

BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY EDITION,
 JULY 3, 2020

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Governor Abbott has issued bars to close; 50% capacity at restaurants and businesses; outdoor gatherings limited to 100 or less before needing approval; river rafting trips have been shut down.

Aquatic Center has moved to 50% capacity; All businesses reduce capacity to 50%

YMCA water slides are now open.

Submit your story ideas, photos, to us at editor@bigspringherald.com or call us at 432-263-7331.

Wash your hands, social distancing; slow the spread

Reminder: Howard County is under a burn ban. No fireworks at Moss Lake allowed

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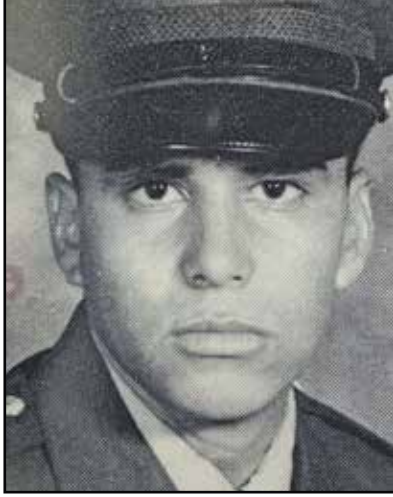
Coahoma Freedom Parade to honor Herrera brothers this year

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Freedom doesn't come free. As Howard County prepares to celebrate Fourth of July this year, the Coahoma Freedom Parade is making it a point, as they do each year, to place the reason for our celebration at the forefront. Each year, two veterans are honored for their service and this year is no different. This year, two brothers, will be honored – Benjamin Herrera, Army Veteran and George Herrera, Marines Veteran, for their service.

"We will be honoring our veterans this year with the parade's patriotic theme and with the recognitions at the end of the parade," Connie Shaw, Coahoma Lions Club Secretary, said.

The Herrera brothers were



Benjamin Herrera
 Army Veteran

born to Luis and Carman Herrera in the Big Spring Hospital, which is no longer in existence. The brothers attended Coahoma during their school years before heading off for their military service.



George Herrera
 Marine Veteran

Benjamin joined the U.S. Army on Sept. 11, 1972 and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on Nov. 4, 1980. While serving his country, Sgt. Herrera completed in 1973 the third core Macondo course. During this time,

in June 1973, he also married his wife Barbara Williams before being transferred to Germany in 1975. In 1977, Sgt. Herrera also completed the master gunner course for the M 60 A1 tanks, and in 1979 he completed opportune training workshop and was promoted to a staff sergeant and became a platoon sergeant in a tank unit. His unit consisted of five tanks and the four man crew for each tank. He was in charge of training soldiers and maintain his tanks in a combat readiness at all times.

Sgt. Herrera served two tours overseas to Germany.

After being discharged from the military, he went to work for the federal prison system. He has also spent nine years serving as a

See **VETERAN**, Page 3

Fourth of July safety in high fire danger

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Pops in the Park may be cancelled for this year, as the nation continues to battle the coronavirus pandemic and Howard County begins to see cases increase, but there is still an opportunity to celebrate Fourth of July in a safe manner. Firework stands are set up around the county, with many serving as fundraisers for local youth groups.

"There are new restrictions this year, that the residents need to make sure they are aware of as they prepare for their celebrations," Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Mitchell Hooper said. "As always we are encouraging those who will be out celebrating with fireworks to take extra precautions and do what they can do reduce the risk of a fire."

Howard County is under a burn ban and a moderate drought. Even with recent rainfall, the land is still dry with fire danger remaining high. At one of the recent Commissioners Court meetings, the selling of fireworks that fall under skyrockets with sticks and missiles with fins are not allowed.

On the Fourth of July it is a good idea to have some type of extinguishing agent around to put the used fireworks in or in case the embers spark.

"Do not pop fireworks in the roadways. Honestly, if you are able to pop fireworks in a dirt field that is the best option, but that may not be an option and in those instances it is important to make sure the area around is cleared out," Hooper said.

He continued, " It's important to account for and watch



Courtesy image/Metro

Howard County is under a burn ban and Commissioners have restricted the use of certain fireworks; City Council also placed an emergency order banning fireworks at Moss Creek Lake.

where the embers from the fireworks fall as well as the stems. Those are hot enough at times to spark a fire if they land on dry brush, grass or trees."

See **SAFETY**, Page 3

Pet safety for the Fourth of July celebrations



Courtesy photo

Pets may not react well to fireworks and the sounds of Fourth of July celebrations. Local animal rescue and pet care specialist, Melanie Gambrell, shares a few tips for the upcoming holiday.

By **MELANIE GAMBRELL**
 Pet Care Specialist

INDEPENDENCE DAY is just around the corner and for most it's a celebration of the Anniversary or birth of the United States. It's a celebration with family, friends, BBQ, mom's apple pie and fireworks.

Though the 4th of July may be a time of celebration for us it can cause great distress for our 4-legged family members. If you're a pet owner and have pets that are sensitive to fireworks, loud noises, bright flashing

lights then this is for you and for the safety of your pets. During this time the rates of lost and missing pets increase due to scared and frightened pets running off when they see or hear fireworks.

You probably know by now if you have one of the pets that suffer from stress of loud noises if you've experienced one of our most recent thunderstorms. I'd recommend being on the safe side and preparing now for keeping your pets safe.

Always keep your pets away from any type of fireworks. Fireworks can

be dangerous and harmful if your dogs grabs a hold of exploding fireworks. They can become burned from the hot fireworks causing serious injury to their mouths and feet. Even something as simple as a sparkler can burn and harm your pets.

Never leave your pets (dogs or cats) outside during these times, keep them safety confined inside the house or better yet, in their kennel/crate. Remember, recently we discussed crate training, now's a good time to put that to use. Placing

See **PET**, Page 3



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Police

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **JEFFREY COLIN RAINES**, 42, of 1400 S. Johnson Street, was arrested on a charge of theft of aluminum, bronze, copper or brass SJF; a warrant for theft of aluminum, bronze, copper or brass SJF, burglary of building (x2), warrant for burglary of vehicles

and warrant for theft of property between \$30K and \$150K all other.

• **ESTEEN DENAE FARMER**, 21, of 1111 W. Odessa Street, Odessa, was arrested on a charge of unauthorized use of motor vehicle.

• **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the area of 15th and Donley.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was

reported in the area of Old Mill Road/Hwy 176; CR 45/Hwy 350.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 1400 block of S. Runnels Street and 1600 block S. Gregg Street.

• **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported in the 800 block S. Nolan Street.

• **THEFT OF FIREARM** was reported in the 1000 block of N. Gregg Street.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 85 inmates at the time of this report.

• **ESTEEN DENAE FARMER**, 21, was arrested by BSPD on a

charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

• **JEFFREY COLIN RAINES**, 42, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of theft of material alum/bronze/copper; theft of property between \$30K and \$150K, burglary of building (x2), burglary of vehicles, and theft of material

alum/bronze/copper.

• **DOMINICA CARLEN THACKER**, 39, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of FTA/possession of controlled substance less than one gram and manufacture deliver controlled substance between four grams and 200 grams.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of E. 11th Place. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2000 block of Scurry. No

transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 800 block of W. 14th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 600 block of E. 16th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of E. 22nd Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Take Note

• NazFamily Church is gearing up for 2020 Vacation Bible School. VBS is set for July 6-10 from 5:30 p.m. Until 8:30 p.m. NazFamily is located at 1400 Lancaster. For more information, call 432-267-7015.

• The Life Center in Big Spring is helping moms and dads with a Diaper Day Giveaway! Call for a five minute phone appointment and a pickup time for free diapers, wipes and formula. 432-606-5041.

• The National AARP Tax-Aide officials have notified us that they will not allow many of the local sites to reopen for tax preparation this year. They made the decision using a map that shows the growth of positive COVID-19 cases at this time. Since the numbers in Howard County have recently increased, our Big Spring site will not be allowed to reopen for 2020. There is a free government site that you may use to complete your own taxes. The website is: irs.gov/efile. The deadline for filing is July 15, 2020. We appreciate the cooperation of the City of Big Spring for trying to help us get safe procedures in place to meet the national guidelines, and we are very disappointed that we are not allowed to help our citizens with this importance service. You may contact Ray Alexander at 432-212-3533 if you have any questions.

• American Legion Post 506 will be holding a fish fry Saturday, June 26 from 11 a.m. Until 1 p.m. For delivery orders and until 2 p.m. for those wanting to pick up a plate. Plates are \$10 each and everyone is encouraged to come out and attend. American Legion is located at 3203 W. Hwy 80.

• The Senior Supper Club has come out of hibernation to resume its normal Tuesday evening dinners. The Come-One-Come-All group will be meeting at Spanish Inn on Tuesday June 16 at 5 p.m. and orders will be placed around 5:30 p.m. after much socializing from a distance. The Senior Supper Club is an informal group of folks from Howard County who meet at least weekly and sometimes more for Dutch-Treat food at different area restaurants. Sometimes the group also meets for cards, domi-

noes, or desserts and fellowship. For more information, contact Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com.

• Maranatha Baptist Academy located at 903 Johnson Street, in Big Spring, Texas, is currently open and taking applications for enrollment for 20-21 School year. We are a faith-based Christian Academy and use the individualized Accelerated Christian Education Curriculum for Kindergarten through 12th grade, out of Hendersonville, Tennessee. July 20, is our startup date and applications will be accepted year-round. Someone will take your call for information at 432-213-1046. Please leave a message and we will get back with you.

• Forsan Elementary has opened virtual pre-registration for 2020-21 school year. Due to COVID-19 pre-registration will be done virtually. Contact Mandy Buske with any questions at 432-457-0091 ext. 203 or by email at abuske@forsan.esc18.net. All pre-registration packets will need to be completed and returned to Mandy Buske via email or fax. A copy of the following items need to be returned with the packet: certified birth certificate, social security card, immunization record, proof of residency for district students only (utility bill), parent driver's license and proof of income (pre-k only). Age requirements are: Pre-K – must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2020; Kindergarten – 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2020. New transfer students (Kinder-5th) may apply at this time.

