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# BIG SPRING HERALD

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**Upcoming Event**

**Cancellations:**

**No School for Forsan ISD, Coahoma ISD, Big Spring ISD through March 27**

**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.**

**April 4 Annual Trash Off 9 a.m. - Noon**

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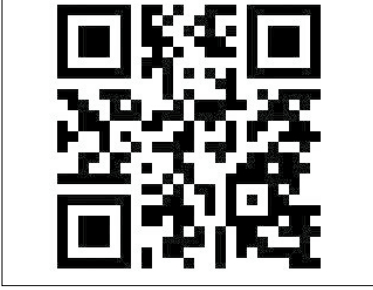
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## Grand jury hands down 24 indictments

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

The Howard County Grand Jury indicted 24 individuals March 12. Amongst those indictments were possession of controlled substance, aggravated assault, unauthorized use of a vehicle, evading arrest and robbery charges.

Brian Christopher Lewis, 35, was originally arrested by the Big Spring Police Department, on Dec. 15, 2019 as part of an investigation into the murder of Chandon Dakota Davlin, that is said to have taken place on Dec. 11, 2019. A probable cause affidavit was submitted to a magistrate requesting a warrant be issued on Dec. 12, 2019. An arrest warrant was issued as investigators attempted to locate him. Lewis was captured in the 1000 block of E. Sixth Street.

Clifford Paul Cooper, 46, of 3017 Oasis Road, was indicted on sexual assault of a child and continuous sexual abuse by

the Big Spring Police Department.

Other individuals true-billed by the Grand Jury include:

- Cynthia Jo Ainsworth, 60, of currently a resident of the Howard County Jail, for evading arrest with a vehicle.
- Betty Hardin Barnett, 63, of 209 Moore Road, for possession of controlled substance penalty group 1 (less than one gram).
- Rebecca Lynn Comstock, 36, 1408 Runnels, for unauthorized use of a vehicle.
- Marcus Deleon, 31, of 207 Nolan, for driving while intoxicated third offense or more.
- Brandon Dakota Feaster, 28, of 909 S. Salem Road, for burglary of a building.
- Thomas Eugene Garling, 27, of 1305 Barnes, for driving while intoxicated with child passenger.
- James Dewayne Headrick, 48, of 1311 Madison St., for evading arrest with a vehicle.
- Jacob Ryan Hilario, 18, currently a resident of the Howard County Jail, for

robbery.

- Nathan Hilario, 18, of 1313 Colby Ave., for robbery.
- Tommy Ray Hull, 36, currently a resident of the Howard County Jail, for evading arrest with a vehicle.
- Austin Clinton Josey, 19, of 1506 E. Cherokee, for forgery of a financial instrument.
- Nicole Juarez, 28, of 710 S. Douglas, for unauthorized use of vehicle.
- Robert Ray Liner, 40, of 1573 Prairie Circle, Centerville, LA, for theft of property (\$2,500 to \$30,000).
- Michael Steven Marquez, 37, of 1214 Linderbergh St., for aggravated assault with deadly weapon.
- Ramiro Valencia Marquez, 30, of 1301 Settles, for aggravated assault with deadly weapon.
- Billy Corenza McGee, 56, of 1202 E. Third St. Rm. 301, for failing to register as sex offender for life/annually.

See **GRAND JURY**, Page 3

## YMCA implements precautionary measures; Area schools extend school closures through March 27

**Herald Staff Report**

As the days continue to pass, more area businesses and organizations are starting to issue precautionary measures that are being taken, closures are still emerging and guidance from the State, Federal Government, and CDC continues to be released.

In an effort to do their part while continuing to serve the community, the YMCA issued the following information regarding their services.

“As our customers you’re a part of our community—that’s why we wanted to reach out. It goes without saying that our thoughts are with everyone

affected by the global outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19), and that’s why we’ve decided to modify our building Operations and program activities to help contain the spread,” YMCA of Big Spring CEO Dathan Jones, said. “We just want you to know we’re monitoring the situation closely and responding to the rapid changes every day, because the safety and well-being of our customers and community will always be our top priority.”

He continued, “Our decisions are made in accordance with health organizations and government authorities, and are driven by our YMCA’s mission to maintain the safety of our communi-

ty, as we all look forward to a healthy, confident future.”

The YMCA put the following measures into place on Monday:

- Pool, sauna, hot tub will be temporarily closed
- Weightroom and Cardio room will have two designated shutdown times each day.
- **Weight room/ cardio room hours**  
 5 a.m.- 8a.m. (Open Normal Hours)  
 8 a.m.- 9 a.m. (Cleaning) Shutdown  
 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. (Open Normal Hours)  
 3 p.m.- 5 p.m. (Cleaning) Shutdown  
 5 p.m.- 9 p.m. (Open Normal Hours)

See **CLOSE**, Page 3

## Red Kettle campaign successful due to community support

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

Every dollar counts and can make a big difference in a number of lives in the community. Through the generosity of numerous businesses across Howard County, The Salvation Army was able to have a successful Red Kettle Campaign for the 2019 holiday season.

“The Red Kettle is the single, largest fundraiser for The Salvation Army across the country,” Lt. Ben Godwin, Corps Officer and Administrator at The Salvation Army Big Spring, said. “It allows us not only to raise funds for the services of The Salvation Army, but also gets out into the public and be a presence.”

The Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign is a fundraiser which relies upon a community’s generous giving to make it a success. It is typically run between mid-November and ends Dec. 24. The



**Ben Godwin from the Salvation Army presented the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club with the golden kettle for raising the most money during the Red Kettle Challenge.**

Salvation Army Angel Tree program is aimed at providing families and seniors in the community Christmas presents.

“Every penny that goes into the Red Kettle stays local to help us provide services year round to Howard County,” Lt. Godwin said. “All the gifts from the Angel Tree program are donated

through the community as they adopt angels off of trees from local businesses and purchase toys, clothes, and other items for that angel.”

For the 2019 season and second year for The Red Kettle Challenge, there were 48 businesses and organizations who stepped up and took part this year. There were some organizations who had employees and families out more than once throughout the campaign. Every hour and every penny donated to the campaign made a successful campaign possible.

The 2019 winner for the challenge, with the most money raised, was The Greater Big Spring rotary who raised a total of \$4,145.64. The Big Spring Rotary Club gave them a run for their money though with \$1,682.37 raised in a single kettle. The dedication from these volunteer organizations was also recognized with the Frozen Bell award, which went to GEO Flightline.

See **KETTLE**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### William L. "Sam" Cason Jr.



William L. "Sam" Cason Jr. 95, of Big Spring died Monday, March 16, 2020. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born May 16, 1924, in Durant, Okla., to Ethel Louise Cason and William L. Cason, Sr. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a disabled veteran having served in the U. S. Army.

He is survived by three cousins, John Cason, Bud Cason, and Billy Ed Thomas. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters.

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

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **NESTOR MORALES RIVERA**, 41, of 1501 W. 5th St., was arrested on a warrant for violation of protective order-goes to or near residence, employment or school.
- **BRANDON MORAN**, 30, of 809 S. Runnels, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ALFONSO VASQUEZ**, 69, of 9106 Hwy 87, Lubbock, Texas, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ORALIA KIMBERLY RAY**, 21, of 2008 N. Birdwell, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana (less than two ounces).
- **KAYDRA NICOLE FRANCO**, 30, of 1200 Lamar, was arrested on a charge of manufacture and/or delivery of a controlled

substance penalty group 1 (four to 200 grams).

- **MICHELL LYNN PIERCE**, 34, of 2008 S. Runnels, was arrested on a warrant for resisting arrest, search or transport, and two other outstanding warrants from other agencies.
- **ALAN CATON POWELL**, 46, of 1909 Mittel Ave., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **OSCAR HERNANDEZ**, 22, of 1405 S. Benton St., was arrested on charges of resisting arrest, search or transport, and interfering with duties of a public servant.
- **MERICA DIANNE TAFF**, 37, of 3709 La Junta Dr., was arrested on a charge of assault family violence threat or offensive touch.
- **CHASS MARCELLOUS CLARK**, 45, of 2630 Fairchild Dr., was arrested on charges of

manufacture and/or delivery of a controlled substance penalty group 3/4 (28 to 200 grams), and unlawfully carrying a weapon.

