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# BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY EDITION,  
 JULY 8, 2020

**Curb-Side Testing**  
**COVID-19**  
 Coronavirus  
 Big Spring Urgent Care  
 1700 W. FM 700 (432) 264-1911

VOLUME 115, NUMBER 243

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75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION



*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.*

*Reminder: Howard County is under a burn ban. Moderate drought level. High fire danger.*

*Wash your hands, social distance, wear a mask.*

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## Highland Parade announces winners for Fourth of July 2020

### Herald Staff Report

The temperatures were hot, the sun was shining and the patriotism was shining bright across Howard County. While Pops in the Park was not able to take place this year, due to the current state of the nation and the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, Howard County residents were able to enjoy the long standing traditions of the Coahoma Freedom Parade and the Highland Fourth of July Parade. Children of all ages decorated bicycles, pets, four wheelers, classic cars and strollers and took part in the patriotic parade. In addition to the parade entries, those attending the Highland Parade were treated to Patriotic



Courtesy photo

**The Highland Parade tradition continued last weekend as entrants traveled down Highland Drive. Before the parade began, those attending took part in singing the National Anthem as the kicked off the activities.**

See **PARADE**, Page 3

themed houses and mailboxes. Each year the residents in Highland not only show their patriotism in the parade entries, but in the decorations that adorn the homes in Highland. This year's winners were announced on Saturday, at the end of the parade.

Highland South Award winners:

- Wagons: 1st place #209 - "Red, White, and Cute"
- Golf Carts: 1st place #703 - the Beall Family, 2nd place #701 - the McKinnan Family, 3rd place #707 - the Mireles family
- Bikes (1-7): 1st place #803 Bronx Osborne, 2nd place #805 - Legend McKinnan

## Howard County announces 4 new COVID-19 cases

### Special to the Herald

On Monday, July 6, 2020, the City of Big Spring and Howard County officials were notified of four (4) new positive test results for COVID-19. The individuals are isolating at home and are currently exhibiting mild symptoms. Three of these new cases have been determined to be community spread; the fourth case was travel related.

The affected individuals are a 26-year-old male, a 27-year-old female, a 26-year-old male, a 44-year-old male.

These are the 39th through 43rd cases of COVID-19 in Big Spring/Howard County. To date, we have had forty-three (43) confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Big Spring and Howard County.

See **CASES**, Page 3

## Fourth of July celebrations in Howard County



HERALD photo/Natalie Permenter

**Howard County residents celebrated the Fourth of July holiday with two parades last weekend, Coahoma Freedom Parade (featured above) and at the Highland Fourth of July parade. Share your photos from this past weekend's festivities with us by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.**

## Former Big Spring ISD band director selected for Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame

### Special to the Herald

Dois Pace, a former band director for Big Spring ISD, was recently selected for membership in the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame, with induction ceremonies to take place in conjunction with the annual convention of the Texas Bandmasters Association meeting in San Antonio in July 2021. The induction traditionally would be this summer, but because of COVID-19 restrictions, all TBA activities have been suspended for 2020.

The Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame is sponsored by Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, an international bandmasters fraternity. To be eligible for consideration, a band director must have produced and maintained an outstanding and consistent band program in the Texas public schools, as well as having enjoyed a long and successful career. Hall of Fame members must be over the age of 65 and retired from active teaching. This recognition is also granted posthumously to deceased directors. It is the highest honor a Texas band director can receive.

Mr. Pace is a long-time fixture in school music in West Texas. He began his teaching career in Lamesa, Texas, as the junior high school band director in 1966. His band earned the coveted Sweepstakes rating that first year. Throughout his career, his bands followed the Lamesa lead and received high UIL contest and festival ratings, and he became known as an outstanding teacher, director, and mentor. He later taught in Altus and Woodward, Oklahoma. The Woodward assignment was his first high school head job. Both years Mr. Pace was there, the Woodward H. S. Boomer Band went to both State Marching and State Concert contests.

Returning to Texas in 1972 to work with the late Bill Bradley's band staff, he taught at Goliad Middle School. His fellow directors included Steve Waggoner, Jerry Gowler, and the late Gene Curry. Mr. Pace assisted with high

school band, including conducting Mr. Bradley's famous "Campus Revue", a variety production by members of the Steer Band.

During the 20 plus years Rocky Harris served as band director, Mr. Pace was a constant in the life of the Steer Band as clinician, consultant, summer band instructor, etc. He and his wife went with the band to New York City for one of their Carnegie Hall performances in 2013. Last year when Mr. Harris retired, he recognized Mr. Pace as one of the people who had been significant in helping him build the Big Spring band program.

In 1977, Mr. Pace moved to San

See **BAND**, Page 3



Dois Pace

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## Obituaries

### Marvin Callahan



Marvin Callahan, 89, of Fort Worth, formerly of Big Spring, passed away Friday, July 3, 2020. Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Thursday, July 9, 2020 at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born June 15, 1931 in Medora, Indiana and married Maurietta Ramey Jan. 5, 1952, in Hereford, Texas.

She preceded him in death Sept. 20, 2015.