• Pre-registration for CISD Kinder, Pre-K3 & Pre-K4 underway. Due to COVID-19, Coahoma Elementary will be handling Pre-K3, Pre-K4 and Kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school year a little differently. For safety precautions, district officials will only take registration by phone at this time. The phone registration does not guarantee your child will be attending CES for the 2020-2021 school year, but it will give the district a starting point until restrictions are lifted. Pre-registration by phone will continue through Friday, April 17, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. To register, please call 432-394-5000, ext 2 and speak to Jessica.

Support Groups

FRIDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

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

• A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

• Caregivers Support Group, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are held at the Senior Citizens Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. These meetings are open for any caregiver, whether medical professional or family member. For more information, please call Becky Letz at 267-1628.

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

• DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations.

We cover pertinent issues like:

- Will I survive?
- How to get out of debt.
- How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship?
- How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children.
- Is reconciliation possible? There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. The next session begins Sept. 3, 2019. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

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TPA

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VETERAN

Continued from Page 1

missionary in Guanajuato, after attending Southwestern theological seminary and graduating in 1999. He has also managed a trophy Whitetail deer ranch.

Sgt. Herrera returned to Coahoma in 2008 and went to work for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice at the Wear and Wallace Unit in Colorado City. He has since retired and is

caregiver for his mother.

The second veteran to be honored this year is George Herrera of Lorraine, Texas. He served in the U.S. Marines for 22 years, after joining in 1977. He was a Gy Sgt.

“Our goal is to celebrate Independence day and have a good time with the families of our community,” she said.

The parade is open to the entire community. Participants will gather at the Coahoma Football Field. While the parade is lining up, J.R. McNutt

who was originally scheduled to play in the park after, will be performing during this time. According to Shaw, he will also be playing – as he did last year – on his float during the parade.

“Whatever you want to enter is fine as long as it is Red, White, and Blue,” Shaw said. “To participate you must begin lining up at 7:30 a.m. Many decorating categories are available to participate in from strollers, wagons, motorcycles, floats, vehicles, and golf carts.”

Judging will begin at 9:30 a.m. The

parade begins at 10 a.m. and will travel through downtown Coahoma. The award ceremony will be held at the football field, where this year’s veterans will be also be recognized.

For more information or to sign up, contact Connie Shaw at 432-394-4000 or Lisa Duggan at 432-394-4287.

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

SAFETY

Continued from Page 1

For those shooting fireworks in the county, it is important to obtain permission from the landowner before setting fireworks off. As a reminder, fireworks are not allowed in city limits. This year, the Big Spring City Council also passed an emergency order banning the use of fireworks at Moss Creek Lake.

As we continued to battle the coronavirus pandemic, make sure you practice social distancing when going out in public to purchase fireworks, or attend celebrations. As a reminder, by Governor Greg Abbott’s order no gatherings of more than 100 people are allowed with permission.

Temperatures have been high and heat exhaustion can hit quickly. While you are out enjoying family time this Fourth of July, make sure to take

a few precautions to protect yourself – and loved ones – against the heat.

- Drink plenty of fluids (non-alcoholic) regardless of your activity level. Don’t wait until you’re thirsty to drink.

- Don’t drink liquids that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar—these actually cause you to lose more body fluid. Also, avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.

- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.

- NEVER leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.

- Although anyone at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. Check regularly on:

- Infants and young children
- People aged 65 or older
- People who have a mental illness
- Those who are physically ill, especially with

heart disease or high blood pressure

- Limit your outdoor activity to morning and evening hours.

- Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat (also keeps you cooler) and sunglasses and by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher (the most effective products say “broad spectrum” or “UVA/UVB protection” on their labels).

While the Fourth of July is the biggest fire danger opportunity coming up, Hooper wants to remind the community the danger is always present when it comes to burning trash, as well.

“When burning trash it is a good idea to have some kind of grate over the barrel you are burning in,” he said. “If the wind is blowing over 10 mph it’s a good idea not to burn.”

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

PET

Continued from Page 1

your dog/cat and crate in a dark room or keeping the crate covered might also help with stress and anxiety. If you don’t have a kennel/crate, keeping your pets confined in a bathroom or back bedroom can be your next alternative. Knowing where your dog or cat is can possibly save their lives during this stressful time.

Turning up the radio or TV to drown out the sounds of the loud booms from outside is another way of keeping them distracted. Keeping curtains and blinds shut also is a great way to help keep out the bright flashing lights in the sky.

Keeping your pets busy during this time is a great way to distract them from being scared. Try redirecting their anxiety with something fun like ball playing or tug of war while inside the house. Conditioning is best done before the onset of anxiety so this may be something you want to look into.

Some pets especially dogs may need an alternative solution to keeping them calm. Contact your vet for their recommendation on a sedative or calming agent for your pet’s specific needs. There are several over the counter medications that can be used, Benadryl is one or anything containing L-thiamine and L-tryptophan (amino acids) to help reduce stress and calm your pet. Valerian and chamomile are natural herbs that may help with stress reduction also. Look for products that are for Fear-Related anxiety when purchasing calming products. These products come in a variety from chews, tablets or liquids. You’ll even be able to find wraps like Thunder Jackets for your pets that holds them and gives them that secure feeling. They make Essential Oils and plug ins or diffusers that help calm your pets, but make sure that these are made specifically for pets, always do your research. CBD Oils are now available for pets and some manufacturers are making beef-flavored oils. I use CBD Oils for 2 of my dogs at the rescue, one is purchase for my larger dog, Salem and the other for my smaller dog, 01 Man. Some CBD Oils are a one size fits all and others have a size recommendation, see what works best for your pet. This also helps with anxiety along with many other health issues, again consult your veterinarian before using any over the counter products.

Always make sure that your pet has on the proper identification and that all information is current and up-to date. Having your pet wear a reflective

collar or harness will help with motorist if they were to get loose. However, collars and tags can be lost or removed, but having your pet microchip is a permanent solution to recovering your pets. Keep in mind that you MUST register your chip with the chip manufacture, that just getting your pet microchip does NOT provide the needed information to return your pet to you. If you don’t have a current pet picture now is the time to get it done! It’s much easier to look for a lost pet when the picture is a current one, one that shows the entire pet (head to toe) and pictures that are clear and visible. It’s much more difficult to identify a lost or found pet when all you have is a puppy picture from months or years ago.

I hope that everyone has a safe and Happy 4th, but in the event that something should happen and your pet goes missing, DO NOT wait, begin immediately posting on all lost/found pages, (I have a page called The PET PATROL). call and go by the City Animal Shelter, contact your vet and surrounding veterinary clinics/hospitals and check with your neighbors. Pets will travel, especially when they are scared and the more time that has passed, the less the chance is of recovering your fur baby.

Other safety tips to remember from the ASPCA, never leave alcoholic drinks where your pet can get to them. Use only a pet labeled sunscreen or bug repellent on your dog or cat. Do NOT feed table scraps off the bbq, keep your pets on their regular pet feed. Never put glow jewelry on your pets or allow them to play with glow items. Keep citronella candles or other insect repellents out of reach of your animals. Always keep matches and lighter fluids away from your pets.

Waggin Tails, Happy 4th of July and GOD BLESS AMERICA

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love, how can you
love others?*

Receive the Holy Spirit.
John 7:22

You began your life in Christ
by the Spirit.
Now you are trying to make it
complete by your own power?
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(Galatians 3:3)

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we are afraid, it is for fear of
judgment, and this shows that his
love has not been perfected in us.*
1 John 4:18

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*Love has no fear because
perfect love expels all fear. If
we are afraid, it is for fear of
judgment, and this shows that his
love has not been perfected in us.*
1 John 4:18



The Lord says, "I will rescue those
who love me. I will protect those who
trust in my name. When they call on me,
I will answer; I will be with them in trouble.
I will rescue them and honor them. I
will satisfy them with a long life and give
them my salvation."
Psalm 91: 14-16

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pastor@bakerschapelamec.org
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UNITED METHODIST
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Billy Guy, Pastor
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PENTECOSTAL

WORLD HARVEST
Pastor Jeremy Hart
1004 Locust 432-263-0050

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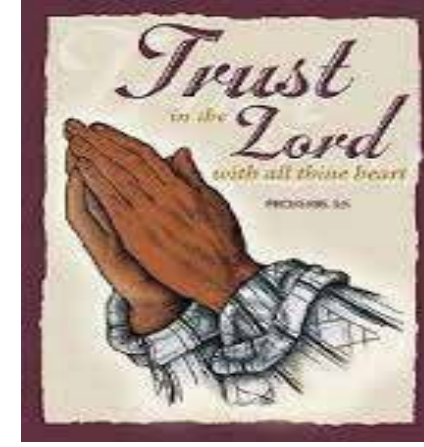
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*Jesus traveled throughout Galilee
teaching in the synagogues, preaching
everywhere the Good News about the
Kingdom. And he healed people who
had every kind of sickness and disease.*
Matthew 4:23



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*As a glove responds to the strength
of the hand, so you will respond to the
leading of Christ to the point where you
say, "I myself no longer live,
but Christ lives in me."*
Galatians 2:20

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*Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem!
Rejoice in the Lord your God! For the
rains he sends are an expression of his
grace. Once more the autumn rains will
come, as well as the rains of spring.*
(Joel 2:23)

*God's love supply is never empty.
"For his unfailing love toward those
who fear him is as great as the height
of the heavens above the earth."*
(Psalm 103:11)

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Church News

First Baptist Church

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.” Psalm 33:12

Celebrate true freedom Sunday morning at 10:50, and gather with the family of First Baptist Church as they worship The King of Kings, and LORD of Lords: Jesus Christ. Pastor Mark Lindsey and FBC staff have prayerfully put in place numerous safety measures in consideration of the health of everyone.

Music Minister Alan Schantz will lead worshipers in a blend of contemporary praise and worship music and classic hymns of the faith. The worship service will also be live-streamed through the church website and Facebook-live; go to [fbcbigspring.org](https://www.fbcbigspring.org) or First Baptist Church Big Spring on Facebook. Wednesday evening Bible teachings led by Pastor Mark Lindsey are also available. Call 432-267-8223 for additional information. Pastor Mark also welcomes you to contact him at: 432-254-0176 if you would like to talk about what it means to accept Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord.

At 9:30 am, small group Bible Study/Sunday School groups will meet throughout the building. These groups are a great way to get to know people while exploring God’s Word: the Bible. Greeters are available to help you find your class.

