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# BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY EDITION,  
 MARCH 23, 2020

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VOLUME 115, NUMBER 151

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**Cancellations/Postponed events:**

*Big Spring Film Festival Postponed until later date*

*National Pharmaceutical Take Back Initiative for April 25*

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

*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.*

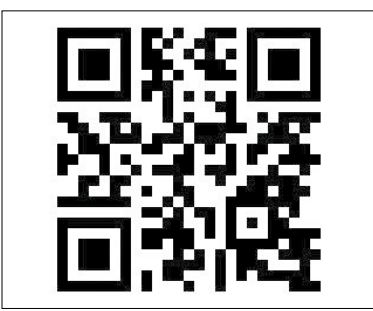
*Health Fair for April 4 has been postponed until August 8.*

**Upcoming Events**

*April 4 Annual Trash Off 9 a.m. - Noon Dorothy Garrett Coliseum parking lot*

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 Find us online at:  
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## City Council to meet via telecommunication in Monday meeting

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

The City of Big Spring will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 24 by telecommunication. The community is encouraged to attend the meeting by viewing the meeting on Channel 17 through Suddenlink or on the website <http://mybigspring.com/224/Channel-17-Live>.

The meeting will begin with Mayor Thomason reading an order Temporarily Suspending certain open meetings Act (OMA) requirements due to COVID-19 from the Office of the Attorney General.

This will lead into the public comment section of the meeting. While the meeting will be held a little differently this month, due to the current situa-



**Tune into Channel 17 through Suddenlink or visit <http://mybigspring.com/224/Channel-17-Live>. Public comments can be made by calling 432-271-6537**

tion, the community will still have an opportunity to make comments and take part in the meeting. If you have public comments, please call 432-271-

6537. Once public comments have wrapped up, the meeting will continue with the City Manager's Report. According to Darden, applications are needed for an engineer or architect board member for Board of Adjustments and Appeals, an alternate for Zoning Board of Adjustments, Animal Control and Rescue Committee, Convention and Visitors Bureau Board and the Parks and Recreation Board. He will also be providing an update on Large Item Pick-up. Last week, the pick up took place in District 3; next month will include District 4. As part of new business the City Council will consider and possibly

See **CITY**, Page 3

## Closures, postponements continue through town

### Park equipment, pavillions and more off limits

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

COVID-19 continues to spread across the nation, social distancing continues to be highly encouraged and in an effort to adhere to the guidance, more events in Howard County - along with the rest of the nation - continue to be postponed.

The City of Big Spring issued a press release Friday, stating in accordance with the CDC guidelines and the executive order by Governor Abbott concerning COVID-19 and will be closing all city park playground structures and park pavillions including: Kid Zone, Cotton Mize softball field, playground structures at ABC Park, Bert Andries Park, Dr. Morgan Park, and any other City owned playground structure or pavillion until at least April 20, 2020. The date of closure has the possibility to extend.



**The City of Big Spring issued a statement Friday stating park equipment is off limits until April 20. A Herald reader shared a photo from Morgan Park showing yellow tape used to block off equipment.**

Community Report photo

has been taking place at the Senior Center has also been postponed during this time. An order was issued earlier this week, pushing the deadline to file taxes from April 15 to July 15, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are moving Tax Day from April 15 to July 15," U.S.

See **CANCEL**, Page 3A

## Celebrating Days of the Week: National Chip and Dip Day kicks off the week

By **ANNA GUTIERREZ**  
 Staff Writer

Let's take our minds off this coronavirus craziness and focus on some fun things we can celebrate. Many Americans are working from home and have found they are tnow heir children's teacher, maybe even for the rest of the school year. Learning about and teaching your kids about important events that take place every day can be a fun exercise to take your minds off all the craziness around us. Let's see what's happening the week of March 22, 2020.

March 22 is known as National Goof Off Day. This year, this happens to fall on Sunday, which many refer to as Sunday Funday. So what better day is there to just goof off, have some fun, and take your mind off what's going on in our world. This special day was reportedly first celebrated in 1976, but

no one knows for sure. What is known is that it's the perfect day to refrain from working and just goof off.

March 23 is National Chip and Dip Day. This would be a good day to teach your kids about ingredients,, measurements, and how to follow a recipe. The origins of this special day are not known, but who cares? Dips have been around for centuries with hummus-type recipes dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. There are all sorts of chips available these days for all diets. Dips can range from salsa to cream-cheese based dips that include all sorts of herbs and spices. Pick your favorite, and get the kids involved.

March 23 is also National Puppy Day. During this time, many shelters are urging people to foster a dog or cat and get them out of the shelter. If you're working from home, what better time

is there? This is also a good learning experience for your children to teach them schedules and responsibility. Children can also learn about the different stages of the animal's life.

March 24 is National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day, which has been a favorite snack among movie-goers for generations. It's also the day for a special Philadelphia sandwich, National Cheesesteak Day, which is a sandwich filled with steak, onions and cheese.

More importantly, March 24 is American Diabetes Association Alert Day. This day is celebrated annually on the fourth Tuesday in March. It's a day for everyone to remember just how serious a disease diabetes can be, take a test to check for diabetes, and learn if this disease runs in your family. We all

See **DAYS**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### Heriberto G. Rubio

Heriberto G. Rubio, 98, of Big Spring, passed away Friday, March 20, 2020. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

## Take Note

The City of Big Spring will be following CDC guidelines and the executive order by Governor Abbott concerning COVID-19 and will be closing all city park playground structures and park pavilions including: Kidz Zone, Cotton Mize softball field, playground structures at ABC Park, Bert Andries Park, Dr., Morgan Park, and any other city owned playground structure or pavilion until at least April 20th. The date of closure has the possibility to extend. We also ask that you refrain from gathering in groups of 10 or more during this time so we can help stop the spread of COVID-19. For any questions or concerns please contact the City Managers Office at 432-264-2401.

