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THURSDAY EDITION, MAY 7, 2020

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# 3 COVID-19 recoveries reported in

VOLUME 115, NUMBER 190

#### Special to the Herald

Howard Co.

For several weeks, City of Big Spring and Howard County officials have been tracking COVID-19 patient testing and the results of those tests. To date, Howard County has had six confirmed positive results. We are very pleased to announce that as of today, three (3) of those patients are now fully recovered from CO-VID-19, meaning they are now symptom-free and have completed the isolation process. There are currently still two outstanding confirmed cases that are isolated at home and recovering. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 in Howard County.

Patient recovery is an encouraging step for Big Spring and gives our community positive momentum. Please continue to follow proper hygiene recommendations and social distancing practices. We as a community are fighting this together and we are making progress.

## **COVID-19 Update:**

Confirmed: 6

Tests performed: 206

Pending: 75

Negative tests: 120

Recovered: 3

INDEX	
News	1 & 3
Obituaries	2
Sports	4 & 9
Comics	8
Classifieds	5-7
Comics	8
State	10
	C



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# Barbershops, salons, able to open May 8 per Governor Abbott

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Managing Editor

In a press conference Tuesday afternoon, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued revisions to the list of businesses allowed to re-open. On May 1, Governor Abbott set Phase 1 in motion to reopen the state, with businesses - movie theatres, dine-in restaurant services, museums, libraries and churches - allowed to open at 25% capacity. Those counties who were reporting less than five cases were able to open up at 50% capacity, which is where Howard

While the authority had been granted for businesses to re-open there were some who chose not to open their doors just yet. Several local restaurants also chose to continue curbside service and delivery options, with a few re-opening their dine-in with limited seating as ad-

The next set of businesses that will be allowed to re-open on May 8, according to the information provided during the Governor's press conference, will include barber shops, cosmetology/hair salons, nail salons and tanning salons.

"I feel within myself that it's time for us to open and get to work, but I can't help to feel so many different ways emotionally," Michael Rodriquez, stylist, said. "I know that doesn't make sense. but it seems that's how a handful of styl-

According to Rodriguez, Hair By Jose has been closed for seven weeks. Returning to the salon and seeing his coworkers and clients is a moment that he has been counting down the moments

"I'm anxious, nervous and scared all at once. I know everyone is ready to get their hair colored, highlighted and cut. Our clients have been troopers during this situation and I hope we don't have to correct at home colors or kitchen cuts." Rodriguez said.

While there were many stylists across the nation that were deeply impacted by the shutdown, Rodriguez said he counts himself blessed. The support he received from his salon owner and clients during these seven weeks helped him sustain until he could get back in

"As a self employed stylist, I'm very fortunate to work for a salon owner who didn't require us to pay rent while not

See OPEN, Page 3

# National Nurses and Hospital Week opportunity to show appreciation for front line workers

*May 6-12:* 

National Nurses Week

*May 9:* 

SMMC Prayer

at 8 p.m. in front of SMMC

*May 10-16:* 

National Hospital Week

Businesses and community members are

encouraged to show their appreciation by placing

signs in front of SMMC through May 16

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Managing Editor

Nurses are one of the driving forces in today's healthcare setting. As the world battles the coronavirus pandemic, healthcare providers and nursing staff are amongst those on

the front lines. This year, as National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week approaches, Scenic Mountain Medical Center is extending an invitation to the community to join in showing appreciation for all those on the front lines.

"As we work on our annual celebrations inside the hospital. we wanted to do something that would include the community while adhering to social distancing protocols," April Arms, SMMC Executive Assistant, said. "We have had such an outpouring from the community,

and this is just one more way that local businesses and community members can show their support together."

National Nurses Week begins on May 6 each year and runs through May 12. National Nurses Week originally started out facing extensive opposition from various levels of government, but through perserverance eventually was recognized. In October 1954, from Oct. 11-16 National Nurse Week took place in remembrance of Florence Nightingale's 100th anniversary of her mission to Crimea. After that, for many years, there was no national recognition obtained. A bill was introduced to Congress in 1955, but no action was taken; a

resolution was presented by the House of Representatives for the President to proclaim "National Registered Nurse Day," but it did not occur. Finally, in January 1974, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) proclaimed May 12 as International Nurse Day - Florence Nightingale's birthday - and since has been recognized. In February of that same year, a week was designated by the White House as National Nurse Week as President Nixon issued a proclamation. In 1990 the ANA Board of Directors expanded recognition of nurses to a week-long celebration declaring May 6-12, 1991 as National Nurses Week and in 1993 that week was recognized as per-

manent dates for the week long recognition beginning in 1994 and all subsequent years.

"Our nurses are the lifeline for our providers, our staff and our patients," Arms said. "They provide day to day care for

See WEEK, Page 2

the actuarial field covering

insurance and consulting

"My latest book tackles the

With a combination of

history, science, President

Eisenhower, dinosaurs, de-

pression and planets, there

are many facets to this book.

Marco Rubio, Ben Carson

and Rick Perry have all ex-

pressed their opinion on this

"I hope to reach everyday

people who have an interest

age-of-the-earth controver-

# Local Howard College professor turned author releases new book: 'Is a young Earth possible'

organizations.

sy," Hall said.

vibrant issue.

By SAMANTHA **RANEY** 

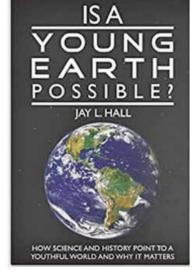
Herald Contributing Writer

Jay Hall has been in Big Spring for about 10 years. While living here he has become the Assistant Mathematics Professor at Howard Col-

Hall Started writing a book in 2017, "Old Earth or Young Earth" which covers history and science.

Hall earned a Master of Science degree in Jay Hall's book can be homa. He has taught

at the High School, Technical School and Community College levels, and has had experience in



Courtesy image

Mathematics from the purchased on Amazon University of Okla for Kindle or hard-

in popular science and history," Hall said. "Those who question climate change hysteria may be willing to look at the facts that support a youthful world."

Hall said he wants to spread his knowledge and open up the minds of people who are interested in this topic. History has a definite limit and this seems to question dating methods which put our cousins the Neanderthals into the distant past, say 300,000 years ago. Hall is looking to push these limits and know more about these times before civilization. Being skeptical of the science establishment, and have applied his critical thinking by exploring options, he has made many discoveries himself and will continue to. Sister planets seem to be young as well. Catastrophism, the view that most rocks were formed rapidly, fits in well with

his young earth theory. "We are more focused on our mortality and the meaning of life," Hall said.

His argument that strict Darwinism drains the purpose and drive from our existence and can actually verge on depression.