Evening worship service will not meet this Sunday July 5.

Thursday July 9, the Drive-Through Mission Food Pantry will be in the church parking lot from 9-10.

Seeking God’s wisdom in the COVID climate, FBC will continue to operate within health and safety guidelines. Go to the church website: [fbcbigspring.org](https://www.fbcbigspring.org) or call 267-8223 for details of FBC Church Life Restoration Plan. Also, the church calendar is online which has information about scheduled activities.

FBC is located at 705 W FM 700. There is always a place for you at First Baptist Church. “...May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,... guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

Anyone who does not feel comfortable attending worship physically may hear the service on KBST 1490 AM at 11 a.m. as usual or online at www.fpcbigspring.com by selecting the SERMONS tab and the correct date. A copy of the liturgy for the service may be downloaded from the website or by receiving a copy by calling the church office.

During the worship service on June 28, church musician Gabe Martinez presented a vocal solo of “In the Name of the Lord” as the offertory.

After worship last Sunday, congregants were invited to a welcome reception for new pastor Allen Cross. Because of Covid-19 precautions refreshments were pre-packaged and social distancing was observed as much as possible.

Wednesday Bible study met this week in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. to study the lectionary for Sunday, July 5: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:16-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

The Thursday Lunch Bunch, which had formerly met at various local restaurants, met this week on July 2 in Fellowship Hall as a Brown Bag lunch. Getting a to-go lunch from one of the local restaurants has been suggested to help local businesses during the current economic distress.

Lectionary passages used for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost are: Song of Solomon 2:10-13; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-20; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. Rev. Cross has titled his sermon “Why Giants Fall.” Rev. Allen Cross will lead the worship service and officiate at Communion. Organist/music director Gabe Martinez leads the congregation in singing the hymns, as well as accompanying on the organ and piano.

You may listen in on KBST 1490 AM, beginning at 11 a.m. or listen to the audio version of the service online at www.fpcbigspring.com. Please call the church office at 263-4211 for other information. We would be pleased for you to Like us on Facebook.

Blessed Hands Deaf Church

Blessed Hands Deaf Church is currently joining with the First Baptist Church family in the main sanctuary at 10:50 a.m. with interpreters provided. Prayerfully considering the health of everyone, many safety precautions will be in place. Worship services through the online options will still be available; these include live streaming through [fbcbigspring.org](https://www.fbcbigspring.org) and Facebook live.

Details of the Church Life Restoration Plan are accessible at: [fbcbigspring.org](https://www.fbcbigspring.org) or First Baptist Church Big Spring Facebook or contact Blessed Hands Pastor, Jim Walterhouse at: jwalterhouse@gmail.com for additional information. First Baptist Church is located at 705 W FM 700.

To God be the glory!

Life Church

We are excited to open our doors and welcome our Life Church friends to the campus this Sunday. In order to meet this Sunday we will continue to follow the guidelines that have been set and provided by the Texas State Attorney General: limited capacity, proper spacing between seats and rows, sanctuary will be cleaned and disinfected, if you or someone in your family have underlying health issues we are encouraging you to watch and participate in the service remotely.

Masks are not required but are encouraged to be worn. Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer.

Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter the sanctuary.

Service starts at 10:30 a.m. You don’t want to miss an amazing experience in Worship and the Word.

Ladies, you are invited to join us every Wednesday at noon for our Seek Prayer Group. The Zoom meeting information for Seek can be found on our One Sisterhood Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/onesisterhoodbigspringtx/>

Champion Culture Youth will meet on Wednesdays from 7:00pm-8:30pm on the Life Church Campus.

For more information about Champion Culture and their plans for the summer visit and follow the Champion Culture Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ChampionCultureLifeChurch/>

Life Kids will have their classes this Sunday. Our Nursery is available for those ages newborn to 2. Our Toddlers class serve those ages 3 & 4. Our Elementary class serves those ages 5-10 .

Visit and follow the Life Kids Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Life-Kids-Life-Church-Big-Spring-TX-1654730487977488/> for more information.

For more information about our events or groups please visit our website www.golifechurch.net

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS

“Celebrating and Sharing God’s Love and Grace in our lives”

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood Neighborhood in Big Spring. If you would like to reach Pastor Kohl or the church office, please call 432-264-7818, or e-mail us at aliveinchristtx@gmail.com. Bible Study and Sunday School begin at 9:30 a.m and we are having class each Sunday morning. Our Sunday Service begins at 10:30 a.m. You can catch us on Facebook Live on our Facebook page. If you are new to the area or haven’t been to church before or in a while, please accept this as an invitation to join us this Sunday.

The readings for this Sunday are Zechariah 9:9-12, Romans 7:14-25a and Matthew 11:25-30. The psalm is Psalm 145:1-14.

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study has restarted. A meal is served at 5:30 and our bible study begins at 6:30. We are studying Lutheranism 101. Please come and join us.

Dolline Budke will present the scripture readings this week.

Tune in to KBYG every morning for a devotional sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for these wonderful devotions: “Morning Meditation Thoughts”. Also tune in every Sunday morning at 8:30 to listen to the Lutheran Hour.

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church welcomes all to participate in our services. We are located North of the High School on Goliad Street (1001 S. Goliad), and would love to have you visit.

Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by brunch in the Parish Hall.

On Wednesday’s we have Bible study and coffee in the morning at 10:30 a.m. and evening we have Evening prayer, dinner, and book study starting at 5:30 p.m. What a great opportunity to have meaningful fellowship and develop relationships with people who have a common interest, following the steps of Christ.

Please come and join us for a time of worship and fellowship in a place that welcomes all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Facebook – Live Streaming

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m., St. Mary’s will be Live Streaming their service on Facebook, website – www.facebook.com/StMarysBigSpring/. What a great way to listen OR participate in the service at the comforts of your home or wherever you may be at that time of day.

NazFamily

This Sunday at Lancaster - “United we stand, divided we fall.” We have all heard that familiar motto. Jesus said it another way, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” We all want genuine unity in our lives, but we often struggle to experience unity with others. How do we foster unity in our homes, our church, and our community? In John 17, Jesus prayed that His followers would be one.

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” Be here next Sunday as we learn to live out Christ’s prayer and experience The Power of One.

NazFamily Freedom Celebration - Come celebrate Independence Day with the NazFamily! Everyone is invited to gather at Howard & Sally Callender’s property on Friday, July 3 at 6 p.m. for a cookout and to shoot off fireworks. Feel free to bring a side or dessert to share. If you need direction or more information, contact the church office at church@nazfamily.org Hope to see you there!

Men’s Breakfast - “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17) We will have a special men’s prayer breakfast this Saturday at 8 a.m. You won’t find a better breakfast anywhere in town. It is always a time of great food, fellowship, and faith building together. All men are invited to join us as we sharpen and strengthen one another!

NazFamily Live - Our ministry staff gathers each Tuesday at Noon for a time of Word, worship, and prayer together. We will also continue to have a

Wednesday evening service at 6:30 p.m. You can join us through FaceBook Live for all of our services. Stay connected!

Mystery Island VBS - Is there just one God? . . . Who is God? . . . What is God like? . . . Does God love me? . . . Can I know God? Our kids grapple with questions like these every day. At Mystery Island, we’ll uncover the truth about our Creator God! There’s a sea of confusion about who God is and what he’s like, so we’ll track down the one true God and learn how amazing he is through the pages of Scripture. July 6 - 10, NazFamily Mystery Island VBS will be packed with teaching that connects the Bible to the real world and gives kids a better understanding of our awe-inspiring Creator and the salvation he offers through Jesus Christ.

Contact us at church@NazFamily.org if you would like to register your child!

Crestview Baptist Church

At Crestview Baptist Church, we believe the most fulfilling pursuit for a body of believers is not entertainment, gimmicks, or programs. The most fulfilling pursuit for a follower of Christ is to know Christ and His word, so that we may live for Him.

If you believe that, please come and worship the King with us! Sunday School starts at 10 a.m., Worship begins at 11 a.m., and our Sunday and Wednesday night meetings are at 6:30 p.m.

We are studying the book of Matthew in Sunday School and on Sunday and Wednesday nights we are studying the books of Acts.

Come and be with us at 2305 Gatesville Rd., in Big Spring.

College Baptist Church

New Beginnings, New Sunday School classes, New Nursery program, New Committees—lots to see in renovations of Children’s division remodeling. We are a family church for all ages. This Sunday our nursery age Sunday School is back in operation. We have come full circle.

The youth are doing a fireworks stand for a fundraiser. It is the one on 3111 South 87 and is called Mr. W’s Fireworks. Beginning dates 6/24/2020, through the fireworks season. Please come help out our youth.

It is SO good to be back worshipping the God we serve as a body of believers. Men, Ladies, Youth, Children, and Babies, are together again in Sunday School starting at 9:15 am. Worship services start at 10:45 a.m., with extended session for nursery age child care.

Wednesday evening Youth and adults meet for Bible Study and Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m.. Children meet for King’s Kids and Kraft time, with Girl’s Missions on Sunday at 5 p.m. as we get back in full swing again.

Services for Sunday, July 5, 2020, is in the building at 11th and Birdwell. We have face masks and hand sanitizer available, and we are practicing social distancing.

Families are sitting together and child care is provided for nursery age. Come join us—it will be exciting to welcome new faces and old alike. Our services are live and being put on Social media as well.

All other activities for our church are transitioning back to almost normal, but some sessions will continue virtual on our FACEBOOK page or YouTube Channel. Sunday School is open for all ages as we slowly immerse from the pandemic, and we urge you to come and see what God is doing at College Baptist Church as we continue on mission for Him.

We are in meetings to gear up for Vacation Bible School, in July.

Watch and be informed concerning our ongoing ministries, and how we are reconstructing our attempts in ministering to the community, as we know “this too shall pass.” We are still “on mission” seeking ways to serve in this time.

We definitely enjoy the worship time as our ministry team lead us in songs of praise, and where our pastor, Bro. Ken McMeans, helps us as we delve into God’s Word, inspiring us in living as Jesus lives through us.

Keep your spiritual 2020 Vision on and be a part in these summer joyful activities and exciting worship, praising the Mighty God we serve.