Marvin served in the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1954. He worked for Clyde McMahon Concrete for 36 years, retiring as office

manager.

He was a member of Midway Baptist Church and was a former member of AMBUCS.

Survivors include his son, Robert Mark Callahan of Fort Worth; one sister, Irma Lee Stout of Florida; one brother, Tom Callahan of Medora, Indiana; and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; and one sister, Sharon Callahan.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

*Paid Obituary*

### Freddy L. Brown

Freddy L. Brown of Big Spring, Texas passed into his next journey on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at the age of 79.

Freddy was born to parents Juanita Gibbs and Robert L Brown on March 27, 1941 in Knott, Texas. He graduated Big Spring high school in 1959 and enlisted in the Navy in 1960 and moved up the ranks to achieve Navy SEAL stationed in Guam. In 1962, while on leave he met a special lady and upon returning to Guam they began a pen pal courtship, Freddy would later ask his sweetheart to marry him through the mail, she accepted and in October 1964 they were married.

Freddy and Judy welcomed a son Brian Brown in 1974 and went on to enjoy 52 wonderful years of marriage. Freddy was a devout

husband, father, and an avid hunter and proud Navy SEAL. Freddy enjoyed his annual hunting trips and traveling with his family. Most days you could find Freddy at Franklin and sons (former Goodyear Tire) greeting the community with a smiling face, he did that for 53 years. He never retired.

Freddy is survived by his sons, Brian Brown and husband Kim Seese of Dallas Texas, Sean Brown and husband John Doyle of Portland Oregon, and one sister Deborah L Caffey and husband Steve Caffey of Hobbs New Mexico. Freddy is preceded in death by his wife Judy Brown, mother Juanita Gibbs Heflin and father Robert L Brown.

We will honor the life of Freddy Saturday, July 11, 2020 at Trinity Memorial cemetery at 2 PM in the open air chapel. Flowers, donations and condolences may be offered at 2508 Alledale Rd. Big Spring, Texas.

*Paid Obituary*

## Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

## Police Report

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **STACY LYNN PENDLETON**, 44, of 1011 Cedar Dr., was arrested on a charge of fail to identify giving false/fictitious info mb.

• **ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ**, 70, of 131 Ave I, was arrested on public intoxication.

• **AUSTIN MICHAEL HENSON**, 21, of 1302 Main St., was arrested on evading arrest/detention w/veh or watercraft sjf.

• **SACKIE ROBERT BRITO**, 40, of 634 Caylor Dr., was arrested on criminal trespass property/building/aircraft/vehicle(X2), arson.

• **DOMINICA CARLYNN THACKER**, 39, of 120 Hooser Rd., was arrested on poss cs pg 1 < 1g, mandel cs pg 1 >= 4g < 200g, warrant - other agency.

• **WILLIAM RAY BULLARD**, 67, of 2908 Cherokee St., was arrested on agg assault w/deadly weapon.

• **JOSE LOPEZ CHAVEZ III**, 50, of 2804 Sherman Rd., was arrested on poss cs pg 1 >= 1g < 4g, poss cs pg 1 < 1g.

• **JULIANA RENEE JUAREZ**, 32, of 2002 S. Monticello St., was arrested on poss cs pg 1 < 1g.

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 700 block of W. I 20.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 800 block of W. I 20; and 200 block of Tubb Loop Rd.; and 5600 block of N. Service Rd.; and 3600 block of W. Hwy 80; and 1600 block of S. Gregg st.

• **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the 1100 block of S. Gregg; and 2400 block of S. Gregg; and 2600 block of s. Gregg St.; and corner of Wasson / Parkway

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 200 block of NE 10th Street; and 3600 block of W. Hwy 80.

• **FOLLOW-UP REPORT** was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700; and 2500 block of E. 24th Street; and 500 block of S. Birdwell Ln.; and 3600 block of W. Hwy 80; and 3100 S. Hwy 87(X2); and 1200 block of N. FM 700; 800 block of W. I 20; and 3600 block of w. Hwy 80.

• **UNWANTED SUBJECT** was reported in the 100 block of N. Cottonwood St.; and 700 block of W. I 20; and 1100 block of E. 12th St.

• **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported in the 2500 block of E. 24th Street; and 118 Texas Rd.

• **BURGLARY IN PROGRESS** was reported in the 2000 block of S. Monticello.

• **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2400 block of E. FM 700; and 2900 block of Cherokee St.

• **FOUND PROPERTY** was reported in the 600 block of Bucknell Ave.

• **BURGLARY OF BUILDING** was reported in the 3100 block of S. Hwy 87; and 2000 block of N. Hwy 87.

• **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 200 block of E. 11th Place; and 100 block of E. 2nd St.

• **FORGERY** was reported in the 2100 block of S. Gregg St.; and 2700 block of S. Hwy 87.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King.

• **WELFARE CONCERN** was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson St..

• **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 100 block of E B.

## Sheriff/Fire/EMS

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity and a total jail count of 93.

• **JULIANA RENEE JUAREZ**, 32, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of possession of controlled substance less than one gram.