Let's consider one treatment for

See BOOK, Page 3

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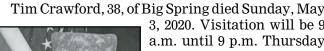
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# **Obituaries**

#### Tim Crawford





3, 2020. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Lloyd Wells, pastor of Spring Creek Fellowship, officiating. Burial will be at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene. Tim was born June 28, 1981, in Big Spring. Tim was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in Iraq. He re-

ceived the Army Commendation Medal. He was a

lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a Christian. He loved music and he was the bass play-Fatal Flawz rock Metal Tim is survived by his wife: Amy Crawford of San Angelo; three daughters: Raven Wilson of Ft. Worth, Destiny Gross of Nevada, and Britania Crawford of Big Spring; two step-sons: Ezekiel Briseno of Stanton and Daryl Briseno of Stanton; parents: Lynn and Stan Crawford of Big Spring; two brothers: Matthew Crawford and his wife Karen of Allen and Christopher Crawford of Big Spring; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Tim was preceded in death by his grandparents; one aunt: Cindy Bass; and one Uncle Kenneth Crawford. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

# Essie Marie Wrightsil Essie Marie Wrightsil, 86, of Itasca, formerly of

Big Spring, passed away Sunday, May 3, 2020.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Friday, May 8, 2020, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park

Survivors include one son, Jack Wrightsil and wife, Carolyn of DeSoto.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch. com

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity for May 4 & 5:

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 81 inmates at the time of this re-

 KELLY PATRICK AMOS, 62, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

 MEDISTA MARIE OBRIEN, 20, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces, aggravated assault with deadly weapon and criminal mischief between \$100 and \$750.

 KELLY PATRICK AMOS, 62, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

 AUSTIN RAY DARDEN, 20, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of drug paraphernalia.

 ROBERT EDWARD DECK, 32, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of evading arrest detention with vehicle and disorderly conduct discharge.

• EVELYN HAWKINS, 62, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

 ROBERT JULIAN MARTI-NEZ, 19, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of theft of firearm.

• MIKW ONOFRE, 35, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• DOUGLAS L. WHITE JR., 40, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

# Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/ EMS reported the following activity for May 4&5:

- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 2600 block of Apache Drive. No transport was re-• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was
- reported in the area of MM 188 W I-20. Four people were transported to Scenic Mountain Medical
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 2600 block of Hunter Drive. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson

our patients. Nurses Week is a

great opportunity for us to show

our nurses just how much they

are appreciated, especially now."

Mountain Medical Group will be

recognizing their nursing staff

with daily recognition moments.

Directly following National Nurs-

ing Week will be National Hospi-

tal Week from May 10 through

"We are hoping to have our

Medical Center

May 16.

Internally Scenic Mountain

and Scenic

Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical

- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 3300 block of W Hwy 80. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Cen-
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 2600 block of S. Gregg. No transport was required.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Cen-
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. No transport was re-

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 2700 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 600 block of Steakley. No transport was required.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1300 block of Mesquite. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Cen-
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 6000 block of S. Service Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

lawn filled with supportive messages from local businesses and community members for the 10 days of celebration," Arms said. "Even though we can't gather physically as a community, we can unite and show our support for our hospital staff. This is also a great way to show that our community stands together, just as we always do when things get hard, and together is how we will

Those businesses and individuals who are wanting to place a sign of support and appreciation during National Nurses Week and Hospital Week are encour-

get through this."

aged to call April Arms at 432-268-4907 for instruction. In addition to placing signs outside the facility and internal efforts, there will be a community prayer on May 9 at 8 p.m. in front of the hospital. The community will be encouraged to stay in their cars and will be handed blue glowsticks to hold up. Pastor Sam Segundo with Family Faith Center will be leading the night of prayer.

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

Share your stories and photos of festivities, creative activities at home, and more with us at editor@bigspringherald.com

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# Howard Co. Feed & Supply



# Food pick up info

Big Spring ISD will be providing sacked meals for while students the campuses are closed. Meals will be available three schools from



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. Children in Big Spring ISD can also pick up

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,

meals at the following times and locations:

From 9 a.m. to 9:55 a.m., you can pick up at:

Bus 13-Navajo and Choctaw Bus 14-Bauer

Bus 15: Larry and McDonald

Bus 27: 5th and Abrams

Bus 28: 3rd and Lockhart

Bus 77: Parkway and Hearn

Bus 85: Goliad Elementary Bus 86: 6th and Circle

Bus 90: Southridge RV Park

Bus 96: Albrook and Randolf From 10 a.m. to 10:55 a.m., you can pick up at:

Bus 13-Barcelona Apartments

Bus 14-Lakeview

Bus 15: Colby and Drew Bus 27: 8th and Lorilla

Bus 28: Roy Anderson Complex Bus 77: Airport and Mobile

Bus 85: Scott and Macausian

Bus 86: Washington Elementary Bus 90: Oasis and Neill

Bus 96: Anderson School

Lunch is also available at North Side Movement for all children in the area. Meals can be picked up at Ryan Hall, located behind the church, at 605 N. Main St. To comply with Governor Abbott's mandate, all meals will be set-up drive-through style. No meals will be served inside the hall. Deliveries will depend on number of volunteers available. You can follow the North Side Movement Facebook page for additional information.

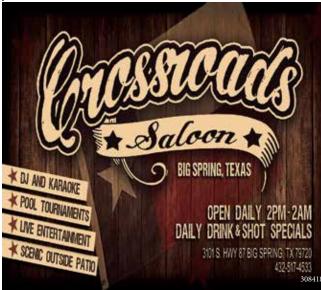


Coahoma ISD will provide take-home lunches to all students while the campuses are closed. Students can pick up a lunch at the back door of the cafeteria, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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.



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MEMBER 2020

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION** 

# LOCAL

Continued from Page 1

COVID-19 that has had some success: chloroquine. This drug has been used to treat malaria for many years. About 440,000 people die from this dreaded disease every year, mostly young African children. The malarial parasite has developed a resistance to chloroguine and this is called "evolution."

However, this is just a slight variation in a basic type of protozoa and represents a loss in ability, not an increase in complexity as molecules-to-man transformation requires, according to Hall.

"My plan is to write a book on biological essentialism," Hall said.

This has an aspect that relates to gender identity, but his major focus will be on the fixity of types of living forms. This meaning of biological essentialism holds that there exist Essential Types of Life (ETL's), such as bears and penguins and that these comprise distinct kinds of organisms that do not have a common ancestor. 'Is a Young Earth Possible?' relates to a number of key

issues in the public square such as climate change, homeschooling, government funding of science, bullying, depression, fake news, net censorship and

In addition to his most recent book Jay Hall also has other books he has written that go along the same lines of belief as his more previous book.

