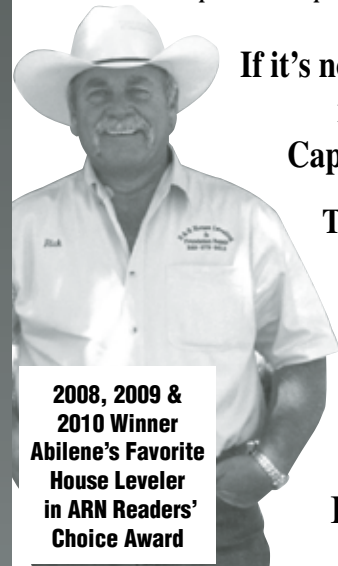


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Annie's Mailbox

**Planet Plastic: Is Re-
duce, Reuse, Recycle
Enough?**

Dear Annie: I am not optimistic about the plastic pollution of our planet. I remember a time when plastic did not exist and we managed OK with glass, tin cans, foil, paper, cardboard (waxed for dairy) and something called cellophane. Now everything comes in plastic. Even cans have plastic labels, and glass bottles have plastic caps.

We were told that recycling was taking care of the problem; now we learn that only a tiny fraction of plastic is ever recycled. Even plastic objects that are used for years will eventually wind up in landfills (billions of lawn chairs?). **PLASTIC WILL NEVER GO AWAY.** What can we do, Annie? -- Plastic Problem

Dear Plastic Problem: Environmentalists around the globe have been talking about plastic and how to deal with it. Below are some

tips from the Earth Day Network website on how you can reduce your plastic pollution:

- "Reduce your own plastic waste. Start by using our plastic calculator to track how much you use -- then you can take steps to reduce your use and waste."
- "Reuse your own reusable shopping and produce bags to markets, and avoid using single-use plastic bags."
- "Bring your own reusable coffee cup when going out to get beverages."
- "Like sipping through straws? Get a reusable stainless steel, glass, or bamboo one to use instead of wasteful plastic ones."
- "Instead of buying water in plastic bottles, invest in a water filter and reusable water bottle(s). Bonus: it's cheaper in the long run."
- "Make your own reusable cloth bags from old t-shirts, using basic sewing skills (or no sewing at all). (Find simple instructions online)."
- "Choose clothing and

other personal items made from earth-friendly materials instead of microfibers and other synthetic fibers, which pollute our water. (Even more ways to green your style.)

"Bring a reusable container to a restaurant with you when you expect to have leftovers."

"Refuse straws: It's as simple as adding, 'No straw, please' when requesting beverages at restaurants or cafes."

"Refuse beverage tops. (Are you really going to spill?)"

"Remove trash in your neighborhood and when visiting parks and beaches."

"Recycle the plastics you use and no longer need."

"Return single-use bags to grocery stores for them to recycle."

Dear Annie: I am a divorced female in my late 40s. I have been in a relationship for six years. I work full time and am financially independent. My partner takes offense if I do

things for myself, such as working out at the gym, getting manicures and brushing my teeth before bed. He accuses me of not wanting to spend time with him. Am I being selfish? -- Selfish Sally

Dear Selfish Sally: It sounds like you are with Controlling Charlie. There is nothing wrong with going to the gym, brushing your teeth and even getting manicures. In fact, an argument can be made that they are important ingredients of a healthy life. The fact that your boyfriend takes offense to any of this is ridiculous. Make sure you have quality time with him but not at the expense of your health and personal hygiene. If he argues with you, send him packing, and be sure to include his toothbrush.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds. North leads the ace and another spade. How would you play the hand?

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

East
♠ K 5 4
♥ A Q J 6
♦ Q 9 2
♣ 8 5 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the jack of hearts. How would you play the hand?

West
♠ A K 7
♥ A K
♦ A J 9 5 3
♣ K 7 2

East
♠ J
♥ Q 5
♦ 10 7 6 4 2
♣ Q 8 6 4 3

1. The danger is that the opposing clubs might be divided 4-1, in which case if you were to discard a heart on the king of spades at trick two, you would very likely finish down one.