• **WILLIAM RAY BULLARD**, 67, was arrested by BSPD was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• **JOSE LOPEZ CHAVEZ III**, 50, was arrested by HCSO was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance between one gram and four grams and possession of controlled substance less than one gram.

• **ORLANDO O. CHAVEZ JR**, 27, was arrested by HCSO was arrested on a charge of order of modified conditions of communication.

• **DONALD WAYNE GLOVER**, 48, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of sexual assault of a child.

• **BRODY DALE FORD**, 34, was arrested by DPS on a charge of posses-

sion of marijuana less than two ounces, driving with license invalid with previous conviction/suspension, possession of controlled substance between one gram and four grams, duty on striking fixture/Hwy/landscape, driving while intoxicated second offense.

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of E. 12th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Pennsylvania Avenue. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2600 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of Lockhart. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3500 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 400 block of N. Gregg. No transport was required.

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of FM 700. No

transport was required.

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.



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# 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/freefile](https://irs.gov/freefile). 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, dominoes, or desserts and fellowship. For more information, contact Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com.
- St. Vincent de Paul will be open the following dates beginning May 2020. Food distribution will take place the second Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and other assistance will take place the third Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Both distributions will take place at 1009 Hearn at SVDP Building.
- 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](mailto: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. Pre-registration is only open for children who live in the district. Transfer requests will not be processed until after June 1.

For CISD Kindergarten and Pre-K requirements, please visit the CISD website: [www.coahomaisd.com](http://www.coahomaisd.com)

- Isaiah 58 while not open during normal business hours; will be open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. further notice, for the safety of their volunteers and those they serve. The change will take place June 1.

- Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Big Spring Economic Development Corporation and Leading EDG understand the serious challenges our country faces as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. In response to this crisis, the Small Business Administration (“SBA”) has created new programs geared towards financial relief for affected businesses. The Economic Injury Disaster Loan (“EIDL”), is currently available, but only by applying directly to the SBA via online.

# PARADE

Continued from Page 1

- Bikes (8+): 1st place #912 - Layne Hataway, 2nd place #906 Zane Folsom, 3rd place #904 -Josh Dials
- Hoverboards: tie for 1st #1114 and #1115 - Autumn and Brennan Wash
- 4-Wheelers (18+): 1st place #1310 - the Segundo Family, 2nd place #1303 -Katelynn Garcia
- Pets: 1st place #409 - Renee Beall, 2nd place #408 Brooksie Webb
- Houses: 1st place: 704 Caprock Dr, 2nd place: 1100 Highland Drive, 3rd place: 3102 Mountain Shadow Dr.
- Mailboxes: 1st place: 901 Highland Dr, 2nd place: 3100 Mountain Drive Ave.,

# CASES

Continued from Page 1

We currently have twenty (20) active cases. Big Spring and Howard County have had twenty-two (22) people recover as of today.

Officials take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of continuing to take proper precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 remains a major concern in our community and we urge citizens to wash their hands, wear a mask, social distance and avoid travel when possible.

Masks are required in public places now that Howard County has reached 20 cases.

# BAND

Continued from Page 1

Angelo to work at Lee Middle School in San Angelo. In 1979, he returned to Lamesa, first at the junior high school, and then four years later, he became the head director at Lamesa High School, where the Golden Tor High School Band not only received Division I ratings in both UIL and festival competitions, but they also participated in the Texas State Marching Band Contests.

In 1991, Mr. Pace moved to Andrews. As the assistant director at Andrews High School, he established the first jazz band program in the history of the school. The number of students grew until there were two bands. The bands received Division I ratings at the Texas Tech Jazz Festival, and a number of the students were chosen for “Outstanding Soloist” awards.

In 2000, Mr. Pace took the reins of the Andrews band program and became head director at Andrews High School. Under his direction, the Mighty Mustang Band received its first Sweepstakes rating in fourteen years. The band was named “Outstanding Band” in four of the five spring festivals in which it participated, both in Texas and out of state. Several individual players were also recognized as “Outstanding Soloist” at all of those competitions. In 2006, the band played a concert of patriotic music at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C.

During his 40 year career, Dois Pace taught all levels of band, conducted countless clinics for area bands, served as contest host and region chairman, participated as All-Region Band clinician/conductor, served as faculty member at summer band camps, including thirty-one years at Angelo State,

etc.

Retiring in Spring 2006, Mr. Pace continued to help a number of bands as clinician, consultant, summer band instructor, etc. He has mentored many young band directors, several who had been his students and followed his lead in becoming a band director. Band students all over West Texas know his name and face.

He never thought of returning to a full-time position until late July of 2019. Water Valley ISD asked him to take its band program for one year. The Pride of Water Valley High School Band received all Division I's at Region Marching Contest and qualified and participated in the Texas State Marching Band Championship in San Antonio. On March 3, 2020, the band received all Division I's at the Region VI Concert & Sightreading Contest and took home a Sweepstakes trophy. This last year has been a great postscript to Mr. Pace's career.

Mr. Pace holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from West Texas State University, now West Texas A & M University, and a Masters of Education from Southwestern State College in Weatherford, Oklahoma. His professional affiliations are Texas Music Educators Assc., Texas Bandmasters Assc., Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity, and Texas Music Adjudicators Association.