Hall's other books include: 'YES - Young Earth Science'; 'God's Wisdom for Man' (Proverbs and James), of which he was co-author; 'Sacred Cows in Science, which he was a contributor; 'Calculus

'Who is the Intelligent Designer?' and 'My paper on MathWorld'

Hall's books can be found on Amazon. He also said he encourages those who want to contact him about the topics are welcome to by e-mail at YoungEarthScience@yahoo.com.

#### **MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

Celdonio Salazar, died Sunday. Private graveside services will be at 10:00 Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Sunday. Visitation will be 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery

Robert Hale, 66, Funeral Home.

Vickey Weaver, 60, Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Continued from Page 1

working so that's been a huge blessing, I'm blessed to have clients that took care of me while I was out of work," Rodriguez said. "When I received my first blessing I was taken back because I knew right then and there God was going to take care of me. Not one time did I feel stressed about how I was going to make ends meet, but my heart did go out to my fellow people in the industry that do have children, those that are single parents as well."

He continued, "I have to say with all honesty that my faith in God as my provider was all I had during this time along side the support of my family, friends and clients! I tell you, having those those things in my corner is a great feeling."

Facilities that are choosing to re-open will need to place safety precautions in place and adhere to the guidance provided by Governor Abbott, including: those waiting should wait in their cars or outside at least six feet apart, only the person receiving the service should be present for the appointment, only schedule the number of clients that will allow for social distancing of at least six feet apart, posted signs to ensure clients have a number to call for appointment and signs notifying any customers showing symptoms must reschedule appointment. For a full list of protocols visit https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas.

Rodriguez said that while the Governor allowed for salons to re-open on May 8, he is personally waiting until May 12 to take his first client. He is going to use the added time to ensure everything is in order

and ready to serve his clients safely. The owner of the salon, Jose, will also be taking the necessary precautions to ensure everyone operating in the building are safe and ensure clients will have a safe and clean environment to enter.

"It's just hard for me to fathom that every single person on this planet was affected one way or another by this virus," he said. "It helps to put into perspective what's of value in my life."

At this time, Governor Abbott said the Task Force is still working on safety guidance that will allow bars to re-open. There is no proposed date for bars to open at this

"As we open Texas, we are each called upon to be Texans: to act responsibly as we re-engage in the economy, to continue following all health precautions and sanitizing guidelines, and to care for our vulnerable neighbors. Lives depend on our actions. I know you will respond as Texans," Governor Greg Abbott said during his press conference.

Minimum health standards were also issued regarding manufacturers and office based work spaces. On May 18, non-essential manufacturing facilities may operate up to a 25% of the ATTENTION SENIOR PARENTS!

facilities total listed occupancy. The new protocol requires training of all employees and contractors on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Screening for employees and contractors should be done before entering the facility and any employees or contractor meeting the following criteria should be sent home: cough, shortness of breath, chills,

repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, feeling feverish or measured temperature over 100 degrees and known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed with COVID-19. Those employees may not return to work until there has been at least three days since recovery – resolution of fever without fever reducing medications; individual symptoms have improved; and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Social distancing and proper hand washing techniques should also still be followed.

In addition, on May 18 gyms and exercise facilities will be able to open, and according to Governor Abbott, wedding venues and wedding reception venues are able to open immediately. As with other openings, social distancing is encouraged and the 25% capacity rule should be followed.

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

Shelly

# Everday Heroes Photo submitted by Samantha



great, it also makes

great sense. No

matter what the

security, provide

rays and keep your

1311 E. 3rd St.

season, tinted

windows add

car looking &

feeling cool.

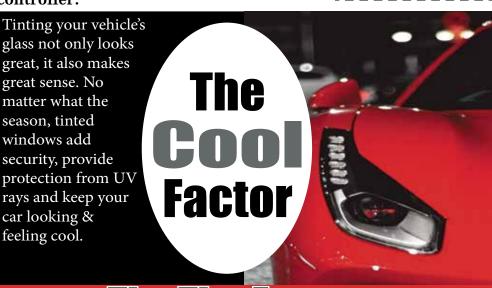
Rodriguez | Mary Gomez works at SMMC as a nurse. She was recognized by her sister Samantha Rodriguez as a hard worker and loves her |

job. Samantha's husband, David Rodriguez, works at H-E-B as an overnight lead stock | controller.

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Tim Crawford, 38, in Abilene.

Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith

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# BIG HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 4 Thursday, May 7, 2020

# Five Forsan tennis players named to THSCA All-State Academic Teams









Courtesy Photos/Seth Johnson

Pictured above far left: Jonathon Gabehart (left) and Hunter Carter (right) pose together after taking second place in the Boys Doubles at Forsan Tournament. Pictured above middle left: Madison Smith poses after taking home the Girls Doubles title at the home meet. Pictured above middle right: Ty Moorman shows off the racket that helped him win the Boys Doubles title. Pictured above far right: Mallory Ezell poses after taking home second place in the Girls Doubles.

#### By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

We have almost hit the two-month mark without having any local or professional sports and at this point almost everyone is ready for the return of their favorite sports.

In the latest local news, the Texas High School Coaches Association (THS-CA) has released their spring sport All-State Academic Teams. While no one qualified in the baseball, track & field or golf categories, the Forsan Buffaloes had a handful of athletes named to the Tennis All-State Academic Teams.

Forsan's Jonathon Gabehart was named to the First Team and was also excellent on the court and in every other sport that he plays. Gabehart was also named to the First Team All-Academic football team and basketball team during his last year as a Buffalo. The senior will now be moving on to his next destination: college in the fall.

Hunter Carter qualified for the Second Team along with Ty Moorman. Even though the pair did not make the First Team, it is still a huge accomplishment to be recognized at all. The Buffaloes did not only excel in the classroom, but

they excelled on the court as well.

Finally, the duo of Mallory Ezell and Madison Smith were named to the Honorable Mentions list. Both girls were off to a strong start to their 2020 season but it was cut short because of the coronavirus pandemic.

This entire group's skill on the tennis court almost matches their skill in the classroom and they truly define what it means to be a student-athlete. They each were top-notch tennis players and also earning high grades in their classes that earned them the recognition throughout the entire state of Texas.

It is a great accomplishment for everyone involved. Forsan Tennis Head Coach Seth Johnson is very proud of his student-athletes and even tweeted out his excitement about the five athletes named to an All-Academic Team.

"Way to get it done on and off the court," Johnson said in a tweet.

Even when their spring sport was taken away from them, these student-athletes finished out the year strong and should be praised for their accomplishments during such a unique and trying time.

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

# Texans Touchback: The latest news from Houston

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

Houston picks up Deshaun Watson's fifth year option

Last week was the deadline for teams to pick up or decline the fifth-year option for first-round picks from the 2017 NFL Draft. The Texans are said to have had "preliminary discussions" with Watson regarding a long-term extension. The Clemson product and Heisman Trophy-winner has built up a strong resume over the first three seasons of his career.

