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<u>Upcoming Event</u>

Cancellations:

No School for Forsan ISD, Coahoma ISD, Big Spring ISD through March 20

Alive After 5 for March 19 C. Larson

Heritage Museum Annual Meeting March 19

Pints for Polio for March 21

No dates have been set, but will be released as soon as possible.

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

Health Fair for April 4 has been postponed until August 8.

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

April 18

Master the Mountain 5K/10K State Park 9 a.m. Register online at permianbasinevents.com

Classifieds	8-10
Comics	11
News	1 & 3
Obituaries	2
Sports	7 & 12
Nation/State	4-6

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com





City of Big Spring addresses COVID-19

Howard Co. Jail following new visitor restrictions; more community events on hold through April

Herald Staff Report

As the Coronovirus continues to spread and the situation continues to evolve, new closures, vistor limitations and other restrictions continue to come down the pipeline. This is a fluid situation and notices are coming out quickly. Here is a list of the most recent received by the Big Spring Herald. Throughout this situation we will conitue to provide updates in our daily paper and up to date notices on our website.

The City of Big Spring issued the following statement regarding the COVID-19 situation and precautions being implemented across the City and County.

The City of Big Spring is taking precautionary measures to keep residents and City staff as safe as possible as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) will unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, spread to West Texas.

"I want our citizens to know we take this public health threat seriously and are taking responsible measures to keep folks safe," Mayor Shannon Thomason said. "This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and we will remain vigilant as we deal with this challenging issue. It's important that we work together as a community to prevent the spread of this virus.'



TEXAS

The City of Big Spring has taken the following precautions to date:

• Increased the frequency of cleaning City facilities, including deeper cleanings at least once a week and more frequent cleanings of high-traffic facilities like the Senior Center. City maintenance crews are using disinfectant approved by the CDC to prevent the vi-

· Placed hand sanitizer and/or Clorox wipes in bathrooms and common areas in all City facilities.

Shared information from Texas Depart-

public and our employees can do to protect themselves and The City encourages utility customers to pay their bills on-

ment of State Health Services (DSHS) and CDC on what the

line by visiting https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/ bigspringtx), by mail or over the phone.

· City officials are taking the following actions to maintain communication with the public and with local, state and federal authorities: • The City of Big Spring Emergency Management team is

monitoring information from DSHS and CDC and is coordinating with Howard County to keep officials up to date on the latest information.

See COVID-19, Page 3

Delek Fund for Hope donates trees to Keep Big Spring Beautiful, in effort to beautify Big Spring





Delek representaties along with Keep Big Spring Beautiful went throughout Big Spring planting trees last week. The tree planting was part of a beautification project which allowed for trees to be purchased and planted at the VIetnam Memorial, Comanche Trail Park and at Howard College.

By ANNA GUTIERREZ

Staff Writer

On Wednesday, March 11, Keep Big Spring Beautiful (KBSB), employees from Delek, Howard College and the City of Big Spring, along with members of the Big Spring Rotary Club, went to three different locations in Big Spring to plant new trees.

"KBSB was awarded a grant from Delek through their Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee," says Peggy Skiles, KBSB President. "Ten elderica pines went to Howard College, five live oaks went to the Vietnam Memorial, and

See KBSB, Page 3

Hodnetts recognized as Howard County **Outstanding Rancher by HSWCD**

By Judith Tereletsky

HSWCD District Clerk

The Howard Soil and Water Conservation District #243 is presenting the Outstanding Rancher of Howard County to Gaylene and Darrell Hodnett in the near future. The banquet was originally planned for March 23, but with the recent COVID-19 situation, has been rescheduled. A new date will be released as soon as it is confirmed; proposed dates are April 20 or May 18.

The Hodnetts are a hardworking ranching couple in Howard County. Gaylene's family were original settlers in Nolan County and Darrell's family have farmed in Howard County for over 100 years. Married in 1999 the Hodnetts began their dedication to ranching and working tirelessly to protect the natu-Water Conservation District (HSWCD) in Mrs. Tindol's fifth grade Coahoma uled for late April or mid-May. Elementary class and family friends with J.M. Sterling one of the original HSWCD Board of Directors, Darrell

knew the Natural Resource Conserva-



ral resources. Being a Howard Soil & Gaylene and Darrell Hodnett were recently named Howard County Outstanding Rancher by the HSWCD. The couple will be presented poster contest winner when he was with their award during the annual banquet, which has been resched-

> tion Services (NRCS) and HSWCD were equally dedicated to caring for the land. After seeing the successful imple

on neighboring Howard SWCD board member Jimmy Sterling's land,

See **HSWCD**, Page 3

mentation of conservation practices

Angel Grantham



Angel Grantham, 77, of Big Spring, passed away Sunday, March 15, 2020. Graveside services will be 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. to service time at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

She was born Jan. 19, 1943, in Big Spring to Willard "Dick" Denton and Bernice Denton. She married Bud Grantham

June 16, 1960, in Big Spring.

Angel lived her life to serve others. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Bud Grantham of Big Spring; her son, Rodney Grantham and wife, Dena of Big Spring; two daughters, Jami King and husband, Roland of Big Spring, and Lana Follis

and Rob Runnels of LaPorte; seven grandchildren, Jared Stevens and wife, Randi of Baird, Blake Grantham and wife, Rachael of Big Spring, Austin Grantham of Big Spring, Tyler Runnels of LaPorte, Morgan Follis of LaPorte, Chasidy Grantham of Big Spring, and Karmin Castillo and husband, Steven of Big Spring; six great-grandchildren, Charlie Stevens, Landry Stevens, Stokley Stevens, Reid Grantham, Tucker Grantham, and Leonidas Castillo; two sisters, Sonjia Aycock, and Sherry Hernandez; and numerous nieces and nephews. Angel was preceded in death by her parents; a

LOCAL

grandson, Jason Stevens; and three brothers, Dickie Denton, Quinn Denton, and Rexie Denton.

The family suggests memorials to the Alzheimer's Association, at www.alzfnd.org

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

Paid Obituary

Virginia Vela Duron



Virginia Vela Duron, 90, of Big Spring, passed away Friday, March 13, 2020 in San Antonio. Funeral services will be 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

A rosary service will be 7 pm.,

Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

She is survived by her daughter, Melinda Duron Trevino; her son, Cris Duron; nine grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; five great-great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• LORI ANN COKER, 36, of 624 Carylor, was arrested on warrants for driving with invalid license, and failure to appear.

 MICHAEL JAMES REYNA, 24, of 13802 Flairwood, San Antonio, Texas, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana (four ounces to five pounds), and possession of a controlled substance penalty group 2 (one to

The Howard County Sheriff's

Department reported the follow-

Note – Officials with the How-

ard County Jail reported having

84 inmates at the time of this re-

• WILLIS ROYER BAILEY,

18, was arrested by BSPD on

charges of unauthorized use of

a vehicle, possession of a con-

trolled substance penalty group

2 (four to 400 grams), and posses-

sion of marijuana (less than two

• CATRINA NEOMI CALDE-

RON, 32, was arrested by BSPD

on warrants for failure to main-

tain financial responsibility, and

• BILLY JOE CHAVERA,

42, was arrested by BSPD on a

• LORI ANN COKER, 36, was

arrested by BSPD on warrants

for driving with invalid license,

and violating promise to appear.

• LUXIE LYNN EVANS, 18,

was arrested by BSPD on a charge

of possession of a controlled sub-

stance penalty group 2 (four to

driving with invalid license.

charge of public intoxication

ing activity:

ounces).

400 grams).

four grams).

CATRINA NEOMI CALDE-

RON, 32, of 5706 E. Midway Rd., was arrested on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, and driving with invalid

 MARCUS ANTHONY HER-**NANDEZ**, 18, of 1507 E. 17th St., was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana (two to four ounces), possession, purchase, consumption or receipt of cigarettes, e-cigarettes or tobacco to a

minor, two counts of bail jumping and failure to appear, and no drivers license. BURGLARY OF A VEHI-

- **CLE** was reported at 2nd/3rd CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was
- reported in the 3300 block of Fordham Ave.
- ACCIDENT MINOR was reported at 7th and Nolan.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther

Sheriff

• MARCUS A. HERNANDEZ,

22, was arrested by BSPS on charges of possession of marijuana (two to four ounces), possession, purchase, consumption or receipt of cigarettes, e-cigarettes or tobacco products by a minor, and warrants for two counts of bail jumping and failure to appear, and no driver's license.

 ANGEL ENRIQUE HINOJO-**SA**, 21, was arrested by DPS on a charge of evading arrest or detention, and a warrant for bond forfeiture-possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 (one to four grams).

 DAWSON HANS MC-**CURDY**, 21, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **KELLY PITTMAN**, 32, was arrested by BSPD on warrants for parent contributing to the non-attendence of a minor, and no driver's license.

 MICHAEL JAMES REYNE, 24, was arrested by BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana (four ounces to five pounds), and possession of a controlled substance penalty group 2 (one to

 BIANCA NICOLE VALEN-CIA, 29, was arrested by DPS on warrants for driving with invalid license, motion to adjudicate-manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance penalty group 1 (less than one gram), criminal mischief (\$100 to \$750), bailing jumping and failure to appear, and a charge of evading

 BRANDY ANN WINTERS, 29, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury to a family member, and a charge of possession of marijuana (less than two ounces).

 REBECCA DAWN WIN-**TERS,** 62, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxica-

ANTHONY JOSEPH YANEZ, 28, was arrested by BSPD on warrants for no driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, speeding 10 percent or more above posted speed limit, violating promise to appear, and disorderly conductfighting with another.

four grams).

arrest or detention.