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.

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

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.

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. With the help of our team of IRS-certified volunteers, we make it easy for you. AARP Tax-Aide Service will be available at the Big Spring Senior Center every Monday, beginning on Feb. 3, 2020, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. There's no fee and no sales pitch for other services, and AARP membership is not required. Additional information can be found on the AARP web site [https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2004/about\\_aarp\\_taxaide.html](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2004/about_aarp_taxaide.html)

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.

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 sur-

live? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible?

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

Food2Kids will again be providing sack lunches to children in the Big Spring area who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It takes just a couple of hours of your time, and the work is very rewarding. The next sacking event of this 2019-2020 school year will be Monday, March 2 and Tuesday March 3, and they will continue throughout the year on the first Monday and Tuesday of the month. To volunteer, just show up at Lakeview High School located at 1107 N.W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., at 5:30 p.m. You can follow their Facebook page for additional information <https://www.facebook.com/food2kids/>.

O'Neal-Kunkle, Chapter #47 of the Disabled American Vets (D.A.V.), meets the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 2204 Runnels Street. For more information, please contact Norman Witcher at 432-413-6663.

Senior and/or mature adults are invited to come to a dance every first and third Friday each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Drive. Come two-step the evening away, or just mingle with old friends and make new friends. Dances are from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live entertainment. No alcohol or smoking permitted. Cost is \$5 per person.

Home Hospice is looking for volunteers (18+) and junior volunteers (9-16 years old). Applications can be picked up at the Home Hospice office, located at 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite A between 8 a.m and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Adult volunteers will need to complete a training and must be able to pass a background check. Volunteer duties will include home visits; junior volunteers will be helping with office work, community events and holiday activities. More information can be obtained by calling 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon the first Monday of every month. We meet at Howard College in the Cactus Room. Our vision is that every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the most beautiful city in Texas. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Tammy at 432-935-0057.

The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you.

Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

Victim Services is a non-

profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies, as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit [www.BecomeaCASA.org](http://www.BecomeaCASA.org) or [www.casawtx.org](http://www.casawtx.org).

Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for new members. If you have a heart for serving people, have at least four hours a week to spare, SMMC Auxiliary might be the fit for you.

Duties include working in the gift shop, delivering newspapers to inpatients, hospitality services, popcorn and more.

To find out more about opportunities available with the SMMC Auxiliary, contact Amy Miramontes at 268-4809 or April Arms at 268-4907.

The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop mortgage foreclosure and are need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

The Howard County Democrats meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Howard County Democratic Headquarters, 1408 Scurry, behind Prosperity Bank.

The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade.

## City Announcement

City of Big Spring offices will remain open by appointment and electronic means ONLY effective Sunday, March 22, 2020, at midnight. These offices include:

- City Hall (432-264-2401)
- o Finance Department (432-264-2513)
- o Public Works Department (432-264-2501)
- o Human Resources Department (432-264-2346)
- Water Office (432-264-2319)
- Code Enforcement/Permits (432-264-2505)
- Community Services Office
- o Convention and Visitors Bureau (432-263-8235)
- o Facilities (432-264-2322)
- o Cemetery (432-264-2323)
- Police Department (432-264-2550)
- Fire Department (432-264-2304)

The Big Spring Senior Center will be closed to congregate meals, but those who wish to pick up a to go order can call 432-267-1268, for more information.

All city pavilions, playground structures, and Moss Lake will remain closed until further notice.

For any questions or concerns please contact the City Manager's Office at 432-264-2401.

## Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 84 inmates at the time of this report.

**SERGIO JACOB CERVANTES**, 25, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated more than or equal to .1 and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

**JODY WAYNE DAWDY**, 55, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of violating bond/protective order.

**DAKOTA JAMES HERNANDEZ**, 28, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of possession of controlled substance less than one gram.

**MICHAEL JOSEPH MMCNEW**, 29, was arrested by HCSO for evading arrest detention and theft of property between \$100 and \$750.

**MARCUS MENDEZ**, 27, was arrested by HCSO on theft of property between \$100 and \$750.

**RAUL MENDEZ, JR.**, 40, was arrested by BSPD, on a charge of murder.

**CHAD LEE PUGA**, 35, was arrested by HCSO, on a charge of interfering with emergency request for assistance.

**KATELYNN LEEANN ROMAN**, 20, was arrested by BSPD, on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

**MARCUS EMORY STURGILL**, 32, was arrested by BSPD, on a charge of indecent assault.

**ARMENTA CRUZ ISE VALENZUELA**, 36, was arrested by BSPD, on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

**CEDRIC JERMAINE WEBB**, 31, was arrested by BSPD, on a charge of assault family violence threat.

### Donation Request from MMH:

Midland Memorial Hospital has received numerous inquiries from the community on how they can help our front-line staff.

While Midland Memorial does not normally accept donations of supplies and equipment, the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) has restricted the quantities of protective equipment our caregivers use to deliver care to patients. Under these constraints donations from organizations, companies, groups and individuals to Midland Memorial, that meet quality and safety standards, can be donated for our hospital to use. We are in need of the following items:

- Disinfection Wipes & Liquids
- General Purpose Hand Cleansers
- Disposable Head Covers/Caps
- Disposable Gowns
- Disposable Gloves
- N95 Respirator Face Masks
- Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)

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**MEMBER 2020**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

**CANCEL**

Continued from Page 1A

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin tweeted. "All taxpayers and businesses will have this additional time to file and make payments without interest or penalties."

Mnuchin said Americans expecting refunds can still file now.

"I encourage all taxpayers who may have tax refunds to file now to get your money," he wrote.

The delay is available to individuals or families who owe \$1 million or less and corporations that owe \$10 million or less, according to the press release issued.