Even with some of the head-scratching personnel moves that have been made by Bill O'Brien, Houston fans should fully expect the two sides to come to an agreement before it is too late.

Watson is scheduled to earn \$4.4 million for the upcoming season and that number will jump dramatically in the fifth year of the deal if no long-term extension has been reached by then.

#### Texans cut Gipson, who is picked up by Bears

Houston decided to terminate the contract of starting safety Tashaun Gipson last week after just one season into his three-year, \$22.5 million contract with the Texans. The safety from Wyoming started 14 games last season and recorded 51 total tackles and three interceptions.

The Texans have a safety group now that includes

Justin Reid, A.J. Moore, Eric Murray, Jaylen Watkins and Michael Thomas. The Texans did not draft a safety but felt that this was the right time to move on from Gipson.

Longtime with Titans
The Tenne

The Bears signed Gipson not long after the Texans released him and he is fully expected to slot right into the starting lineup.

### Conley's fifth year option declined

On the opposite end of the spectrum from the Watson situation, the Texans declined to pick up the fifth-year option for cornerback Gareon Conley.

The deal would have cost the Texans a guaranteed \$10.24 million for the 2021 season but they will now not have to pay that amount and Conley will become a free agent after the upcoming season.

The Texans traded a third round pick to the Raid-

ers for Conley last October and he will make just under \$2 million this season. In his pre-draft news conference, O'Brien was satisfied with Conley's performance last season and even expressed his excitement to have Conley as a part of his defense.

The Ohio State product recorded 50 tackles, 13 passes defended and one interception last season. Longtime Texan Johnathan Joseph signs

The Tennessee Titans added a longtime division rival to their roster over the past week with the addition of Johnathan Joseph on a one-year deal. He had played for Houston since 2011 and is now 36 years old. Joseph is a two-time Pro Bowler and will add valuable experience to a secondary that lost starting corner Logan Ryan this offseason.

"I'm familiar with the coaches and the division, and they went to the AFC title game last year," Joseph told ESPN's Josina Anderson.

The addition of Joseph will only help a hated division rival but the Texans feel as though they have the right group of cornerbacks on their roster.

See **TEXANS**, Page 10



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WEST

**♥**10983

♦ Q 10 5 2

♦ A K 8 4

West

Pass

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

Whenever declarer is faced with a

situation where the success of the contract depends upon winning a

finesse, he should at first seek some

alternative method of play by which

the finesse can be avoided. The num-

ber of cases where the finesse can be

making six spades superficially

generally realized.

North

3 🏚

East

Pass

**♣**K 3 2

The bidding:

South

**♦**43

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By Steve Becker

## Upping the percentages

South dealer. solely on the hope that East was dealt the club king, he will finish down North-South vulnerable. NORTH one. While there is a 50% chance that East was dealt the king of clubs, this **♦**AQ985 **♥**AJ6 does not necessarily mean that there is only a 50% chance to make the contract.

> **EAST** South's chance of bringing in the slam is considerably greater than ♥KQ542 that, provided he takes the prepara-**♦** J 7 6 tory steps necessary to increase his ♣J 1086 chances. With correct play, South can SOUTH elevate his probability of success to **♦** K J 10 6 2 better than 70%.

After winning the ace of hearts, he draws two rounds of trump and ruffs a heart. The A-K of diamonds are cashed and a diamond is ruffed. Dummy's last heart is trumped, and the eight of diamonds is led. When West produces the queen, the slam becomes a certainty. Instead of ruffing, declarer allows West to win the trick, discarding a club from dummy.

Whatever West returns, the contract is made. If West leads a club, South scores the queen, while if a heart is led, dummy discards a second club as declarer ruffs in his hand.

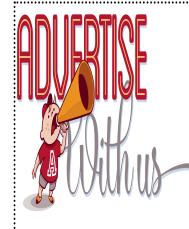
Note that at no point during the eliminated in favor of a superior line play does declarer relinquish his chance of making the contract via a of play occurs far more often than is club finesse. But by eliminating the For example, take this hand where red suits first, he also eliminates the need for the finesse whenever West appears to depend on a successful started with the majority of the missfinesse in clubs. But if declarer relies ing diamonds.

**Tomorrow:** Bidding quiz. ©2020 King Features Syndicate Inc.

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## REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

The purpose of this advertisement is to notify a group of qualified contractors that the Colorado River Municipal Water District (the "District" or "CRMWD") is requesting competitive sealed proposals for the construction of the following project:

COATING & REPAIRS FOR IVIE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM GROUND STORAGE

This project consists of replacing protective coating systems and performing misc. repairs to FIVE ground storage tanks located generally between Midland and Miles, Texas.

The sealed proposals must be delivered to the attention of Mr. John Grant, General Manager, CRMWD and will be received and accepted at the District's office located at 400 East 24th Street.

P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 79720 until the deadline for submission which is June 4, 2020 at 4 pm. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the proposals will be opened and publicly read aloud on a conference call beginning at 10 am, June 5, 2020 for acceptance of the proposals. To participate in the conference, dial 1-866-214-7026 (toll free in USA/Canada), when prompted enter 208-866#. Only the name of each proposer and the monetary amount of their proposal and any alternates shall be read aloud. All proposals received after the deadline for submission of sealed proposals shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

amined at the District's office located at 400 East 24th Street, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 79720. Beginning on May 7, 2020 all potential proposers may obtain a copy of the Contract documents from QUEST CDN. Any changes to the Contract documents shall be issued by formal addenda and the addenda shall be published on QUEST CDN prior to the deadline for submission of the proposals.

Contract Documents and any other documents relevant to the scope of work may be ex-

ments prior to the deadline for submission of sealed proposals. Any questions concerning this advertisement, any addenda or related to the Contract documents should be addressed to QUEST CDN. Answers to questions will be posted on QUEST CDN so that all interested parties will see questions & answers. A pre-proposal conference will be conducted by conference call on May 22, 2020 at 10 am.

All proposers are responsible for insuring that they have a complete set of Contract docu-

ted enter 208-866#. The pre-proposal conference is NON-MANDATORY. The District will have all tank locations open and accessible on Thursday, May 21, 2020 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm ONLY. District personnel will be present at each site. Proposers are encouraged to contact District staff prior to conference to schedule site visit(s) and specified time(s). Attendance at the pre-proposal meeting is not mandatory but encouraged. Each proposer, must provide, with its proposal, security in the amount, form and subject to

the conditions set forth in the Instructions to Proposers. The Security amount shall be five (5)

To participate in the conference, dial 1-866-214-7026 (toll free in USA/Canada), when promp-

percent of the total amount of the proposal. No Proposer shall withdraw a proposal within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the

opening thereof.