Take Note

 Big Spring High School will be recognizing the football team, band members and cheerleaders who participated in the first game at Memorial Stadium in the fall of 1956. The recognition will take place Friday, Sept. 4, 2020 at Memorial Stadium. If you are a member of these groups, or know of a member of these groups, and would like to participate, please contact Edward Slate at 432-270-1995, or at 813 Vista Ridge, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

• POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation help to anyone, and if you're 50 and older, and can't afford a tax preparation service, AARP Tax-Aide was made especially for you. They understand that retirement or other life changes may mean your taxes are a little more complicated now.

1608 E. 4TH CONTINUE THE TRADITION! Own a piece of history with Big Spring's oldest cafe. Dell's Cafe is a landmark in Howard Count that serves breakfast and lunch Monday thru Friday. This is a turn key restaurant that includes the attached parking lot next door. After 26 keys over. Will entertain owner finance options. Minerals are leased and reserved.



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Support Groups

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.
- Caregivers Support Group, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are held at the Senior Citizens Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. These meetings are open for any caregiver, whether medical professional or family member. For more information, please call Becky Letz at 267-1628.
- Al-anon family group meets at 8 p.m. at 615 Settles.
- · DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible?

There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. The next session beging Sept. 3, 2019. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

WEDNESDAY

 RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 432-517-9207 for more information.

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

 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.

www.BigSpringHerald.com

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MEMBER 2020

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Continued from Page 1

Darrell and Gaylene were inspired to start transforming their own land. The couple met with NRCS and utilized the Beginning Rancher Environmental Quality Incentive Program to begin implementing a conservation plan. Over the past four years the couple has had several EQIP contracts and were able to implement mechanical and chemical brush management, range planting, implement a livestock watering system, and install firebreaks. The couple still works closely with HSWCD board members and the NRCS to further improve their

With fields averaging over 70 percent canopy of mesquite trees, competition between the invasive species and desired forage species was the highest priority. In 2015, Darrell and Gaylene started with clearing the mesquite trees. Both worked countless hours on the excavator to remove the thick canopy of mesquite. Completing the work themselves, they were able to take time ensuring they completely removed the bud zone from the soil to reduce resprouting. Any re-sprouting is treated chemically by hand. Through the EQIP program the couple has cleared over 700 acres in the past four years.

Through this hard work over the past four years Gaylene and Darrell have completely transformed the land that has been in their family for over 100 years. Not only has the forage production doubled and their cattle operation been improving, they have seen an abundance of wildlife roaming the land that was not there before. Pronghorn antelope now utilize the open areas and turkey have returned to the area. The couple have seen an increase in dove, quail, whitetail deer and other critters throughout the property as well. What once was a thick canopy of mesquite and prickly pear where no living creature was able to walk through, is now open areas full of diverse forage production and wildlife.

After completing the mechanical brush management, the Hodnett's already bad prickly pear problem became worse. Starting with field's averaging over 50 percent prickly pear canopy, the prickly pear was spread throughout the field during the process of removing mesquite. To combat this problem, Darrell and Gaylene utilized aerial chemical application. They worked closely with NRCS to ensure the 600 acres they sprayed in March of 2019 would receive a successful kill. They plan to use the same careful planning to spray more acres in the future. Gaylene and Darrell used the disturbed ground as an opportunity to reseed the soil with more productive and more diverse forage species. Darrell utilized seeding the grass species as he raked the brush to ensure the ground was freshly disturbed. The Hodnetts again utilized the EQIP program, the NRCS and the Howard SWCD to put together and order a seed mix specific to their needs. The couple utilized native grasses, like sideoats grama, plains bristlegrass, and green sprangletop, as well as, introduced grasses like Kleingrass and Wilman's lovegrass. This method resulted in successful, diverse grass stands on over 600 acres. To ensure the grass stands remain healthy, they implement a rotational grazing program and monitor grass heights closely.

Another challenge the Hodnetts faced was unreliable livestock water. Even though the diversions Darrell's grandfather put on the property were still working, lack of rainfall was causing an existing stock tank to go dry and Darrell's new wells were too salty for cattle to utilize. The couple had one good well in an eastern pasture and utilized the EQIP program to add a water storage facility, multiple troughs, and a water line to transport it to the eastern side of the ranch. Over two miles of water line were placed and troughs with wildlife escape ramps were put in. In this process Gaylene and Darrell not only created a reliable source of water for their cattle, they also improved the grazing distribution as well. Placing multiple sources of water through the fields allows cattle to graze more acres and utilize more of the available forage. They plan to add more water in the future to even further improve the grazing distribution.

Darrell and Gaylene started running cattle on

the property in 2010. Since then the operation has evolved and they are now members of the American Aukaushi Association. They have begun running Aukaushi bulls with angus and red angus cows, and they have even started a herd of strictly the Aukaushi breed. Just a two-person team, Darrell and Gaylene work and care for the cattle mostly by themselves. The couple has started to extend their operation by leasing land through Borden and Scurry County. Sticking to rotational grazing, the couple monitors the height of key grass species to determine when to rotate the herd. The couple is careful not to overstock or overgraze knowing that deferments of pastures and a balanced stocking rate are key to preserving all the work they have accomplished. With drought being a big concern in West Texas, the expansion of their operation and improvements to their land have allowed them to use more flexible stocking rates and have a drought contingency plan in place. Darrell and Gaylene prioritize conservation and want to continue to preserve the land for generations to come.

With history of wildfires throughout the county, Darrell and Gaylene have taken steps to protect their property from wildfire by implementing a firebreak around every field. In return, it also helps protect his neighbor's land. The Hodnetts are also taking advantage of the windbreak tree program offered by Howard SWCD. Having grown up in the little community of Vincent, Darrell takes an active part in the community. He is a member of the Vincent Baptist Church and helps with upkeep on the property. He also volunteers and takes care of the Vincent Cemetery. This coming year the Hodnetts will be helping with the Combat Marine Outdoors Association, which provide outdoor adventure opportunities for wounded veterans.

Although Darrell credits the success of their conservation practices to his wife Gaylene, it is very evident of the dedication both have to the land. It is with great pride that the Howard Soil and Water Conservation District #243 recognizes Gaylene and Darrel Hodnett as Outstanding Conservation Ranchers of 2020.

Continued from Page 1

- Updating public information messaging using guidance from local, state and national health authorities.
- Communicating with officials from neighboring cities and counties, local hospitals and clinics, and Big Spring ISD, Coahoma ISD, Forsan ISD and How-
- The Howard County Sheriff's Office/ Jail issued the following release: Effective immediately, by order of the Texas Jail Commission all visitation of inmates has been suspended. Since we have the video visitation system we called the Jail Commission to see if we were exempt, and we are not because it requires persons to come into the building to visit. There is no end date on the suspension, we will keep you updated as things change.
- The Howard County Soil Water Conservation District Annual Conservation Award Banquet has been postponed due to recent CDC guidelines regarding the coronovirus. According to representatives, the annual banquet is being moved to either April 20 or May 18. More information will be issued as it
- Due to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, in an effort to keep our community and staff healthy and safe as possible, the Big Spring Herald office will be closed to the public beginning March 17 for the next four weeks.

During this time no FedEx packages will be accepted to ship out.

The office will still operate for normal business hours 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Payments, subscriptions, and other business will still be conducted by phone. For those needing to make a payment, place an Ad, renew a subscription, or report a concern, please call 432-263-7331. Payment can also be mailed to P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721. Questions can also be emailed to publisher@ bigspringherald.com.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and we appreciate your patience with us while we all get through this together.

During this time the newspaper will continue to be produced and delivered per normal routine; To keep up with local updates visit our website www. bigspringherald.com.

 Howard College issued the following statement regarding suspension of activities, closure of Howard Cottage and an update regarding online class In response to the guidance of the White House, effective immediately, How-

ard College has transitioned to a "work from home" status and all campuses

will be closed until March 30, 2020. Our goal remains to help students successfully finish this spring semester following the same academic calendar. Please see details below regarding specific programs, services and schedules: The majority of face-to-face courses are being converted to an online format

and will resume March 23rd.

Faculty will communicate changes with their students.

Currently, we have some Health Professions programs that are underway.

Health Professions program directors will be communicating with their students concerning changes in format.

Beginning the week of March 30th, we will have face-to-face delivery begin in some instances. Faculty will communicate any changes in format with

The Harold Davis Fitness Center on the Big Spring campus will be closed beginning Tuesday, March 17th and re-open on March 30th.

Howard Cottage will be closed beginning Wednesday, March 18th. The Cot-

tage Director will be communicating directly with parents. All campus events and student activities will be postponed and/or canceled up to our graduation and pinning ceremonies. We are striving to keep those

Spring sports (competitions, practices, etc.) have been cancelled by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association has cancelled all rodeos for eight weeks. This in-

cludes the Hawk Rodeo scheduled for April 16th – 18th. For students who have returned to the residence halls on the Big Spring and SWCD campuses, we are working with them and their families individually

We will make sure students on campus have supervision and access to meals Students who have not returned to the residence halls on the Big Spring and SWCD campus are encouraged not to return to the residence halls until March 29th. Should students need access to their personal belongings prior to the 29th, they should contact student services to make arrangements.

Security will continue to be in operation throughout this time period.

We are continuing to follow recommendations from state and federal authorities and have a COVID-19 response team that will be meeting daily. We will continue to release updates as new information is available. We understand that this is a trying time for our students, families, faculty, and staff and we are committed to responding with calm, purposeful action during the days

All updates are being posted on the college website at www.howardcollege.edu in a date/time order. Please continue to check our website for ongoing information. We appreciate your support during this difficult time. If you need further information or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

 Lenton Luncheons that were taking place weekly have also been cancelled:

Taylor Todd, a local pastor with First Presbyterian Church in Big Spring announced: Our ministerial association has decided to cancel the rest of our Lenten luncheons.