- **THEFT** was reported at CR 34 and CR 31, and in the 500 block of S. Birdwell Lane.
- **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the 200 block of E. 3rd St.
- **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 600 block of S. Gregg St., 2000 block of W. 3rd St., and the 2000 block of S. Runnels St.
- **FOUND PROPERTY** was reported at the Law Enforcement Center.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1400 block of S. Benton St., and the 3700 block of La Junta Dr.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported at CR 31 and CR 34.

## Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 99 inmates at the time of this report.

- **CHASS MARCELLOUS CLARK**, 45, was arrested by BSPD on charges of manufacture and/or delivery of a controlled substance penalty group 3/4(28 to 200 grams), and unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- **KAYDRA NICOLE FRANCO**, 30, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of manufacture and/or delivery of a controlled substance penalty group 1 (200 to 400 grams).
- **ALFREDO EDWARD GAR-**

**ZA**, 48, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant for write of commitment/contempt of court.

- **OSCAR HERNANDEZ**, 22, was arrested by BSPD on charges of resisting arrest, search or transport, and interfering with public duties.
- **FAITH RAMONA MAXWELL**, 59, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **NESTOR MOREALES-RIVERA**, 41, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant for violating bond or a protective order.
- **BRANDON ANTHONY MORAN**, 30, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ORALIA KIMBERLY RAY**

**OCHOA**, 21, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana (less than two ounces).

- **MICHELLE LYNN PIERCE**, 34, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transport, and two warrants for burglary of a building.
- **ALAN CATON POWELL**, 46, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- **MERICA DIANNE TAFF**, 37, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of assault family violence.
- **ALFONSO VASQUEZ**, 69, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

## Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Madison. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of E. 3rd St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 800 block of W. 8th St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

ed in the 500 block of W. 17th St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 800 block of W. 8th St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 400 block of Sunset. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of Eubanks. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

## Take Note

• Big Spring ISD will be providing sacked meals for students while the campuses are closed. Meals will be available at three schools from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Meals can be picked up at any of the three campuses where they are being handed out, which will be Moss, Marcy and Big Spring Junior High School. At both March and Moss, pick up will be in the bus lane behind the campus. At BSJH, pick up can be made at Door #5 on the east side of campus.

• Coahoma ISD will provide take-home lunches to all students while the campuses are closed. Students can pick up a lunch at the back door of the cafeteria, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• Forsan ISD will be providing sacked meals for students while the campuses are closed. Meals are available at the following three locations: Forsan Elementary at the south entrance of the building, Special Education 87-20 Coop, or "The Pad". Breakfast is served from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., and lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• 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.

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

• Kindred at Home will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Vitalant Bloodmobile will be on site. See Nicole Doose to sign up. The Sponsor Code is BSKindred. Eat a good meal, drink plenty of water, and bring a picture ID.

• VFW Post 2013 meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. New members are being sought. The Post is located at 500 Driver Rd. Qualified veterans, those who have served in a foreign war, who are interested in joining the VFW are encouraged to attend a meeting to find out more information.

• **CANCELED 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.



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## Support Groups

### 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

### THURSDAY

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

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

• Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org, or call 432-268-3003.

• GriefShare is a biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support); there is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held three times per year on Thursday evenings, 6 to 8 p.m., at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the GriefShare Ministry of TBC Facebook page. You can also call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

### FRIDAY

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

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

### SATURDAY

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

### SUNDAY

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

### MONDAY

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

### TUESDAY

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

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association and The Associated Press.  
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.  
USPS 1431-48      USPS 0055-940      ISSN 0746-6811  
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$13.00 monthly; \$140.40 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$16.00 monthly Howard; \$19.50 elsewhere.

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2020**

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# KETTLE

Continued from Page 1

These volunteers stood out ringing the bell on the coldest day of the season; Matching Kettle Sponsor was presented to STAR Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram and Tabitha Clark with Star was awarded Red Kettle Champion.

"The Salvation Army of Big Spring and Howard County is thankful for the incredible support shown from the community during the Christmas season," Godwin said. "Without the generous businesses, organizations, and individuals who dedicated their time and efforts, The Salvation Army would be unable to provide services year round

to the community. We are thankful for those who saw fit to donate whether a little or a lot. Every cent helps move the mission forward."

In addition to those who volunteered time to stand and ring at the kettles around town – Walmart, Porters and the Post Office – major sponsors and their generous donations served as a catalyst for the campaign's success.

"In addition to a successful Red Kettle season, the Angel Tree program was also a success thanks to the generous support of the community," he said. "We want to give a special thank you to Forsan ISD and Scenic Mountain Medical Center and the Big Spring Juvenile Correction for their above and beyond help to make the Angel Tree a success for each child."

According to Godwin there were 181 families including seniors in the community who were able to receive Christmas gifts. Each of the children received at least four toys and clothes.

Now that Christmas season has wrapped up, the Salvation Army is focusing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Bowling Event which will take place at Bowl-A-Rama. The funds from this upcoming fundraiser will benefit the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. According to Lt. Godwin, sponsors are still being sought for this event, including a title sponsor.

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

# CLOSE

Continued from Page 1

No one will be allowed in the area during cleaning hours.

Regarding the childcare parents, all children entering childcare or child watch will be screened. If your child is feeling ill or running fever, please refrain from taking them to childcare or child-watch.

For those who have 24-hour access, that program will continue.

"Please ensure you are cleaning after yourselves, and wiping down equipment before and after usage," Jones said. "Please note that stricter restrictive actions may be taken if proper hygienic rules are not followed."

He continued, " ... I want to emphasize the importance of the global issue, but also offer a sense of unwavering optimism for the future. How we each respond at a time like this is a reflection of who we are and what we stand for.

We will continue to put our customers first and offer complete transparency, because we're all in this together."

### • Forsan ISD

Considering the rapidly evolving situation with COVID-19, Forsan ISD will extend the suspension of normal district operations through Friday, March 27. However, teaching and learning will begin anew today, Wednesday, March 18 with a new look. The secondary campus is moving to an on-line environment. The elementary is primarily using a packet distribution process to provide learning opportunities but will support that with on-line options in varying degrees. Details of each are being disseminated through other notifications. Parents should watch for on-going social media posts and especially watch the For-

san ISD website (www.forsan.esc18.net). Each teacher has a web page linked to the school's homepage. That is a great starting point for more detailed information.

Again, Forsan ISD will not resume traditional school operations until sometime after March 27, 2020. If there is a need to continue the suspension past that date, that announcement will be made as soon as possible. This is a quickly changing situation, and we will continue to monitor information, will assess conditions throughout the week, and will provide the daily information through our website (www.forsan.esc18.net), email, and social media. The information will be more detailed on the website than on social media. School employees are staffing the phones and will work to get you answers to your questions.

Forsan ISD, along with the other area schools, is offering free lunches for students during the extended closure. Students will be able to pick up a sacked meal for students while its campuses are closed beginning today. Meals can be picked up at Forsan Elementary at the South Entrance of building, Special Education 87-20 Co-op, or "The Pad." Breakfast can be picked up between 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. and Lunch can be picked up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children must be present for meals to be picked up.

### • Coahoma ISD

Given the rapidly evolving situation with COVID-19, CISD will stay closed through Friday, March 27, in an effort to support our nation's need to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

We are coordinating with other school districts in the county and will use the next week to make any decisions on whether there is a need to extend the closure further. To that end, district officials are advising parents to prepare as if the closure could last longer

We will continue to provide instruction either through on-line or prepared work packets. Packets can be picked up on Monday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at your child's campus. Please return this week's lesson packets on Monday.

Please communicate with your campus directly at 432-394-5000 to answer any questions or concerns. Each campus office is prepared to answer all of your questions about username logins, lunch and packet pickup, google classroom/remind codes and any other questions you may have about this week. We will not be answering questions via Facebook.

We thank our CISD community for your patience and understanding.

### • Big Spring Symphony

The City of Big Spring has announced that facilities will not be available through at least April 20th due to the regulations released today by the Centers for Disease Control advising that meetings of 10 or more be canceled.