The best method of play is to ruff the second spade lead, draw trump and then play the A-K of clubs. If both opponents follow suit, you have the rest of the tricks, but if either opponent shows out on the second club, you still have two heart finesses to fall back on to save the day. Thus

Tomorrow: Two chances are better than one.

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you make the slam on the suggested line of play if North holds something like ♠ A1098 ♥ K1097 ♦ 7643 ♣ 9, but you would almost surely go down if you made the mistake of prematurely discarding a heart on the king of spades at trick two.

2. After winning the heart, you must resist the temptation to immediately develop the diamond suit. Four diamond tricks and four tricks in the majors would not be enough, and when you attempted to score the ninth trick by leading a club, the enemy would grab the ace and cash at least three hearts to put you out of business.

Instead of pursuing such a hopeless course, you should win the heart and lead a low club at trick two. This play offers a legitimate chance for the contract. If North has two or three clubs including the ace, he must play low; otherwise, you'll be able to score two spades, two hearts, a diamond and four clubs for nine tricks.

Once you succeed in "stealing" a club trick, you can then attack diamonds, intending to finesse if South follows low. Unless North turns up with all three missing diamonds, you make the contract.

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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!

6	8	5	9	1	8	1	3	4	7	2
1	2	8	7	6	9	5	7	3	8	6
7	3	4	7	6	9	2	1	8	5	9
2	7	4	3	8	6	1	9	5	7	4
8	9	6	3	5	7	2	2	1	4	7
1	5	9	6	8	4	2	7	7	1	5
4	3	7	1	9	5	1	6	8	7	4
9	8	9	6	3	5	7	7	1	9	4
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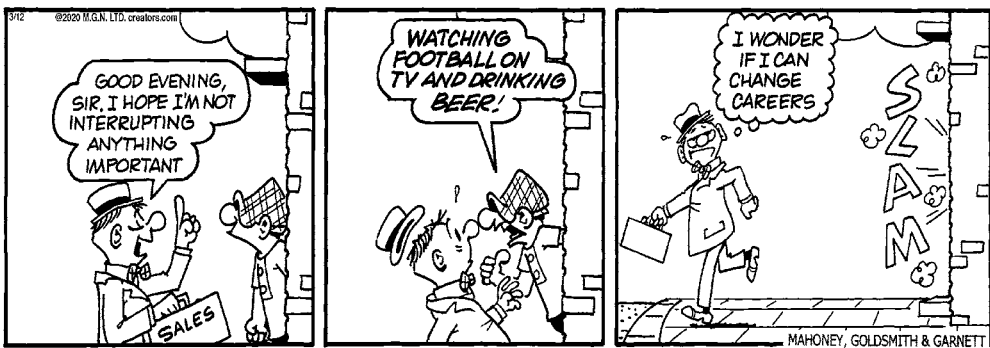
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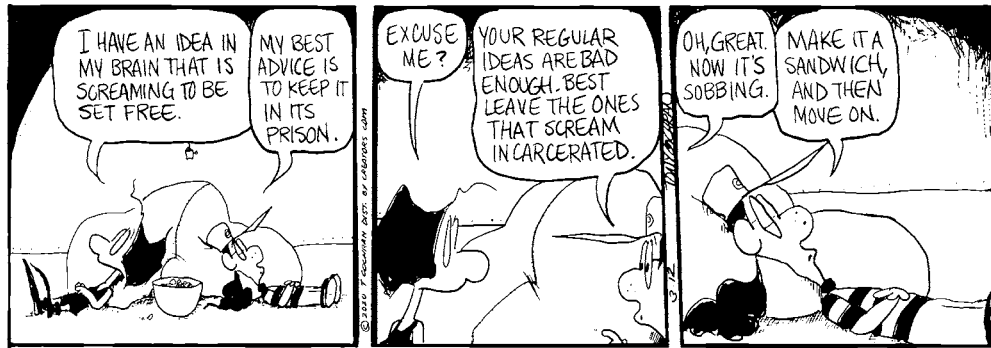
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5:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	The	Ready Jet	Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy	Bones	SportsCenter	Daily Wager	Spotlight	Law & Order:	The First 48	Homestead	
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS 7	Noticias	News	Behind	Mind	Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball	The Blitz	Law & Order:	The First 48	Homestead	
6:PM	News	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Exatlón Estados Unidos (SS)	News	HaYesod	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball	Stars In.	Law & Order:	The First 48	Homestead	
6:30	Wheel		Big Bang	ET		News	House		M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball	Stars Pre.	Law & Order:	The First 48	Homestead	