Please call: 432-267-7429, for more information concerning our links to get on line for Bible study with Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook in this exciting, loving Church.

First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church is located just off Gregg Street at the corner of Fourth and Scurry in downtown Big Spring. Our Sunday morning schedule: 9 a.m. Traditions Service featuring the pipe organ, choir, trumpet and hymns; 11 a.m., The Bridge service featuring contemporary music led by a wonderful praise team.

Worship services are broadcast live each Sunday at 11 a.m. on radio station KBYG-105.5 FM. You can also find the services live streamed on our Facebook page at First United Methodist Church Big Spring.

On Sunday June 28, we welcomed our new Pastor and family. Pastor Ricky and Kristi Carstensen and their daughters, Sarah and Karis. They moved here from Lockney, Texas, where they pastored for 12 years. Pastor Ricky’s first message to us was “Kairos Moments in a Chronos World” John 5: 1-11.

He shared about those moments of divine appointments

Fourth

This Saturday we celebrate the Fourth, a uniquely American holiday. No other nation has a holiday quite like it. No other nation on earth has aspired to a higher and simpler ideal. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. That among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."



BILL
TINSLEY

Eighty-seven years afterward, on July 4, 1863, Lee's Confederate army withdrew in defeat from Gettysburg. On that same day, Vicksburg fell to Grant, two pivotal battles that decided the preservation of the Union and the abolition of slavery.

On July 4, 1884, France presented the Statue of Liberty to the United States.

In many ways the history of our nation has been written by our efforts to live up to the Declaration of freedom and equality for all. We are currently engage in perhaps our greatest struggle to rise to the ideals of our nation since the Civil Rights movement.

We have learned that ultimate freedom can never be achieved though legislation and government alone, as important as those are. Ultimate freedom must be achieved in each human heart.

Every one of us must fight a personal war with our own sin nature that seeks to make us captive and steal our freedom. We see everyday in the lives of our politicians, sports heroes and celebrities the consequences of losing that battle in the secret places of the heart. Greed, corruption and prejudice remain the greatest obstacles to freedom and equality.

The pervasiveness of sin is perhaps the best documented reality in our world. The media is filled with daily accounts of its presence and the horrendous consequences it can create.

Two thousand years ago another document was drafted. It was not voted upon by representatives and did not found any government. But those words spoken long ago hold the secret to the ideals that we have embraced.

Jesus said, "I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin ... If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

God sent His Son into the world not merely to pay the penalty for our sin so that we might enter Heaven, He sent Him in order that He might overcome sin's grip on our lives and set us free. The Apostle Paul had once been enslaved to ambition, anger and prejudice. He started his early career arresting the innocent and locking them up. But he found a better way.

He confessed, "The good that I would do, I don't. And that that I don't want to do is exactly what I end up doing ... Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 7:24).

This Fourth, as we celebrate the freedom envisioned by our nation's founders, may we experience true freedom that is found through faith in the One who laid down his life for all people of every nation and every generation.

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. His books are available at www.tinsleycenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com.

Everlasting Love

"Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3



TOM
SLOAN

I am well aware of the fact that I am God's problem child. I am not as faithful, pure or loving as I ought to be. I battle with self-righteousness more than I care to confess. I would probably not advise anyone look at me and use my life as an example of what a good Christian should look or live like. However, I know that I have been loved because Jesus came to this world for sinners just like me...and you.

The Word of God says - I have loved you with an everlasting love. This means that it is not our love; it did not originate in our hearts.

For starters, the Lord's love is an everlasting love, something we could not have possibly invented. This love was not our idea, it was God's. It was He who decided to love us first, and then, we loved Him back. Because it is an "I loved you first" kind of love, it will never cease to be. This is unconditional love, and it knows no boundaries, no expiration dates, no religious labels, no ethnic limitations and no status quos. It cannot be limited by our confusion of heart, our rebellion against God, or our refusal to love Him.

God has never met an unlovable person. That which is eternal cannot be stopped, destroyed, diminished or "turned off". And this holds true, especially when it comes to God's everlasting love. We can never out-run, out-smart or out-sin this love. God's love is stronger than our weakness, wiser than our foolishness and richer than our poverty.

And best of all - His love cannot be "theologized", "religionized", rationalized or explained, but we can know, believe and accept it.

Something to think about...

Fireworks, cookouts, sunscreen, family and friends - this weekend we celebrate Independence Day. It is a time to remember those self-evident truths affirmed in that famous declaration

"...that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights-that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."



RICHARD
SCHNEGERGER

But, as great as they are, the freedoms that we enjoy as citizens of United States cannot even compare to the freedom that we have in Christ.

Our spiritual freedom was secured at a high price by God's precious sacrifice.

As we celebrate our Nation's independence this week, it is my prayer that we will also experience the freedom that Paul proclaims.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a

sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." ~ Romans 8:1-4

As we walk in the Spirit of Christ, we experience genuine freedom.

Freedom from condemnation, freedom from fear, freedom from worry, freedom from others expectations, freedom from idols, freedom from the power of sin and death.

As Jesus said, "If the Son sets you free you will be free indeed." We are released from bondage and called to something much better. We are invited into a relationship with God and a deeper way of doing life.

Paul reminds us that we are not freed for ourselves, but we are freed to serve. "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free.

But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command:

'Love your neighbor as yourself.' If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." ~ Galatians 5:13-15

This week may we experience the deeper freedom that God offers us and live as a free people.

And may the fruit of the Spirit grow in our lives and in our midst.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

with God and how we should be ready to encounter the Lord in our everyday lives. Pastor Ricky and Kristi are excited to be in Big Spring, Texas

and look forward to getting to know everyone.

On Wednesday July 8, at 6 p.m. "Celebrate Recovery" is being offered in the Youth Hall for anyone in the community seeking freedom and healing from hurts, habits, and hang-ups.

For more information on any activity, please visit the web site at www.fumcbs.com or phone the church office at 432-267-6394.



Happy Birthday, Sweet Land of Liberty!

Wishing all of our friends and neighbors here in the community a safe and happy July 4th! We hope your weekend is a blast, but please remember to celebrate responsibly and stay sober behind the wheel.

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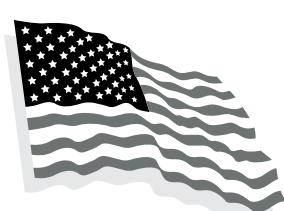
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Comanche Trail Municipal Golf Course still providing healthy refuge to players



HERALD Photos/Shawn Moran

Above left: These two signs are placared around the course and throughout the Park. They are advising all park visitors to maintain social distancing and to wear a mask. Above right: The view from the tee box at the 9th Hole at Comanche Trail Municipal.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

The state and country are currently in a tumultuous time where there are school closures, quarantines, and closed businesses affecting the economy of each and every city.

Throughout the city of Big Spring, places to go for exercising and other athletic leisure activities have been temporarily closed down or have just reopened with capacity limited. The local YMCA has just recently opened over the past couple of weeks, as has the state park and its hiking trails.

People across Big Spring who are looking to shed the dreariness of the current health crisis are asking themselves the question: Where can I go for physical activity during this time?

The answer is the Comanche Trail Municipal Golf Course.

Comanche Trail is currently open and operating at a busier-than-usual rate. With the country club currently closed down and some golf courses not allowing anyone from out-of-town to play there, Comanche Trail has become the hotspot for amateur golfers throughout the region.

While they are open and operating like usual for the most part, that does not mean that Superintendent Howard Stewart is taking the COVID-19 situation lightly. Stewart and his staff have changed several things around their course to help with cutting down on the spread of germs and the overall health and cleanliness of all of their golfers.

"We've made changes," Stewart said.

There have been no issues following the rules and there is a marshal who patrols the golf course to make sure that everyone is obeying the rules.

Most of the changes are temporary fixes to combat the coronavirus and keep everyone that visits the golf course happy and healthy. While many

people have been cooped up inside for the past few months, getting out to golf for just a couple of hours can help return players to that old sense of normal.

"It's not so much of getting away from the bad news as it is just giving the people something to do," golf course employee Jimmy Ruth said.

Stewart also has a list of five rules that are posted throughout the course about rules customers need to follow to ensure that the golf course can stay open.

Written at the top of the placard in large, red, italicized letters is the declaration, "If you don't feel good - stay home!"

That hopeful decree is followed by a few rules that are meant to be followed strictly while during your time at the course. A month ago, most of the rules consisted of coronavirus guidelines, such as no sharing clubs, that needed to be followed. Now, there is a more basic set of rules to follow but each golfer is still expected to follow the CDC guidelines so that no one becomes sick. The rules are as follows:

(1) Must have a tee time and check in.

Stewart wants all of his players to set a tee time, preferably beforehand, so that they can keep the groups separated and the flow of the game consistent for everyone on the course.

(2) Do NOT pull the pin.

With the spread of germs a major concern throughout the entire planet, restricting the use of and removing a piece of equipment that comes in contact with many peoples hands is a great decision. There is a small piece of styrofoam that they have put in each hole so that you do not need to bend all the way down to grab your ball out of the hole or pull the flag.

(3) Stay on the cart paths around the greens and tee boxes.

This will help keep a healthy distance between all players and will also keep the fairways fresh for every golfer to enjoy.

(4) Please, please fix your ball marks and divots.

Since Stewart has taken over, he has cleaned up the course tremendously and made it a beautiful and enjoyable place to play a round of 18 holes. Fixing your own divots and keeping the grass fresh will help keep the course in its pristine condition.

(5) This is your course and if you don't take care of it, it will not last. Throw away your trash and if you see some pick it up.

Making sure your trash gets into the trash can is a small task. As long as everyone does their part, there should be no stray trash for employees of the course to pickup at the end of the day.

Stewart believes that if these rules are followed then there is no reason the course should have trouble staying open. He also knows that if a golfer comes in who has the virus, or one of his employees catches it, then the closure of the golf course will follow soon thereafter.

Playing a round of 18 holes is a great physical activity and can also help get one's mind off of the current state of the country.

For now, if you are looking to get out of the house and stretch your legs, the Comanche Trail Golf Course is the place to be.

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

Asterisk on the NBA title? Coaches, players say not a chance

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

The 2020 NBA champion, if one is crowned, will have emerged as the ultimate winner from a season that lasted more than a full year from start to finish. A season that saw political unrest between the NBA and China, the deaths of David Stern and Kobe Bryant, racial issues across the nation and, if that wasn't enough, a pandemic.