“For 40 years, I was in love with my job. Don't misunderstand-I didn't always like everything I had to do and I didn't always like situations that happened, but I can honestly say there was never a day I didn't wanted to go to school. Band directing is a great way to make a life,” Mr. Pace said.

The Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame is currently housed in the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Since Phi Beta Mu initiated the

Hall of Fame in 1975, 317 master band directors have been so honored. A standing committee of the Fraternity accepts nominations once a year and then pursues a year's long evaluation process of each candidate. The committee votes by secret ballot, and then the Phi Beta Mu Board approves the list of honorees. For more information, go to [www.tmea.org](http://www.tmea.org). Click Phi Beta Mu and then click Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. (Mr. Pace's page will probably not be available until after his formal induction.)

“I am honored, but humbled, to be included with the giants of Texas band directors. All of them saw potential in every student and set the bar high for their students. All were totally dedicated to their life's work, and all made significant contributions to music education in Texas,” he said.

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# Texas A&M AgriLife study targets contamination hotspots in food processing

*Understanding foodborne pathogen pathways will lead to greater food safety*

By KAY LEDBETTER

Special to the Herald

Food safety through a greater understanding of the contamination "hotspots" in our food supply chain, particularly meat, is a priority for a new Texas A&M AgriLife Research study.

Sapna Chitlapilly Dass, Ph.D., a meat science research assistant professor in the Texas A&M College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science, said her study aims to identify the hotspots of contamination in the food processing industry.

Her goal is to determine how and where pathogens like E. coli and Salmonella survive in processing facilities, and how to prevent and treat them.

Dass's study, "An Omics and Microscopic Assessment Pertaining to the Collective Dynamics of Environmental Multispecies Biofilms that Facilitate Sanitizer Tolerance and Foodborne Pathogen Dispersal," is supported by a \$479,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant.

Texas A&M leads food safety charge "As one of the leading institutions conducting research in the area of food safety, we are excited about what

information this research will provide to enhancing the safety of our food chain," said Cliff Lamb, Ph.D., head of the Department of Animal Science. "The research focuses on understanding how foodborne pathogens are protected and released into the food processing environment."

Lamb said the information gained in this study is expected to lead to new strategies for preventing and controlling accidental contamination of food with pathogens to keep our food supply chain safe.

"Reducing contamination of our meat supply by pathogens such as E. coli O157:H7 and Salmonella will reduce recalls that trigger significant financial losses, but more importantly will reduce the incidence of human illness and death associated with contaminated food," he said.

The development of new strategies for controlling accidental contamination of food with these pathogens will have significant impacts on human health and reduce economic losses, Lamb said.

Where the contamination hotspots hide

Dass is tracking down the hiding locations of these hotspots and aims to eliminate them before they can disperse and infect the food products.

She explained that foodborne pathogens such as E. coli, Salmonella and Listeria form highly resilient multi-species biofilms in food processing facilities. Biofilms are a consortium of different types of microorganisms living in an envelop of thick film or slime. Dass said examples of biofilms are the slimy feeling on a kitchen sponge that has been sitting or a shower floor that is slick.

In the processing industry, she said, they hide in areas such as the back of conveyor belts or drains, which have poor accessibility for sanitation and therefore results in biofilms with greater sanitizer tolerance and antimicrobial resistance.

"We want to control food contamination by investigating the biofilm hotspots," Dass said.

Dass said she will address these objectives experimentally using a combination of microscopic, microfluidic techniques or creating a lab-on-chip, and omics, which includes genomics and transcriptomics supported by large scale mathematical modeling.

This research is a collaboration, and testing will occur at Texas A&M, Stanford University and at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service U.S. Meat Animal Research Center's pilot meat processing facility in Clay Cen-

ter, Nebraska.

Conquering contamination one step at a time

She said one segment of the study will compare and characterize diversity, stability and resilience of the food pathogens and meat processing drain mixed-species biofilm in response to commonly used meat processing sanitizers. Another segment of the study will examine whether spatial organization and location of the food-pathogen within the multi-species biofilm impacts sanitizer tolerance.

The final two steps will be evaluating the detachment and transmission dynamics of food pathogens from biofilm to the food processing facility using lab-on-chip, and finally designing low-cost sustainable materials for drainage systems with microscale surface patterns that can prevent dispersal of pathogens to food.

"A comprehensive understanding of foodborne pathogen dispersal processes from hotspots in food processing facilities and their underlying microbiological mechanisms, is highly significant, as it will lead to powerful new approaches that will reduce the contamination of food with pathogens," Dass said.

## Secretary Hughs encourages Texans to vote early, observe recommended health protocols, and make preparations to cast a ballot in July 14th elections

AUSTIN - Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs today encouraged all eligible Texas voters to take advantage of the extended early voting period ahead of the July 14th elections, which begins on Monday, June 29th and ends on Friday, July 10th. Early voting will not occur on July 3rd or 4th in observance of Independence Day.