To also keep in accordance of no gatherings of more than 10 people, Howard College Board of Trustees have cancelled the meeting that was to take place this coming Monday.

According to Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Howard College President, they are looking at innovative ways to conduct meetings and will announce information as soon as a new avenue has been put into place.

The Howard County Commissioners have set up a live-feed for those who are wanting to watch the Commissioner Court meetings. The live feed can be found at [https://facebook.com/Howard-County-Info\\_Tech-110733893888746/](https://facebook.com/Howard-County-Info_Tech-110733893888746/). Questions will be able to be submitted through that link as well, for the meetings.

BBVA bank has also made the decision to close

the lobby at this time to practice social distancing. The drive-through window and online banking are still available.

The Big Spring Herald will continue to update our readers as more closures, postponements and other announcements are released. Reminder, the lobby at the Big Spring Herald is closed to the public for the next four weeks, but business continues per usual. Those needing to make a payment, place an ad or subscribe to the paper can do so by calling 432-263-7331.

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

**CITY**

Continued from Page 1

take action regarding Declaring a Resolution of a Declaration of Public Health Disaster for The City of Big Spring Texas an Emergency, which will be presented by Mayor Shannon Thomason. There will also be an emergency reading of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Big Spring, renewing and extending a Declaration of Public Health Emergency/Disaster issued by the Mayor on March 18, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the United States "15 Days to Slow the Spread" campaign; and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to take such steps as are necessary to support the Declaration therein made; providing for an effective date.


An emergency reading of a resolution amending Chapter VIII of the City of Big Spring Personnel policies and procedures by adding a new section 11 entitled "Emergency/Disaster Employee and Working Conditions Designation: Telecommuting and Leave; and exceptional conditions paid leave; and authorizing the City Manager to take such steps as are necessary to implement such policies and procedures; and providing and effective date.

Other items on the agenda:

- Vouchers for 03/12/20 and 03/19/20
- Bids for delinquent account collections services – RFP 20-2020
- Approval of City Council Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2020
- Final reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Big Spring, amending Chapter 5 of the Big Spring Code of Ordinances Entitled "Finance" Article 2 "Hotel Occupancy Tax" Section 7-7 "Definitions" by Amending various definitions; amending section 7-8 "Levying of Tax Rate – Exceptions" in order to expand the exceptions as permitted by State Law; providing for severability; providing for publication; and providing and effective date.
- Consideration and possible action declaring a resolution amending Chapter VIII of the City of Big Spring personnel policies and procedures by adding a new section 11 entitled "Emergency/Disaster Employee and Working Conditions Designation; telecommuting and leave; and exceptional conditions paid leave an emergency.
- Council input

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

## Weather



**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. South wind around 10 mph.

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 80. West wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southeast after midnight.

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

**Don'ts and Dos on Coronavirus**

**By Jane M. Orient, M.D.**

Some of the views expressed here are controversial. So, do ask your doctor. I hope you have one—not just the HMO or retail clinic "provider."

Don't panic. That is always good advice. If you, like the world's economy, operate on just-in-time inventories, and did not take advice to stock up 3 weeks ago, do not join a mob at a big-box store. Somebody there is no doubt infected. Plus, there's the risk of getting trampled or injured in a fist fight over the last roll of toilet paper. Most of the world survives without that luxury good. If you have no rice or beans or pasta in the pantry, that is more serious, but you should still avoid mobs if at all possible. Take-out and drive-through places are booming.

Don't treat fever without a doctor's advice. Fever is not a disease. It is an important defense mechanism. Very high fevers (say 105 degrees) can cause brain damage, and children can have seizures. But don't pop Tylenol or ibuprofen at the first sign of fever. Many of the casualties in the 1918 pandemic might have been caused by heavy use of aspirin. Like aspirin, popular nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDS) such as ibuprofen also have detrimental effects on blood clotting. Try lukewarm sponge baths for comfort.

Don't rush out and get a flu shot. I know, a lot of doctors and public health authorities urge everybody to do this. Influenza

can kill you, and the flu shot decreases that risk by 30% to 60%—but there is evidence that it can make COVID-19 worse, both from the earlier SARS epidemic and lab research. Like with so many things in medicine, we have to play the odds.

Don't go to the emergency room or urgent care unless you are severely ill. There will be sick people there, and you might catch something. You also might end up with a big bill, say for a CT scan you didn't really need. And if you have the flu or a cold or COVID-19, and don't need IV fluids or oxygen, they can't do anything for you. Telephone advice lines could help greatly.

Don't go to events that are crowded, especially indoors in poorly ventilated rooms. Staying home is good.

Don't demand to be tested and rely on the results. The tests are still in short supply and not very accurate. If you are at low risk, a positive test is likely to be a false positive. And if you are infected, the test may be negative at first. We need much more testing—mainly for public health monitoring.

Don't waste. Expired medications are probably still good. Most drugs or essential ingredients are made in China, and supplies are running out. Masks (also mostly made in China) are meant to be disposable, but likely can't be replaced (see below).

Don't touch your face or your eyes. That is very hard—pre-

venting that is one function of a mask and eye protection

Now for some dos:

Do prepare to take care of yourself and your family. Be sure you have a fever thermometer, disposable gloves, plastic garbage bags, and cleaning supplies. A pulse oximeter, available in many places for around \$40, is good to have to check oxygen levels.

Do clean and disinfect surfaces such as doorknobs, telephones, computer keyboards, toilets, and countertops often. Virus can persist there for days.

Do remember that sunlight is the best disinfectant. If you don't have a pocket ultraviolet lamp (they are or were available on amazon), try putting things like masks or paper currency out in the sun. The idea should be rigorously tested, but in times of need, you may have to guess.

Do wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer. With SARS-CoV-2, most disinfectants work, including 70-percent-alcohol-based sanitizers.