7:PM	Station 19	Ringo	Last Man Standing	Sheldon	Unicorn	Super	Master	Food -- Delicious	Andy G.	Katy Keene	Big Bang	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball	NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics at Milwaukee Bucks.	Law & Order:	The First 48	Homestead	
7:30			Outmatch	Unicorn		Brooklyn	The Is		Andy G.		Big Bang	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball	NHL Hockey: Florida Panthers at Dallas Stars.	Law & Order:	The First 48	Homestead	
8:PM	Grey's Anatomy	Amor eterno	Deputy (DVS)	(:01) Mom	La Doña (SS)	Will	Light of Southwest	Food -- Delicious	G. Pyle	Legacies	Big Bang	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball		Law & Order:	The First 48	Homestead	
8:30						Indebted			G. Acres		Big Bang	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball		Law & Order:	The First 48	Homestead	
9:PM	Million Little	Sin miedo a la	FOX 24 News at 9	Tommy	Operación Pacífico	Law & Order: SVU	Light of Southwest	African Americans	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball	NBA Basketball: Rockets at Lakers	Law & Order:	The First 48	Homestead	
9:30									Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball		Law & Order:	The First 48	Homestead	
10:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	Zion	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	black-ish	Conan	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball	Postgame	(:03) Chi-cago P.D.	(:02) The First 48	Building Off the Grid	
10:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Words of Hidden	This Old House Hr	Perry Mason	black-ish	Brooklyn	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball	Ariel Helwan's	(:03) Chi-cago P.D.	The First 48	Homestead	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	Contacto	Mod Fam		La Doña (SS)	Seth Meyers	Freedom	Being Independent	Hitchock	black-ish	Brooklyn	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball	NHL Hockey: Panthers at Stars	(:12:03) The Sinner	Live PD: Wanted	Building Off the Grid	
11:30	Nightline	Deportivo	Funny	James Corden	Operación Pacífico	Late-Lilly	Behind	Mannix	Hitchock	black-ish	Brooklyn	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball		(:06) Chi-cago P.D.	60 Days In	Building Off the Grid	
12:AM	Extra	Destilando amor	Two Men	Simpsons	ET	Pawn	Programa	News	Hitchock	black-ish	Brooklyn	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball		(:06) Chi-cago P.D.	60 Days In	Building Off the Grid	
12:30	Mel Robbins	Como dice el dicho	Pawn	Pawn	Programa	News	Inside Ed.	Southwest	Emery	Hitchock	black-ish	Brooklyn	Bones	College Basketball	College Basketball		(:06) Chi-cago P.D.	60 Days In	Building Off the Grid
1:AM	Paid Prg.																		