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\$1.00 Off Adults 50¢ Off Children **Sunday Only** 11-3 Buffet or Any Entree \$9.00 or above 1 Coupon Per Person

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Isidoro T. Galan, 90, died Friday. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Charles Ogle, 73, of Spring, Saturday, March 14, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Continued from Page 1

four Chinese pistachio and four cedar elms were plants in Comanche Trail "We were meeting about other things with KBSB and talking about different

donations and what they could do with that money," states Jessica Rivera, Executive Assistant to the Plant Manager and Chairperson for Delek Fund for Hope. "We decided to donate to help beautify Big Spring and knew that KBSB would be the group to help us with that. We let KBSB pick where the money would be best used, and they picked the trees and where they would be planted. We're glad they picked areas that get a lot of visitors and exposure." About the trees which were planted at Howard College, Dr. Cheryl Sparks,

President said, "This is a special day. I was just telling these students that some day they can come back and they can point to this tree and see how big it's gotten and know that you were a part of this. We really appreciate this."

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



Hull's Meat Company Meat Processing and Market

Stocks lose 8% on Wall Street as businesses shut doors

By STAN CHOE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks lost 8% in morning trading on Wall Street Monday as huge swaths of the economy come closer to shutting down due to the coronavirus outbreak, from airlines to restaurants. Emergency actions taken by the Federal Reserve late Sunday to prop up the economy and get financial markets running smoothly again may have raised fears even further, some investors said.

The S&P 500 lost more than 7% at the open, triggering a 15-minute halt to trading, and losses deepened after trading resumed. The selling was just as aggressive around the world. European stocks and crude oil were down 6% or more. The world's brightest spot may have been Japan, where the central bank announced more stimulus for the economy, and stocks still lost 2.5%.

The spreading coronavirus is causing businesses around the world to shut their doors, which is draining away revenue. That has economists slashing their expectations for upcoming months, and JPMorgan Chase says the U.S. economy may shrink at a 2% annual rate this quarter and 3% in the April-through-June quarter. To many investors, that meets the definition of a recession, and the question is how long it will last.

The best-case scenario for many investors now is that the economic shock will be steep but short, with growth recovering later this year as stores and businesses open back up. Pessimists, though, are preparing for a longer haul.

Strategists at Goldman Sachs say the S&P 500 could drop as low as 2,000 in the middle of the year, which would be a 41% drop from its record set just a month ago. Goldman expects the index to rally back to 3,200 at year end.

American Airlines and United Airlines both announced steep cutbacks to flights over the weekend as customers cancel trips and the U.S. government restricts travel. Other travel companies have also seen steep drops in demand from customers.

Restaurants, movie theaters and other businesses that depend on drawing crowds appear to be next to get squeezed. Several states and the country's largest city are ordering restaurants to close their doors to dine-in customers and do only takeout and delivery.

The Federal Reserve has been trying to do what it can to help the economy, and over the weekend it slashed short-term interest rates back to their record low of nearly zero.

It also said it also will buy at least \$500 billion of Treasury securities and \$200 billion of mortgage-backed securities to help calm the Treasury market, which is a bedrock for the world's financial system and influences stock and bond prices around the world. Trading in the market began to get snarled last week, with traders saying they saw disconcertingly large gaps in prices offered by buyers and sellers.

"Despite whipping out the big guns," the Fed's action is "falling short of being the decisive backstop for markets," said Vishnu Varathan of Mizuho Bank in a report. "Markets might have perceived the Fed's response as panic, feeding into its own fears." The yield on the 10-year Treasury slid to 0.83%

from 0.95% late Friday, a sign that investors are flocking into investments seen as safe.

The Fed action came as major economies expanded travel curbs and closed more public facilities, raising the cost of efforts to contain the outbreak that has infected nearly 170,000 people worldwide. China, where the coronavirus emerged in December, accounts for about half of those, but a dozen other countries have more than 1,000 cases each. Japan's central bank similarly expanded asset

purchases to inject money into the economy and promised no-interest loans to help companies cope with the crisis. The Bank of Japan also announced plans to pro-

vide up to 8 trillion yen (\$75 billion) in no-interest, one-year loans to companies that face cash crunch-

The measures came on top of stimulus from other major authorities, including the European Central Bank and the Bank of England last week.

The S&P 500 fell 8.3%, as of 10:35 a.m. Eastern time. It had been down as much as 11.4% earlier in the morning, and it has lost 26.3% since setting its record Feb. 19.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 2,027 points, or 8.7%, to 21,163, and the Nasdaq was down 8.2%.

Volatility appears to be the new normal follow-

ing a dizzying week in which the Dow twice fell

by more than 2,000 points and also record its big-

gest point gain ever -1,985 points on Friday. Last week's drops also confirmed the end of the longestever bull market on Wall Street, which emerged from the financial crisis and ran for nearly 11 years. The leaders of the Group of Seven developed democracies will hold a call on Monday. European finance ministers are also discussing ways to help the economy keep going through the disruption

plans, including guarantees for businesses and even individuals' salaries. For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, and those with mild illness recover in about two weeks. But severe illness including pneumonia can occur, especially in the elderly and people with existing health problems, and recovery could

as some countries in the region unveil stimulus

Experts expect the disruptions to travel and even to daily life to last for weeks, possibly months.

take six weeks in such cases.

Many investors expect markets to remain volatile until the number of new infections stops accelerating. They're hopeful that big spending programs from the U.S. government can help carry the economy in the meanwhile.

AP Business Writer Joe McDonald contributed

Virus seizes markets and it's no longer business as usual MANUFACTURING: PSA Group, ed by COVID-19. The Gap cut sto

By The Associated Press

Global markets and businesses big and small opened the week to a landscape seemingly altered by the coronavirus pandemic. A host of retail chains have shut their doors or diminished hours of business. Banks are taking steps to keep cash on hand, lots of it. Markets in Asia, Europe and the U.S. are plunging. Following is a quick look at how the outbreak is impacting the financial and business sector, as well as millions of workers and customers. FINANCE: The biggest banks in

the U.S. moved in unison to conserve cash through the first half of the year. The Financial Services Forum, which represents Bank of America, Bank of New York Mellon, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, State Street, and Wells Fargo, said members would suspend stock buybacks for first quarter and the second quarter due to the virus outbreak. In a prepared statement, the group said the decision "is consistent with our collective objective to use our significant capital and liquidity to provide maximum support to individuals, small businesses, and the broader economy through lending and other important services." The financial sector is among the hardest hit Monday. Shares of Citigroup, Bank of America and JPMorgan plunged as billions in bank valuation evaporated. Citigroup, down 17%, led the way.

The Fed on Sunday made an emergency cut to its key interest rate,

to a range between zero and 0.25%. The central bank said it would stay there until it feels confident the economy can survive a near-shutdown of activity in the United States.

MARKETS: Global stock markets are plunging as airlines cut service and public facing companies shut their doors. Stocks are down 9% after trading resumed on Wall Street following a temporary halt Monday morning. A precipitous decline at the open bell triggered circuit breakers meant to halt panic selling. Markets appear to have stabilized, though the are down by similar percentages around the world.

Emergency actions taken by the Federal Reserve late Sunday to prop up the economy and get financial markets running smoothly again may have raised fears even further, some investors said. The Fed on Sunday cut its key interest rate to near zero. European markets were also down about 10%. The price of crude oil also dropped about 10% . Bond prices soared as investors sought safety.

ENERGY DRAIN: The price for a barrel of U.S. crude plunged below \$30 per barrel Monday. Airlines are slashing capacity, factories are shutting down and people are canceling vacations. That all translates into cratering energy demand. Brent crude lost \$3.80, or 11%, to \$30.05 per barrel in London on Monday. Benchmark U.S. crude tumbled \$2.73, or 8.5%, to \$29.00 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

whose brands include Peugeot and Citroen, is closing its factories in Europe until March 27 because of the virus. The French automaker said Monday that along with severe illnesses close to its production sites, it decided to close the factories because of supply chain disruptions and "the sudden decline in the automobile markets." The company said the shutdowns would be staggered beginning Monday in Madrid and France's Mulhouse, and continue to other factories in France and Spain.

SUPPLY-DEMAND SHOCKWAVE: A surge of new orders is putting Amazon.com operations under significant pressure. The company told members who are used to two-day shipping to expect that delivery window to grow as millions of people line pantry and storage room shelves with food and supplies. Amazon is struggling to keep items like toilet paper and cleaning solutions in stock. It now says to expect delivery times to at least double. The same supply and demand shockwaves are hitting tech and toy companies, manufacturers and retailers alike.

SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED: Shopping binges are out, social distancing is in. Nike, Patagonia, REI, Urban Outfitters and American Girl have closed the doors on their retail locations. Columbia Sportswear joined the list Monday, shuttering its North American stores until at least March 27. The company is offering "catastrophic paid leave" to employees most affected by COVID-19. The Gap cut store hours in the U.S. and Canada and following government guidance for fur-

ther action. TABLE FOR NONE: On Monday, the governors of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey essentially placed a curfew on bars and restaurants. The three Northeastern states ordered bars, restaurants and movie theaters closed to the public by 8 p.m. Essential businesses like supermarkets and gas stations will be able to stay open after 8 p.m. Take-out and delivery orders from restaurants are

not banned. A number of states, California, Ohio, Massachusetts, Washington and Illinois among them, previously ordered restaurants, cafes and bars, to close. National chains are trying to stay ahead. Starbucks is announcing it will fill only to-go orders for at least the next two weeks in the U.S. and Canada. The Seattle brewer completely closed company-owned stores in what were crowded areas such as malls and university campuses. Stores in communities with high clusters of COVID-19 cases will close or reduce hours. There are also confrontations between local governments and some restaurants that have ignored orders to close or reduce capacity. The economic damage to restaurants has already been immense. BTIG analyst Peter Saleh said restaurant sales plunged between 50% and 90% in San Francisco and Seattle. Fast food sales fell 20% to 30% in New York City over the last week.