The Secretary also reminded all eligible Texas voters to observe the recommended health care protocols released last month by her office, which are meant to help ensure the health and safety of all voters, election office personnel, polling place workers, and poll watchers in Texas.

"Despite COVID-19, the drumbeat of our democracy has marched on," said Secretary Hughs. "I strongly encourage all eligible Texans to set aside time now so they can be prepared to cast a ballot during the early voting period or on Election Day. It is essential to our democracy that Texans are able to safely and confidently cast their vote."

Eligible Texas voters should contact their respective county elections office to view a sample ballot, locate their appropriate polling place, and plan their trip to the polls. Voters can also find extensive information regarding the July 14th elections at [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov)

Texas voters who are eligible to vote by mail must ensure that their Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM) (PDF) is received by the Early Voting Clerk in their county of registration by Thursday, July 2nd. Learn more about requirements for voting by mail in Texas.

Texas voters who possess one of the seven approved forms of photo ID must present that ID at the polls. Voters who do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of the seven forms of approved photo ID may execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form, available to them at each polling location, and provide a supporting form of identification. In addition, certain voters may qualify for an exemption to presenting an acceptable form of photo identification or following the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure.

The seven forms of approved photo ID are:  
Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Depart-

ment of Public Safety (DPS)\*\*

Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS

Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS

Texas Handgun License issued by DPS

United States Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph

United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph

United States Passport (book or card)

\*\*License is not required to be REAL ID compliant

With the exception of the U.S. Citizenship Certificate, which does not expire, the acceptable photo ID must be current or, for voters aged 18-69, have expired no more than four years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. A voter 70 years of age or older may use a form of acceptable photo ID listed above that has expired for any length of time if the identification is otherwise valid.

If a voter does not possess one of the forms of acceptable photo identification listed above, and the voter cannot reasonably obtain such identification, the voter may fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form, which will be available at each polling location, and present a copy or original of one of the following supporting forms of identification:

- government document that shows the voter's name and an address, including the voter's voter registration certificate

- current utility bill
- bank statement
- government check
- paycheck
- certified domestic

(from a U.S. state or ter-

ritory) birth certificate

- document confirming birth admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter's identity (which may include a foreign birth document)

The address on an acceptable form of photo identification or a supporting form of identification, if applicable, does not have to match the voter's address on the list of registered voters.

If a voter meets these requirements and is otherwise eligible to vote, the voter will be able to cast a regular ballot in the election.

Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a permanent exemption to presenting an acceptable form of photo identification or following the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure at the polls. Voters with a religious objection to being photographed or voters who do not present an acceptable form of photo identification or follow the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure at the polls because of certain natural disasters may apply for a temporary exemption to presenting an acceptable form of photo identification or following the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure. For more details, voters may contact their county voter registrar.

Voters with questions about how to cast a ballot in upcoming elections can call 1-800-252-VOTE.

For more information on voting in Texas, visit [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov)

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### BBB partners with Indeed to offer eligible companies a \$200 sponsored job credit

Special to the Herald

As many businesses turn toward rebuilding and recovery following the economic shutdown, the Better Business Bureau® has partnered with Indeed® to offer a \$200 Sponsored Job credit\* for new accounts in the U.S. and Canada that post a job.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment rates have risen dramatically as companies have been forced to lay off or furlough employees. Now as some area reopen, many businesses are hiring back furloughed employees, as well as looking for new hires. To help employers find the right people for their team, BBB has partnered with Indeed, a BBB Accredited Business based in Austin, Texas, to offer a \$200 Sponsored Job credit\* to new accounts in the US and Canada. Companies can claim the credit at [Indeed.com/partner/bbb](https://www.Indeed.com/partner/bbb) (terms, conditions, quality standards, and usage limits apply).

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# Hawks add Pensacola State transfer Rodney Smith to their 2020-21 roster

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

Rodney Smith entered his name into the transfer portal a few months ago while looking for a new Division I National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) basketball program to join for the upcoming 2020-21 season.

Following a solid freshman campaign at Pensacola State where he was forced to play off of the ball as the '2' guard, Smith was looking for a new situation where he could potentially lead the offense every time up the court. After having conversations with coaches Scott Raines and Junsie Cotten, the quick and athletic guard decided to commit to the Hawks over several other offers he had to choose from.

"Me and Coach Cotten definitely clicked right away," Smith said. "I connected with the coaching staff and I feel like I fit with them the best."

Every athlete has a unique journey and they all seem to have different goals that they hope to achieve during the course of their athletic careers. Transferring from a program does not mean that the athlete is quitting, it means that they were looking for a new situation that could help them reach their full potential.

Smith believes that Howard will help him achieve his goals and he is really looking forward to the versatile system that Raines runs. Most coaches might keep their system the same for years and years while forcing each player they have to fit into their system. On the other hand, Raines always adapts his game-plans to fit his players and their strengths.

"I love how Coach Raines builds his system around his players and depending on the type of players that he has is the type of way that he's going to play," Smith said. "Most coaches have a set system and some of their players don't do well because the system doesn't fit them. Coach Raines adjusts his system to the players."