Because of this, and our concern for public safety, we will be canceling the April 18th Symphony concert.

We will be releasing details at some point in early April about what we will do for those who have already purchased tickets. Be watching our Facebook page, Symphony website (Bigspringssymphony.org), the Big Spring Herald, and KBYG and KBST for further details as they emerge.

Thank you for your support of our Big Spring Symphony, and stay healthy!

# GRAND JURY

Continued from Page 1

• Thomas William Murphy, 40, of 2804 Collins Rd., for unauthorized use of vehicle.

Abel Javier Padilla, 55, 2404 S. Main, for possession of controlled substance penalty group 1 (less than one gram).

Bryson Lenard Reed, 36, of 1401 N. Hwy 87, Apt. #1503, for theft of firearm.

Andrew James Small, 36, of 540 E. Calvin Dr., Harsburg, MO, for unlawfully carrying weapon.

Thaddeus Ontario Straughter, 29, currently a resident of the Howard County Jail, for evading arrest.

Bonifasio Young, 51, of 407 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, for possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 (less than one gram).

Remember that an indictment – even multiple indictments – are not evidence of a crime. Defendants should be considered innocent until proven guilty.

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



## Weather

**Tonight:** Showers and thunderstorms. Some storms could be severe, with large hail and damaging winds. Low around 54. South wind 5 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

**Thursday:** Thunderstorms likely before 7am. Sunny, with a high near 69. Windy, with a southwest wind 10 to 20 mph increasing to 20 to 30 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

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

## HHS provides expanded guidance to hospitals to prevent spread of COVID-19 in Texas

AUSTIN – To protect vulnerable hospital patients from COVID-19, Texas Health and Human Services has issued updated, expanded guidance to hospitals that now includes granting access only to essential visitors such as medical professionals and authorized caregivers acting specifically on a patient's behalf.

"At the direction of Governor Greg Abbott and effective immediately, we are requiring hospitals to prevent non-essential visitors from access given the significant health and safety risk to patients posed by COVID-19," said David Kostroun, HHS deputy executive commissioner for Regulatory Services. "These measures are precautionary and based on the state disaster declaration made by Governor Abbott, as well as new federal guidance."

This new prohibition applies to general hospitals, special hospitals, and private psychiatric hospitals, excluding outpatient clinics operated by hospitals.

Essential visitors include government personnel; one designated caregiver acting on the patient's behalf, such as a parent of a minor or a legally authorized representative; patient family members no more than one at a time; clergy members authorized by the hospital; and additional family

members of patients at the end of life or presenting at the emergency department, subject to hospital policy.

"We understand these new restrictions will be difficult for patients and their families and loved ones," Kostroun said. "We must take every measure to protect patients, as well as hospital personnel who are on the front lines in the battle against this new virus."

Hospitals also must implement screening protocols for anyone entering their facility, including staff, medical professionals, and other essential visitors, using guidelines issued by CMS. Under certain compassionate care situations, such as a patient's end-of-life, non-essential visitors will be allowed in a hospital, and the facility must follow all CMS protocols.

Texas HHS is working closely with the Office of the Governor, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Texas Department of Emergency Management, and other state and federal agencies to monitor and assess the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S.

Hospitals in Texas are required to maintain

strong infection prevention and control programs to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. If a hospital believes a patient, visitor, or employee might have been exposed or infected with COVID-19.

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Charles Ogle, 73, of Big Spring, died Saturday, March 14, 2020. Private family services at a later date.

William Cason, 95, died Monday. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

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# Texas reports 1st coronavirus death as bars, clubs close

By **JIM VERTUNO** and **PAUL J. WEBER**  
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A man who tested positive for COVID-19 has died, becoming Texas' first coronavirus-related death, officials said late Monday while also confirming a second case.

The Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center said in a news release that a male patient in his late 90s died Sunday evening at Matagorda Regional Medical Center with symptoms consistent with the virus. The patient was a resident of the county.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to the family," the statement said.

The Houston Department of Health and Human Services notified hospital officials of a positive COVID-19 test result at 6:15pm on Monday, the release said.

Officials said the state has launched an extensive investigation into this second positive case, informing the Matagorda County Hospital District that evidence exists of a possible community link to the earlier positive case in Matagorda County.

These positive cases come as Houston and Dallas closed bars and clubs, standardized tests for more than 3 million public schoolchildren were canceled and Republican Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday told the public to brace for a surge in coronavirus cases

as the outbreak continued to dramatically reshape life in Texas.

"We are at a pivot point in the trajectory of the virus. History will say that we prioritized human life," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, the top county official in Houston. "It will say that if we erred, we erred on the side of action."

The sweeping and sudden moves tracked with other cities and states around America taking similar — if not even more dramatic — steps to curb the spread of the pandemic that has resulted in 3,800 cases around the country alone. Texas has nearly 60 cases and Abbott told reporters that results were still pending on more than 300 tests.

He also warned that the number would skyrocket as Texas races toward a goal of testing 10,000 people by the end of this week. "People just need to prepare, and not be shocked, for the mathematical reality," Abbott said.

Abbott has left the difficult choices of whether to limit mass gatherings or close restaurants and bars to local officials, saying that each community are best suited to make its own decisions. On Monday, it was Houston and Dallas taking the biggest actions yet, limiting restaurants to take-out or delivery service and putting new restrictions on other parts of daily life. Dallas officials prohibited community gatherings of more than 50 people and ordered gyms and theaters shut for seven days.

In Houston, restaurants will be limited to takeout for 15 days. Officials said the decision was driven, in part, by still seeing large crowds of people this past weekend in the nation's fourth-largest city.

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

The vast majority of people recover from the virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild cases recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe ones may take three to six weeks to get well.

More than half of Texas' 1,200 school districts have already ordered extended closures. The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, also known as STAAR, is the state-mandated test given annually to students from elementary through high school. About 3.5 million students took the tests during the 2018-2019 school year, and state officials expected that it would have been more this time around.

But even after Abbott told schools it did not have to administer the test, it remained unclear how canceling STAAR would affect students who need certain tests to advance to the next grade level or graduate.

## State officials waiving STAAR testing requirement

**Ruben Cantu**

Texas Governor Greg Abbott waived testing requirements and requested the Department of Education waive federal testing requirements for this school year, as the coronavirus or COVID-19 crisis causes schools to suspend classes.

According to Abbott's statement, the decision to waive state testing requirements "reflects the governor's emphasis on public health over all priorities at this time."

The decision directly affects the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, commonly known as STAAR exams.

Texas' assessment system provides educators and parents with reliable information on whether or not their students have mastered grade-level content, according to the statement.

If approved, federal testing requirements could be waived for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, according to Abbott.

Texas Education Agency followed up with a statement from Texas Education

Commissioner Mike Morath. "Given the need for social distancing, schools across the state are closing normal operations, and working to support learning while students remain home," Morath said.

Texas Education Agency already waived a variety of regulations and with Abbott waiving state testing requirements, schools can focus on public health and providing remote instruction.

The ongoing coronavirus or COVID-19 crisis led to San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District suspending classes from Mar. 16-27, with students doing school work remotely via online access or physical mail.

San Felipe Del Rio CISD students were scheduled to take STAAR tests on Apr. 7-9, May 4-8 and May 11-15.

Heritage Academy, Premier High School and Sacred Heart Catholic School followed the school district's decision and suspended classes or extended Spring Break. All schools are working to provide remote instruction via electronics or physical mail.

## Important information regarding Vehicle Registration, titling and disabled placards requirements

(AUSTIN, Texas – March 16, 2020) In an effort to reduce the need for in-person transactions, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) worked with Governor Greg Abbott and our stakeholders to temporarily waive certain requirements for vehicle registration, vehicle titling and disabled parking placards.



On March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation, declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas due to the threat of COVID-19. Governor Abbott also issued a statement on March 16, 2020, granting a temporary extension to obtain initial registration, renewal of registration, vehicle titling, and renewal of a permanent disabled parking placard. Governor Abbott also granted a temporary extension for an individual with an expired 30-day temporary permit to obtain another permit or Texas registration.