Within forty-five (45) days after the opening of the proposals, the District shall evaluate and rank each proposal submitted in relation to the selection criteria set forth below and shall determine which proposal offers the best value to the District. Price alone shall not be determinative. The Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria and weighting:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Proposal Price	50%
Experience of Proposer with similar projects within the last 5 years with emphasis on any projects less than 2 years old or currently under way.	10%
Experience and qualifications of key project personnel with large capacity tanks. List at least 5 similar large capacity tanks within last 5 years.	10%
Ability of proposer to complete projects on time and within budget. List at least 5 projects with similar large capacity tanks within last 5 years. Provide Project Approach including list of available crews and their proposed assignment for each tank bid. List projects not completed on time within the last 5 years.	
Other factors including list of subcontractors being used. All blasting and painting should be performed with own personnel and not subcontracted. Attendance of Pre-proposal meeting and Safety Record.	

Once the District has selected the proposal that presents the best value to the District the District will attempt to negotiate a contract with the proposer of that selected proposal. The District or its engineer may discuss with the selected proposer options for a scope or time modification and any price change(s) associated with the modification. If the District is unable to negotiate a contract with the first successful proposer, then the District shall withdraw from negotiations in writing and shall seek to go to the next proposal and offer that is in the best value of the District.

The successful contractor selected for this project shall be required to pay no less than the Prevailing Wage Rates set forth in the Contract documents as required by the laws of the State of Texas, to include, but not limited to Chapter 2258 of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, or the laws of the United States as may be applicable.

Performance, maintenance, and payment bonds will be required from the successful proposer as required by Chapter 2253 of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE.

All portions of the project are scheduled to be substantially complete by April 1, 2021.

The estimated budget for this project is TWO to TWO & A HALF MILLION DOLLARS. The District, as Owner, reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all pro-

> John Grant General Manager

Colorado River Municipal Water District

posals for any reason.



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#### Annie's Mailbox ®

**Taking Time to Grieve** 

Dear Annie: I have been good friends with Wanda for over 20 years. Though our friendship has lasted a long time, it's not been without its trials. This is mostly because Wanda has a tendency to make everything about

Recently, my beloved

mother passed away after a long illness. When that happened, Wanda called me -- to tell me that it reminded her of her own mother's passing several years ago. She said this was very difficult for her, and she asked if I would be there for her during this time. Since then, she has called me twice to reminisce about her mother. She has not asked about me or my mother even once.

I am not unsympathetic to Wanda's feelings. I know she misses her own mom very much. Despite that, I feel like it's incredibly selfish of her to make my mom's passing about her grief. Though she's been selfish before, this seems like the worst thing she has done. It was my mom who just died, not hers! Am I being unreasonable here? I know there is no timeline for grief, so I'm not expecting Wanda to be

"over it." I just might like a little acknowledgment of my own loss. Should I say anything to her? -- My Mom's Death Is Causing My Friend Grief

#### **Dear MMDICMFG:**

Where to begin. I am so incredibly sorry for your loss. And I'm sorry that you have to deal with your friend's behavior on top of that.

Psychologist and grief specialist Megan Devine writes about the tendency for people to make others' losses about them, in a post titled "But What About MY Grief" on her website Refuge in Grief: "As a culture, we don't

make space for loss. ... That means that nearly every person is carrying a backlog of unexpressed. un-acknowledged pain. Like a dammed up river, unexpressed pain seeks expression. Wherever it can. It's what happens when we hear someone else in pain, and we rush to say, 'Me, too! I lost (insert person's name) when I was young, so I know just how you feel.' Grief becomes a competition for the scarce resource of love and support."

While that might help explain Wanda's actions, it doesn't mean that you need to offer her that kind of support -- quite the

opposite. To avoid carrying your own "backlog" of pain, you must make your own feelings a priority now. Give yourself whatever you need during this time of grieving, including space from Wanda.

You are not obligated to say anything to her to explain your being distant; but if you'd like to go ahead. What you told me really says it all: You feel for her, but you've just lost your own mom, and you need to focus on that. You've clearly got compassion in spades, so I have no doubt you'll handle it in a caring way.

Dear Annie: What is the link to the sleep body scan meditation that was mentioned in one of your recent columns? I have looked all over. -- Scanning

Dear Scanning: You can find that recording, and many others from the **UCLA Mindful Awareness** Research Center, including Spanish versions, at the following URL: https:// www.uclahealth.org/marc/ mindful-meditations.

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

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Numbers

# Tomorrow's Horoscope

**Fecund Flower Moon** 

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Without a jovial touch, people get bored and touchy. That's where you come in. You possess an unusual talent, which you will use to help, amuse and delight others.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** While it is possible to be anything you want to be, it generally takes time. Meanwhile, you can dabble in whatever tone, feeling or mood you want to take on in an instant if you know the mental route to the place.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** More sunsets are caught than sunrises because a greater number of people are awake in the evening than are watching for the break of dawn. Get on an early tract. There's something spectacular in it for you.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Relationships will have a feeling that is greater than the sum of their parts. Just as there's a certain dynamic present in togetherness, there's also a dynamic present in apartness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Goal setting doesn't always work for everyone or every situation. Right now it's enough to be on a certain kind of path. Your motivation and momentum are slowly picking up. Trust the journey.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The teacher/ student relationship is cyclical. The teacher is always learning from the student and vice

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS AQUAR-



LIBRA (Sept.

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That's

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And yet

23-Oct. 23). In all your dealings, seek first to position yourself well. Where you are coming from matters big time. Get a firm footing and take a posture of readiness and strength right from the beginning.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Prioritizing becomes a challenge when everything coming your way seems to be a high priority. You'll have to ask more questions to learn the truth and decide what to participate in and what to skip.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Being rigid with your rules only leads to frustration. Regardless of what's bothering you, there's more than one solution. Stay agile and open-minded and you'll create advantageous conditions for yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. **22-Jan. 19).** To stay calm and objective through everything that occurs is a sign of maturity and a quality of power players. It's also what robots do. Temper your strategic calm with great empathy and a drop of desire.

**IUS** 

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18). One way to catch fish is to stir up the water and get them moving, jumping and

showing themselves out in the open. Stay calm and scoop them

PISCES (Feb. **19-March 20).** When you're in a position of power, you don't have to observe the protocol that others do, and yet it is a sign of respect and high character to do so anyway.

TODAY'S BIRTH-DAY (May 7). Inspiration and insight strike. Through effort and care, you'll start moving like you couldn't before, your physical self invigorating other systems in your life. It will be a win for your group in August followed by a lucrative personal victory. What a relief in September, when a complicated arrangement finally gets hammered out. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 50, 3, 20 and 16.