Do put a mask on sick people if you can. For protecting yourself you need a minimum of an N95 mask and eye protection.

Do take your vitamins. Most people may be vitamin D deficient. Your need for vitamin C escalates with infection. Some 50 tons of vitamin C was shipped to Wuhan, and studies of effectiveness are underway.

**DAYS**

Continued from Page 1

probably know someone with diabetes. Check on them on this special day.

March 25 brings many special days including National Lobster Newburg Day, National Tolkien Reading Day and National Little Red Wagon Day.

Most importantly, this day is National Medal of Honor Day. The first Medals of Honor were presented in 1963 to six members of the "Andres Raiders" and their participation during the American Civil War.

Contact Staff Writer Anna Gutierrez at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

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Gayla Williams, 65, died Thursday. There will be a private celebration of Gayla's life on Monday, March 23, at 11 a.m.

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## Cowboys free agency recap through one week

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

**Safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix**

Clinton-Dix signed a one-year deal with the Cowboys.

The Alabama product has played a first round pick (21st overall) of the Green Bay Packers in 2014. He was traded to the Washington Redskins in 2018 and finished out his season there before signing a one-year deal with the Chicago Bears last spring. The one-time Pro Bowler is known for his durability and has started 90 of the 96 games he has played.

The former Crimson Tide playmaker has totaled 522 combined tackles, 5.5 sacks, 16 interceptions, and four forced fumbles in his career.

**Defensive Tackle Gerald McCoy**

Signed a three-year deal to continue his career as a member of the Cowboys.

The big-bodied defensive lineman out of Oklahoma was a first round pick (3rd overall) of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers back in the 2010 NFL Draft. McCoy spent last season as a member of the Carolina Panthers after signing there last offseason.

The 10-year vet has started all 139 games that he has played in his career. The six-time Pro Bowler and one-time All-Pro has recorded 334 combined tackles, 86 tackles for loss, 59.5 sacks, and six forced fumbles.

**Wide Receiver Amari Cooper**

Signed a five-year, \$100 million contract to return to Dallas after testing out the free agent market.

Cooper was a first round pick (4th overall) of the Oakland Raiders back in the 2015 NFL Draft. Jerry Jones made a big trade in the middle of the 2018 season that brought Cooper to Dallas, where he finished out his rookie contract.

The Alabama product has played in 77 career games with 72 games started over his five-year career. Cooper has caught 357 passes for 5,097 yards and 33 touchdowns in his career. He will continue to be the No. 1 receiver in the Dallas offense for years to come.

**Quarterback Dak Prescott**

Was given the franchise tag of over \$33 million following the completion of his four-year rookie contract.

Prescott was a fourth round pick (135th overall) of the Cowboys in the 2016 NFL Draft and he has far exceeded his draft position. The Mississippi State product has made the Pro

Bowl two times and was also named the 2016 AP Offensive Rookie of the Year.

The four-year veteran has played and started all 64 games over his career, proving his durability is not a long-term issue. Prescott has a career 40-24 record as the starting quarterback after taking over for an injured Tony Romo almost five years ago.

He has completed 1,363-of-2,071 passing attempts (65.8%) for 15,778 yards, 97 touchdowns, and 36 interceptions. The team captain has also rushed 241 times for 1,221 yards and an additional 21 touchdowns in his career.

**Linebacker Sean Lee**

Signed a one-year, \$4.5 million deal with \$2 million fully guaranteed.

The longtime team captain was a second round pick (55th overall) of the Cowboys in the 2010 NFL Draft. He has spent his entire 10-year career (he missed the entire 2014 season) in Dallas.

The Penn State product has had injury issues throughout his career. Lee has played in 109 career games with 90 starts (51 career missed games). He played all 16 games last season for Dallas and has totaled 782 combined tackles, 60 tackles for loss, 14 interceptions, four sacks, and two forced fumbles in his career.

**Tight End Blake Jarwin**

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 in 2017. He has started 11 games in his first three seasons and has played a total of 33 games. The new starting tight end has collected totals of 58 receptions, 672 yards, and six touchdowns in his time in Dallas.

The college and pro Cowboy is now expected to slide-in to the starting tight end spot for the foreseeable future.

**Safety Darian Thompson**

Signed a two-year, \$2.8 million deal to return to the Cowboys.

Thompson was a third round pick (71st overall) of the New York Giants in the 2016 NFL Draft. The Boise State product has played the last two seasons in Dallas. He has played in 43 career games with 21 starts and has

recorded 127 combined tackles, 1.5 sacks, and one interception.

**Long Snapper L.P. Ladouceur**

Ladouceur signed a one-year deal worth around \$900,000 guaranteed to keep the job he's had since 2005.

The long snapper signed as an undrafted free agent out of California in 2005. He has played his entire 15-year career with the Cowboys and has played in 237 games.

**Cornerback Anthony Brown**

Brown has signed a three-year deal to return to the Cowboys after a season cut short by a torn triceps injury.

Brown was a sixth-round pick (189th overall) out of Purdue in 2016 and has carved himself out a role as a top-three rotational cornerback for the Dallas defense. He has started 34 games and played in 56 games over his first four seasons in the NFL and has snagged four interceptions. The inside-outside corner has also gathered 172 combined tackles, 32 passes defended and three forced fumbles.

**Cornerback Maurice Canady**

Signed a one-year deal with Dallas.

Canady split last season between the New York Jets and Baltimore Ravens and came up with one interception and five pass deflections. He will add depth to the secondary as well as be a contributor on special teams.

The four-year veteran has 80 combined tackles, an interception, one forced fumble, and one fumble recovery in 32 career games played. He played his college ball at Virginia and was a sixth round pick (209th overall) of the Ravens in 2016.

**Kicker Kai Forbath**

Dallas agreed to a one-year deal with Kai Forbath on Wednesday.