The temporary waiver applies to vehicle owners in all Texas counties as set forth in the above-referenced proclamation and statement. This temporary waiver is in effect until 60 days after TxDMV notifies the public that normal vehicle registration, vehicle titling and related services have resumed. The 60-day period will be the same for all counties.

The purpose of the waiver is to prevent customers from having to physically visit a county tax assessor-collector office to obtain initial registration, to obtain a 30-day temporary permit, to transfer title; or to renew registration or a permanent disabled parking placard. Customers may continue to renew their registration online at [www.TxDmv.gov](http://www.TxDmv.gov). At this time, TxDMV continues to fill online registration sticker requests and process all other online services.

TxDmv has informed law enforcement agencies and the offices of the county tax assessor-collectors of the temporary waiver.

## Governor's office clears path for governmental bodies to meet telephonically during disaster

AUSTIN - Governor Abbott's office today approved a request by the Office of the Attorney General to temporarily suspend a limited number of open meeting laws in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disaster. This action will allow governmental bodies to conduct meetings by telephone or video conference to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called "social distancing") to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Importantly, however, this action does not suspend requirements that governmental bodies conduct meetings in a transparent and accessible manner. Specifically, governmental bodies are still required to do the following: provide online written notice containing a public toll-free dial-in number or a free-of-charge videoconference link, as well as an electronic copy of any agenda packet, before conducting telephonic or video conference meetings; provide the public with access and a means to participate in those meetings, preferably through two-way audio or video connections; and provide the public with access to a recording of those meetings.

Please click here for a complete list of the open meeting provisions that have been temporarily suspended. State agencies and local governmental bodies may contact the Office of the Attorney General with question about the suspension order by telephone at (888) 672-6787 or via email at [TOMA@oag.texas.gov](mailto:TOMA@oag.texas.gov). Officials with questions about teleconference and videoconference capabilities offered by the Texas Department of Information Resources should visit [dir.texas.gov](http://dir.texas.gov) or call (512) 475-4700.

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### Big Spring softball handling break in stride

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

The recent outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has resulted in the corresponding move to shut down all local high schools for the week. The global health scare has also caused the suspension of spring sports until the end of the month.

Since the announcement from UIL, there has been time for coaches to decide how they would handle the time away from their teams.

In Big Spring, softball Head Coach Chelsey Jordan has given her team a list of things that they can do to stay sharp.

"I told the kids to workout on their own, try to throw with their parents or friends, and just do as much as they can on their own and try to give them a workout," Jordan said.

Big Spring is still planning on playing the rest of their season after March 29 but are on hold until then.

Right before the suspension of the season, the Lady Steers were lighting up the scoreboard and building momentum as a team. They finished their home Crossroads Tournament an impressive 5-1 and the entire squad seemed to be gaining confidence both at the plate and in the field.



Team captain and three-year varsity player Jocelyn Gonzales has been leading the team and is hitting over .500 at the plate so far this season. Jordan believes that her star player's leadership has rubbed off on the team's younger players.

"I can put her at any position and she can take care of business and she's also just a fun player to watch," Jordan said.

One of the younger players to follow the positive performances of Gonzales is sophomore Vanessa Viasana. The pitcher and utility player was starting to perform very well at the plate during the last tournament before spring break.

When the Lady Steers get back on the diamond they will be fresh and rested and should be able to knock off the rust quickly behind the guidance of their coach and on-field prowess of Gonzales.

This in-season suspension of games and practices is a unique situation that Big Spring High School and mostly everyone in the area, and in the state of Texas, is not used to dealing with.

Jordan knows that her team is young and may need to have some game-speed practices to get back into the swing of things but they should be able to still put together an impressive season.

"We're going to take a little step back just because we're not practicing as a team but they're a group that is very eager and motivated to get to work on their own," Jordan said. "They want it so it just depends all on how much they want to work. But they're resilient and they want to be out there so that helps."

Big Spring will continue to monitor the situation and see when their players are able to get back on the field. For now, play is suspended until March 29 and the Lady Steers will be trying to stay active in their time away from school and the team.

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

### Cowboys lose heap of talent on second day of free agency

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

After the initial flurry of deals that took the NFL by storm on Monday that included franchise tagging Dak Prescott and the re-signing of Amari Cooper, the Dallas Cowboys had a slower second day on the market.

Their free agent players, however, struck deals with other teams and broke the bank in the process.

Jason Witten was drafted by the Cowboys with the 69th overall selection in the 2003 NFL Draft. On Tuesday, he was one of three Dallas free agents to sign with the Las Vegas Raiders. Witten signed a one-year, \$4.75 million pact with Las Vegas to end his record 16 seasons with the Cowboys. The Tennessee-product also holds records for games played (255), games started (244), receptions (1,125), and receiving yards (12,977). He will be 38 at the start of next season and will complement the strong tight end room in Las Vegas that includes Darren Waller and second-year man Foster Moreau.

In another free agency move, Robert Quinn signed a massive five-year, \$70 million deal with the Chicago Bears. The deal includes \$30 million fully guaranteed for the Cowboys 2019 sack leader. Quinn will be 30 at the start of next season and finished last season with 11.5 sacks. The former North Carolina Tar Heel has been a dominant force off the edge since he entered the league as a first round of the St. Louis Rams in 2011.

Two other Cowboys defenders also decided to sign elsewhere this offseason. Maliek Collins and Jeff Heath

Heath also joining Witten in Las Vegas as the duo struck deals with the Raiders on Tuesday afternoon.

Collins was a third-round pick by Dallas in 2016 and has started 55 games over his first four years in the league. The defensive tackle from Nebraska is reuniting with former defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli in Las Vegas and will step into a starting role.

Heath signed a two-year deal worth up to \$8 million with the Raiders. He has been a Cowboys starter for the past three seasons but will be joining Collins in Las Vegas. He has played his entire seven-year career with the Cowboys after being signed as an undrafted free agent out of Saginaw Valley State in 2013. This move will mean the Cowboys lose one of their team captains and a starter in the secondary.

On the Cowboys side, they re-signed longtime long snapper L.P. Ladouceur and linebacker Sean Lee. Ladouceur signed a one-year deal worth around \$900,000 guaranteed to keep the job he's had since 2005. Lee also re-upped on a one year deal worth \$4.5 million and \$2 million fully guaranteed. With the loss of Heath and Witten, the re-signing of Lee was vital to the leadership in the Dallas locker room.

Dallas has had an overall active start to free agency and there are surely more moves to come. The Cowboys still need help in the secondary and defensive line and could make a move for help at one of those positions soon.

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

### PGA Championship the 2nd major postponed by coronavirus

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

First the Masters, now the PGA Championship.

Two days after a federal recommendation to not hold events of 50 or more people for the next eight weeks, the PGA of America decided to postpone the second major of the year, which was set for May 14-17 at Harding Park in San Francisco.

The PGA Championship will be rescheduled. Augusta National announced Friday that the Masters, scheduled for April 9-12, also would be played at a later date.

"We're all working hard to get a date that makes sense for the championship and hopefully for Harding Park," Seth Waugh, CEO of the PGA of America, said in a telephone interview. "Our intent is to hold the championship as close to normal, whatever that is anymore."

The new normal is no golf for the next two months because of fears over the new coronavirus.

Shortly after the PGA Championship announcement, the PGA Tour said it was canceling an additional four tournaments on its schedule — the RBC Heritage at Hilton Head, the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, the Wells Fargo Championship in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the AT&T Byron Nelson in Dallas.

The tour also said it was canceling three PGA Tour Champions and postponing one — the Regions Tradition, the first of five majors on the 50-and-old circuit, moves

from May 7-10 to Sept. 24-27. The tour said none of its six tours, including China, Latin American and Canada, will be holding events through at least May 10.

The LPGA Tour, which previously canceled three events in Arizona and California, is not scheduled to play again until April 15 in Hawaii, followed by two more events in California.

The PGA Tour's statement said that as the tour gets more clarity on the spread of COVID-19 in the coming weeks, it would work with tournaments, sponsors and golf organizations "to build a PGA Tour schedule for 2020 that ensures the healthy and safety for all associated with our sport, and a meaningful conclusion to the season."