It is a season like none other.

So, an asterisk-bearing champion? Not a chance.

To the teams in the NBA, this championship might be the toughest one ever claimed. It'll come after more than three months of living in a quasi-bubble at the Disney complex near Orlando, Florida, after an entire postseason is played without fans, with most if not all that time spent away from friends and family. And only one of the 22 teams headed to Disney will be able to say it was absolutely worth the trouble.

"I've heard a lot of people say that there's going to be, like, a star next to this championship," Milwaukee forward and reigning NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "I feel like at the end of the day this is going to be like the toughest championship you could ever win because the circumstances are really, really tough right now. So, whoever wants it more is going to be able to go out there and take it."

He's not alone in feeling that way.

Most of the 22 teams that will be headed to the Disney campus next week — the first arrivals are scheduled for July 7 — spent Wednesday beginning Phase 3 of the NBA's restart process. Workouts are still individual, but now mandatory. No team can practice or play 5-on-5 until arriving at Disney. Teams won't be back together, all at once, in person, until getting to Central Florida.

"I think this might be certainly the most worthy of all world championships in the NBA because of all the things that every team is going to have to navigate and overcome to be able to be crowned a champion," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said.

The season has been daunting and won't get any easier. That's why Los Angeles Lakers coach Frank Vogel — whose team was in China when the political issues hit this fall, took the enormous emotional blow that followed Bryant's death, has championed societal change during these troubled times in the country and has had players infected with the coronavirus — wholeheartedly agrees with Antetokounmpo's stance.

"Our team has been through a lot this year," Vogel said. "And we've endured, and we've come out strong each time we've faced adversity. I don't know about other teams but if we were able to come through all of this and achieve the ultimate prize, I do think it deserves a harder-than-ordinary asterisk. If you're going to put an asterisk on it, I don't think it weakens it at all."

There are elements of the restart that are not easy for anyone involved, such as the isolation from the outside world, the daily testing, and the highly restrictive rules that the NBA put in place after consultation with health officials.

Denver coach Michael Malone said that will prove someone's championship mettle.

"If you're able to go into a bubble to be isolated from your friends and family, to have no home court advantage, to have a league interruption of four months, and you're able to spend 90 days and come out of there a champion, I think this will be the toughest championship ever won," Malone said. "There's no asterisk. You win an NBA championship anytime, it's a hell of an accomplishment. But in these circumstances, these unprecedented times, with everything going on ... I think it will be a remarkable accomplishment."

Some may argue otherwise, but the 1999 championship by San Antonio after a 50-game regular season and the 2012 championship by Miami after a 66-game season — both shortened because of labor strife in the league — come with no formal asterisk attached. This NBA season will see the 22 remaining teams all play between 71 and 75 games before the playoffs, and the league's plan is for a full four-round, best-of-seven-throughout postseason.

No one is being gifted a title this season.

"I saw (Houston guard) Austin Rivers said today, you know that the idea of an asterisk next to this championship, I think he said it exactly right," Boston coach Brad Stevens said Wednesday. "This is going to be a super unique situation and whoever wins it is going to really earn it."

Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers — Austin's father — relayed a recent conversation he had with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, who said if anything, the team that wins this title merits more than an asterisk.

"He said the team that wins this will deserve a gold star, not an asterisk," Rivers said. "If you think about the mental toughness it's going to take ... it's going to come down to talent. It's going to come down to teams trying to get back together and play together. There's going to be so many things that are thrown at us that we don't even know yet. It's really going to be a mental toughness challenge."

Midland Rockhounds 2020 season canceled

Special to the Herald

Major League Baseball informed Minor League Baseball that it would not be providing players for its affiliated teams for the 2020 season, officially canceling the minor league baseball because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

RockHounds General Manager Monty Hoppel spoke to media Tuesday about the cancellation of the season saying, "It's disappointing, no minor league season at any level, including here in Midland. Hard to believe. We were patiently waiting, holding out hope just like Major League Baseball, think that was hard enough for them. But really to try to plan 160 to 180 teams throughout the country in different cities, I can see the challenge that they would have."

The RockHounds were scheduled to open the 2020 season April 9 against Springfield. However, that got delayed until at least May 21. The last event at the renamed ballpark was March 12 for the Greenwood High School baseball tournament.

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Annie's Mailbox

**Getting Behind the
Wheel with Confidence**

Dear Annie: Your column is part of my morning ritual. I have three grandchildren, and they're all approaching the age where they'll be learning how to drive. Our adult children are now 48, 44 and 41. Some years ago, when they were learning how to drive, I came across John Violette's "Contract for Drivers," clipped it, and stowed it away. Unfortunately, it's very yellowed and illegible now. Would you be able to print it? -- Tutu from Hawaii

Dear Tutu: I am glad to print these wise words and implore teen drivers -- and all drivers, really -- to remember that they are operating a literal ton of steel, often at incredible speeds, and life can change in an instant. Be safe.

"Contract for Drivers"
By John Violette

(SET ITAL)It is understood and agreed that having a driver's license and driving a car are privileges. Any privilege has to be earned, and it must be earned on a continuing basis. This means that driving privileges may be revoked due to an infraction of the following rules:

1. Breaking the driving laws or abusing a motor vehicle can result in the loss of driving privileges, even if we learn about it from a source other than the police. You never know who may be observing you.
2. You will strive to maintain the grades, conduct and attitude at the same high level as when we first granted your driving privileges.
3. No one else should be allowed to drive a vehicle entrusted to you. This means you may not lend your vehicle to friends.
4. If you are ever in a condition that might render you less than 100% competent behind the wheel of a car, phone us. We will come get you. This will not result in the loss of your driving privileges.
5. You are never to be a passenger in a car in which the driver should not be driving. A call to come get you will not result in the loss of driving privileges. If you cannot reach us, call a taxi. We will pay for it, and there will be no punishment.

Signed this _____
day of _____,
20__ . . .
Dad: _____

Mom: _____

Newly Licensed Driver: _____

_____(END ITAL)

Dear Annie: Tell "Mortified" that I, too, have those embarrassing pop-up memories. I think we all reflect more on our past and wish we could change some of those actions. Most of the time, the memories are of very minor incidences that for some reason or another are stuck in our minds.

I know I'm a good person with no criminal past and I'm kind and thoughtful. I know my husband and I have raised our children right because we're so proud of them and their accomplishments. Friends, family and even patrons from their business tell us what wonderful young men we have raised. So when I have these memories, I try to remind myself of all this. The other trick I use is to try to remember the occasion. What were the reactions of others? I also try to recall ANY occasions when someone else did something embarrassing. I can't recall any. We are so focused on ourselves that we hardly notice other's actions unless it's something serious. Thanks to "Mortified" for letting me know I'm not alone. -- Mortified, Too

Dear Mortified, Too:
It's quite amazing: Now that you mention it, not a single thing comes to my mind when I try to think of something embarrassing that someone I know has done. Isn't that telling? Thanks for the revelation.

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

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By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South and have the following hand:

♠K10983 ♥872 ♦A107 ♣J4

1. Partner bids One Diamond, you bid One Spade, and partner bids Three Diamonds. What would you bid now?

2. Partner bids One Club, you bid One Spade, and partner bids Three Clubs. What would you bid now?

3. West bids One Notrump (15 to 17 points), partner doubles, and East passes. What would you bid now?

4. Partner bids One Spade, and East doubles. What would you bid now?

5. Partner bids One Heart, you bid One Spade, and partner bids Two Spades. What would you bid now?

1. Four diamonds. The jump to three diamonds is not forcing, but you should respond to it because you have a better hand than you might have had for your one-spade bid.

The only real problem is whether to raise diamonds or rebid your spades to show a five-card suit. All in all, it is better to bid four diamonds, which offers the additional advantage of allowing partner to show three-card spade support at his next turn. A three-spade bid at this point would suggest a longer or stronger suit, but, more importantly, it would suppress the diamond support that partner

should be apprised of.

2. Three diamonds. Again, you should respect partner's jump-rebid, but at this time your best action is to bid a suit that, strictly speaking, is not biddable. The purpose is to enable partner to bid three notrump with appropriate heart strength and also to leave room for him to show three-card spade support.

3. Pass. Partner's double of one notrump is for penalties, not takeout, and with eight high-card points in your hand, you should be delighted to pass. West figures to go down two or three tricks at one notrump doubled.

4. Three spades. The raise to three spades over the double is preemptive and not forcing. It normally indicates four- or five-card trump support and five to eight high-card points, but the high-card strength can be lower in extremely distributional hands.

5. Pass. This will prove to be the winning call in the long run, even though partner will sometimes have a hand that produces 10 tricks opposite this one. In most cases, you'll make eight or nine tricks, and it's not worth jeopardizing the partscore by bidding again. On average, partner will have about 14 points for his raise, including distributional values, which leaves you well short of the 26 points normally needed for game.

Tomorrow: Double trouble. ©2020 King Features Syndicate Inc.

SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in some cells.