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District 3 Large Item Pickup

By ANNA GUTIERREZ

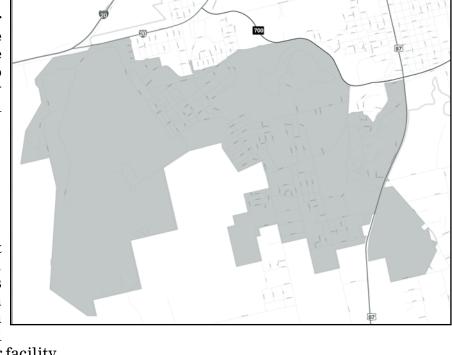
Staff Writer

If you live in District 3, now is your chance to get those unwanted large items taken away. City trucks will be going around your neighborhood to pick up all those things you usually have to take to the city dump. What will the city pick up?

Appliances

- Brush, tree limbs and cuttings
- Furniture
- Lumber
- Mattresses
- Scrap metal
- Items that cannot be dropped off at

the city dump will not be picked up. This includes any automotive parts or products, chemicals and petroleum products, demolition and construction debris, paint or tires. Those items will still have to be disposed of at the proper facility.



"This is a service that the City of Big Spring can offer to the citizens and we encourage the community to take advantage of it," Mayor Shannon Thomason said. "This is a great service and one that I myself have used in the past."

To get approved items picked-up, make sure to have them out on the curb in front of your house by 7 a.m. If you are unsure of which district you live in, check out the map on the city website at http://www.mybigspring. com/616/LargeBulk-Item-Pickup. You can find district maps on the right side of the page.

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

14-year-old pursues aerospace degree at Texas A&M University

<u>By MEGAN RODRIGUEZ</u>

The Bryan-College Station Eagle

BRYAN, Texas (AP) — Jocelyn Comstock writes down her 14-year old son Eric's early childhood accomplishments — from counting to 100 in English and Spanish when he was 2, to understanding calculus concepts when he "He was just constantly hungry for learning,"

she said. "It was like he needed it. He would just absorb it, and it would be in and he would want the next thing."

Eric is an aerospace engineering major with minors in chemistry and mathematics at Texas A&M University and recently was accepted into the engineering honors program. He completed his math minor through dual credit before he became a full-time student last semester. Originally, he was a chemistry major, but while he excelled in his coursework, he decided he was "slightly more passionate about aerospace."

He will receive his bachelor's degree in 2022 and is looking to pursue a fast track program in which he would earn a master's degree by the time he is 18. He plans to study at MIT for a doctorate in aerospace engineering so he can become an entrepreneur in the aerospace industry.

For the past two years, Eric has woken up at 3:30 a.m. He studies before school and schedules his classes for the mornings. He said he after about 6 p.m.

"It is a lot of work," Eric said, "but the work is worth it."

Other students are typically surprised but

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kind and accepting of his age, Eric said. But the difference in his schedule vs. those of his peers can present a challenge when meeting up on group projects. His journey toward college level coursework

began when most students are in kindergarten. Jocelyn Comstock said they had approached numerous colleges and universities since Eric was 5, but none were more welcoming and supportive than A&M.

"Everybody's been really nice," she told The Bryan-College Station Eagle. "That's something that really attracted us to A&M." But Jocelyn Comstock said ensuring Eric

moved at a pace that was right for him was a balancing act, as she and his father tried to avoid putting an inordinate amount of stress on their son. So before Eric was graded on a college-level course, he audited classes for fun when he was 7 at the University of Houston, including a mathematical analysis course and then junior-level biochemistry.

When he was 9, Eric took his first college course for credit at Lone Star College-Montgomery near their hometown of Conroe. He started with a trigonometry course, which he'd already taught himself most of, and then later that year he was enrolled in calculus.

Eventually, Eric took every math and chemistry course Lone Star College-Montgomery offered, so he began upper-level mathematics through A&M and earned his minor in May 2019. That same month, he completed his high school credits and graduated through home school — which is where he received most of his K-12 education, since other schools he tried did not allow him to work on courses more than a couple years ahead of the normal curriculum.

Each year, Jocelyn Comstock said, she asks Eric how he's feeling about his education and if he would like to take a year off, but each year prefers not to have anything on his schedule he says he's happy and continues to take on more challenging courses.

> "We've never looked at his schooling as a competition," Jocelyn Comstock said. "It has always been an attempt to give him what he needs when he needs it."

> Last semester, Eric was enrolled in an upper-level physical chemistry course taught by A&M chemistry professor Jaan Laane. The challenging, heavily mathematical class is often considered "boot camp for chemists," Laane said.

> Eric is the youngest person Laane has ever taught. The professor said he has met many highly intelligent students throughout his 52

year career, with Eric falling within a group of about 10 people who struck him as particularly brilliant.

In his free time, Eric Comstock is reading The Caves of Steel - a science fiction novel from the 1950s written by one of his favorite authors, the late Isaac Asimov. He also enjoys watching the 1990s and 2000s television series Stargate SG-1.

But Eric especially enjoys high-powered rocketry. He holds a Tripoli Rocketry Association, Inc. certification and has flown a level two high-powered rocket.

He is currently building a rocket from scratch — meaning it was not a kit from a store which he said should be able to break the sound barrier. It's something he plans to fly in the next couple months, once he 3-D prints the nose cone he designed.

While most of Eric's focus is on his academic career right now, he said he hopes to be a part of the university Sounding Rocketry Team

The son of software designer father Eric Steven Comstock and a former programmer and analyst mother, Eric said he draws inspiration from his parents because of their intelligence, compassion and support. His late maternal grandmother, he said, is also someone he looks up to, remembering her story of rising out of poverty to better her life through higher education.

"I'm really proud of the kind, empathetic and compassionate person that Eric has become," Jocelyn Comstock said.

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AP Exclusive: Coronavirus vaccine test opens with 1st doses

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and CARLA K. **JOHNSON**

AP Medical Writers

SEATTLE (AP) — U.S. researchers gave the first shots in a first test of an experimental coronavirus vaccine Monday, leading off a worldwide hunt for protection even as the pandemic surges.

With careful jabs in the arms of four healthy volunteers, scientists at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Research Institute in Seattle began an anxiously awaited first-stage study of a potential COVID-19 vaccine developed in record time after the new virus exploded out of China and fanned out across the globe.

"We're team coronavirus now," Kaiser Permanente study leader Dr. Lisa Jackson said on the eve of the experiment. "Everyone wants to do what they can in this emergency."

The Associated Press observed as the study's first participant, an operations manager at a small tech company, received the injection in an exam room.

"We all feel so helpless. This is an amazing opportunity for me to do something," Jennifer Haller, 43, of Seattle said before getting vaccinated. Her two teenagers "think it's cool" that she's taking part in the study.

After the injection, she left the exam room with a big smile: "I'm feeling great."

Three others were next in line for a test that will ultimately give 45 volunteers two doses, a month

Neal Browning, 46, of Bothell, Washington, is a Microsoft network engineer who says his young daughters are proud he volunteered.

"Every parent wants their children to look up to them," he said. But he's told them not to brag to their friends. "It's other people, too. It's not just Dad out there."

Monday's milestone marked just the beginning of a series of studies in people needed to prove whether the shots are safe and could work. Even if the research goes well, a vaccine would not be available for widespread use for 12 to 18 months, said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

At a news conference, President Donald Trump

praised how quickly the research had progressed. Fauci noted that 65 days have passed since Chinese scientists shared the virus' genetic sequence. He said he believed that was a record for developing a vaccine to test.

This vaccine candidate, code-named mRNA-1273, was developed by the NIH and Massachusetts-based biotechnology company Moderna Inc. There's no chance participants could get infected because the shots do not contain the coronavirus itself. It's not the only potential vaccine in the pipe-

line. Dozens of research groups around the world are racing to create a vaccine against COVID-19. Another candidate, made by Inovio Pharmaceuticals, is expected to begin its own safety study next month in the U.S., China and South Korea. The Seattle experiment got underway days after

the World Health Organization declared the new virus outbreak a pandemic because of its rapid global spread, which has infected more than 169,000 people and killed more than 6,500. COVID-19 has upended the world's social and eco-

nomic fabric since China first identified the virus in January, with broad regions shuttering schools and businesses, restricting travel, canceling entertainment and sporting events, and encouraging people to stay away from each other. Starting what scientists call a first-in-humans study is a momentous occasion for scientists, but

Jackson described her team's mood as "subdued." They've been working around-the-clock readying the research in a part of the U.S. struck early and hard by the virus. Still, "going from not even knowing that this vi-

rus was out there ... to have any vaccine" in testing in about two months is unprecedented, Jackson told the AP.

Some of the study's carefully chosen healthy volunteers, ages 18 to 55, will get higher dosages than others to test how strong the inoculations should be. Scientists will check for any side effects and draw blood samples to test if the vaccine is revving up the immune system, looking for encouraging clues like the NIH earlier found in vaccinated mice.

"We don't know whether this vaccine will induce an immune response or whether it will be safe. That's why we're doing a trial," Jackson stressed "It's not at the stage where it would be possible or prudent to give it to the general population."

Most of the vaccine research under way globally targets a protein aptly named "spike" that studs the surface of the new coronavirus and lets it invade human cells. Block that protein and people cannot get infected.