The two majors have been postponed. Next on the clock is the U.S. Open, which remains on the schedule for June 18-21 at Winged Foot, just five miles away from the coronavirus containment zone set up in New Rochelle, New York.

The USGA said the U.S. Women's Open (June 4-7 in Houston) and U.S. Open were going ahead as scheduled, but it canceled all the May qualifiers for those championships with hopes of designing a new system.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidelines on Sunday not to have events of 50 or more people for two months. The following day, San Francisco was among six Bay Area counties that issued orders for residents to go outdoors only when necessary for the next three weeks.

That seemed to doom the PGA Championship being played in May, because the end of the eight weeks is the Sunday before the championship.

Augusta National typically closes for the summer in mid-May and opens in October. The PGA Championship has more flexibility with Harding Park, a public course where golf is played all year. Waugh said the structures for the PGA Championship, such as grandstands and hospitality, were about 25% finished.

With two majors being rescheduled, another piece of the puzzle is the PGA Tour and its lucrative FedEx Cup that ends the season on Aug. 30. That was the schedule, anyway.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan already has wiped off eight tournaments from his schedule, including The Players Championship, with the richest purse in golf at \$15 million.

The tour does not have an open date on its schedule through the end of the season at the Tour Championship.

"Jay has the most moving parts," Waugh said. "It's his players. But he is acting like a total partner. He has been incredibly open and fair. Every time he gives a date up, it's one he doesn't have."

The tour said it was working with its tournaments and partners to make a "positive impact" on the communities where the events are played and allow them "to come back at full strength in 2021."

### Sports Briefs

#### Nets say 4 players test positive for new coronavirus

NEW YORK (AP) — Four Brooklyn Nets players have tested positive for the new coronavirus, bringing the total to seven known players in the NBA.

The team announced Tuesday that one player is exhibiting symptoms, while the other three are asymptomatic. All four players have been isolated and are under the care of team physicians.

The Nets added that all players and members of their travel party are being asked to remain isolated and closely monitor their health.

"The health of our players and staff is of the highest priority to the organization and the team is doing everything within its power to ensure that those affected receive the best care possible," the Nets added in a statement.

Brooklyn last played on March 10 in Los Angeles, beating the Lakers. The Nets were then to face the Golden State Warriors two nights later in San Francisco — a game that was to be played without fans — before the NBA season was suspended after Utah's Rudy Gobert tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

Jazz teammate Donovan Mitchell and Detroit's Christian Wood are the other players who have tested positive.

The Nets said they are currently notifying anyone who has had known contact with the players, including recent opponents, and working closely with state and local health authorities on reporting.

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

#### MLB teams pledge \$30 million to support ballpark employees

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball's teams have pledged \$30 million for ballpark workers who will lose income because of the delay to the season caused by the new coronavirus.

Commissioner Rob Manfred made the announcement Tuesday, a day after pushing back opening day to mid-May at the earliest.

"Over the past 48 hours, I have been approached by representatives of all 30 clubs to help assist the thousands of ballpark employees affected by the delay," Manfred said in a statement. "Motivated by desire to help some of the most valuable members of the baseball community, each club has committed \$1 million."

Many ballpark employees are paid by the game and will not have that income during the delay. If the schedule is cut, their income likely would be reduced.

Seattle announced the creation of a fund to support Mariners event staff.

"The individual clubs will be announcing more details surrounding this support effort in their local communities," Manfred said. "The timing of these announcements will vary because of the need to coordinate with state and local laws as well as collective bargaining obligations in an effort to maximize the benefits realized by each group of employees."

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For additional information visit [www.crmwd.org](http://www.crmwd.org)

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Contact Amanda Duforat 432-263-7331 Ext. 230 or email [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com) for questions or to submit your resume.

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### Legals

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS City of Big Spring City Hall Parking Lot

Separate sealed bids for the construction of the City Hall Parking Lot project will be received by the City of Big Spring, Texas until 3:00 PM, on April 7, 2020, at City Hall, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project is for the construction of a parking lot at the corner of Nolan and West 3rd Street. The scope includes all asphalt paving, concrete flatwork, sidewalks, curb and gutter, lighting, landscaping, irrigation, striping, and incid-

### Legals

entals. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Big Spring City Hall at 2:00 PM on March 31, 2020 to discuss the scope of the project and answer any questions prospective bidders may have concerning specifics of the project. The contractor or his designated representative may attend.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Agreement, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, and Specifications, may be examined at the following locations:

Big Spring City Hall, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, and Jacob & Martin, LLC, Consulting Engineers 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online at [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Orders for CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, TX 79606. Cost for hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$25.00 for half size. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$10.00. Contractors must purchase a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project.

Bid Bond: A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the City of Big Spring, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

City of Big Spring  
By: Shannon Thomason  
Date: March 18, 2020

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF BIG SPRING 2020 WATER & SEWER LINE REPLACEMENTS

Separate sealed bids for the construction of the 2020 Water and Sewer Line Replacements Project will be received by the City of Big Spring until 3:00 PM, on April 7, 2020, at The City of Big Spring, City Hall 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project is for the construction of a parking lot at the corner of Nolan and West 3rd Street. The scope includes all asphalt paving, concrete flatwork, sidewalks, curb and gutter, lighting, landscaping, irrigation, striping, and incid-

City of Big Spring  
By: Shannon Thomason, Mayor  
Date: March 18, 2020

#10497

### Legals

Texas, 79720 and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project includes the replacement of existing water and sewer lines. The water line replacements consist of approximately 1,450 LF of 10-Inch and 8, 200 LF of 6-Inch water lines, fittings, valves, fire hydrants, water line connection and service reconnects. The sewer line replacements consist of approximately 2,730 LF of 30-Inch sewer lines, manholes (with epoxy liner), sewer line connections and bypass pumping. The sewer rehab scope also includes the rehab of existing manholes with a liner.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Big Spring City Hall at 1:00 PM on March 31, 2020 to discuss the scope of the project and answer any questions prospective bidders may have concerning specifics of the project. The contractor or his designated representative may attend.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Agreement, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, and Specifications, may be examined at the following locations:

310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas, 79720 and Jacob & Martin, LLC, Consulting Engineers 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

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City of Big Spring  
By: Shannon Thomason  
Date: March 18, 2020

City of Big Spring  
By: Shannon Thomason, Mayor  
Date: March 18, 2020

JoAnna Gonzales, District Clerk 312 Scurry Big Spring, Texas 79720  
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Matt Scott 432-755-7065

[matt.scott@expeditionroyalty.com](mailto:matt.scott@expeditionroyalty.com)

Rayne Austin 432-755-7065

[rayne.austin@expeditionroyalty.com](mailto:rayne.austin@expeditionroyalty.com)

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Legals

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you."

TO: The Unknown Stockholders of Los Jovenes Oil Company, The Unknown Heirs of Betty L. Vietta, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of Clinton J. Keever, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of C.E. Garrett, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of Ernest E. Duque, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of Esther Duque, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of Florence Cluff Janss, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of George Gregson, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of Harold Janss, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of Gladys Letts Pollock Janss, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of Lawrence Chaffin, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of Lemuel E. Bancroft, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of Margaret Motter Fallon, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of R.P. Doherty, Deceased, and the Unknown Heirs of Ruth S. Dyer, Deceased.

Legals

Defendant, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday 04/06/2020, before the Honorable 118th Judicial District Court of Howard County, at 312 Scurry Street in said County in Big Spring, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 13th day of February, 2020, cause number 54158 in the entitled cause styled

Navigator Oil & Minerals, Inc. Et Al vs Andrew Grant, Et Al

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: This lawsuit is a suit to quiet title to certain royalty interests in the oil and gas produced from lands in Howard and Borden Counties, Texas (the "Property") as described below:

Block 32, Township 3 North, T&P Ry. Co. Survey Section 36 Section 37

Block 31, Township 3 North, T&P Ry. Co. Survey Section 31 Section 32

Legals

Section 33  
Section 40  
Section 41  
Section 42  
Section 43 save and except 100 acres of the NE corner

Block 32, Township 2 North, T&P Ry. Co. Survey N/2 Section 1

Block 31, Township 2 North, T&P Ry. Co. Survey NE/4 Section 7 Section 6

Plaintiffs are successors-in-interest to the grantors (the "Grantors") under certain royalty deeds (the "Source Deeds") that convey nonparticipating royalty interest from the Grantors to the grantees described therein. Specifically, Plaintiffs seek a judgment declaring that, under the Source Deeds, the Grantors conveyed a fixed fractional interest out of 1/8 of production, not a perpetual floating fraction of the royalties payable under applicable leases.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office, this 20th day of February, 2020.