**ASTROLOGICAL** QUESTIONS: "I'm coming up with a rather dark interpretation of recent astrological and global phenomenon. Please tell me I'm wrong."

You are not alone in

your doomsday interpretation of the omens, though it should be noted that there has never been an era in which someone did not think the world was going to end. There are records of such predictions that are almost as old as writing itself. From the Roman martyr Hippolytus's prediction that the world was going to end in A.D. 500 to the Y2K scare and the more recent expiration of the Mayan calendar in 2012, there is no shortage of fearmongers if you're in the mood for a scary story. The world will end one day, not because of an upcoming Mars-Pluto square or the solar eclipse in

And whether it ends because of zombies or killer bees, comets or gamma rays, one thing is certain -- you, personally, will have no control over it. What you do have control over is how you're going to live and love today. Let your interpretations guide you to live with enthusiasm, love and integrity.

**CELEBRITY** 

**PROFILES:** "SNL" star Aidy Bryant helmed her own hit series, "Shrill," to critical and popular acclaim. In quarantine times, Bryant continues to entertain and inform scores of followers via Instagram where she delivers messages of hope, whimsy, comedy and fashion. The Taurus comedian's natal chart is ruled by Venus and features a strong mix of passionate fire sign planets and a witty Mars in Gemini.

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SUDOKU 8

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!

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**ANSWER:** 

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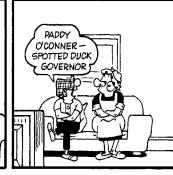
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#### ANDY CAPP









#### **AGNES** WATCH MY FEET WHILE NONSENSE ... WITH I'M HOPING TODAY I START MY THE ONLY IT TURNS OUT PROPER NUTRITION THING THAT CAN MAKEYOUR SHRINKING) I EAT A COUPLE OF TO BE OREOS. FOOT REDUCTION AND THE CORRECT F00D? NUTRITION IS VERY THERAPY. EXERCISE, FEET HA! THEM. EXPERIMENTAL FEET SHORTER IS WILL SHRINK LIKE A LAWN MOWER HOPE IN THE WORLD ACCIDENT. ONE BIG HAPPY

#### ARCHIE







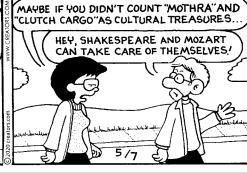






#### **NEST HEAD**





# **MOMMA**





TRAVEL OPTIONS by Mark McClain

Edited by Stanley Newman

36 They may

**37** Big screen

41 Confronted

brand

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31 Club sandwich

surrounder

become queens

38 Wheat or cotton

**40** R&B singer with

24 Grammys

43 Medical group

50 Berry in purple

51 All wrapped up

52 Highly worrisome

smoothies

44 More intense

48 Elite squad

49 Roast cut

# This Date In History

**Today in History** 

Today is Thursday, May 7, the 128th day of 2020. There are 238 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On May 7, 1789, America's first inaugural ball was held in New York in honor of President George Washington, who had taken the oath of office a week earlier. On this date:

In 1889, the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore opened its doors.

In 1915, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner RMS Lusitania off the southern coast of Ireland, killing 1,198 people, including 128 Americans, out of the nearly 2,000 on board.

In 1928, the minimum voting age for British women was lowered from 30 to 21 the same age as men.

In 1939, Germany and Italy announced a military and political alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis.

In 1945, Germany signed an unconditional surrender at Allied headquarters in Rheims (rams), France, ending its role in World War II.

In 1946, Sony Corp. had its beginnings as the Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering Corp. was founded in the Japanese capital by Akio Morita and Masaru Ibuka.

In 1954, the 55-day Battle of Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam ended with Vietnamese insurgents overrunning French forces.

In 1963, the United States launched the Telstar 2 communications satellite.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford formally declared an end to the "Vietnam era." In Ho Chi Minh City — formerly Saigon — the Viet Cong celebrated its takeover. In 1992, the latest addition to America's space shuttle fleet, Endeavour, went on its first flight.

In 1998, the parent company of Mercedes-Benz agreed to buy Chrysler Corp. for more than \$37 billion. Londoners voted overwhelmingly to elect their own mayor for the first time in history. (In May 2000, Ken Livingstone was elected.)

In 2004, Army Pfc. Lynndie England, shown in photographs smiling and pointing at naked Iraqi prisoners, was charged by the military with assaulting the detainees and conspiring to mistreat them. (England was later convicted of conspiracy, mistreating detainees and committing an indecent act, and sentenced to 36 months; she served half that term.)

Ten years ago: A BP-chartered vessel lowered a 100ton concrete-and-steel vault onto the ruptured Deepwater Horizon well in an unprecedented, and ultimately unsuccessful, attempt to stop most of the gushing crude fouling the sea. Before a record hockey crowd of 77,803, the United States lost to host Germany 2-1 in the opening game of the world ice hockey championships. Dave Fisher, lead singer of the 1960s folk group the Highwaymen, died in Rye, New York, at age 69.

Five years ago: After years of sharing power, British Prime Minister David Cameron pulled off an unexpected election triumph that gave the Conservative leader a second term with an outright parliamentary majority. A three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York ruled that the National Security Agency's bulk collection of millions of Americans' phone records was illegal. Alex Rodriguez passed Willie Mays for fourth on the career home run list, connecting for No. 661 and helping the New York Yankees beat

the Baltimore Orioles 4-3. One year ago: Two gunmen opened fire inside a charter school in a Denver suburb not far from Columbine High School, killing a student, 18-year-old Kendrick Castillo, who authorities said had charged at the shooters to protect classmates; two students at the school were charged in the attack. (A 16-year-old, Alec McKinney, pleaded guilty to 17 felonies and awaits sentencing; 19-year-old Devon Erickson pleaded not guilty to the same charges.) FBI Director Chris Wray told a Senate panel that he had no evidence that the FBI had illegally monitored President Donald Trump's campaign during the 2016 election. Reuters journalists who'd been imprisoned in Myanmar for reporting on the military's abuses of Ro-

Answer to previous puzzle

hingya Muslims were freed in a mass presidential pardon. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp signed into law one of the nation's most restrictive abortion laws, a measure that banned the procedure once a fetal heartbeat is detected. (A federal judge later blocked the law from taking effect.)