Smith grew up about 25 minutes outside of Atlanta and attended Chamblee Charter High School where he would average over 20.0 points per game during his senior season. Even though Smith was being looked at by Louisiana-Monroe, a Division I program, a mixture of his recruitment starting late and a possible redshirt season made the high-scorer decide to head to the junior college route and take his talents to Pensacola.

The Atlanta native started 28 out of a possible 29 games last season but was forced out of position and did not score as heavily or consistently as he did in high school. Smith averaged 7.8 points per game but produced several double-digit scoring performances throughout the season which included a season-high 21 points in the second-to-last game of 2019-20 season.

The Pensacola State coaching staff was satisfied with the performances that Smith put in from his off-the-ball guard position. Following the last season, Smith had discussions with the coach about his future plan for the starting



Smith (11) sets up on defense during a game last year as a member of the Pensacola State Pirates.

Courtesy Photo

lineup and if he would be able to play point guard.

The Pirates' coaching staff decided they wanted to keep Smith at shooting guard and that is when he decided to enter his name into the transfer portal.

How would Smith describe his one season as a Pirate?

"It was a learning year," Smith said. "It was my first time ever playing off the ball and not being the 'main' man. I had to learn how to get my shots off the ball and how to be the second option. I knew that I was going to have to do that at the next level anyways, so I'm glad that it happened early."

The competition for a spot in the starting rotation will be a tough one this year but Smith is not backing down and believes Howard College will help him further realize his potential at the game of basketball.

Smith has the ability to score and score big consistently much like his favorite player, five-time NBA All-Star Damian Lillard. When watching film on Smith it is easy to see how he models his game after the versatile guard from the Portland Trail Blazers.

"The way he shoots off the screen-and-roll and just his handle and quickness and the way he can score off the ball is what I idolize and try to take and put into my own game," Smith said. "I just need to get my hops right so that I can dunk like him too."

Just because Smith has committed and the Hawks roster is taking its final shape does not mean that the work stops now. Even the pro's try to improve their game each offseason and add something new to their game that they may not have ever attempted before.

Smith is very determined to keep improving every time his sneakers touch the hardwood. He has been working on reading defenses for the pick-and-roll game the most this offseason and his experience playing at the NJCAA Division I level should give him somewhat of an upper hand heading into the first practices of the year.

It is no secret, though, that Raines will put the best five players on the court and will always put his team in the best position to win.

However, it is also no secret that Smith fully expects to be one of those five players on the court during the opening tip for each and every game.

"My goals are to make the First Team All-Region, having multiple offers for next year to choose from, and leading the Hawks to the (Region title)."

With the addition of Smith, the Howard Hawks are adding yet another top-notch talent to their 2020-21 basketball roster. After a disappointing 16-14 finish last season, the Hawks will be looking forward to a bounce back year and a shot at WJAC Conference title.

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

# Bolton & Harris Claim 2020 Texas Team Championship

Special to the Herald

HORSESHOE BAY, TEXAS (July 7, 2020)—James Bolton, Assistant Professional and Billy Harris, PGA Head Professional at Dallas Country Club have won the 2020 Texas Team Championship with rounds of 61-65 for a two-day total of 126 (-17).

"We tried to play our best," said Harris. "James played excellent on Ram yesterday when we shot 10 under, which is about as good as we could play, and then today we made the most out of our round."

Coming into today's final round, Bolton & Harris trailed by two strokes. After carding an impressive 7 birdies, the pair finished Round 2 bogey-free and surpassed the team of Stetson McMillan, Teach-

ing Professional and John Sikes, PGA Member and Owner of John Sikes Golf Academy who finished the tournament tied in second place with Jeff Strong, PGA Member and Billy Sitton, PGA Member at Triumph Golf LLC at 127 (-16).

"We made some good putts down the stretch today," said Bolton. "When we got it in a little sideways, we made some power putts for birdies and that saw us through the round."

The Texas Team Championship is a two-man, best-ball event where 80 teams of PGA Professionals from the Northern Texas and Southern Texas Sections competed on the 6,858-yard Apple Rock and 6,702-yard Ram Rock Courses at Horseshoe

Bay Resort. This year's tournament was presented by Adidas, Cobra Puma Golf, Donald Ross and Dan Liscio, E-Z-GO, Garia, L.A.B. Golf, and Morell Studios.

Following Round One yesterday, PGA Professionals enjoyed interacting with the tournament's presenting sponsors during a fun and competitive putting contest at the resort's Whitewater Putting Course, a 72-par course featuring waterfalls, bunkers, and more. The team of Chris Hendrickson, PGA Teaching Professional and Roger Stebbins, Director of Instruction at High Meadow Ranch Golf Course won last night's contest with a final score of 46 (-26).

# Upcoming MLB free agents have fewer games to impress

By DAVID BRANDT

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Robbie Ray already knew 2020 would be a big season for his financial future because it's his last one before becoming a free agent.

Now the Arizona Diamondbacks left-hander has less time to make a strong impression.

Major League Baseball's coronavirus-delayed 60-game season is much shorter than the usual 162-game grind. That means pitchers like Ray will probably make about 11 or 12 starts instead of the typical 30-plus.