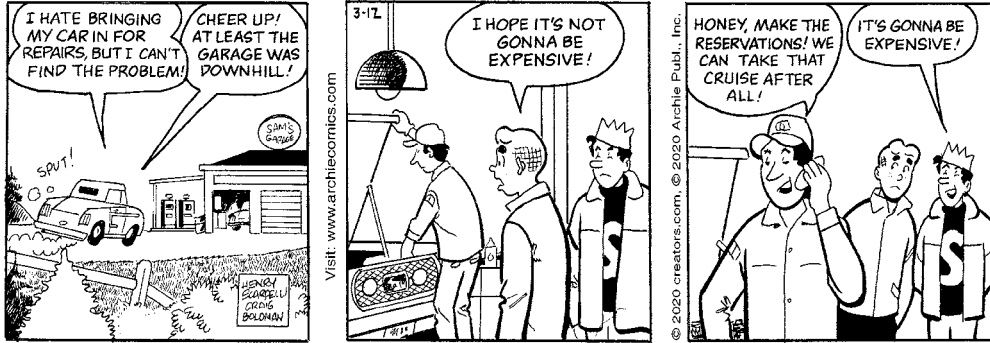
ANDY CAPP



AGNES



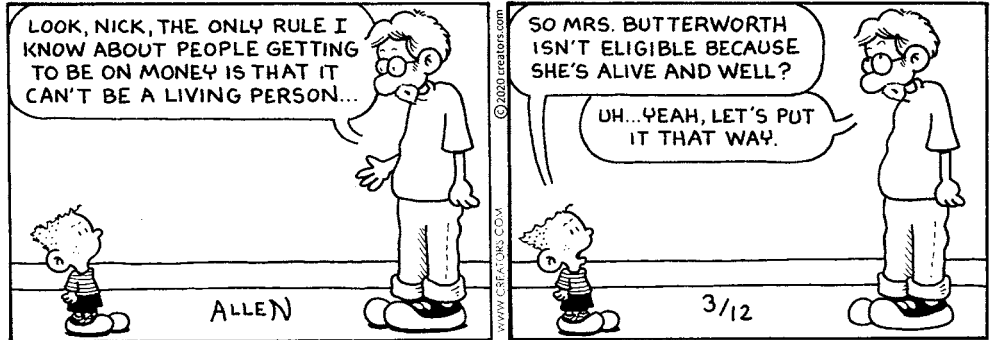
ARCHIE



ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Thursday, March 12, the 72nd day of 2020. There are 294 days left in the year. Today's Highlights in History:

On March 12, 1880, a Chicago jury found John Wayne Gacy Jr. guilty of the murders of 33 men and boys. (The next day, Gacy was sentenced to death; he was executed in May 1994.)

On this date: In 1864, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant assumed command as General-in-Chief of the Union armies in the Civil War.

In 1912, the Girl Scouts of the USA had its beginnings as Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Georgia, founded the first American troop of the Girl Guides.

In 1913, Canberra was officially designated the future capital of Australia.

In 1925, Chinese revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen died in Beijing.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered the first of his 30 radio addresses that came to be known as "fireside chats," telling Americans what was being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman announced what became known as the "Truman Doctrine" to help Greece and Turkey resist Communism.

In 1955, legendary jazz musician Charlie "Bird" Parker died in New York at age 34.

In 1987, the musical play "Les Miserables" opened on Broadway.

In 1993, Janet Reno was sworn in as the first female U.S. attorney general. A three-day blizzard that came to be known as "The Storm of the Century" began inundating the eastern third of the U.S. A series of bombings in Mumbai, India, killed 257 people (the explosions were allegedly masterminded by India's most wanted man, Dawood Ibrahim).

In 1994, the Church of England ordained its first women priests.

In 2003, Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who vanished from her bedroom nine months earlier, was found alive in a Salt Lake City suburb with two drifters, Brian David Mitchell and Wanda Barzee. (Mitchell is serving a life sentence; Barzee was released from prison in Sep-

tember 2018.)

In 2009, disgraced financier Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty in New York to pulling off perhaps the biggest swindle in Wall Street history.

Ten years ago: Two suicide bombers killed 55 people in near simultaneous blasts in Lahore, Pakistan, the fourth attack in a week. Lindsey Vonn capped a historic season with her third straight overall World Cup title in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Five years ago: Two Ferguson, Missouri, police officers were shot and wounded in front of the police department during a protest; U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder denounced the shooter as a "damn punk." NASA launched its Magnetospheric Multiscale spacecraft on a billion-dollar mission to study the explosive give-and-take of the Earth and sun's magnetic fields.

One year ago: More countries, including the entire European Union, grounded the Boeing jetliner involved in two deadly crashes or banned the plane from their airspace; leaving the United States one of the few remaining operators of the Boeing 737 Max 8. Prosecutors said Hollywood stars Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin were charged along with nearly 50 other people in a scheme in which wealthy parents bribed college coaches and other insiders to get their children into some of the most elite schools in the country. (Huffman pleaded guilty to fraud and conspiracy and served 12 days in a federal prison.) With just 17 days to go before Britain's scheduled departure from the European Union, the British Parliament rejected the deal, delivering a blow to Prime Minister Theresa May's authority as leader. (May would step down as Conservative Party leader in June.)