The kicker replaced Brett Maher late in the season and went 10-for-10 on field goals as well as converting all 10 of his point-after attempts.

The eight-year veteran has made 131-of-151 of his career field goal attempts (86.8%).

Forbath also serves as the teams kickoff specialist and will keep the Cowboys special teams group together for next season after the re-signing of long snapper L.P. Ladouceur.

**Center Joe Looney**

The Cowboys front office decided to also sign center/guard Joe Looney to a one-year deal.

Looney has started 20 games over the past two seasons and adds depth

to a stacked Dallas offensive line room. He has shown his versatility by playing multiple spots across the line and will serve as one of the top interior backups.

The fourth round pick (117th overall) of the San Francisco 49ers in 2012, Looney has played eight seasons in the NFL after coming out of Wake Forest. Looney has played 91 games (30 starts) for the 49ers, Tennessee Titans, and Cowboys.

**Linebacker Joe Thomas**

The seventh year linebacker out of South Carolina State signed a one-year deal to return to the Cowboys for the 2020 season.

Thomas is a versatile linebacker who could line up at all three spots on the second level of the Dallas defense. He also contributes on special teams and will have a role in that phase as well.

He spent the first four seasons of his career with the Green Bay Packers after going undrafted in 2014. Thomas has played 67 games in his career and has racked up 157 combined tackles, nine tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks, two forced fumbles, and one interception.

**Linebacker Justin March-Lillard**

Signed a one-year deal with the Cowboys last week.

March-Lillard is a special teams playmaker who will be returning for his fourth season in Dallas. He was signed by the Kansas City Chiefs as an undrafted rookie out of Akron in 2015 and has developed into a solid special teams presence.

He has played for the Chiefs, Miami Dolphins, Seattle Seahawks, and the Cowboys during his career. March-Lillard has collected 41 combined tackles, three pass deflections, and one tackle for loss in his 47 career games.

**Cornerback C.J. Goodwin**

Signed a one-year deal to return to the Dallas Cowboys.

The depth cornerback went undrafted out of California (PA) in 2016 and has played for the Pittsburgh Steelers, Atlanta Falcons, Arizona Cardinals, and Cowfboys.

Goodwin has played in 47 career games with one start. He has totaled 36 combined tackles and two passes defended in his career.

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

## Barefoot Hamlin wins virtual Homestead as NASCAR races again

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The stands were packed, Jimmie Johnson caused several wrecks, Denny Hamlin raced barefoot and damaged cars were repaired with the push of a button — a few virtual signs that NASCAR backed quite an unreal race.

NASCAR eased off the brake in the real sports world brought to a sudden halt by the coronavirus and introduced the country to iRacing with some of the sports biggest stars. Hamlin, the three-time Daytona 500 winner, beat Dale Earnhardt Jr. off the final corner Sunday at virtual Homestead-Miami Speedway to win the bizarre spectacle.

"For the community, the racing community, the NASCAR drivers to come together and put drivers on the racetrack with such short notice, everyone is buying up simulation rigs this week and last week getting ready for the event, and for it all to come together and have a great finish, I think it was definitely a success," Hamlin said.

"iRacing got involved and emailed everyone, said, 'Hey, this is what we're thinking about.' NASCAR got involved, television got involved and said they'd be interested.

But no one really talked to the drivers about unifying and participating. It was all free will, and that's what's exciting is you had full-time Cup guys out there willing to spend their time doing this."

It was Hamlin's 31st victory in iRacing, which is where he was first discovered by Earnhardt long before he made it to NASCAR. Hamlin was heavily involved in putting together Sunday's pretend race, which was broadcast live on Fox Sports 1 and called by its regular team of Mike Joy and Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon.

NASCAR has suspended racing until at least May 9, and with literally nothing else to do, series executives and iRacing put together the inaugural eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series in roughly one week.

The first event was at Homestead, where NASCAR was supposed to be racing Sunday before CO-

VID-19 brought sports to a halt.

This was a one-of-a-kind competition for most watching at home, and ended up with a familiar winner.

It could serve as a petri dish for other sports to try the whole gamer thing. The classic games aired across TV over the weekend will get old in a hurry, and networks are desperate for something fresh until sports resume.

Drivers showed immediate interest — even those with little to no simulator racing experience. Some rushed to purchase "rigs" to get into the 35-driver field, and the show-and-tell on social media of the setups provided an entertaining build-up to the event.

Hamlin, racing barefoot on an elaborate rig in the living room of his North Carolina home, had said earlier this week he'd donate \$5,000 to Miami families affected by COVID-19 if he won the race and Kevin Harvick said he'd match Hamlin's pledge. Hamlin also set odds for the race and was instrumental in a group chat among the participants.

Truck Series driver Ty Majeski, ranked one of the best iRacers in the world, competed from a computer propped on a wooden desk with a steering wheel attached. Kyle Larson said he spent \$6,800 building his rig, while many of the less heralded drivers who use iRacing to hone their skills can build a setup for a few hundred dollars.

A competitor needs only a chair, computer, steering wheel and pedals, but NASCAR's superstars shelled out much more to trick out their simulators.

Hamlin estimated his rig cost over \$40,000 — but defended the price because his simulator has motion features — and said better equipment makes no difference. He also said he raced barefoot because "I like to feel the pedals."

Seven-time NASCAR champion Johnson, who has been practicing sports car and IndyCar racing on the simulator in his garage, competed from a rig that appeared more suited for one of those cars than his virtual No. 48 Chevrolet. But Johnson proved to be a less-than-elite iRacer early with a comical

crash in which his car appeared to be a ping-pong ball off the wall and several other cars.

"I hope everyone enjoyed that today. I clearly have a ton to learn," Johnson said.