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Pre-Roll to the Thunder Moon

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The gap between a certain dream and the reality of the situation has been quite wide for a good while. Now, you're in for the thrill of closing that space and bringing something truly fantastic at hand.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Communication that starts with "no offense" or "with all due respect" usually ends with notions that are offensive and disrespectful. When people declare themselves upfront, flip it. The opposite might be truer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People with achy hearts will find their way to the sweet balm of your warm attention. You do not have to do much to help them feel better, and, in fact, you'll be most effective when you keep it brief.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't think about earning another person's trust because you are the real deal and it wouldn't occur to you that anyone would doubt it. Masqueraders abound, but there's no substitute for the real thing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Change happens. It's a day to use a pencil, not a pen. Or, more likely, a day not to text or email because, if you change your mind later, you can't take those back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are kind to everyone you talk to and everyone you deal with, and it's because you genuinely want to contribute to the good

experience of others. Be wary of anyone who treats servers badly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What would you most like? You can have what you set out to get, as long as you stick to one thing. If you chase after two or more things, you'll end up empty-handed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If there is a discrepancy between what's on your face and what's in your heart, that's emotional labor. Recognize the different ways you work to and give yourself credit -- and breaks when you need them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To move from point A to point B, you're going to need more than perseverance and a plan. You're also going to need the best team you can find. Magic brews as you start talking about this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A good mentor may come from a different background and work in a different field and still have exactly what you need including a treasure trove of mistakes and the learning that goes with that.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is an intensely psychological game. Whether you win

or lose will depend on your ability to accurately sum up a situation. Watch and predict before you make your move.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone will be willing to sacrifice along with you to help you realize a goal. You'll have to demonstrate your own sacrifice first to know from whence your support shall come.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 3). What you strive for sets you on a path that shapes you in ways that wouldn't be possible but for your ambition. All are lifted by your drive. In three months, you'll give a command performance. This includes elements of planning and of spontaneity. Relationship potential is everywhere, though you are choosy. Aries and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 14, 3 and 16.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: Seriousness is overrated. The best time you have with a person is the time you spend clowning around. TAURUS: Part of you is looking for what's wrong with the other person, which is natural and smart, though no fun at all. GEMINI: People don't understand what you do so much as experience

it. No need to discuss, just get to it. CANCER: If the logistics of dating are tough, then the dating itself will be tougher. Seek smoothness and ease. LEO: You'll be utterly surprised by someone you thought you knew well, which is probably a good thing. VIRGO: The relationship is best served with an honest agreement. LIBRA: Refrain from putting people into categories and they will delight you unexpectedly. SCORPIO: Jealousy, if channeled well, can motivate the relationship in positive ways. SAGITTARIUS: You make each other laugh, which is a sign of upper-level connection. CAPRICORN: Keep family out of the relationship for now. AQUARIUS: When you dare to express yourself, others become fans, and then friends, and then romantic hopefuls. PISCES: Don't let communication be muddled by expectation. Keep an open mind.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Cancer and Capricorn are polar opposites on the zodiac wheel who tend to bring out the fullness in one another's personalities. They can connect in passion, or anger, enthusiasm or sadness, athleticism or intellectualism. Whatever one shows, the other reciprocates in an oppositional alignment to tease out the best and worst of the quality. It's as though they antagonize the best out of each other.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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HVAC WORD SEARCH

Word search grid containing HVAC-related words like AIR, COMPRESSOR, CONDENSER, etc.

WORDS

- AIR, BIOAEROSOLS, BLADES, CENTRAL, COIL, COMFORT, COMPRESSOR, CONDENSER, COOLING, DAMPER, DUCTWORK, EFFICIENCY, ENERGY, EVAPORATOR, FURNACE, HANDLER, HUMIDIFIER, PARTICLES, REFRIGERANT, REFRIGERATION, SYSTEM, THERMOSTAT, ZONE

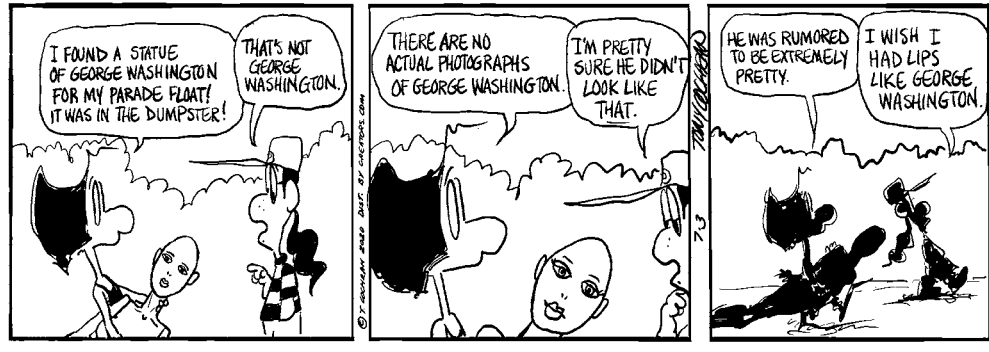
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	Dr. Young	Creation	Flintstone	Burgers	Tournament-Laugh	Bones	SportsCenter	Jalen Question	Texas Insider	Chicago P.D.	Storage	Bering Sea Gold
6:PM	ABC	Noticiero	Big Bang	CBS 7	Minuto para ganar	News	M:25	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Tournament-Laugh	Bones	Movie	NFL Live	Fish Warriors	Chicago P.D.	Storage	Bering Sea Gold
7:PM	Shark Tank	Te doy la vida	WWE Friday Night SmackDown	MacGyver	Cennet (SS)	World of News	Issues4	Hoover	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Movie: Fast & Furious (DVS)	Movie: Saving Private Ryan, Tom Sizemore (DVS)	30 for 30	The 2020 ESPYS	MLB Baseball	Chicago P.D.	Storage	Bering Sea Gold
8:PM	(:01) 20/20	Amor eterno	Magnum P.I.	100 dias para enam	The Wall	Light of Southwest	Great Performances	G. Pyle	Iconic: TLC	Andy G.	Movie: Fast & Furious (DVS)	Movie: Saving Private Ryan, Tom Sizemore (DVS)	30 for 30	The 2020 ESPYS	MLB Baseball	Chicago P.D.	Storage	Dino Hunters
9:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Amanpour-Co	Statue-Liberty	Heroes	Seinfeld	Talladega Nights: Ricky Bobby	SportsCenter	2007 Hot Dog	Cowboys Deep Blue	Chicago P.D.	Storage	Homestead Rescue
10:PM	J. Kimmel	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Noticias	Tonight Show	Words of Heritage	Wash	Gold	Heroes	Seinfeld	ELEAGUE	SportsCenter	Hot Dog Eating	Cowboys Deep Blue	Chicago P.D.	Storage	Homestead Rescue
11:PM	J. Kimmel	Contacto deportivo	Funny	James Corden	100 dias para enam	Seth Meyers	Shofar	Hoover	Gold	Heroes	Seinfeld	ELEAGUE	SportsCenter	Hot Dog Eating	Cowboys Deep Blue	Chicago P.D.	Storage	Bering Sea Gold
12:AM	Extra	Inocente de ti	Two Men	Holly	Caso	Late-Lilly	Heritage	Alfred Hitchcock Hr.	Millionaire	Movie: 2 Fast 2 Furious, Eva Mendes	Arrow	SportsCenter	30 for 30	ROH Wrestling	Mod Fam	Storage	Dino Hunters	
1:AM	Mel Robbins	Papá a toda madre	Pawn	ET	Programa	News	Light of Southwest	Statue-Liberty	Short List	Movie: Paid Prg.	Arrow	SportsCenter	The Jump	MLB Baseball	Chrysler	Storage	Homestead Rescue	

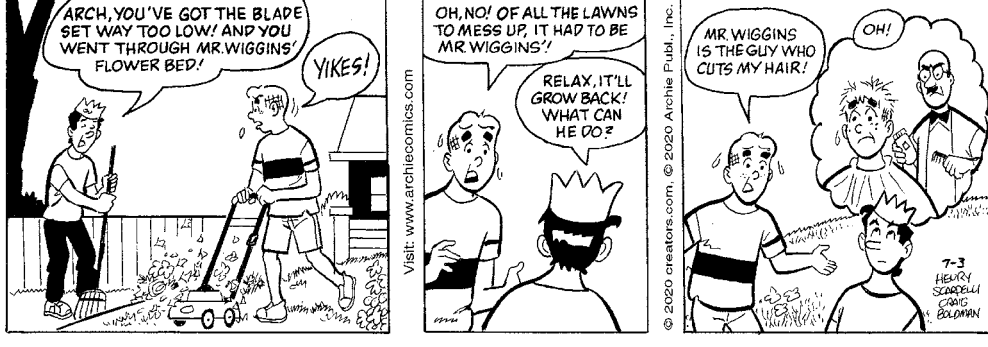
ANDY CAPP



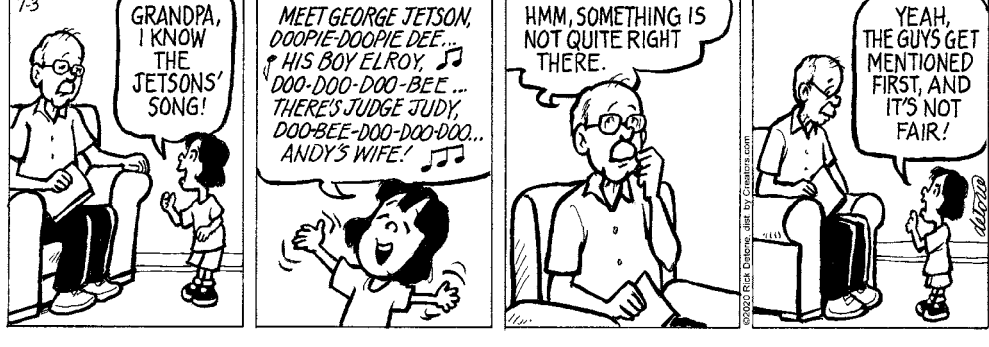
AGNES



ARCHIE



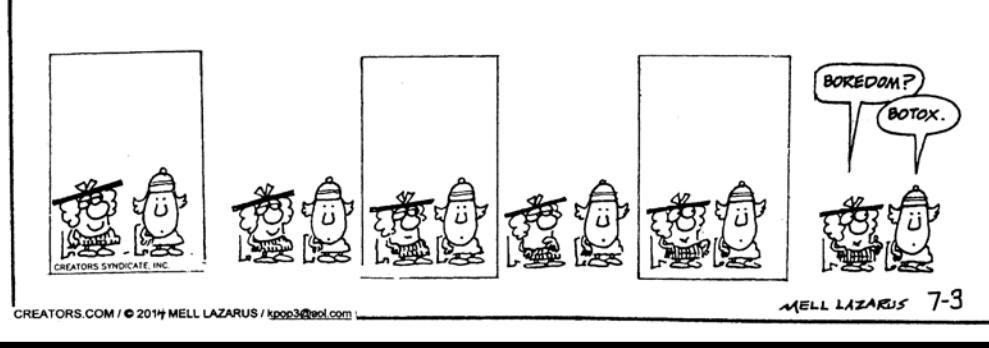
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Friday, July 3, the 185th day of 2020. There are 181 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 3, 1863, the three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops failed to breach Union positions during an assault known as Pickett's Charge. On this date: In 1608, the city of Quebec was founded by Samuel de Champlain. In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk from the Germans. In 1950, the first carrier strikes of the Korean War took place as the USS Valley Forge and the HMS Triumph sent fighter planes against North Korean targets. In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27. In 1976, Israel launched its daring mission to rescue 106 passengers and Air France crew members being held at Entebbe (en-TEH-bee) Airport in Uganda (yoo-GAHN-dah) by pro-Palestinian hijackers; the commandos succeeded in rescuing all but four of the hostages. In 1979, Dan White, convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting deaths of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH-nee) and Supervisor Harvey Milk, was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison. (He ended up serving five years.) In 1986, President Ronald Reagan presided over a gala ceremony in New York Harbor that saw the relighting of the renovated Statue of Liberty. Today's Birthdays: Playwright Tom Stoppard is 83. Writer-producer Jay Tarses