Today's Birthdays: Rhythmand-blues singer Thelma

Houston is 77. Actress Robin Strasser is 75. Singer-songwriter Bill Danoff is 74. Rock musician Bill Kreutzmann (Grateful Dead) is 74. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert is 73. musician Prairie Prince is 70. Movie writerdirector Amy Heckerling is 68. Actor Michael E. Knight is 61. Rock musician Phil Campbell (Motorhead) is 59. Country musician Rick

Schell is 57. Rock singermusician Chris O'Connor (Primitive Radio Gods) is 55. Actress Traci Lords is 52. Actor Morocco Omari is 50. Singer Eagle-Eye Cherry is 49. Actor Breckin Meyer is 46. Rock musician Matt Helders (Arctic Monkeys) is 34. Actress-comedian Aidy Bryant is 33. Actor Taylor Abrahamse is 29. Actor Alexander Ludwig is 28. Actress Dylan

Gelula is 26.

Thought for Today: "There are those who believe something, and therefore will tolerate nothing; and on the other hand, those who tolerate everything, because they believe nothing." — Robert Browning, English poet (born this date in 1812; died in 1889).

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# Newsday Crossword

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Moved it
- **5** Ultimate height
- **9** Passover potato pancake
- **14** Ticklish Muppet
- 15 Potter's
- purchase **16** Unpleasantly
- pungent
- 17 Nicole
- Kidman ex 19 Dred novelist
- (1856)20 Legislative
- successes
- 21 Stockpiled 22 Prophetic
- observance
- 23 Unpaired performances
- 24 American League West player
- 27 Superior
- 32 Very tough to climb
- 33 Third of a triad 34 Resort where
- it's summer in February
- 35 Cattle in quantity 36 Great reverence
- 38 Tuscan loved
- one 39 It means "doer"
- 40 Ole Miss rival 41 Preferences, casually
- 42 Gravity excursion
- 45 Heretofore
- **46** Bobcat cousin
- **47** Pricing qualifier 49 Ham equipment 52 Sniffed out
- 56 Campus near Hartford

- 57 Hard-hit
- baseball 58 ln a tizzy
- 59 Real estate listing stat
- input 61 Recital
- performance
- 62 Wave at a salon
- 63 Extra for an exec 18 It ain't

## **DOWN**

- 1 Music between
- 2 Literary

- 5 Intense

# breaks

- 4 Tampered with

#### framework 3 Hermione, to Daniel's Harry

- 6 Agency

61

customer

#### 8 Observe, informally 9 Great Lakes

7 Large quantity

- explorer 60 Change machine 10 Tosca conclusion
  - 11 Walked across
  - **12** Earthbound bird **13** Prime minister in
  - The Crown
  - necessarily so 21 High-minded 23 "Tough" or "hot"
  - place 24 Bonfire residue
  - 25 Tail waggers of rhyme
  - 26 cotta 28 Weighty NBA
  - great

  - 29 Biscuit moistener 55 Office station
  - 30 New staffer
- **54** Ceaselessly

53 Silverware

sticker

- 57 Once around

10 11

63

5/7/20

16 14 15 17 19 18 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 28 30 31 27 29 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 45 43 44 46 47 48 52 49 50 51 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

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62

# Texas eases underground oil storage rules, raising concerns

NEW YORK (AP) — Texas regulators are relaxing rules about where companies can store oil underground, raising concern among environmentalists about potential groundwater contamination and other dangers.

The members of the Railroad Commission of Texas voted Tuesday to allow companies to store oil underground in places other than salt caverns, which are considered better at preventing leaks than other geological formations. "This order does not suspend any rule that pro-

tects public safety, health or the prevention of pollution," said Wayne Christian, chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas, in the livestreamed meeting. "All it does is allow operators to begin storing crude oil in all formations where it may make sense to do so." The shift aimed to help oil producers whose wells

are spewing far more crude than the world can use after the coronavirus pandemic gutted global demand for jet fuel and gasoline. Producers are running out of spaces to store the

oil, leading some to pay traders to take oil off their hands as prices cratered more than 60% and tanks filled up. But environmental groups warn that the surprise

rule change, which was approved by regulators before the public had a chance to review it, could lead to serious environmental consequences.

"Using underground caverns, especially underground caverns that are not salt, where there's no barrier to prevent the liquefied oil or natural gas from leaking into aquifers, is incredibly dangerous, especially in a place like Texas," said Emma Pabst, global warming solutions associate for Environment Texas. It could risk contaminating the Edwards Aquifer, a drinking water source for 2 million people in Texas, she said. Commissioner Ryan Sitton said he had received

a copy of the proposal the day before the meeting. Nevertheless, he supported the proposal, which passed 3-0. "I want to make sure we're being cautious. It

sounds like you are," Sitton said, addressing the other commissioners. And it's great that we're moving quickly and allowing some additional storage quickly, but I don't want to hear a story in three months of how we put oil in some sort of cave somewhere and we ended up having groundwater pollution." Under the new rule, which was suggested by a

new task force of industry groups, companies that apply to do underground storage need to show that the formation is confined to prevent the waste or uncontrolled escape of crude oil, Christian said. The exemption will last for a year, and oil will have to be removed from the wells within five years. "It's somewhat unprecedented, but I think it is

exciting that we're affording as much opportunity as possible in this emergency situation," Christian said.

The commissioners also voted to waive various fees and surcharges that producers typically pay. That decision could lead to millions of dollars in lost revenues that were used to hire inspectors and enforce environmental regulations, said Cyrus Reed, interim director of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.

"If you don't have enough cops on the beat to see that laws are being broken ... then you might say we don't have a problem," Reed said. "Same thing with environmental rules." The commission also discussed a proposal to

enact a coordinated production cut to help ease

oversupply, but they killed the proposal, in part be-

cause producers were already slashing production. Texas produces about 40% of the oil in the United States, and about 5% of the oil in the world. Philip Verleger, a longtime energy economist, estimates U.S. production has already fallen to 8.5

million barrels per day, down from 12.4 million barrels a day in February. He based his estimate on refinery runs, exports and other data.

"Production is already shut down," Verleger said. "They don't really need to do it. It's been done more brutally by the market."

#### `If this thing boomerangs': Second wave of infections feared WASHINGTON (AP) — As Europe and the U.S. loosen their lockdowns quarter-century history. And the U.S. unemployment rate for April, which

against the coronavirus, health experts are expressing growing dread over what they say is an all-but-certain second wave of deaths and infections that could force governments to clamp back down. "We're risking a backslide that will be intolerable," said Dr. Ian Lipkin of

Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity. Around the world, German authorities began drawing up plans in case of a

resurgence of the virus. Experts in Italy urged intensified efforts to identify new victims and trace their contacts. And France, which hasn't yet eased its lockdown, has already worked up a "reconfinement plan" in the event of a new "There will be a second wave, but the problem is to which extent. Is it a small

wave or a big wave? It's too early to say," said Olivier Schwartz, head of the virus unit at France's Pasteur Institute. In the U.S., with about half of the states easing their shutdowns to get their

economies restarted and cellphone data showing that people are becoming restless and increasingly leaving home, public health authorities are worried. Many states have not put in place the robust testing that experts believe is

necessary to detect and contain new outbreaks. And many governors have pressed ahead before their states met one of the key benchmarks in the Trump administration's guidelines for reopening -- a 14-day downward trajectory in new illnesses and infections.