Today's Birthdays: Politician, diplomat and civil rights activist Andrew Young is 88. Actress Barbara Feldon is 87. Former broadcast jour-

nalist Lloyd Dobyns is 84. Actress-singer Liza Minnelli is 74. Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, is 73. Singer-songwriter James Taylor is 72. Former Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., is 72. Rock singer-musician Bill Payne (Little Feat) is 71. Actor Jon Provost (TV: "Lassie") is 70. Author Carl Hiaasen (HY'-ah-sihn) is 67. Rock musician Steve Harris

(Iron Maiden) is 64. Actress Lesley Manville is 64. Actor Jerry Levine is 63. Singer Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five) is 63. Actor Jason Beghe is 60. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 60. Actor Titus Welliver is 58. Former MLB All-Star Darryl Strawberry is 58. Actress Julia Campbell is 57. Actor Jake Weber is 57. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-

Ill., is 52. Actor Aaron Eckhart is 52. CNN reporter Jake Tapper is 51. Rock musician Graham Coxon is 51. Country musician Tommy Bales (Flynnville Train) is 47. Actor Rhys Coiro is 41. Country singer Holly Williams is 39. Actor Samm (cq) Levine is 38. Actress Jaimie Alexander is 36. Actor Tyler Patrick Jones is 26. Actress Kendall

Applegate is 21.

Thought for Today: "A proverb is a short sentence based on long experience." — Miguel de Cervantes, Spanish novelist, dramatist and poet (1547-1616). Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

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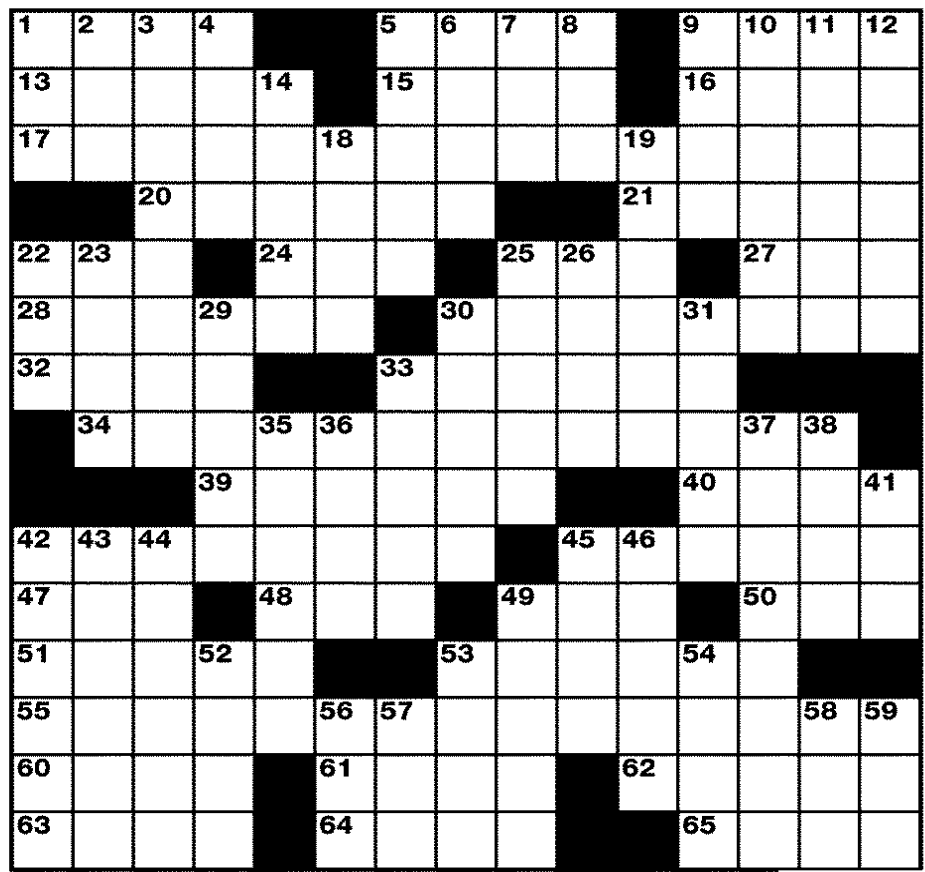
Newsday Crossword