Among those hit by Johnson was Alex Bowman, Johnson's teammate at Hendrick Motorsports and one of the highly rated computer racers. But drivers can hit a reset to "fix" the damage and continue.

"No worries my virtual crew used a fast repair and it's good as new.

Also I'm eating an uncrustable," Bowman tweeted after Johnson wrecked him. "And yeah I'm still tweeting and fake driving."

Drivers took the event seriously, with most using the opportunity to showcase their sponsor — Land- on Cassini even signed a sponsor for racing. Many recruited their real spotters and crew chiefs to help. Bowman's real crew chief Greg Ives and spotter Kevin Hamlin both watched the event from home in team shirts giving Bowman advice.

Many of the younger NASCAR drivers are world-ranked iRacers and use the game to work on their craft. The iRacing game is as close to reality as any professional sport can get because of the granular detail and precise rendering of each NASCAR track. The venues are laser-scanned to capture the bumps and imperfections in the asphalt, as well as duplicate the grandstands and billboards and pit lane.

The race, called the Dixie Vodka 150, was 100 laps around the virtual 1.5-mile Homestead oval. Dixie Vodka said it would donate \$10,000 to the NASCAR Foundation, which is centralizing charitable donations in the NASCAR industry to support those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professional iRacing drivers — NASCAR hosts a league — can create their own setups but for Sunday's event a fixed setup was installed.

The event gave NASCAR a chance to showcase its esports offering on live television while also providing entertainment during a time when most of the world is locked down over fears of spreading the coronavirus.

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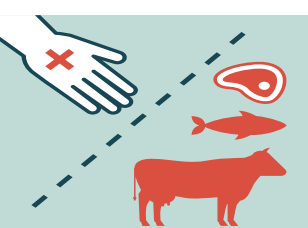
The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from

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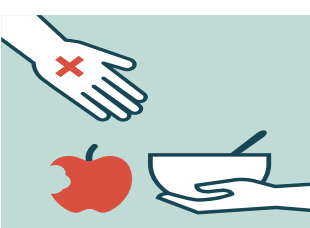
**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of this application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792)

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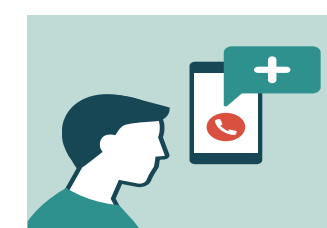
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**Stay the Supportive Course**

**Dear Annie:** My cousin has had anger issues for years, especially toward our grandmother. A few years ago, her parents got divorced, and her dad immediately started dating another woman, with whom he now shares a house. My cousin has announced that she is cutting herself off from all family ties, and, when she turns 18 next year, she is planning on changing her last name. She is consistently rude to our grand-

mother, who is just trying to show her love and affection during this hard time in her life. She also recklessly got a tattoo a few weeks ago. I'm worried that she is turning down a dangerous path in her life. Is there anything I can do to keep my family together and help her through this trying time without having her turn on me, too? -- Concerned Cousin

**Dear Concerned Cousin:** It is understandable that your cousin has anger issues. Her parents just

got divorced, and now she is dealing with her father dating and living with another woman. She feels that she has no control over the situation so she wants to control something. That is why she is talking about changing her name, getting a tattoo and removing herself from the family. The whole situation might be just too painful for her to deal with right now. As for being disrespectful to Grandma, well, that is because she is a safe space for your cousin's fury. Your cousin is deflecting her anger from her father

onto her grandma because she knows that grandma will always be there, loving her. My advice is to encourage you to be a friend. Be as kind, loving and supportive as you possibly can while she is going through this. If she "turns on you," know that it is temporary. If you continue to show her love and compassion, she will come around.

**Dear Annie:** In support of the woman who had only gained 29 pounds in 49 years, I, too, have a fitness story. Recently, I lost

25 pounds at age 66 by swimming a mile almost every day. It helped that we retired to Florida, where I have access to a pool year-round. I have not changed my diet, but I do not overeat to make up for the extra exercise. Swimming is just part of my day, and I try not to miss a day. When we went on a long cruise, I was concerned that I might gain the weight back, but I did not. I tried to exercise every day so I can only assume that I have increased my metabolism.

I feel great and am now back to my weight from high school. I never thought I would see those numbers on the scale again. -- Still Slender 50 Years Later

**Dear Still Slender:** Congratulations on creating a healthful lifestyle, which has contributed to a healthy weight. Swimming is a wonderful sport and is great for your joints. Thank you for sharing your positive habits.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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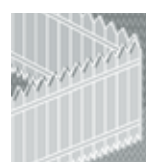
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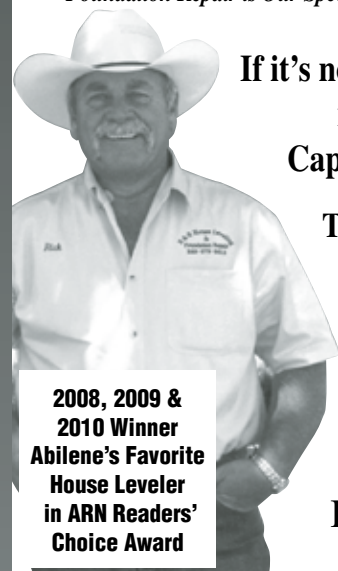
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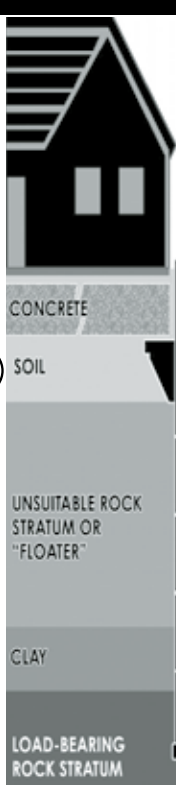
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Aries New Moon Pre-Roll