Researchers at the NIH copied the section of the virus' genetic code that contains the instructions for cells to create the spike protein. Moderna encased that "messenger RNA" into a vaccine.

The idea: The body will become a mini-factory. producing some harmless spike protein. When the immune system spots the foreign protein, it will make antibodies to attack — and be primed to react quickly if the person later encounters the real

That's a much faster way of producing a vaccine than the traditional approach of growing virus in the lab and preparing shots from either killed or weakened versions of it.

But because vaccines are given to millions of healthy people, it takes time to test them in large enough numbers to spot an uncommon side effect cautioned Dr. Nelson Michael of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, which is developing a different vaccine candidate.

"The science can go very quickly but, first, do no harm, right?" he told reporters last week.

The Seattle research institute is part of a government network that tests all kinds of vaccines and was chosen for the coronavirus vaccine study be fore COVID-19 began spreading widely in Washing

Kaiser Permanente screened dozens of people looking for those who have no chronic health prob lems and are not currently sick. Researchers are not checking whether would-be volunteers already had a mild case of COVID-19 before deciding if they are eligible.

If some did, scientists will be able to tell by the number of antibodies in their pre-vaccination blood test and account for that, Jackson said. Participants will be paid \$100 for each clinic visit in the study.

US tells older people to stay home, all ages to avoid crowds

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Monday urged all older Americans to stay home and everyone to avoid crowds and eating out at restaurants as part of sweeping guidelines meant to combat an expected surge of corona-President Donald Trump, in a marked shift in tone about a crisis that has

enveloped the globe, for the first time acknowledged that the pandemic may send the U.S. economy into a recession and suggested that the nation may be dealing with the virus until "July or August." The guidelines, which would rewrite the norms of American society for half

a month, were released as the U.S. government tried to blunt the impact of an expected surge of coronavirus cases, racing to bolster testing and aid even as the financial markets tumbled. Among the new recommendations: Over the next 15 days, Americans should

not gather in groups of more than 10 people, schooling should be at home and discretionary travel and social visits should be avoided. If anyone in a household tests positive for the virus, everyone who lives there should stay home. The administration did not define what an an older American was in terms of the recommendation to stay home. "We will rally together as one nation and we will defeat the virus," Trump

said. "We can turn the corner and turn it quickly."

The president, in an appearance in the White House briefing room, when

asked when the pandemic would subside, said that "if we do a really good job" the crisis could pass by the height of summer. That was a far less optimistic take than in his earlier predictions that it could be over within weeks. He also acknowledged that the virus, which has battered the global markets, may send the nation's economy into a recession, a potentially brutal blow for an incumbent in an election year. Trump was unusually somber about the matter after playing it down for

weeks. He acknowledged the pandemic was "not under control" in the United States or globally but said he did not yet plan to call for domestic travel restrictions and said he was reluctant to advise states to cancel the primary elections Without providing details, he said "we're going to back the airlines 100%," a

note of reassurance for an industry crippled by travel bans and fears of spread-

The expansive guidelines were issued on a day of fast-moving developments in a capital resplendent in cherry blossoms but awash in anxiety.

Congress convened to try to finish an aid package and consider another one behind it. The Supreme Court postponed oral arguments for the first time in over a century. And the U.S. surgeon general said that the United States is about where Italy was two weeks ago in the coronavirus struggle, a sign that infections are expected to rise.

"When you look at the projections, there's every chance that we could be Italy," Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams told Fox News. Yet he said the U.S. has opportunities to mitigate the pandemic. Two weeks ago, Italy had 1,700 cases of coronavirus and had reported 34

deaths. Now, Italy is reporting an estimated 25,000 cases and more than 1,800 deaths. About 3,800 cases have been reported in the United States and so far, more than 65 people have died from coronavirus. Although the numbers may not be directly comparable, the trajectory is, as Adams sees it. The administration also alleged that a foreign disinformation campaign was

underway aimed at spreading fear among Americans already spooked by the pandemic. On Sunday, federal officials began confronting what they said was a deliber-

M OF 1

ate effort by a foreign entity to make Americans think the government was going to impose a nationwide quarantine. Agencies took coordinated action Sunday evening to assure Americans that the government was not planning

And on Monday, national security officials said there had been a cyber attack involving the computer networks of Health and Human Services, but the networks were operating normally. They didn't detail the nature or scope of the problem or identify the foreign entity.

On Fox News, Adams claimed the U.S. has "turned the tide" on testing, a critical part of tracking and containing pandemics, but whether that is true remains to be seen. The U.S. effort has been hobbled by a series of missteps, including flaws with the testing kits first distributed by the federal govern ment and bureaucratic hurdles that held up testing by private laboratories.

On Capitol Hill, a nearly empty House met to adopt a resolution to make what were described as technical changes to polish off a coronavirus response measure designed to speed testing for the virus and provide sick leave to workers kept home because of it. It went into recess before adopting the measure, however.

The measure is likely to pass the Senate this week, though the timing is uncertain. The 100 senators, with a few exceptions, were expected to gather Monday evening, despite the federal public-health guidelines prohibiting large gatherings.

Talks are already underway on another bill to try to blunt the damage the virus is doing to the economy. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said it will focus on direct financial help to individuals, help for businesses such as the airline industry, and further steps to support the health system.

arguments for late March and early April.







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> Page 7 Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Dallas Cowboys active on first day of free agency

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

Prescott gets the franchise tag

The first move of the day for the Cowboys was one that has been expected for a while. Four-vear starter Dak Prescott was given the exclusive franchise tag, set to pay him a total of \$ million in the 2020 season.

This was the first domino for the Cowboys to fall as they locked up their starting quarterback for at least one more season. Dallas had a plan to use the exclusive franchise tag on Prescott so that they could continue to work on a long-term contract.

Last season was arguably Prescott's best as a pro. He threw for 4,902 yards, 30 touchdowns, and 11 interceptions. He also had a high completion percentage while throwing to the supporting cast led by Amari Cooper. That brings us to our next move...

Amari Cooper cashes-in big with Dallas

Last night, the Cowboys and Cooper agreed to a fiveyear, \$100 million deal that will keep the stud wide receiver in Dallas for a long time.

Cooper is also coming off the biggest statistical season of his career (79 receptions, 1,189 yards, and eight touchdowns). The move made Cooper the secondhighest paid wide receiver in the league with an average salary of \$20 million.

ESPN's Todd Archer reports that Cooper joins a staff of Cowboys players that are all at, or near the top, of their respective positions' pay scales:

Ezekiel Elliott (\$15 million) is the highest paid running back in the NFL, DeMarcus Lawrence (\$21 million) is the highest paid defensive end, Zack Martin (\$14 million) is fourth highest paid guard, Jaylon Smith (\$12.75 million) is sixth-highest paid inside linebacker, Tyron Smith (\$12.2 million) is 11th-highest paid left tackle, Travis Frederick (\$9.4 million) is 10th-highest paid center. Dak Prescott will be at least seventh-highest paid quarterback on franchise tag.

Blake Jarwin signs extension to stay in Dallas

The Cowboys and Jarwin agreed on a four-year,

\$24.25 million contract extension on Monday afternoon. With the departure, again, of longtime tight end Jason Witten, the Cowboys decided to re-up their backup with a long-term deal.

Jarwin has been in the league for three years after signing as an undrafted free agent out of Oklahoma State. He has collected totals of 58 receptions, 672 yards, and six touchdowns in his time in Dallas.

The Oklahoma State-product is now expected to slide-in to the starting tight end spot for the foreseeable future.

Salary cap space update

Heading into the day, the Cowboys had around \$72 million in cap space (before including Prescott's tag). After the first day of signings, appear to have between \$20-30 million in cap space left. They can always create more cap space by attempting to restructure contracts or by making some roster cuts.

Although, the Cowboys restructured the deals for both La'el Collins and Ezekiel Elliott. This added between \$4-5 million in cap space by moving Collins' base salary to a signing bonus.

Randall Cobb on his way to Houston

Late last night, the Houston Texans decided to sign Randall Cobb to a three-year, \$27 million deal. After Houston decided to trade away their superstar wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins to the Cardinals earlier in the day, they needed a replacement at the position.

Last season with the Cowboys, Cobb caught 55 passes for 828 yards and three touchdowns. He revamped his career in Dallas after a few down seasons in Green

Cobb will now join a Texans receiving room that will include himself, Will Fuller V, and Kenny Stills.

The Cowboys will move forward with Cooper and third-year man Michael Gallup as their leading re-

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

Olympic torch relay goes on; Tokyo seeks crowd 'restraint'

By STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Tokyo Olympic organizers are pushing ahead with the Japanese leg of the torch relay despite the threat of the spreading coronavirus. The Olympic flame, which is due

to arrive on Friday from Greece, is scheduled to navigate the country for four months from March 26 until the planned opening of the Olympics on July 24 at the national stadium in Tokyo.

Organizing committee Toshiro Muto said Tuesday that crowds will be allowed to gather on the roadside to watch the relay. The first leg begins in northern Fukushima prefecture, which was devastated in 2011 by an earthquake, tsunami and the meltdown of three nuclear reactors.

Muto asked for restraint and warned the relay could be stopped or delayed.

'We'd like to ask people who are feeling unwell to refrain from being on the roadside," Muto said, speaking through an interpreter. "We would also like to ask people to avoid crowds when cheering along the road. In the event of overcrowding, we may have to change the way we carry out the relay."

Muto was pushed several times about what crowd behavior he was asking for.

"We don't want to talk about the definition of refraining," he said. "But we don't want people to feel there is an all-out blanket request for refraining. So basically it depends on you interpretation."

He said it was difficult to define what constitutes too many people. Speaking in a room with about 100 reporters, Muto was asked if this was too many.

"This is packed," he said, "but not overpacked."