ITALIAN OUTSKIRTS by Pam Klawitter Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

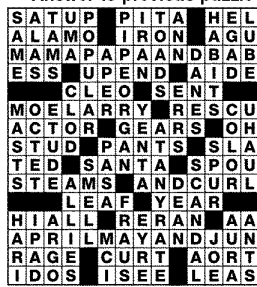
ACROSS

- 1 "Holy cow!"
- 5 Decline to invite
- 9 Start of the last century
- 13 Climber's gear
- 15 Metaphor for confusion
- 16 Throw off
- 17 World of Warcraft, e.g.
- 20 Nonliteral phrases
- 21 Hunter seen at night
- 22 Go fetch
- 24 Low digit
- 25 Tour transport
- 27 Form a lap
- 28 Bowling pin sources
- 30 Sci-fi frighteners
- 32 Zone
- 33 Hip-hopper's top
- 34 Aboriginals
- 39 National Anthem verb
- 40 "Deck the Halls" snippet
- 42 Grade-school gathering
- 45 Church leader
- 47 [Intentional misspelling]
- 48 Prefix for classical
- 49 Stir-fry cooker
- 50 Needing nothing else
- 51 Adult insect
- 53 Zealot
- 55 American Legion member
- 60 Flamenco cheers

- 61 Off-white shade
 - 62 Came to mind
 - 63 Sleeveless top
 - 64 Piracy venues
 - 65 Tot's boo-boo
- DOWN
- 1 Exclamation of frustration
 - 2 Losing line for X
 - 3 Green soup
 - 4 Don't ignore
 - 5 Rueful feeling
 - 6 Motion
 - 7 Commando weapon
 - 8 Founding Father nickname
 - 9 Roman Catholic VIP
 - 10 Patio lounge
 - 11 Walden or Out of Africa
 - 12 PINs, for instance
 - 14 Meanness
 - 18 Londoners' lavs
 - 19 Rumor spreader
 - 22 ABC's a.m. show
 - 23 Deserve
 - 25 Disagreed loudly
 - 26 Nullify
 - 29 Table leg creator
 - 30 In a glum mood
 - 31 Divulges
 - 33 "Are you paying attention?"
 - 35 Strong denial
 - 36 Instinctive feeling
 - 37 Is forced to recant
 - 38 Plumlike fruit
 - 41 Displays on walls
 - 42 Big name in sci-fi
 - 43 Comparative phrase
 - 44 Basic piano practice
 - 45 Corncake
 - 46 Japanese dog breed
 - 49 Choppy waters
 - 52 Central point
 - 53 Feathered talker
 - 54 Sleekly designed, for short
 - 56 Tummy muscles
 - 57 Sushi eggs
 - 58 "Just ___ suspected!"
 - 59 Bom in France



Answer to previous puzzle



3/12/20

NBA suspends season until further notice, over coronavirus

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The NBA has suspended its season "until further notice" after a Utah Jazz player tested positive Wednesday for the coronavirus, a move that came only hours after the majority of the league's owners were leaning toward playing games without fans in arenas.

Now there will be no games at all, at least for the time being. A person with knowledge of the situation said the Jazz player who tested positive was center Rudy Gobert. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither the league nor the team confirmed the test. "The NBA is suspending game play following the conclusion of tonight's schedule of games until further notice," the league said in a statement sent shortly after 9:30 p.m. EDT. "The NBA will use this hiatus to determine next steps for moving forward in regard to the coronavirus pandemic."

The test result, the NBA said, was reported shortly before the scheduled tip-off time for the Utah at Oklahoma City game on Wednesday night was called off. Players were on the floor for warmups and tip-off was moments away when they were told to return to their locker rooms. About 30 minutes later, fans were told the game was postponed "due to unforeseen circumstances."