"If we relax these measures without having the proper public health safeguards in place, we can expect many more cases and, unfortunately, more deaths," said Josh Michaud, associate director of global health policy with the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington. Cases have continued to rise steadily in places

such as Iowa and Missouri since the governors began reopening, while new infections have yo-yoed in Georgia, Tennessee and Texas. Lipkin said he is most worried about two things:

the reopening of bars, where people crowd together and lose their inhibitions, and large gatherings such as sporting events, concerts and plays. Preventing outbreaks will require aggressive contact tracing powered by armies of public health workers hundreds of thousands of people strong, which the U.S. doesn't yet have, Lipkin said. Worldwide the virus has infected more than 3.6

million people and killed over a quarter-million, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that experts agree understates the dimensions of the disaster because of limited testing, differences in counting the dead and concealment by some govern-The U.S. has recorded over 70,000 deaths and 1.2

million confirmed infections, while Europe has reported over 140,000 dead. This week, the researchers behind a widely cited

model from the University of Washington nearly doubled their projection of deaths in the U.S. to around 134,000 through early August, in large part because of the easing of state stay-at-home restrictions. Newly confirmed infections per day in the U.S. exceed 20,000, and deaths per day are running well over 1,000. In hard-hit New York City, which has managed to

bring down deaths dramatically even as confirmed infections continue to rise around the rest of the country, Mayor Bill de Blasio warned that some states may be reopening too quickly. "My message to the rest of the country is learn from how much effort, how much discipline it took

to finally bring these numbers down and follow the same path until you're sure that it's being beaten back," he said on CNN, "or else if this thing boomerangs, you're putting off any kind of restart or recovery a hell of a lot longer."

A century ago, the Spanish flu epidemic's second wave was far deadlier than its first, in part because authorities allowed mass gatherings from Philadelphia to San Francisco.

"It's clear to me that we are in a critical moment of this fight. We risk complacency and accepting the preventable deaths of 2,000 Americans each day," epidemiologist Caitlin Rivers, a professor at Johns Hopkins, told a House subcommittee in Washing-

President Donald Trump, who has pressed hard to ease the restrictions that have throttled the economy and thrown more than 30 million Americans out of work, pulled back Wednesday on White House plans revealed a day earlier to wind down the coronavirus task force.

He tweeted that the task force will continue meeting indefinitely with a "focus on SAFETY & OPEN-

ING UP OUR COUNTRY AGAIN." Underscoring those economic concerns, the European Union predicted the worst recession in its comes out Friday, is expected to hit a staggering 16 percent, a level last seen during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Governors continue to face demands, even lawsuits, to reopen. In Michigan,

where armed demonstrators entered the Capitol last week, the Republicanled Legislature sued Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, asking a judge to declare invalid her stay-at-home order, which runs at least through May 15. In hard-hit Italy, which has begun easing restrictions, Dr. Silvio Brusaferro,

president of the Superior Institute of Health, urged "a huge investment" of resources to train medical personnel to monitor possible new cases of the virus, which has killed about 30,000 people nationwide.

He said that contact-tracing apps — which are being built by dozens of countries and companies — aren't enough to manage future waves of infection.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said after meeting with the country's 16 governors that restaurants and other businesses will be allowed to reopen in the coming weeks but that regional authorities will have to draw up a "restriction concept" for any county that reports 50 new cases for every 100,000 inhabitants within a week.

Lothar Wieler, head of Germany's national disease control center, said scientists "know with great certainty that there will be a second wave" of infec-











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Continued from Page 4

#### Cooks feels wanted after third trade

"The way that I look at it, I take it as a positive and that I'm wanted, and that I'm valued at a high level still," Cooks said last Thursday to ESPN in his first public comments since he was traded to Houston from the Los Angeles Rams on April 9. "You look at all of the trades, they all were for a first-rounder, and this one, going for a second-rounder. To be honest with you, I'm blessed to be able to go around and play with so many different teams and different quarterbacks and different organizations... So I don't think of it as a negative. I look forward to it. I'm a guy that adjusts pretty quick, and wherever I go, like I tell people, I'm going to ball. So I'm not worried about that."

Cooks has played in 88 career games with 77 starts for three different teams: New Orleans Saints, New England Patriots and Los Angeles Rams.

He has complied 402 career receptions for 5,730 yards (14.3 average) and 34 touchdowns. He has also rushed for 281 yards and an addition two scores.

"I think there's a lot of nuances that [were] going on last year -- not just for me but just from a team standpoint, we had a lot going on," Cooks said to ESPN. "At the end of the day, I dealt with some things on the field. But that does not go to show what type of player I am, the production that I've been putting in year in, year out since I've been in the league. That was just one of those off years. But it comes with the game, but that definitely is not the extreme that you should be looking from me as a player.'

#### Texans plan to hire facility hygiene coordinator

ESPN Staff Writer Sarah Barshop is reporting that:

According to the Sports Business Journal, the facility hygiene coordinator

# **NCAA** waives minimum spending

The NCAA approved a waiver that will allow schools to spend below the minimum level on athletic scholarships required to compete in Division I.

The Division I Council Coordination Committee approved two other blanket waivers Wednesday that had been requested by several conferences in recent weeks in response to coronavirus pandem-

Basketball and football players will be allowed to participate in summer athletic activities without being enrolled in school.

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who will "run coronavirus risk mitigation" throughout the Texans' facilities, is the "first known case of a major U.S. pro sports team hiring a dedicated industrial hygiene expert."

The person hired will report to Texans coordinator of medical administration Geoff Kaplan, and according to Easterby, "will be expected to swiftly implement new virus-protection protocols that are expected to be put in place by the NFL or public health organizations."

Easterby told SBJ that because the Texans do not own NRG Stadium, the person hired will mostly focus on the offices and practice facilities owned by the team, but will also "contribute to decisions made by the stadium partners."

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



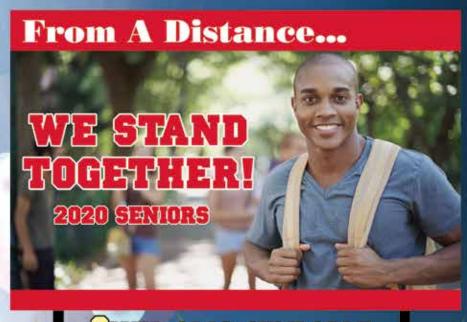
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