The torch relay in Greece last

week was called off on the second day because crowds were too large.

Muto was also pressed again about the chance of the Olympics being canceled or postponed.

"In many ways and many forms people are asking us the same question," Muto said. "Our stance is, as scheduled, the Olympics are going to take place in a safe and secure manner."

The torch relay is heavily sponsored by Coca-Cola and Japanese car maker Toyota, which pay millions of dollars as some of the International Olympic Committee's top sponsors. They are sure to lose exposure during the relay, and Muto was asked if sponsors were concerned about economic dam-

"We have not talked about the topic with sponsor partners," Muto said, "and our partners have not approached us about the topic, ei-

Dolphins sign 4 likely starters, including CB Byron

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — After months of hoarding resources for rebuilding, the Miami Dolphins finally started spending Monday when they sealed deals with four likely starters in the early hours of free agent negotiations.

Miami made Byron Jones the NFL's highest-paid cornerback, surpassing his new teammate, Xavien Howard. The Dolphins upgraded their pass rush by reaching agreements with linebacker Kyle Van Noy and defensive end Shaq Lawson, and also swung a deal with offensive lineman Ereck Flowers.

It was the sort of splurge made possible by a roster dismantling a year ago, which left the Dolphins as the NFL leader in salary cap space when talks with free agents began Monday. They also have five picks in the first two rounds of next month's draft, offering further chances to upgrade a team that went 5-11 last year and hasn't won a playoff game since 2000. Jones agreed to a five-year contract

worth more than \$76.5 million, a person familiar with the negotiations said. The person confirmed the deal on condition of anonymity because the signing period doesn't begin until Wednesday. The agreement surpasses the contract

the Dolphins gave Howard last May when he signed the most lucrative deal ever for a cornerback. It's uncertain whether Jones will replace or be paired with Howard, who has

had at least one operation on each knee, most recently in December. Jones has only two career interceptions and none since 2017, but he has missed just one game in his five NFL seasons, all with Dallas. He was a first-round pick by the Cowboys in 2015 and made the Pro

Bowl in 2018. Van Noy agreed to a \$51 million, fouryear contract, a person familiar with the negotiations said. Van Noy celebrated by tweeting "MiamiDolphins" with emojis

wearing sunglasses. He started the past three seasons for New England and totaled 15½ sacks, including a career-high 6½ last year, which would have led Dolphins. They finished

last in the NFL with 23 sacks. Lawson, who also had a career-high 6 1/2 sacks last year, agreed to a \$30 million, three-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations said. The contract could be worth up to \$36 million,

and \$21 million will be guaranteed. Lawson spent his first four NFL seasons with the Buffalo Bills, who made

him a first-round draft pick in 2016. Flowers also agreed to a \$30 million, three-year contract, said his agent, Drew Rosenhaus. The deal includes \$19.95 million guaranteed.

Flowers is a Miami native who played college football for the Hurricanes.

"Looking forward to winning a lot of games in my city!!" he tweeted.

Flowers was a first-round draft pick by the New York Giants in 2015 and started 46 games at tackle for them in his first three NFL seasons.

He started all 16 games last year for Washington, splitting his time between guard and tackle.

Six-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady leaving Patriots

By KYLE HIGHTOWER

AP Sports Writer

Tom Brady is an NFL free agent for the first time in

The 42-year-old quarterback with six Super Bowl rings said Tuesday morning that he is leaving the New England Patriots.

He officially hits the league's open market Wednesday, but could reach agreement with another team on Tuesday when players and clubs can negotiate deals.

A four-time Super Bowl Most Valuable Player and three-time league MVP, Brady has been the enduring face of the Patriots and the most-celebrated player of his generation. Now, he will be leading another NFL

Cards get WR Hopkins from Texans for RB Johnson By DAVID BRANDT

AP Sports Writer

The Arizona Cardinals have added one of the NFL's top receivers to join an intriguing young team aiming to make a big move in the NFC West. The Cardinals acquired three-time All-Pro re-

ceiver DeAndre Hopkins in a trade that will send running back David Johnson to the Houston Texans, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Monday because the trade hasn't been officially announced. The NFL's business year begins Wednesday, when the trade can

be completed. Houston also gets a second-round pick this year and a fourth-round pick in 2021. The Cardinals get

a fourth-round pick. The 27-year-old Hopkins gives the Cardinals a premier receiver to add to a promising core on offense, which includes second-year quarterback Kyler Murray, receivers Christian Kirk and Larry

Fitzgerald, and potentially running back Kenyan

Drake, to whom Arizona gave the transition tag earlier Monday. Hopkins' reaction to the trade on social media

appeared positive. Several Cardinals players also shared their approval: Murray responded with a 'LET'S GET RIGHT! @DeAndreHopkins " while Kirk added " 10 + 11 + 13 = SCARY SIGHT. Welcome to the squad bro let's eat! "

The Cardinals finished with a 5-10-1 record last season under first-year coach Kliff Kingsbury, who is known for his innovative offense. Murray was the No. 1 overall draft pick and had an encouraging rookie season, finishing with 3,722 yards passing and 20 touchdowns. But the Cardinals occasionally struggled to stretch the field for big plays in the

passing game. Hopkins' arrival should help. Hopkins has three years remaining on a fiveyear, \$81 million deal he signed in 2017. The 6-foot-1, 212-pound veteran has been one of the most conseven touchdowns last year.

Houston loses a receiver who is in the prime of his career and a top option for young quarterback Deshaun Watson. The durable Hopkins has played his entire seven-year career with the Texans and only missed two games. The Texans won the AFC South with a 10-6 record last year and advanced to the divisional playoff round before losing to the Kansas City Chiefs, who eventually won the Super

The 28-year-old Johnson was an All-Pro with the Cardinals in 2016 during his second season but hasn't been able to match those numbers in the past three years. He battled injuries for much of 2019 and finished with 345 yards rushing and 370 yards receiving. By the end of the season, he had lost a chunk of his playing time to Drake and Chase

Johnson reacted to the news by putting " LETS GO HOUSTON!!! See you soon " on social media.

sistent receivers in the NFL over the past seven years, topping 1,000 yards receiving in five of seven Johnson has two years remaining on a threeseasons. He caught 104 passes for 1,165 yards and year, \$39 million extension he signed in 2018.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

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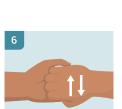
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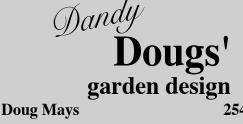
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By Steve Becker Shades of Schopenhauer

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.

♣AJ942 SOUTH

↑ K 4 **♥** Q J 10 9 8 7 5 The bidding:

West North Pass Pass Opening lead queen of spades.

A good bridge player must live in a constant state of fear, ever afraid that if something can go wrong, it will go wrong. In actual practice, these fears seldom materialize, but a conscientious declarer nevertheless starts every deal by assuming that all the finesses will fail and that every suit will divide unfavorably. He then tries to shape his play so as to overcome each such possibility. In effect, the expert hopes for the best but pre-

Consider this deal where West

pares for the worst.

leads the queen of spades against South's four-heart contract. Declarer wins with the king and plays the jack of hearts, losing to East's ace. East returns a club, the king losing to West's ace, and West leads the jack of

Declarer's mettle is put to the test at this point. If he plays the ace of spades from dummy, East ruffs to produce the third trick for the defense and later scores a diamond trick to put four hearts down one.

Granting that this outcome would fall into the category of bad luck, the fact remains that South should not run the risk of having the ace of spades ruffed at trick four. He can protect against that possibility and assure the contract at the same time by ducking the jack of spades! The spade suit can then be easily established, utilizing the ace of diamonds and king of hearts as entries, by trumping a low spade regardless of what West plays after the jack of spades holds. There cannot be a better reason for ducking the spade jack than the undeniable fact that the duck guarantees 10 tricks.

It would seem that in approaching the play, a gloomy outlook sometimes helps matters considerably. Schopenhauer probably Arthur would have been a very good bridge

player! Tomorrow: Rise and shine.

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21-April 19). You're a realist, an excellent quality, though it's not always the easiest for you, as it has you doubting yourself more than the next person. If you must doubt yourself, follow

TAURUS (April 20-

in a big way.

creates impact, but the wrong kind. Saving the day is impactful but hard to follow up. Brainstorm about how you might make the kind of difference that favors your aims.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The ancient Greek philosophers defined passion as an emotion based on a false sense of reality. Perhaps, though nations, indeed entire civilizations,

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Schools of fish and flocks of birds often behave as a single creature. The animal instinct to meld with the group mind is primordial. Resistance is possible but not so worth-

St. Patrick's Planets

ARIES (March up by arguing for yourself

May 20). Inappropriateness

have been built on false senses of reality, so don't let that stop you.

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trepidation and land in moments of intimate familiarity.

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VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your engine runs on desire. To be this excited about a potential outcome is a rarity for you, and certainly nothing to be dismissed. Document the moment in pictures or writing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's something about blue that soothes the soul, whether it's the sky, the water or the crying sound of one who sings out the existential angst.

Touch base; home; get back to your roots.

Much will be the same whether you check in or not, except that your heart will be

different. It will fortify you to keep up with your people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your qualifications on paper will have little to do with actual life. Feeling successful is a matter of making personal connections interpreted through your senses, not

just through your intellect. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A purpose-driven life may be the ideal, but it's not the constant. You don't always have to be aware of your purpose.

Sometimes your purpose is

of the fabric of existence.