and Qusai Hussein went to a tipster whose information led U.S. troops to their hide-out, where the brothers were killed in a gunbattle.) In 2005, a NASA space probe, Deep Impact, hit its comet target as planned in a mission to learn how the solar system formed. Ten years ago: President Barack Obama announced the awarding of nearly \$2 billion for new solar plants that he said would create thousands of jobs. Vice President Joe Biden returned to Iraq to coax its government into picking a new prime minister. Mohammed Oudeh, 73, the key planner of the 1972 Munich Olympics attack that killed 11 Israeli athletes, died in Damascus. Serena Williams won her fourth Wimbledon title and 13th Grand Slam championship by sweeping Vera Zvonareva in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2, in the women's final. Five years ago: The Solar Impulse 2, a plane powered by the sun's rays, landed in Hawaii after pilot Andre Borschberg made a record-breaking five-day journey across the Pacific Ocean from Japan. One year ago: On a holiday-shortened trading day, the S&P 500 reached its third straight record high close; the Dow also closed at a record high of 26,966. Political figures and fellow officers joined family members at the funeral for Luis Alvarez, a former New York City police detective who had fought until his final days for the extension of health benefits for Sept. 11 responders. Actor Arte Johnson, best known for his comedy sketch work on "Laugh-In" in the 1960s, died of heart failure in Los Angeles; he was 90. A Florida prosecutor said the woman who had taken her estranged husband's guns after his arrest and turned them over to police would be charged with misdemeanor trespassing instead of theft and burglary. Today's Birthdays: Playwright Tom Stoppard is 83. Writer-producer Jay Tarses

is 81. Actor Michael Cole (TV: "The Mod Squad") is 80. Attorney Gloria Allred is 79. Folk singer Judith Durham (The Seekers) is 77. Actor Kurtwood Smith is 77. Country singer Johnny Lee is 74. Humorist Dave Barry is 73. Actress Betty Buckley is 73. Actress Jan Smithers is 71. Actor Bruce Altman is 65. Talk show host Montel

Williams is 64. Country singer Aaron Tippin is 62. Rock musician Vince Clarke (Erasure) is 60. Actor Tom Cruise is 58. Actor Thomas Gibson is 58. Actress Hunter Tylo is 58. Actress Connie Nielsen is 56. Actress Yearley Smith is 56. TV chef Sandra Lee is 54. Singer Ishmael Butler is 51. Rock musician Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies) is 51. Ac-

trix-singer Shawnee Smith is 51. Actress-singer Audra McDonald is 50. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is 49. Actor Patrick Wilson is 47. Country singer Trent Tomlinson is 45. Actress Andrea Barber is 44. Singer Shane Lynch (Boyzone) is 44. Actor Ian Anthony Dale is 42. Actress/comedian Jule Klausner is 42. Actress Elizabeth

Hendrickson is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tonia Tash (Divine) is 41. Country singer-songwriter Sarah Buxton is 40. Actress Olivia Munn is 40. Actress Shoshannah Stern is 40. Rock singer-songwriter Elle King is 31. Actor Grant Rosenmeyer is 29. Actress Kelsey Batelaan is 25.

Newsday Crossword

ANNUAL ALTERATION by S.N.

Edited by Stanley Newman

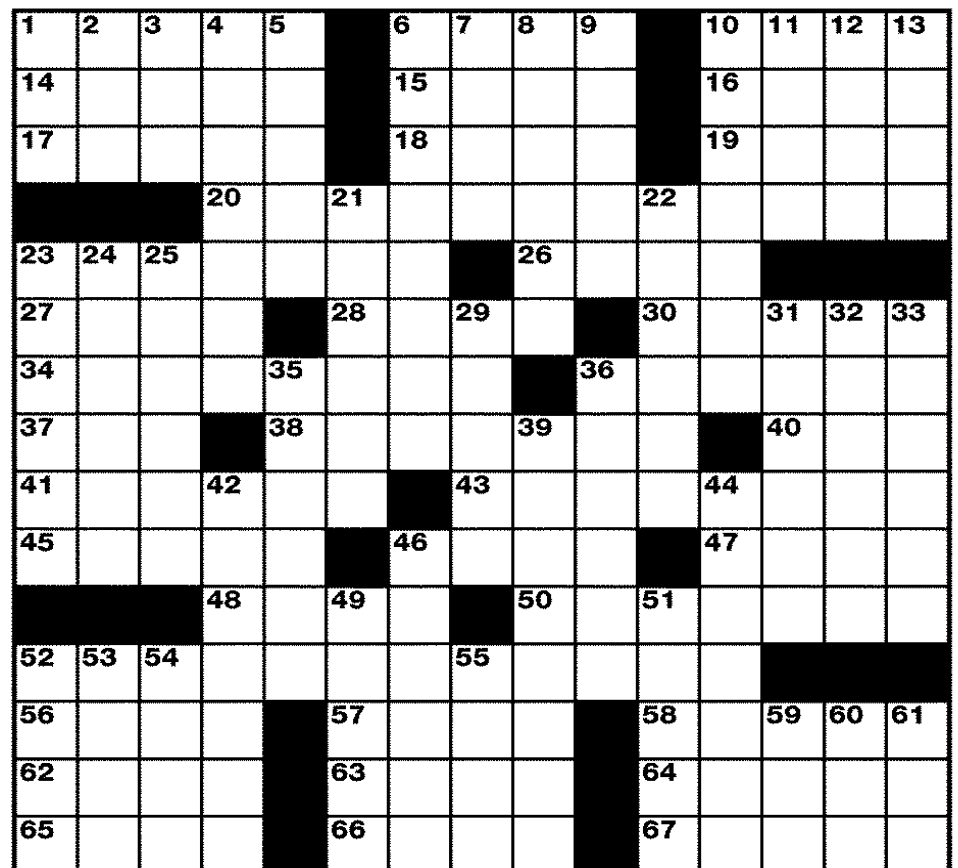
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Language of Iran
- 6 Shipping route
- 10 Sci-fi knight
- 14 Of bees
- 15 Genesis brother
- 16 Farmer's livestock
- 17 Saddle ___ riding (rodeo event)
- 18 Makeshift swing
- 19 Practice jabbing
- 20 Annual alteration, part 1
- 23 Adjective for intake
- 26 Boone nickname
- 27 Airport counter brand
- 28 Domicilio
- 30 Military warehouse
- 34 Part 2 of alteration
- 36 "He ___ do it!"
- 37 Sew up
- 38 Outlawed
- 40 Ending like -ule
- 41 Two-card combo in bridge
- 43 Part 3 of alteration
- 45 Bewildered
- 46 Vino region
- 47 Nodder's comment
- 48 Carmina Burana composer
- 50 Stoutness
- 52 End of alteration
- 56 Grapelike berry
- 57 What ESPNU covers
- 58 Make a mess of
- 62 "Last word" in cosmetics
- 63 East Timor's capital

DOWN

- 1 Beatles-era "excellent"
- 2 National Humor Mo.
- 3 Vegas hotel with Samba Suites
- 4 Silicon Valley city
- 5 Become subject to
- 6 Ref's delayed decision
- 7 Minimally
- 8 Chilean Nobel poet
- 9 High Court name
- 10 Pushed around
- 11 Convention center show
- 12 Admissions executive
- 13 About, in briefs
- 21 Fashion designer Miller
- 22 Ultimate purpose
- 23 Income stat word
- 24 Wading bird
- 25 Washday category
- 29 Slow flows
- 31 Congressional leader
- 32 Frittata, for instance
- 33 Lipton rival
- 35 Star Trek: ___ (CBS All Access series)
- 36 City near Santa Monica
- 39 Unwanted Monopoly card
- 42 Wind-blown
- 44 Uncouple, as 16 Across
- 46 Org. including Actors Equity
- 49 Endows
- 51 Push around
- 52 Paint badly
- 53 ___ Health (36 Down medical center)
- 54 Trellis strip
- 55 North Korea/China separator
- 59 ___ chi class
- 60 Red Cross class
- 61 Kept under wraps



Answer to previous puzzle

SWAP	BLUE	SPOT
HILL	AONE	CATRO
IKEA	SCHOOL	YEAR
PIXY	FISH	NESTLE
DRESS	HAM	
STEAKS	PHONE	LOG
TILTS	ARAL	LIT
RAVE	AMEND	BOLD
ARE	TOAD	BAYED
PASSWORD	RANDY	
IAM	SLINK	
TAUGHT	UPENDED	
AUDIO	CHECK	OOZE
MENLO	OGRE	TURN
PILOY	COEN	ERAS

7/3/20

NFL players raise concerns on playing, others ignore advice

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

Some NFL players are raising concerns about playing football amid the coronavirus pandemic while others are ignoring advice of medical experts by working out with teammates.

JC Tretter, a center on the Cleveland Browns and president of the NFL Players Association, wrote an open letter to players on Tuesday, saying they have to fight for "necessary COVID-19 protections."

New Orleans Saints safety Malcolm Jenkins said last week that "football is a nonessential business and so we don't need to do it."

Pittsburgh Steelers defensive lineman Cameron Heyward has asthma so he wants to "take every precaution" if he plays.

"We are not invincible, and as recent reports have shown, we certainly aren't immune to this virus," Tretter wrote in his letter. "Underlying conditions like high BMI, asthma and sleep apnea are all associated with a higher risk of developing severe symptoms and complications when infected with COVID-19. Those conditions are widespread across the league. NFL players are humans — some with immunocompromised family members or live-in elderly parents. Trust me: we want to play football. But as a union, our most important job is keep our players safe and alive. The NFLPA will fight for our most at-risk players and their families."