Because of the compressed calendar, the 28-year-old Ray made sure he kept in shape during the spring hiatus from baseball. In his first live work off the mound Sunday, he threw nearly 80 pitches and said he's very close to being ready for the regular season, which begins July 24 against the Padres.

The motivation is obvious: A bad start to the season could cost him millions of dollars in what's expected to be a tight free-agent market during the offseason. Conversely, two good months might lead to a big payoff this winter.

"I had the assumption that once everything got fired back up it would be quick," Ray said. "Show up in three or four days and then camp is 30 days or less. Being the year that it is, I didn't want to be behind and not able to go out and perform at my best day one."

Ray's best year came in 2017 when he made the All-Star team and finished 15-5 with a 2.89 ERA. He was 12-8 with a 4.34 ERA last year and had a career-high 235 strikeouts.

He's one of several players to watch as MLB prep for its strange season. This week's focus is on players in the NL West and AL West.

COLORADO ROCKIES: OF David Dahl. The 26-year-old has been one of the game's best young hitters when he can stay in the lineup. He's been limited by various injuries throughout his career but was still an All-Star in 2019, when he batted .302 with 15 homers in 100 games.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS: RHP Walker Buehler. The 25-year-old made a big jump in his second full season, making the All-Star team and finishing 14-4 with a 3.26 ERA and 215 strikeouts in 182 1/3 innings. Now that David Price has opted out of the 2020 season, it's even more vital that Buehler continues his upward progression.

SAN DIEGO PADRES: SS Fernando Tatis Jr. The rising young star was limited to 84 games last season because of injuries but still finished third in Rookie of the Year voting. The Padres were at their best when he was in the lineup and if he plays close to all 60 games this season, they could be surprised contenders in the NL West.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS: RHP Johnny Cueto. The two-time All-Star missed a big chunk of the past two seasons because of Tommy John surgery but appears to be fully healthy for 2020. The Giants could definitely use his presence at the top of the rotation, and the shorter 60-game season might allow him to avoid any problems while coming back from the elbow injury.

HOUSTON ASTROS: RHP Lance McCullers Jr. The 2017 All-Star is coming off Tommy John surgery and missed all of 2019. The Astros hope the 26-year-old can assume a bigger role in the rotation after they lost ace Gerrit Cole to the New York Yankees in free agency.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS: RHP/DH Shohei Ohtani. The big right-hander became one of the game's biggest stars two years ago as a rare two-way player. He was limited to DH duty last season — batting .286 with 18 homers — but is trying to bounce back from Tommy John surgery and contribute once again in the Angels' pitching rotation.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS: LHP A.J. Puk. The 6-foot-7 left-hander showed tantalizing potential in 10 relief appearances last season, striking out 13 batters over 11 1/3 innings. Now the Athletics hope the No. 6 overall pick from the 2016 draft is ready to compete for a spot in the starting rotation.

SEATTLE MARINERS: 1B Evan White. The 24-year-old was set as Seattle's starting first baseman the second he signed a \$24 million, six-year contract last offseason without having played higher than Double-A. He's a whiz defensively and reminds scouts of J.T. Snow, who won six straight Gold Gloves from 1995 to 2000. He's part of young core that includes outfielders Kyle Lewis and Jake Fraley, and infielders J.P. Crawford and Shed Long Jr.

TEXAS RANGERS: OF Joey Gallo. The 26-year-old's health is the biggest current concern after he tested positive for COVID-19. The good news is he's asymptomatic and the Rangers hope he can return soon to provide his usual punch in the middle of the lineup. He's hit 103 homers over the past three seasons and if he gets hot, his bat could carry the team through a big chunk of the shortened schedule.



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We are all at risk, and some more than others. In challenging times, the choices you make are critical. And their impact is significant. Help slow the spread of coronavirus.

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# Contract Bridge



By Steve Becker

## Bridge is a psychological game

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	A Q J 9	♥	Q J 6 3
♦	7 3	♣	J 10 4
WEST			
♠	7 4 3	♥	5 4
♦	10 8 6 2	♣	9 8 5 3
EAST			
♠	K 6	♥	K 2
♦	A K Q 9 5	♣	Q 7 6 2
SOUTH			
♠	10 8 5 2	♥	A 10 9 8 7
♦	J 4	♣	A K

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Pass 1♠ 2♦  
2♣ Pass 4♥

Opening lead — two of diamonds.  
To know what an opponent has and what he is thinking, and to then put this knowledge to good use, is the mark of a very good player. Sometimes you have to put yourself in the opponent's shoes to get the best result.

Let's say you're sitting East in today's hand, defending against four hearts. West leads a diamond, and you take two diamond tricks. What would you do now?

When the deal occurred, East returned the six of spades! As a result of this play, he defeated the contract.

11 tricks once the spade was led, and anyone reading this column would surely do so with the East-West hands in plain view. But to understand why declarer went down, you have to imagine you're South and see only the North-South hands.

From South's viewpoint, the spade play at trick three has all the earmarks of a singleton. Why else would East return a spade into dummy's A-Q-J when he has a natural club return?