JOANNA GONZALES  
District Clerk of Howard County, Texas  
By \_\_\_/s/\_\_\_, Deputy

#10484 March 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2020

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Capricorn Moon

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Now you're thinking about that thing you wanted and didn't get. In retrospect, you didn't want it that bad. It's a good thing your efforts led you to this place, with these things that matter to you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The human brain loves a routine and is driven to build one with or without our involvement. You want a routine you've consciously constructed, so you'll get intentional with the cause.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Try not to let schooling interfere with learning, which is, of course, totally different. To know only the steps involved and not the theory behind a thing is to be as educated as a robot.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your excitement over a cause will surge and wane, which is nothing to be cynical about. Instead, use the momentum of high emotional tides to buoy your spirits and augment production.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The day brings a denouement before the curtains close on a chapter. Conflicts will be resolved, scores

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



instead of from the outside world doesn't make that voice true. Nor is it your real opinion.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Birdsongs are sweet, but you don't like to keep anything in a cage. In all relationships, you'll try to hold on to the moment without holding anyone from their freedom.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You're striving for something. If you happen to arrive at that moment when the other person is looking away, keep practicing until you can do this trick consistently and on command.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Habits of mind are just like other habits, in that they creep into your life and take over. You may as well be adding the ones you'd prefer instead of falling into whatever comes along.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 18).** Nature is the story of this world, and you are nature, too. Your experiences in the biosphere will teach you profound lessons of being and will open pathways of spiritual levity. You'll be responsible for the progress of a group because of the care you give this endeavor. It all develops beautifully. Love and travel fill your summer. Aries and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 2, 14, 41 and 20.

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis.com](http://HolidayMathis.com).

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settled, tension released. You are better for having endeavored. On to the new!

**VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** When you owe someone an apology, you'll give it. In the meantime, apologizing unnecessarily will erode your self-confidence. Better to stand in the situation and face whatever strange energy exists.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Here they come -- people who not only appreciate your good qualities but will promote and showcase them as well. It's because you're ready. Also, there's something for everyone to gain.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You'll allow yourself some of what you want, but not all of it. It won't drain your willpower to save some for later because you're so focused on the joy of playing the long game.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Don't believe everything you say to yourself today. Just because a voice happens to be coming from inside you

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Rise and shine

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ 9 8 6 3  
♥ J 4  
♦ K  
♣ K Q 10 9 7 4

**WEST**  
♦ J 7  
♥ A Q 7  
♦ Q 9 7 6 3  
♣ 5 3 2

**EAST**  
♠ A 4  
♥ 8 6 5 3 2  
♦ 10 5 4 2  
♣ A 8

**SOUTH**  
♦ K Q 10 5 2  
♥ K 10 9  
♦ A J 8  
♣ J 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠

Opening lead — six of diamonds. "Automatic" plays work well in most deals, but they are sure to lose points in others.

Take this case where the defense was less than adequate. West led a diamond to dummy's king. Declarer returned a trump and, after East followed low, went up with the king. South then cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding one of dummy's hearts, and ruffed a diamond in

dummy. He next played a heart, won by West with the queen, but there was nothing West could do to defeat the contract. So, declarer made four spades, losing a spade, a heart and a club.

It is true that in most deals East should play low from the A-4 when the trump is led from dummy at trick two, following the general principle of second hand low.

But in this case, East should go up with the ace at trick two. He should realize that South has the ace of diamonds (West would not lead away from the ace at trick one), and that declarer will probably win the spade and immediately discard one of dummy's hearts on the ace of diamonds. (South might even have the A-Q of diamonds and discard both hearts from dummy.)

Had East taken the trump ace at once and returned a heart, declarer would have lost a spade, two hearts and a club for down one.

East probably hoped his partner had the Q-x of spades and that declarer would misguess by finessing the jack, but the specter of the diamond ace in South's hand, and perhaps the queen also, should have been East's primary concern.

Tomorrow: Fancy doings.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

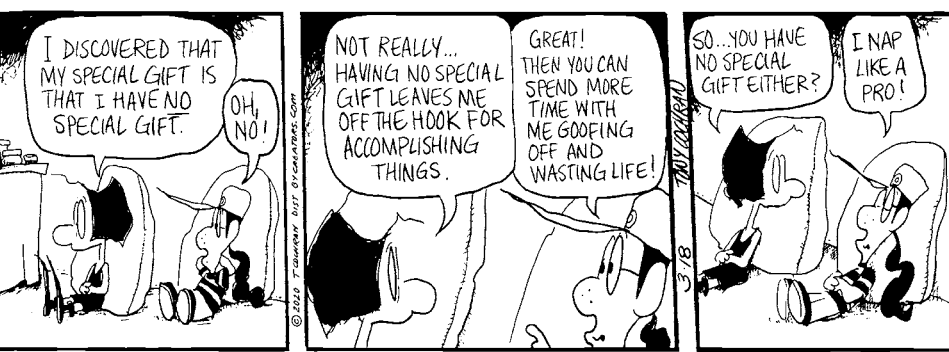


	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	For Such	Ready Jet	Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy	UEFA	SportsCenter	Daily Wager	College Softball: Texas Tech at New Mexico State.	Chicago P.D.	PD Cam	Expedition Unknown
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	Freedom	Mack	Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy	Hot Ones				Chicago P.D.	PD Cam	Expedition Unknown
6:PM	News	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Exatlón Estados Unidos (SS)	News	Cowgirl	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Hot Ones	SportCtr	2020 NIT Basketball Tournament				
6:30	Wheel		Big Bang	ET		News	Israel		M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Hot Ones	To Be Announced					
7:PM	Gold	Ringo	The Masked Singer	Survivor		Chicago Med	Truth (DVS)	Nature (DVS)	Andy G.	Penn & Teller	Big Bang	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite			Stars In.			
7:30	Schooled																	
8:PM	Mod Fam	Amor eterno	(:01) LEGO Masters	(:01) SEAL Team	La Doña (SS)	Chicago Fire	Light of Southwest	NOVA	Andy G.	G. Pyle	Whose? Big Bang							
8:30	House																	
9:PM	Stumptown	Sin miedo a la	FOX 24 News at 9	S.W.A.T.	Operación Pacífico	Chicago P.D.	Light of Southwest	Food -- Delicious	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Movie: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (DVS)	To Be Announced					
9:30	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	black-ish	Conan							
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Words of Dr. Wil	Nature (DVS)	Perry Mason	black-ish	Full							
10:30	Contacto	Mod Fam	Funny	James Corden	Operación Pacífico	Late-Lilly	Jesus IS	Food -- Delicious	Mannix	Hitchock	Live PD	NCIS: New Orleans	SportsCenter	Basket	Snow	Mod Fam	PD Cam	Expedition Unknown
11:PM	Nightline	Deportivo	Two Men	Simpsons	Holly													
11:30	Extra	Destilando amor	Como dice el dicho	Pawn	ET	Programa	Inside Ed.											
12:AM	Mel Robbins																	
1:AM	Paid Prg.																	