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The muses will favor you with practical solutions. You'll be inspired, not to paint a picture or sing a song but to find the most elegant solution to an everyday problem.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Knowing what's going to happen doesn't make the future conceivable. Life can be explained, considered, talked about until faces go blue, but it's only lived one way, and that is through the experience.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** When you love your own camaraderie, you're never at a loss for good company. People will want to be near you today, which fortunately shouldn't interfere with cherished solo time.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You'll be a leader. Your ability to navigate the territory will be envied by those who don't have nearly the same confidence level in a place as you do.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Empathy is at the heart of all you do to-

day, and behind the things you don't do. You'll ignore the mistakes of others and overlook their shortcomings in order to praise strengths.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're looking forward to something pleasant but trying not to set your expectation too high, as that would surely diminish the moment when it arrives. Happiness is mastering the art of expectation.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Anyone who has told a lie (in other words, just about everyone who speaks a language) knows something about the subtle differences between lies and truths. You'll get a lesson in this today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Someone will

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



be intent on impressing you. Unfortunately for them, you are not easily im-

pressed, and your reserve will only make this person try harder.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You might be able to put on your old clothes. Even so, when you do, you're somehow not wearing them. Same goes for your old obsessions. You can go back, but when you get there, you're never there.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The thing you are trying to do will continue to be a pain, but you shouldn't let that stop you from doing it anyway. This is important, or you wouldn't be so frustrated. Keep going at it from different angles.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You really don't feel compelled to run your ideas by other people for approval, but you should anyway. It's not because you'll change your mind but because you'll learn from your presentation.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There's an endeavor that you'd do even if you weren't paid. You'd wake up early or stay up late to do it. If it were suddenly made illegal tomorrow, you'd risk it in secret. That's what you should spend the bulk of your time on.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 23).** The buck in the woods grows a crown of antlers, but that alone doesn't make him king. The endowment is merely a chance to fight for the right to rule. You've such an attribute -- an impressive talent that will be put to the test to prove it's more than an adornment. You'll use your gifts to claim territory and lead your life. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 40, 50, 18 and 47.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker  
Famous Hand

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ K 7 6 5  
♥ 3  
♦ A J 10 5  
♣ K J 8 5  
WEST  
♠ J 9  
♥ 9 7 4  
♦ Q 6  
♣ A 9 6 4 3 2  
EAST  
♠ 10 8 4 2  
♥ A K J 6 5 2  
♦ 9 8 4  
♣ —  
SOUTH  
♠ A Q 3  
♥ Q 10 8  
♦ K 7 3 2  
♣ Q 10 7

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♣  
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ 4 ♥  
Pass 5 ♦  
Opening lead — jack of spades.

Bridge is not played perfectly by anyone, including experts, and the best proof of this can sometimes be found at the annual world championship. Consider the present deal from the match between Italy and the United States in 1975.

At the first table, the Italian pair — Benito Garozzo and Giorgio Belladonna — got to five diamonds on the sequence shown. Probably West should have reasoned from the bidding that East had either one or no clubs and, on that basis, should have

led the ace of clubs. But West led the jack of spades instead.

Belladonna won the ace and guessed the trump finesse correctly when he played a low diamond to the ten at trick two. Had he now drawn the remaining trumps, he would have made the contract easily.

But Belladonna thought the trumps might be divided 4-1, and, to protect against this possibility, he led a low club from dummy at trick three! This was certainly not the best play on the actual layout, as he found out when East, Eddie Kantar, trumped the club.

Kantar didn't know that his partner had the ace of clubs and that all he had to do was to cash his heart trick at this point. Instead, acting on the assumption that South had the ace of clubs, and hoping that West had the queen of hearts, Kantar led the deuce of hearts at trick four in a desperate attempt to reach West and obtain another club ruff.

Kantar's low-heart return would have been sensationally successful had the cards been located as he hoped they were. As it was though, Belladonna put up the queen, drew the outstanding trumps and easily made the contract, losing only the club ace and a club ruff.

Tomorrow we'll see what happened at the second table when the U.S. held the North-South cards.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand — Part Two.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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!

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

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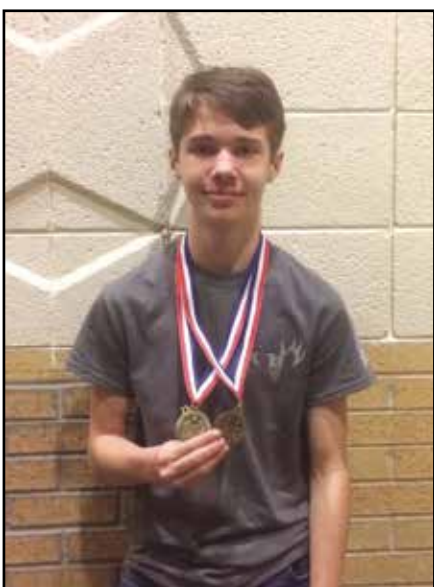
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## Community Highlights - Athletic and Academic



*Submitted by Susan Marie*  
**Jake also placed 1st place from Coahoma for 7th grade District UIL Social Studies and 1st place for District UIL 7th grade Maps, Graphs, and Charts.**



*Submitted by Belinda Garcia*

Do you have a local athlete you want to recognize? Even though UIL has suspended activity at this time, there are plenty of accomplishments that we can highlight. Submit a photo and a brief description of your Star Student and we will feature them in the Big Spring Herald. Submit to [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com)

My daughter Mariah Justine Chavarria is a Sr 2020 she plays the clarinet, Golf, and baseball.

## Jays' Shapiro expects 4-week spring training before season

TORONTO (AP) — With no sign of when training camps can resume, Toronto Blue Jays president Mark Shapiro says he thinks Major League Baseball would need at least a month of workouts and exhibition games before regular season play can begin.