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LOAD-BEARING ROCK STRATUM

FLOATER"

CLAY

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-

Feb. 18). Make yourself happy. When you have fun, so do others around you. You might be surprised about the difference you can make with your special brand of joy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Relationships run on more than just love. Sure, love matters, but so does taking out the garbage and other business of domesticity and

common courtesy. **TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (March 17). This solar jour-

ney represents a beautiful collusion of interests. Even when you're serving your own needs, you'll happen to grace the lives of others like it's your mission. Special relationships will lift and soar your spirits and aims. You'll build on a good idea and later cash in on it. August travel will be especially dreamy. Virgo and Gemini adore vou. Your lucky numbers are: 4,

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me. I am now 73 years old

problems from my past.

Thank you very much for

your column, your love and

understanding, and your help

to others. -- Found a Way to

Dear Found a Way

discover a way to heal your

childhood trauma. Your letter

touches on a very important

people know better, they do

your father's PTSD, he might

not have known what he was

doing, and he didn't have the

tools to cope with his own

trauma. The fact that you

were able to forgive him and

heal yourself is outstanding.

What a gift your letter is for

others in similar situations.

better. Sadly, because of

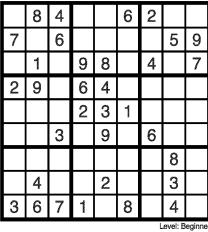
realization; namely, that when

to Heal: Congratulations

on taking the initiative to

and have not felt any further

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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! 2 2 6 8 9 1 / 9 9

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'NSMEB:										

Finding Forgiveness

Dear Annie: I have managed to overcome an abusive childhood, and I'd like to share with you how I did it at age 42, which, unfortunately, was 22 years after my abuser, my father, died.

abusive but also very loving. teenager, this "dual personality" was very hard to deal

young marine in World War jured. This injury, apparently, turned his life around -- in an Somewhere in my studies

on abusive parents, I read

said how much I loved him,

and how I finally understood that his past had probably caused him to have an issue not understood at the time: post-traumatic stress disorder. I emphasized in the letter that I understood how he had attempted to combat his mental situation with alcohol,

to an extreme.

By the time I had laid out ALL the incidents that I could vividly remember, and honestly accepted blame where I was the responsible party, I then looked at what I had written. As an adult, I saw, clearly, that even though he was to blame for the cruelty, at the same time, he was not to blame, due to the unnamed problem (PTSD). I could now understand that he could not always control his reactions to my childish

I hope I've explained this clearly. My point is this: I unloaded my heart into this letter, said all the things I had never been able to say to him while he was alive and cleansed my soul of the pain I had endured. At the same

time. I forgave him for his

responses, because I could now understand he was clueless as to how he could have controlled and healed himself

I firmly believe that he did his very best with what knowledge he had at the time

If others who deal with this dilemma were able to write a letter, as I did, it may help them to heal. The purpose of my letter was to heal myself, which it did -- completely. The purpose was not to heal my dad; it was way too late for that, as it usually is.

Unfortunately, writing letters will not heal all people. His abuse toward me was never intentional, as some cases are.

My heart goes out to those who have lived through intentional abuse. For that, I have only compassion for the victims. For the perpetrators, there is no explanation, no acceptance, no forgiveness from me. Others, who are much better than me, might be able to find forgiveness.

I pray that this suggestion

may help others, as it did

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Send your questions for

Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

Fun By The

Like puzzles?

My father had been very As a child, and then as a

As an adult, I finally understood that my dad, as a II, had been very badly inunpleasant direction.

that if you could not meet the offender/parent face-toface, or if they were not alive, writing a letter to them and airing all your grievances might help the recipient to understand and forgive the behavior.

I did this. In my letter, I even through all the abuse.

just to relax and be a part Annie's Mailbox ®



ANDY CAPP





ARCHIE







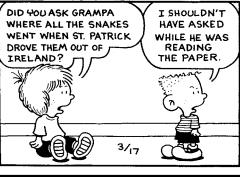
ONE BIG HAPPY







NEST HEAD





MOMMA





This Date In History

Today in History Today is Tuesday, March 17, the

77th day of 2020. There are 289 days left in the year. This is St. Patrick's Day. Today's Highlight in History:

On March 17, 1988, Avianca Flight 410, a Boeing 727, crashed after takeoff into a mountain in Colombia, killing all 143 people on board.

On this date:

In 1762, New York held its first St. Patrick's Day parade.

In 1776, the Revolutionary War Siege of Boston ended as British forces evacuated the city. In 1912, the Camp Fire Girls or-

ganization was incorporated in Washington, D.C., two years to the day after it was founded in Thetford, Vermont. (The group is now known as Camp Fire.) In 1936, Pittsburgh's Great St.

Patrick's Day Flood began as the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers and their tributaries, swollen by rain and melted snow, started exceeding flood stage; the high water was blamed for more than 60 deaths.

In 1958, the U.S. Navy launched the Vanguard 1 satellite.

In 1959, the Dalai Lama fled Tibet for India in the wake of a failed uprising by Tibetans against Chinese rule.

In 1969, Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel. In 1970, the United States cast

its first veto in the U.N. Security Council, killing a resolution that would have condemned Britain for failing to use force to overthrow the white-ruled government of Rhodesia. In 1973, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col.

Robert L. Stirm, a freed prisoner of the Vietnam War, was joyously greeted by his family at Travis Air Force Base in California in a scene captured in a Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photograph. In 1992, 29 people were killed in the truck bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In Illinois, Sen. Alan Dixon was defeated in his primary reelection bid by Carol Moseley-Braun, who went on to become the first black woman in the U.S. Senate.

In 2005, baseball players told Congress that steroids were a problem in the sport; stars Rafael Palmeiro and Sammy Sosa testified they hadn't used them while Mark McGwire refused to say whether he had. (McGwire owned up to steroid use in January 2010.)

In 2009, U.S. journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee were detained by North Korea while reporting on North Korean refugees living across the border in

China. (Both were convicted of entering North Korea illegally and were sentenced to 12 years of hard labor; both were freed in August 2009 after former President Bill Clinton met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.) The Seattle Post-Intelligencer published its final print edition.

Ten years ago: Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter became the first state chief executive to sign a measure requiring his attorney general to sue Congress if it passed health reforms requiring residents to buy insurance (a mostly symbolic action on Idaho's part, since federal laws supersede those of the states). Michael Jordan became the first ex-player to become a majority owner in the league as the NBA's Board of Governors unanimously approved Jordan's \$275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson. Singer-guitarist Alex Chilton,

Five years ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party won a resounding victory in parliamentary elections after an acrimonious campaign, giving him a mandate to form the next government. U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock, R-Ill., abruptly resigned following a cascade of revelations about his business deals and lavish spending on everything from overseas travel to office decor in the style of "Downton Abbey."

59, died in New Orleans.

One year ago: New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand formally joined the 2020 Democratic presidential race. (She would leave the race in August amid low polling and major fundraising struggles.) Thousands of people paid tribute at makeshift memorials to the victims of a gunman who killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Today's Birthdays: The former national chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, is 87. Former astronaut Ken Mattingly is 84. Singer-songwriter Jim Weatherly is 77. Singer-songwriter John Sebastian (The Lovin' Spoonful) is 76. Former NSA Director and former CIA Director Michael Hayden is 75. Rock musician Harold Brown (War; Lowrider Band) is 74. Actor Patrick Duffy is 71. Actor Kurt Russell is 69. Country singer Susie Allanson is 68.

Answer to previous puzzle

Actress Lesley-Anne Down is 66. Actor Mark Boone Jr. is 65. Country singer Paul Overstreet is 65. Actor Gary Sinise is 65. Actor Christian Clemenson is 62. Former basketball and baseball player Danny Ainge is 61. Actor Arye Gross is 60. Actress Vicki Lewis is 60. Actor Casey Siemaszko (sheh-MA'-zshko) is 59. Writer-director Rob Sitch is 58. Actor Rob Lowe is 56. Rock singer Billy Corgan is 53. Rock

musician Van Conner (Screaming Trees) is 53. Actor Mathew St. Patrick is 52. Actor Yanic (YAH'-neek) Truesdale is 51. Rock musician Melissa Auf der Maur is 48. Olympic gold medal soccer player Mia Hamm is 48. Rock musician Caroline Corr (The Corrs) is 47. Actress Amelia Heinle is 47. Country singer Keifer Thompson (Thompson Square) is 47. Actress Marisa Coughlan is 46. Rapper Swifty

66 Former abbr.

for Russia

(90-degree

70 The one over

Theatrical failure

3 Flying military

branch: Abbr.

4 Spongy toy-ball

5 Heavy curtains

7 Slightest amount

6 Sculpture of a

8 "Are you ___

67 Identical

shape)

there

DOWN

71 Misplaces

brand

body

out?'

68 Right

(D12) is 45. Actress Natalie Zea (zee) is 45. Sports reporter Tracy Wolfson is 45. Actress Brittany Daniel is 44. Singer and TV personality Tamar Braxton is 43. Country musician Geoff Sprung (Old Dominion) is 42. Reggaeton singer Nicky Jam is 39. TV personality Rob Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) (TV: "Keeping Up With the Kardashians") is 33. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Hozier is 30.

28. Actor John Boyega is 28. Olympic gold medal swimmer Katie Ledecky is 23. Actor Flynn Morrison is 15.

Actress Eliza Hope Bennett is

Thought for Today: "May your neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you, the angels protect you, and heaven accept you." -Irish saying.