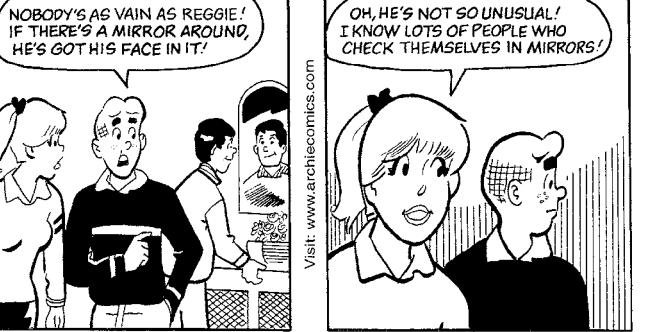
ANDY CAPP



AGNES



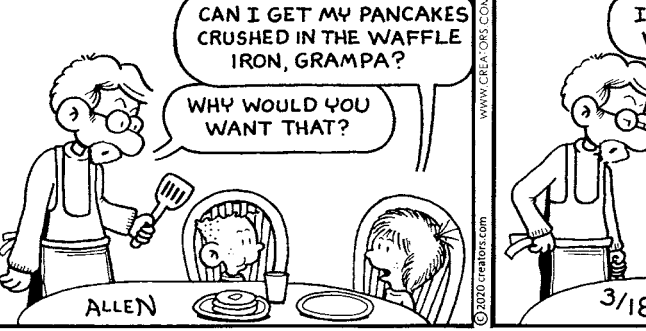
ARCHIE



ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 18, the 78th day of 2020. There are 288 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On March 18, 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner Pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain. On this date: In 1766, Britain repealed the Stamp Act of 1765. In 1922, Mohandas K. Gandhi was sentenced in India to six years' imprisonment for civil disobedience. (He was released after serving two years.) In 1925, the Tri-State Tornado struck southeastern Missouri, southern Illinois and southwestern Indiana, resulting in some 700 deaths. In 1937, in America's worst school disaster, nearly 300 people, most of them children, were killed in a natural gas explosion at the New London Consolidated School in Rusk County, Texas. In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the War Relocation Authority, which was put in charge of internment Japanese-Americans, with Milton S. Eisenhower (the younger brother of Dwight D. Eisenhower) as its director. In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Gideon v. Wainwright, ruled unanimously that state courts were required to provide legal counsel to criminal defendants who could not afford to hire an attorney on their own. In 1965, the first spacewalk took place as Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov went outside his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether. In 1980, Frank Gotti, the 12-year-old youngest son of mobster John Gotti, was struck and killed by a car driven by John Favara, a neighbor in Queens, New York. (The following July, Favara vanished, the apparent victim of a gang hit.) In 1996, rejecting an insanity defense, a jury in Dedham, Massachusetts, convicted John C. Salvi III of murdering two women in attacks at two Boston-area abortion clinics in December 1994. (Salvi later committed suicide in his prison cell.) In 2002, Brittainie Cecil died two days short of her 14th birthday after being hit in the head by a puck at a game between the host Columbus Blue

Jackets and Calgary Flames; it was apparently the first such fan fatality in NHL history. In 2005, doctors in Florida, acting on orders of a state judge, removed Terri Schiavo's feeding tube. (Despite the efforts of congressional Republicans to intervene and repeated court appeals by Schiavo's parents, the brain-damaged woman died on March 31, 2005, at age 41.) In 2018, Vladimir Putin rolled to a crushing reelection victory for six more years as Russia's president. Ten years ago: President Barack Obama signed into law a \$38 billion jobs bill containing a modest mix of tax breaks and spending designed to encourage the private sector to start hiring again. Actor Fess Parker, 85, died in Santa Ynez, California. Jerome York, an Apple Inc. board member and a financial wizard credited with turning around Chrysler and IBM, died in Pontiac, Michigan, at age 71. Five years ago: Militants opened fire at a museum in Tunisia's capital, killing 22 people, most of them foreign tourists. Serbia arrested eight men accused of taking part in the massacre of some 1,300 people at a warehouse on the outskirts of Srebrenica (sreh-breh-NEET'-sah) in 1995. Lindsey Vonn won the World Cup downhill title for the seventh time, winning the last race in the discipline at the World Cup finals in Meribel, France. One year ago: Warner Bros. chief Kevin Tsujihara stepped down from the studio following claims that he had promised roles to an actress with whom he was having an affair; he was one of the highest-ranking Hollywood executives to be felled by sexual misconduct allegations. Brooks & Dunn, Ray Stevens and record label head Jerry Bradley were announced as inductees into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Today's Birthdays: Composer John Kander is 93. Country singer Charley Pride is 86. Nobel peace laureate and former South African president F.W. de Klerk is 84. Country singer Margie Bowes is 79. Actor Kevin Dobson is 77. Actor Brad Dourif is 70. Jazz musician Bill Frisell is 69. Singer Irene Cara is 61. Alt-country musician

Karen Grotberg (The Jayhawks) is 61. Movie writer-director Luc Besson is 61. Actor Geoffrey Owens is 59. Actor Thomas Ian Griffith is 58. Singer-songwriter James McMurtry is 58. TV personality Mike Rowe is 58. Singer-actress Vanessa L. Williams is 57. Olympic gold medal speedskater Bonnie Blair is 56. Country musician Scott Saunders (Sons of the Desert) is 56. Actor David Cubitt is 55. Rock

musician Jerry Cantrell (Alice in Chains) is 54. Rock singer-musician Miki Berenyi (ber-EN'-ee) is 53. Actor Michael Bergin is 51. Rapper-actress-talk show host Queen Latifah is 50. Former White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus (ryns PREE'-bus) is 48. Actor-comedian Dane Cook is 48. Country singer Philip Sweet (Little Big Town) is 46. Rock musician Stuart Zender is 46. Singers

Evan and Jaron Lowenstein are 46. Actress-singer-dancer Sutton Foster is 45. Rock singer Adam Levine (Maroon 5) is 41. Rock musician Daren Taylor (Airborne Toxic Event) is 40. Olympic gold medal figure skater Alexei Yagudin is 40. Actor Adam Pally is 38. Actor Cornelius Smith Jr. is 38. Actor Duane Henry (TV: "NCIS") is 35. Actress Lily Collins is 31. Actress-dancer Julia Goldani

Telles is 25. Actress Ciara Bravo is 23. Actor Blake Garrett Rosenthal is 16. Thought for Today: "No man has a right in America to treat any other man tolerantly, for tolerance is the assumption of superiority." — Wendell Willkie, American politician (1892-1944). © 2019 The Associated Press.

Newsday Crossword

ON SCHEDULES by Carolyn Stewart Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- Reaction to a shock
- Great Salt Lake state
- Dressed (in)
- Chocolate/coffee combo
- Tom turkey, for example
- Parade spoiler
- One staring rudely
- Answer to a legal charge
- Gumbo vegetable
- Sunday schools, Masses, etc.
- Vote like "aye"
- Rose stalk
- Moonshiner machines
- Sneezer's cloth
- Solo of Star Wars
- Soap opera, sitcoms etc.
- Santa-like
- Altar declaration
- Merits
- 9 to 5, 12 to 8, etc.
- Word after "miney"
- Jot comments in margins
- Cymbals in a drum kit
- All \_\_\_ (listening carefully)
- Small bill
- Football games, wrestling matches, etc.
- Milne bear
- Whom a fan club follows
- Boise's state

**DOWN**

- Vincent van \_\_\_
- Rights org.
- Singer Crow
- Package to mail
- Foul ball callers
- "Tall" stories
- Wide awake
- Expulsion, so to speak
- Swamp critter
- Place for canoeing
- Ventilates
- Genetic letters
- Casual shoe, for short
- Possesses, in the Bible
- Mental picture
- Displayed
- Not allowed
- Not moving
- Hunters' org.
- Destiny, in Hinduism
- "\_\_\_ in right now..."
- Snake-shaped letters
- Seven, to Caesar
- Common print file format
- Go bad, as vegetables
- Reggae relative
- Fabric follower of "poly"
- Purpose of a furnace
- Nursery rhyme home of "so many children"
- Ask to a party
- Paid attention to
- Cab client
- Sleeper's sound
- Any day now
- Place for a swim meet
- "Goodness!"
- Be radiant
- Back of the neck
- Slender
- Landscape's turf
- Paid player

**Answer to previous puzzle**

FOUND TWIN PISA  
LASER OHNO IDOS  
OHARA RIOT TALK  
PUFFPASTRY AHEM  
EGO OPPOSE  
ELAPSE PLUTO  
GURU SORE ACRID  
AGILE GIG SKATE  
DEALT LOOP ETON  
ENTER EATERY  
ONEDAY URN  
CORP PUMPKINPIE  
CIAAO ITAS MOUSY  
USSR SAME ANGLE  
REEK THAT LOSES

3/18/20

# Brady leaving Patriots, says 'football journey' is elsewhere

By **KYLE HIGHTOWER**

AP Sports Writer

Tom Brady, the centerpiece of the New England Patriots' championship dynasty over the past two decades, says he is leaving the only professional football home he has ever had.