Those circumstances were the league's worst-case scenario for now — a player testing positive. A second person who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity said the league expects the shutdown to last a minimum of two weeks, but cautioned that timeframe is very fluid.

"It's a very serious time right now," Miami Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I think the league moved appropriately and prudently and we'll all just have to monitor the situation and see where it goes from here."

The Jazz released a statement saying a player — they did not identify Gobert — tested negative earlier Wednesday for flu, strep throat and an upper respiratory infection. That player's symptoms diminished as the day went along, but the decision was made to test for COVID-19 anyway. That test came back with a preliminary positive result.

"The individual is currently in the care of health officials in Oklahoma City," the Jazz said, adding that updates would come as appropriate.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, which declared a pandemic on Wednesday, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

It has been a worldwide issue for several weeks. And now, it has hit the NBA.

"This is crazy," Cleveland forward Tristan Thompson said on Twitter.

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said he was stunned when the news came down, adding that "this is much bigger than basketball."

"This is a global pandemic where people's lives are at stake," Cuban said. "I'm a lot more worried about my kids, and my mom is 82 years old, and talking to her, and telling her to stay in the house, than I am about when we play our next game."

Charlotte Hornets coach James Borrego, speaking before his team's game at Miami, said "these are scary times."

Rapidly evolving times, as well. Around 7 p.m., a person with knowledge of the situation told AP that owners — who met by teleconference Wednesday — were largely in support of a plan to play games in empty arenas on a short-term basis.

About an hour later, the Thunder-Jazz game was halted before tip-off. And about 90 minutes after that, the season was called off, effective when the last whistle was to blow Wednesday night.

That came even earlier than planned:

The last game of the night's six-game slate, New Orleans at Sacramento, was called off as well because one of the referees assigned to work that Pelicans-Kings game, Courtney Kirkland, worked a Utah game on Monday.

"The game was canceled out of an abundance of caution," the NBA said.

There are 259 games, roughly 21% of the schedule, left to play this season — and no one knows if, or when, things will resume.

"We believe in the leadership of the league," Philadelphia 76ers general manager Elton Brand said.

The shutdown is the latest major development in a season filled with unspeakably hard challenges. The league lost as much as \$400 million in revenue after a rift with China was started in October when Houston general manager Daryl Morey tweeted out support of anti-government protesters in Hong Kong. Former NBA Commissioner David Stern died in January, the same month that soon-to-be Hall of Famer Kobe Bryant died in a helicopter crash.

And now, a pandemic — which could also cost the league hundreds of millions in lost revenue, depending on how long it lasts. Cuban said he expected his team to remain in Dallas, rehabbing and working and being ready to return whenever the league re-opens.

"As we've said from the beginning, the health and safety of our fans, employees, players and partners is our top priority and thus we fully support the NBA's decision to postpone games," Orlando Magic

CEO Alex Martins said. "We will continue to stay in contact with the league, and local, state and federal health experts as we closely monitor this public health crisis."

If the regular season ends here, it would be the end of Atlanta guard Vince Carter's 22-year playing career.

And just in case this was it, the Hawks put Carter in with 19.5 seconds left in overtime in what was already clearly going to be a loss to New York.

Carter took an open 3-pointer and made it — the Knicks, aware of the moment, didn't defend him either — and celebrated with Hawks teammates afterward after what may be the final shot of his career.

"A weird, but cool memory," Carter said.

Also shut down: The G League, the NBA's minor league where teams have somewhere between six and nine games left on their 50-game schedules.

The NBA's movement toward empty arenas in the short term came on the same day that the NCAA announced that the men's and women's Division I tournaments would be played without fans — except for a few family members — permitted inside to watch.

"People are clearly taking the measures that they feel they need to take for safety," said Heat guard Duncan Robinson, who played in both the Division I and Division III national championship games during his college days at Michigan and Williams.

Robinson added, "but at the same time the NBA has to protect its players in the league and the fans."

Things were trending toward games in empty arenas for some time, and it was abundantly clear Wednesday morning when the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases told a Congressional committee that he would recommend the NBA not allow fans at games in response to the coronavirus.