Opening day has been postponed until at least mid-May because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Knowing that so many players are not even having any access to throwing at all or hitting at all, but most importantly just throwing, and probably limited access to just training and exercise, it's hard to imagine we could get ready in less than four weeks," Shapiro said in a teleconference with Toronto reporters.

Shapiro cautioned that training camps aren't likely to reopen for some time yet.

"I do think that we're, by and large, waiting for some sort of flattening of the curve and recognition that we have done our best to limit the strain on the health-care system and the economic system," he said. "Until that time, the exact outcome and impact on our schedule, and all of the corresponding business that cascades off that, really can't be determined."

"It certainly looks like we are not dealing with days and likely not weeks, but closer to months," he said.

Speaking from his Toronto home, where he and his family are isolating themselves, Shapiro said he expects negotiations between Major League Baseball and the players' union on an industry-wide plan to compensate players for

missed games to conclude "in the next 24 to 48 hours."

All but three of Toronto's major league players have left the team's spring training site in Dunedin, Florida. Those that remain are South Korean left-hander Hyun-Jin Ryu, Japanese right-hander Shun Yamaguchi and right-hander Rafael Dolis, who is from the Dominican Republic.

Shapiro said the three players "did not have any place to go." They are the only players who maintain access to Toronto's Florida facilities.

Ryu is accompanied by his wife, who is seven months pregnant.

Shapiro said no Blue Jays players or staff have displayed any symptoms of the new coronavirus, and that no one has been tested.

Some 30 minor league players and four staffers who have been unable to go home are being housed in a Dunedin-area hotel, Shapiro said. Eighteen of those players are from Venezuela, and cannot return home.

Shapiro said Toronto's big league players have been given individualized workout plans, while minor league players still at the team hotel in Florida have received workouts they can perform in their rooms.

"The physical exercise they can do is as much about mental health and maintaining some semblance of normalcy and routine, and probably a little bit less baseball-specific," Shapiro said. "There's almost no one who could maintain game-ready shape in light of circumstances."

## USOPC welcomes IOC update, questions remain

By The Associated Press

Leaders at the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee said the update provided by the IOC about the Tokyo Olympics signaled an important step but athletes are still beset with questions about whether the games will go ahead as scheduled in July.

The statement came from USOPC chair Sarah Hirshland and the athlete advisory council leader, Han Xiao.

They said they're sticking with the advice Hirshland offered Friday — that athletes continue to prioritize their health and wellness over everything else. But they said they're eager to explore alternatives "to ensure all athletes have a robust and fulfilling Olympic and Paralympic experience, regardless of when that can safely occur."

The leader of the international track federation, Seb Coe, sent a letter to IOC president Thomas Bach saying holding the Olympics in July "is neither feasible nor desirable" with the coronavirus impacting huge swaths of the globe.

Coe sent the letter Sunday after meeting with leaders from around the world in track, which is the biggest sport at the Olympics. It came hours after the IOC announced it could take up to four weeks to make a decision on whether to postpone the games, which are scheduled to start July 24.

Coe cited issues of fairness, the increased likelihood of injuries if athletes have to rush through training and the uncertainty caused by public health issues that are forcing many countries to order all people to stay indoors.

Coe reiterated what he's said before — that nobody wants to see the Olympics postponed, but it can't be held at all costs, specifically the cost of athlete safety.

The IOC will take four weeks to weigh options for the Tokyo Games amid mounting calls from athletes and Olympic officials for a postponement due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The time will be used to plan different scenarios for the July 24-Aug. 9 games, the International Olympic Committee said Sunday.

"These scenarios relate to modifying existing operational plans for the Games to go ahead on 24 July 2020, and also for changes to the start date of

the Games," the IOC said.

Though canceling the Tokyo Olympics is not an option, a delay until later this year or in 2021 is possible.

The change in strategy followed IOC president Thomas Bach leading a telephone conference call with executive board members.

Bach has consistently said organizers are fully committed to holding the games from July 24-Aug. 9 — despite athlete training, qualifying events and games preparations being disrupted more and more by the virus outbreak spreading globally.

Criticism of the stance grew in recent days — from athletes and by a first IOC member last Tuesday — and Bach finally acknowledged an alternative plan was possible.

"Of course we are considering different scenarios," Bach told the New York Times in an interview late Thursday.

The St. Louis Blues say a relative of a team employee has tested positive for COVID-19.

The person is in self-isolation along with members of the person's family, according to the team.

All Blues staff who may have come into close contact with the employee have been notified. The team says it is asking for all members of the Blues to remain isolated, monitor their health and seek advice from team medical staff.

Orlando Magic forward Jonathan Isaac announced he is teaming up with a church to provide hot breakfasts and lunches to school kids age 18 and under on weekdays for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic.

Isaac says he's partnering with J.U.M.P. Ministries Global Church for that initiative. Isaac also announced that he'll be helping families obtain boxes of non-perishable food items once a week, things like oatmeal and cereal and instant rice.

"There's a great concern to those kids going hungry at this time. We don't want that to happen," Isaac said.

The breakfasts and lunches will be grab-and-go style, in line with social distancing mandates. Isaac says a nurse will be on-site for the pickups as well. Isaac also says there's a similar plan in place to assist those who are living in extended-stay ho-

tels.

"We cannot just sit on our hands while this is going on," Isaac said.

Isaac was honored by the Magic last year for his commitment to community involvement. The Magic have pledged \$2 million to help arena workers displaced by the sports and entertainment shutdown, and Magic players Mo Bamba and Nikola Vucevic are among those who have offered financial help to that cause as well.

The \$12 million Dubai World Cup, the world's richest purse in horse racing, will be postponed until next year. That's according to an announcement from the Dubai Media Office, a governmental agency. Officials had planned to run the race March 28 without spectators over concerns about the new coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness it causes.

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