The league informed owners last week that training camp is expected to open as scheduled later this month. Discussions regarding shortening the preseason schedule are ongoing and an announcement is expected soon.

Dr. Allen Sills, the league's chief medical officer, said he has regular communication with medical officers of other professional sports leagues and they are learning from one another.

"We're approaching this as a medical and public health problem," Sills said Wednesday. "This isn't about one league having an advantage over another. We're working together as a group of medical professionals saying how can we do the best job in taking care of our patients in creating the safest possible environments."

The NFL and the Pro Football Hall of Fame already canceled the opening preseason game between Dallas and Pittsburgh set for Aug. 6. The hall's induction ceremonies set for Aug. 8, and for mid-September for a special centennial class, were moved to August 2021, when the Cowboys and Steelers will play in the game.

"I want to play football. I think all my peers want to play football. It's how we make a living," Jenkins said in a video posted on Twitter. "But there's so

much that we don't know right now. When we look at what's happening in the country, cases are going up, projected deaths are going up. ... I know that the bar for the NFL is going to be high when it comes to creating a safe working environment and making it as safe as possible for guys to come back as we keep in mind it's not just about the athletes and their health and the coaches and staff, but our families, too."

Sills said information gathered from other sports leagues domestically and internationally will help shape the way the NFL approaches its season.

"I absolutely expect that our protocols will change and will evolve as we go through the regular season based upon some of this new knowledge," Sills said. "That's the nature of medical practice: that we're always looking to improve based upon emerging knowledge and emerging data and those things will change. And so I don't think none of us should be surprised by that and that's part of our commitment on the health and safety side is to try to stay abreast of what's happening in the medical fields and in the other sports leagues and continue to improve those protocols for the safety of everyone."

Dr. Thom Mayer, the union's medical officer, advised players on June 20 to stop working out together. Still, Tom Brady and Russell Wilson appear to have ignored those warnings, based on social media posts. And a video posted Tuesday showed new Patriots quarterback Cam Newton working out with wide receiver Mohamed Sanu.

Numerous players in the NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball have tested positive for COVID-19 as those sports have started preparations to return to play. Some players across those leagues have opted out, citing medical concerns.

"It is the responsibility of the employer to provide a safe work environment," Tretter told NFL players. "I encourage all workers to hold their employers accountable to high standards. More so than any other sport, the game of football is the perfect storm for virus transmission. There are protections, both short and long term, that must be agreed upon before we can safely return to work. The NFLPA will be diligent as we demand that the NFL provide us the safest workplace possible."

The NFL and the players' union haven't agreed yet on protocols to open training camps. Players are holding a league-wide call on Thursday to discuss the proposals.

Houston Texans wide receiver Randall Cobb wrote on Twitter: "I would advise everyone to get on this call to hear the plans so you're informed and know what to expect going into camp."

Australian rugby back on the field after 3 1/2-month hiatus

By **DENNIS PASSA**

AP Sports Writer

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Australia's Super Rugby players return to action from Friday after a 3 1/2-month hiatus due to the coronavirus shutdown. They'll be a bit lighter in their wallets when they do.

An agreement reached on Wednesday will see the players receive 70% of their original wage for the new in-house competition called Super Rugby Au.

Players from the Queensland Reds, New South Wales Waratahs, Melbourne Rebels and ACT Brumbies had been told to expect an average 60% cut after Super Rugby was put on hold on March 15. But negotiations over the last week between the players' union and Rugby Australia resulted in only a 30% cut, keeping them in line with senior national office staff and new Wallabies coach Dave Rennie.

Reds flyhalf James O'Connor welcomed the agreement.

"There are guys in far worse positions than we are, but when it comes down to it, you want to feel that there is an exchange of value," O'Connor said

on Thursday. "I think they have come to a great agreement where we can go out and put our bodies on the line and do what we want to do, for everyone out there that loves rugby. I congratulate both parties for getting to an agreement so quickly."

Recalled to the competition after being cut from Super Rugby in 2017, the Western Force are exempt from Rugby Australia's pay agreement.

The Perth-based Force also have the first week-end off. The Reds will host the Waratahs on Friday, and the Canberra-based Brumbies will welcome the Rebels on Saturday.

The five teams will play home and away matches for 10 weeks followed by a two-week playoff series in September.

The matches in Brisbane and Canberra will be allowed a limited number of spectators due to both regions having low new infection rates of COVID-19.

The tournament will feature temporary rules, including goal-line dropouts to reward attacking kicks, replacements for red-carded players and extra time in drawn matches.

Before the shutdown, the Brumbies were second overall with a 5-1 record in Super Rugby, which in-

cludes teams from New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina and Japan.

The Rebels were 3-3 and Reds 2-5. The Waratahs had only one win in six matches and will have to do without 98-test star Kurtley Beale, who has taken up an early invitation to play in France.

While Australian rugby returns to the field, New Zealand Aotearoa featuring that country's five Super Rugby teams will play its fourth round this weekend, all with unlimited spectators due to New Zealand being virus-free.

"The more we can play in Australia and keep the time zones here," O'Connor said, "and if we can introduce a little bubble with New Zealand and possibly some of the island teams as well, it would be exciting footy. I'm not saying the South Africans don't (play exciting rugby), they play a brand of footy that they are very good at -- but if the supporters want to see a bit more running then I think this is probably the way to go."

Teams from the South African conference in Super Rugby, which includes Argentina, remain sidelined by the virus.

The Latest: Oklahoma athletics cutting \$13.7M from budget

By **The Associated Press**

The Latest on the effects of the coronavirus outbreak on sports around the world:

The Oklahoma athletics department has announced \$13.7 million in budget cuts it blames on fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, including a 10% salary drop for any employee earning at least \$1,000,000 per year.

Athletic director Joe Castiglione said the moves were the "first steps" in responding to the financial losses associated with virus outbreak. He warned other steps may be necessary.

The football team began voluntary workouts Wednesday. The Sooners said 111 players were tested Monday and there were seven additional positive tests after seven previously. In all, 14 Oklahoma players have tested positive along with two staff members. It said two players have since recovered.

Earlier this week, Michigan's athletic department projected a \$26.1 million deficit for the upcoming fiscal year. Many Wolverines coaches and other senior staff are taking 10% pay cuts, including football coach Jim Harbaugh and men's basketball coach Juwan Howard

Houston's Thabo Sefolosha is opting out of the NBA's restart in Orlando, a person familiar with the decision has told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity Wednesday because the decision hasn't been announced.

Sefolosha is in his first season with the Rockets. He averaged 2.2 points and 2.3 rebounds in 41 games.

The 36-year-old is a 15-year NBA veteran who has also played for Utah, Atlanta, Oklahoma City and Chicago.

The Rockets are schedule to resume the season on July 31 against the Dallas Mavericks.

— AP Sports Writer Kristie Rieken reporting from Houston.

Sacramento Kings coach Luke Walton says forward Jabari Parker has been cleared to end his self-isolation following a positive test for the coronavirus. Walton also spoke to Parker about handling himself in public after photos surfaced last week of the forward playing tennis without a mask following his positive test.

Center Alex Len and guard Buddy Hield also announced they contracted the coronavirus, and Walton says all three are "doing much better" while being tested every other day. No players have told Walton they don't want to take part as the Kings (28-36) prepare to play their final eight games in Orlando beginning at the end of this month.

"This is a grown men's league," Walton said on a call Wednesday. "We talk to our guys but you can't make them do anything. All we can do is encourage them to follow the guidelines that we've all been given: Do your best to social distance, wear a face mask when you're out, wash your hands as often as possible, stay away from shaking hands, those type of things."

One of Walton's top priorities now is "making sure everyone's comfortable" — which will mean players bringing their own workout gear and leaving an extra pair of shoes that stay at the practice facility or arena.

The Lexington County Blowfish of the summertime Coastal Plain League will open their home season as scheduled Wednesday, but without fans after South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster said people in the stands would be a violation of his executive order against spectator sports due to COVID-19.

The team, a collection of college players, had sold seats for its opening game against the Bomb Island Bombers. After the governor spoke

Wednesday, the team posted on Twitter that fans would not be allowed into games until it received a clarification from the governor's office. The state of South Carolina has seen a spike of cases the past few weeks and on Tuesday had a one-day high of 1,741 new cases.

McMaster also warned that residents should wear masks and maintain social distance "so we can enjoy high school and college football in South Carolina this fall."

The Green Bay Packers will have a six-decade NFL training camp tradition end as they won't be staying at nearby St. Norbert College because of coronavirus concerns.

The Packers instead will have their entire training camp operations at Lambeau Field. Housing arrangements are still being finalized.

Packers officials said they made the switch due to NFL protocols asking clubs to maximize use of their own facilities to mitigate exposure to the virus.

St. Norbert had hosted the Packers for training camp since 1958

The Packers have traditionally eaten dinner at St. Norbert and stayed in a residence hall on campus while commuting to their training-camp workouts at Lambeau Field.

The start of the outdoor motocross season is being delayed for a second time due to a spike in coronavirus cases.

Supercross was able to complete its season by holding the final 10 races at University of Utah's

Rice-Eccles Stadium over a span of three weeks last month. Eli Tomac won his first Supercross title.

With COVID-19 cases on the rise in recent weeks, series operator MX Sports Pro Racing opted to postpone the start of the outdoor season until August.

The series was scheduled to start July 18 in Indiana after being pushed back in May due to the pandemic. The season-opening Hangtown Classic was canceled in March.

Chicago Cubs pitching coach Tommy Hottovy is recovering from a severe case of COVID-19 that had him quarantined for 30 days.

The 38-year-old Hottovy broke down Wednesday as he detailed a harrowing ordeal during a conference call.

Dr. Rudy Haddad

Board Certified in Urology
Fellow American College of Surgeons

Adults and Pediatrics Urology

Hormone Replacement Therapy Pellets
Male & Female

- Office Treatment of Enlarged Prostate Problems (instead of Surgery)
- Sexual Dysfunction
- Low Testosterone Syndrome
- Treatment of Urinary Bladder Control Problem with Medication
- Kidney Stones with Laser & Shockwave Technology Available Locally 24/7
- Vasectomies



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