The 42-year-old six-time Super Bowl winner posted Tuesday on social media "my football journey will take place elsewhere."

The comments were the first to indicate that the most-decorated player in NFL history would leave New England. Statements later by Patriots owner Robert Kraft and coach Bill Belichick made it clear that Brady's remarkable stint in New England is over.

In a two-part message, Brady thanked the Patriots and the fans and said "FOREVER A PATRIOT."

"I don't know what my football future holds, but it is time for me to open a new stage for my life and my career," he wrote. "Although my football journey will take place elsewhere, I appreciate everything that we have achieved and am grateful for our incredible TEAM experiences."

The one-year contract Brady signed before last season expires Wednesday afternoon, and his agent could negotiate a deal with another team on Tuesday, though it can't be official yet. He will count \$13.5 million toward New England's salary cap due to the signing bonus money he received in 2019.

Kraft said of Brady: "I had hoped this day would never come, but rather that Tom would end his remarkable career in a Patriots uniform after yet another Super Bowl championship. Unfortunately, the two sides were unable to reach an agreement to allow that dream to become a reality. While sad today, the overwhelming feeling I have is appreciation for his countless contributions to our team and community."

A four-time Super Bowl Most Valuable Player and three-time league MVP, Brady has been the enduring face of the Patriots during a run that added another layer to Boston's already rich sports history. Only Bill Rus-

sell, who won 11 NBA championship rings in the 1950s and '60s with the Celtics, has won more titles as a member of one of New England's four major professional sports teams.

Brady would be the oldest starting quarterback in the league at 43 at the beginning of next season. The Colts, Buccaneers, Chargers and Dolphins are among the teams expected to be in a Brady derby.

Brady arguably is coming off his worst non-injury season. He threw for 4,057 yards and 24 touchdowns in 2019, with eight interceptions. But he completed fewer than 56% of his passes six times in the final eight games of the year, including a season-ending loss to Miami that cost the Patriots a first-round playoff bye.

They lost at home to the Titans in the wild-card round, Brady's earliest postseason exit in a decade — and likely his last game in a Patriots uniform.

Brady had a one-year contract for 2019 that paid him \$23 million, placing him 10th among starting quarterbacks. It was the latest renegotiation by Brady to help give the Patriots salary cap flexibility to fill out the roster.

The chief decision-maker in player personnel decisions, Belichick hasn't been shy about moving on from players he felt were past their prime or seeking contracts that exceeded value in relation to their age. Belichick has severed ties with players much younger than Brady during his time in New England.

"Nothing about the end of Tom's Patriots career changes how unfathomably spectacular it was," said Belichick, whose current quarterback is untested second-year player Jarrett Stidham. "With his relentless competitiveness and longevity, he earned everyone's adoration and will be celebrated forever. It has been a privilege to coach Tom Brady for 20 years."

After franchising offensive lineman Joe Thuney and coming to terms on new deals with Matt Slater and Devin McCourty, the Patriots have only about \$18 million in salary cap space.

## Scratched: Kentucky Derby now set for September due to virus

By **BETH HARRIS**

AP Racing Writer

The Kentucky Derby was postponed until September on Tuesday, the latest rite of spring in sports to be struck by the new coronavirus along with the Masters, March Madness and baseball season.

The Derby, America's longest continuously held sports event, had been scheduled for May 2. It will now be run Sept. 5, kicking off Labor Day weekend.

"We'll roll with the punches, and feel very, very good that September is the right date," Bill Carstanjen, CEO of Churchill Downs Inc., said on a conference call.

It's the first time the Derby won't be held on its traditional first Saturday in May since 1945, when it was run June 9. The federal government suspended horse racing nationwide for most of the first half of the year before World War II ended in early May, but not in time to hold the first leg of the Triple Crown that month.

The date change still must be approved by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission at its meeting Thursday. Still to be decided are the dates of the next two legs of horse racing's showcase series — the Preakness and Belmont.

Carstanjen said the September date was chosen after talks with NBC Sports, which televises the Triple Crown races, based on the limited number of sports events that weekend and hotel availability in Louisville.

Churchill Downs clearly wasn't interested in running the 146th Derby without fans in the stands, which is what other tracks have been doing, including Santa Anita in California, Oaklawn in Arkansas and the Fair Grounds in Louisiana.

"We feel confident we are going to run the Kentucky Derby and run it with a crowd," Carstanjen said. "It's a participatory event."

The race itself lasts just two minutes, but the partying and socializing goes on throughout Derby week, with celebrity-stuffed charity galas and private house parties. Last year's race drew 150,729 fans.

The tradition of sipping mint juleps, donning fancy hats and dress clothes, and the crowd singalong to "My Old Kentucky Home" as the horses step onto the track has always made the Derby more than just a sports event. People who pay little attention to horse racing the rest of the year typically watch the Derby and wager on it either formally or in pools set up at parties.

The Derby was first run in 1875 and has gone uninterrupted, even through the Great Depression and World Wars I and II.

In 1943, there were travel restrictions imposed by World War II and no out-of-town tickets were sold. Still, the Derby went on, with Count Fleet winning in front of 65,000. The colt won the Triple Crown that year.

The Kentucky Oaks, the race for fillies held on Derby eve, is also hugely popular, especially among Louisville locals. It first began in 1875. It will be run Sept. 4.

Horses have been training and racing to earn points that translate into berths in the 20-horse Derby field even as the rest of the sports world has mostly shut down because of the virus pandemic. Horses have only one chance in their lives to compete in the Derby, Preakness and Belmont stakes, which comprise the Triple Crown for 3-year-olds.

Carstanjen said points already earned by horses would be maintained, while existing races at tracks across the country would be added to the Road to the Kentucky Derby qualifying process.

"This will be fun and give fans more time to learn about this year's crop of 3-year-olds," he said.

The Derby, the first leg of the Triple Crown, draws strong TV ratings. By moving it to Sept. 5, the race wouldn't conflict with Notre Dame football, satisfying NBC Sports, which televises both. The University of Louisville has an away football game that day.

The Preakness is scheduled for May 16 at Pimlico in Baltimore, and the Maryland Jockey Club said no decision has yet been made on the second leg of the Triple Crown.

The Belmont is set for June 6 in New York. The New York Racing Association said "decisions about large-scale public events must prioritize public health and safety above all else." NYRA added that it will update the status of the Belmont "only when that process has concluded to the satisfaction of state and local health departments."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, with the vast majority recovering in about two weeks.

Carstanjen said Churchill Downs alerted Pimlico and Belmont Park as it got close to completing a new date with NBC Sports.

"They were receptive and had their own questions. There is time in the calendar that NBC can make available," he said. "They just have to work it out together and I hope they do."

NBC Sports said in a statement it appreciates the "traditional sequencing of the Triple Crown races," but these are "uncharted waters" and the network will work with the Preakness and Belmont to "determine the most appropriate timing."

Businesses in the Louisville area, including hotels, restaurants, gas stations, grocery and liquor stores, depend on the Derby to earn a large portion of their revenue for the year. Almost all such entities raise their prices significantly during the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Derby week.

The Derby has an estimated economic impact of \$400 million on the Louisville area.

The Kentucky Derby Festival had already postponed some of its early events until April 5. The two weeks of events leading up to the Derby, highlighted by the Thunder Over Louisville fireworks show, have a local economic impact of \$127 million.

The NBA and NHL have suspended their seasons indefinitely. Major League Baseball has postponed the start of its season until mid-May at the earliest, and one of the biggest events to be called off was the NCAA basketball tournament known as March Madness that captivates the country for three weeks. Another spring fixture postponed until September was the Boston Marathon. Colleges have canceled spring sports.



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