® 2019 The Associated Press

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Lost and _ department 6 Exact duplicate
- 10 Leaning Tower
- city 14 Sci-fi "beam"
- weapon 15 "That can't be!"
- 16 Wedding vows
- 17 Scarlett of Gone with the
- Wind 18 Barrel of laughs
- 19 Have a chat
- 20 Flaky breakfast bread
- 22 "Excuse me . . ." 23 Sense of self
- 24 Take sides against
- 26 Go by, as time
- **30** Dwarf planet beyond Neptune
- 32 Wise teacher
- **33** Holding a grudge
- 35 Bitter-tasting 39 Nimble
- 41 Band's booking 42 Glide on a rink
- 43 Distributed the
- cards 44 End of a lasso
- 46 British prep
- school 47 Come in
- **49** Diner or café
- 51 Sometime in the future
- **54** Caterer's coffeepot
- 55 Business name abbr. Thanksgiving
- dessert 63 Italian farewell
- **64** "Take ___ a compliment!" 65 Quiet and timid,

as a rodent

PORTION PAIRS by Billie Truitt

- 9 "I'd prefer somebody else
- **10** Mideast sandwich bread 11 State west of
- Montana 69 Smell bad 12 Boot bottoms
 - **13** Information desk sign
 - 21 Mellows, as cheese
 - 25 Sch. support
- groups 26 Quaint "Golly!" 2 Honolulu's island
 - 27 Winter Olympics
 - sled 28 Opera solo
 - 29 Shredded barbecued meat
 - 30 Earlier in time
 - 31 Toy building brick brand

6

- 34 Stare at
- **36** Hourly charge

- Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
 - **37** "Believe ___ not . . .
 - false 40 Sicilian volcano 45 Fringe benefit,

38 Declare to be

- for short
- 48 Data entry pro **50** Bird or insect
- 51 Take place 52 Loud sound
- 53 Clean off a blackboard **54** Unexpected
- victory **57** State east of
- Nevada **58** Cry from a crib
- **59** Forbidden thing 60 Wrinkly-faced dogs
- 61 Cruise-ship stop **62** What contact
- lenses cover

11

10

12 | 13

15 16 14 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 27 28 29 30 31 33 32 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 44 43 45 46 50 47 48 49 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

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NFL bars player and team personnel travel in free agency

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL has barred in-person interviews with free agents and is requiring local physical examinations for them rather than team-conducted ex-

In a memo sent to the 32 franchises on Monday, the league also banned travel by team personnel to meet with free agents as well as those players traveling to team facilities. The league's business year begins Wednesday, and the period in which players' representatives could negotiate with clubs began Monday — though no deals could be finalized.

All offseason activities such as meetings, practices and minicamps have been delayed indefinitely as a safeguard against the new coronavirus. No players can enter a club facility through March 31, with the exception of those receiving medical treat-

The restrictions were first reported by ESPN.

In a flurry of activity around the league Monday night, the Dallas Cowboys and top receiver Amari Cooper agreed on a \$100 million, five-year contract. That came after the Cowboys placed their exclusive franchise tag on Dak Prescott, securing the rights to their star quarterback for an estimated \$31.5 million while the sides continue working on a long-term deal.

Buffalo agreed to acquire big-play receiver Stefon Diggs and a seventh-round draft pick from Minnesota in exchange for four draft picks, including No. 22 overall this year. The Vikings also agreed with quarterback Kirk Cousins on a \$66 million, twoyear contract extension.

Miami sealed deals with four likely starters and made Byron Jones the NFL's highest-paid cornerback at more than \$76.5 million over five years, surpassing new teammate Xavien Howard. The Dolphins upgraded their pass rush by landing linebacker Kyle Van Noy (\$51 million, four years) and defensive end Shaq Lawson (\$30 million, three years), and also swung a deal with offensive lineman Ereck Flowers (\$30 million, three years).

Free agent quarterback Marcus Mariota agreed to join the Las Vegas Raiders, giving them an experienced backup who could also challenge Derek Carr for the starting role. Mariota, the No. 2 pick in the 2015 draft, lost his starting job in Tennessee last season to Ryan Tannehill.

Earlier, things got even hotter in the desert on offense with one of the NFL's biggest stars, DeAndre Hopkins, headed to Arizona.

In a stunner that overshadowed several other trades and a slew of offers to unrestricted free agents, the Texans sent their three-time All-Pro receiver to the Cardinals for running back David Johnson, a second-round draft pick this year and a fourth-rounder in 2021.

Several Cardinals players not surprisingly reacted positively to the move on social media. Quarterback Kyler Murray, the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, responded with a "LET'S GET RIGHT! @DeAndreHopkins" while wideout Christian Kirk added "10 + 11 + 13 = SCARY SIGHT. Welcome to the squad bro let's eat!"

The NFC champion 49ers got into the bartering, too. They dealt top defensive tackle DeForest Buckner to Indianapolis for the No. 13 pick in this year's draft, which, incidentally, won't have any public events next month in Las Vegas — if it is even held there as originally planned. A person familiar with the deal said Buckner will

receive a new contract worth \$21 million a year from the Colts. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal and contract can't be finalized until the start of the league year Wednes-

The trade came just after San Francisco opted to keep another standout lineman, Arik Armstead, who got a five-year deal worth \$85 million.

"I am just getting started," Armstead said.

And later, the 49ers agreed with safety Jimmie Ward on a three-year deal that keeps him in San Francisco. The NFL's business year is just beginning, as

planned, despite the spread of the new coronavirus. For now, all moves are being done remotely with basically a ban on travel within the league. For most people, the new coronavirus causes

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 Organiza-

only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and

tion, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. Also traded was Baltimore tight end Hayden Hurst to Atlanta, which is losing tight end Austin Hooper to Cleveland in free agency (four years, \$44

million). The Ravens received second- and fifth-

round picks in this year's draft, and the Falcons got

a fourth-rounder. Fourteen franchise tags were handed out, the most since 2012, with only one to a quarterback in Prescott. The other big names among those franchised were Titans running back Derrick Henry; Bengals receiver A.J. Green; Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones; and Buccaneers linebacker Shaq Barrett, the league leader in sacks in 2019. The move by Tampa Bay with Barrett almost assures that quarterback Jameis Winston is headed else-

Franchise tag values range from \$26,824,000 for a quarterback to \$17,865,000 for a running back to \$17,788,000 for a defensive end/edge rusher and \$5,019,000 for kickers.

Running back Kenyan Drake got a transition tag from Arizona, but with Johnson traded to Houston, he has an open path to the starting job.

In case you're wondering, no word out of the Tom Brady camp on a potential landing spot for the sixtime Super Bowl champion should he leave New England.

—Free agent tackle Jack Conklin agreed to a

In other pending deals or moves:

three-year, \$42 million contract with the Browns. A 2016 All-Pro as a rookie, he will get \$30 million guaranteed and earn \$20 million in his first year. Cleveland also released veteran safety Morgan —Denver agreed to a \$44 million, four-year con-

tract with free-agent guard Graham Glasgow that includes \$26 million in guarantees. -Defensive tackle Jarran Reed agreed on a two-

year contract that keeps him in Seattle with a deal reportedly worth \$23 million. -The New York Jets and former Seattle Seahawks offensive tackle George Fant agreed on a

three-year contract worth \$30 million. —Starting defensive tackle David Onyemata will

re-sign with New Orleans. —Minnesota reached an agreement with punter

Britton Colquitt on a three-year, \$9 million contract in which he will get \$5 million in guaranteed money. -Washington agreed to re-sign inside linebacker

Jon Bostic to a \$6.6 million, two-year deal. The Redskins are also set to sign guard Wes Schweitzer, who spent his first three seasons with Atlanta. —Carolina agreed to terms with two free agents:

Vikings defensive end Stephen Weatherly (\$12.5 million) and Browns cornerback Juston Burris. –The Raiders agreed to a three-year deal with

linebacker Nick Kwiatkoski. —Two veterans retired: Ben Watson and Ramon

Watson, a 39-year-old Patriots tight end, is concluding a 15-year NFL career that included two stints in New England, as well as stops in Cleveland, New Orleans and Baltimore. Watson retires with 547 catches for 6,058 yards and 44 touchdowns.

Foster, 34, is an 11-year veteran who made the Steelers as an undrafted rookie free agent out of Tennessee in 2009. He became a steadying force on a unit that evolved into one of the league's best.

Out of an abundance of caution Texas freshwater fisheries center, Sea Center Texas closed temporarily Special to the Herald

AUSTIN— With the uncertain and evolving health situation in the U.S., the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson are closed temporarily to public visitation in efforts to minimize the potential risks associated with large public gatherings and close-

quartered spaces to our visitors, volunteers and

"We feel this is an important step to take to protect the visitors who come to see us," said Robin Riechers, Director of Coastal Fisheries for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "We are certainly sorry for any inconvenience this may cause

to anyone wanting to see and learn about Texas' coastal environments and how TPWD raises and stocks fish to support the great coastal fishing we

have in the state." "We regrettably believe that current conditions require us to take these proactive and cautionary steps to avoid placing visitors, volunteers, and staff in situations that could compromise their personal health," said Craig Bonds, Director of Inland Fish-

eries for TPWD. "We look forward to more favor-

able future conditions that will enable us to reopen

these facilities for the education and enjoyment of

All public visitation is suspended at these facilities including group tours, group meetings and events. At the TFFC, the Major League Fishing Student Angler Clinic event is cancelled, and the Merit Badge University event is postponed to an undetermined date.

Staff operations and fish production within the hatcheries will continue as normal. Visitor Center staff will focus efforts on thoroughly disinfecting the facility and equipment to best ensure the safety of our guests when normal operations resume.

Further, public visitation and tours are temporarily suspended at other TPWD hatcheries, including the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery in San Marcos, the Dundee Fish Hatchery in Electra, the Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center in Mountain Home, the John D. Parker East Texas Fish Hatchery in Brookeland, the Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi, the Perry R. Bass Research Center and Hatchery, and the Possum Kingdom Fish Hatchery in Graford.

At this time, a reopening date has not been determined, but TPWD will work with local and state health officials to determine the best timing for resuming normal visiting hours.

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