Dr. Anthony Fauci was responding to a question asked by Rep. Glenn Grothman, a Wisconsin Republican, "is the NBA underreacting or is the Ivy League overreacting?"

Grothman was referencing how the Ivy League recently canceled its basketball tournaments, instead of having them without fans or keeping the status quo.

"We would recommend that there not be large crowds," Fauci said. "If that means not having any people in the audience when the NBA plays, so be it. But as a public health official, anything that has crowds is something that would give a risk to spread."

That was when the concern was about crowds and containment.

By the close of business Wednesday in the NBA, the concern was so much more.

"This is surreal," Borrego said. "This is reality for us now. It's no longer just on TV somewhere. This is now home."

Mavs avoid 3-game skid with 113-97 win over Nuggets

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle, like his players, heard about the NBA's decision to suspend the season while in the third quarter of their game against the Denver Nuggets.

That ended up being the last game completed in the league Wednesday night, and the Mavericks avoided their first three-game losing streak before the NBA season's suspension "until further notice" after a Utah Jazz player tested positive for the coronavirus.

"Very concerned, but it's not necessarily about basketball. Obviously this is much bigger than basketball," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said.

"This is because of just the league being concerned about the health of fans, players and arena personnel," Carlisle said. "There's going to be more meetings and more talk tomorrow about what the next steps are. There's no timetable."

Boban Marjanovic had 31 points and 17 rebounds, Luka Doncic scored 28 points and the Mavericks won 113-97, which was secondary considering the entire situation.

Nuggets forward Paul Millsap described it as a "scary situation" and said everybody in their locker room was in shock not really knowing what to think.

"Unfortunate events obviously, but I think it's a smart move for the NBA to do this," Millsap said. "The safety of the players and safety of the fans is important, so I think it's the best thing for us to do right now. We'll just wait and see what happens."

Jamal Murray had 25 points to lead Denver, and Will Barton had 23.

Tim Hardaway Jr. had 17 points and Maxi Kleber 15 for the Mavericks, the only team in the league without a three-game losing streak.

Instead of flying to San Antonio as scheduled, the Nuggets were going home Wednesday night.

"We support the league's decision. Obviously putting the players, officials, the fans, the coaches, the staffs' best interest at heart," Denver coach Mike Malone said. "We have to try to get our minds wrapped around what this coronavirus is doing, so we support their decision and we'll wait to hear word on them as to what this means moving forward because honest to God, I have no idea. And I just hope that we can figure this out and get back to playing basketball in a timely manner when it's deemed safe."

Cuban and Carlisle said Mavericks players were told to stay in Dallas. The coach, who is married to an infectious disease doctor, said players were already scheduled to have a day off Thursday, but pointed out that games were suspended, not team activities.

TIP-INS: The 7-foot-4 Marjanovic is from Serbia, as is Denver's 7-foot center Nikola Jokic, a usually high-scoring All-Star from Europe like Doncic, who is from Slovenia. Jokic finished with 14 points and 13 rebounds. Jokic didn't take his first shot until about four minutes into the second quarter, a stepback jumper over Marjanovic. ... Mavs 7-foot-3 post Kristaps Porzingis, who has been recovering from a left knee injury, had a planned night after Tuesday night's game at San Antonio was his fourth in seven days. ... Doncic, his sore right wrist in a wrap, immediately grabbed at his hand and grimaced after a driving dunk in the first half. ...

UP NEXT

Nuggets: Had been scheduled to play six of next seven games on road, including San Antonio on Thursday.

Mavericks: Were staying home, where they had been scheduled to play the Phoenix Suns on Saturday before four road games in a row.

TE Graham references 'next opportunity' amid release report

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Tight end Jimmy Graham has tweeted out a reference to his "next opportunity" amid a report that the Green Bay Packers plan to release him.

ESPN has reported that the Packers will release the five-time Pro Bowl selection Thursday.

"The last two years have certainly been interest-

ing!" Graham tweeted Wednesday. "A lot of memories, friendships and humbling moments that I will carry with me into the next opportunity. Thank you for the support during our exciting run this year toward that ever so elusive ring."

The move would reportedly enable the Packers to create about \$8 million in salary-cap space.

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