So when you win the spade in dummy and lead the queen of hearts, on which East follows low, it seems risky to finesse, because if West has the king, he'll take it and give his partner a spade ruff to defeat you.

You therefore go up with the ace of hearts and return a heart. East takes the king and leads a club. You win and confidently take the spade finesse, but East, the rascal, produces the king, and down you go. If you're not too upset by what East did, you congratulate him for his fine play.

East's spade return makes a lot of sense when you think about it. He knows South must have the A-K of clubs for his opening bid, and that a club return is therefore futile. If South is left to his own devices, he is sure to take a heart finesse and make the contract. East's only hope, therefore, is to try to divert South from the winning line of play by giving him something else to think about.

Tomorrow: Overcoming adversity.  
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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS comes from you and goes straight to the hearts of others.



**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION:** "I'm a busy Capricorn, and I think I'm falling in love with someone. I hate it. There's so much I need to do right now. Big life responsibilities and ambitions. I do not have time to be in love. I don't have time to plan dates and explore a new relationship. I'm so annoyed with myself for letting this happen. And yet, I can't seem to help myself either. Can you stop yourself from falling in love?"

### Mercury Square Mars Offers a Creativity Challenge

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The way to get people to take your advice is to find out the action they want to take, and then advise them to take it. Pointless? Maybe. But people want to do what they want to do and not feel so alone in it.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Be cool, go at a relaxed pace, believe that you, like the gods, have all the time in the world. With a laid-back attitude, you will get there amidst people who feel as comfortable as you do.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The one in charge may not be better than the others on the team, but someone has to lead. You'll respect and defer to authority because it's the proper and smart thing to do.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Before you set out to work, make sure the ingredients and tools you need are right where you need them. This gives you the best advantage in an already challenging task.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Once you get into a creative mode, even the worst messes are not mistakes. Everything is a building block for something else. Your mindset is to problem-solve, time and again, until you can make something beautiful out of it.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll get

the job if you believe you'll get the job. The same goes for getting the attention you would like or any other result for that matter. Believe you can and you can.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Togetherness, like food, air and shelter, is a basic human need. Don't be afraid to reach out today. Chances are that the other person will want to join forces, too.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Even though you are content with your own company, you don't necessarily want to date someone who is just like you. You'll love the banter that bubbles up with an unlikely partner.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You are not careless with other people's hearts. You will be careful to pace relationships and manage expectations so that all involved are likely to experience a comfortable, slow-growing bond.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You believe that the best way to learn something is to teach it. You personalize the lesson. This isn't just information; it's also a feeling that

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** There's not a lot you need, but the temptation to get what you don't need is pretty strong now. You're trying to make your life more convenient, though each new purchase comes with a responsibility.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** To whatever extent you can control your own destiny, you will, as long as you keep your mind focused. Beliefs can be more addicting than substances. Stick to the thoughts that help you.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 8).** You will often be moved by sudden emotion like spontaneous joy, extreme curiosity or effervescent attraction. You'll take on projects with zest. Your unbeatable attitude will have you competing with top performers and landing in the winner's circle. A new responsibility in 2021 will bring on a shift in how you spend your time. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 13, 22, 3 and 5.

If anyone can, you can, you determined sea goat! You certainly have more control over your thought processes than most. And yet, for all the strength of mind you possess, you will likely find that your heart doesn't care what your brain thinks of the situation. In the end, stopping the fall of love is like stopping any other fall. Scrambling at air, your body is only negating the fact that it is already too late. And if you brace yourself for impact, you just add more to injure on the way to your inevitable meeting with destiny.

As for the amount of time love takes, try measuring the affair in moons instead of weeks. The moon is always changing and passing into a new sign every few days, bringing with it a new mood. Measure your dates in heartbeats. So much can be exchanged in a thousand heartbeats!

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

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## SUDOKU

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

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!

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

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## Annie's Mailbox

### Have an Open Heart

**Dear Annie:** For 25 years, a very close couple would get together with us for a nice meal. We did lots of things including trips and outings. Eighteen months ago, my friend suddenly died. Her husband is now dating a very lovely woman (I hear), and we are glad he is happy.

We expect them to travel to our area this summer, and possibly, we will go out for dinner. This feels very weird. Any suggestions on how to embrace this new person? -- Adjusting to the Change

**Dear Adjusting:** I am very sorry for your loss. Adjusting to the change, and the feelings of missing your friend, creates a special

challenge. If she were alive today, she would want her husband to be happy and not alone. Try and see your friend's new companion with an open heart and think about his happiness.

**Dear Annie:** Here are the rules I recommend for getting rid of mice:

-- NEVER poison an animal. Their stomachs will swell and burst, or they will hemorrhage all over their body. Think about that being done to you.

-- NEVER trap their feet in a sticky box to starve and thirst them to death.

-- NEVER drown an animal.

All this would not be necessary with a small amount of prevention.

In my house, I keep dog food in one cooler and birdseed, grass and flower seeds in another cooler. I keep my kitchen clean. No mice.

If they are coming into your garage in the fall, keep the garage door closed unless you are woodworking or in the garage. My door was old, and the seal at the bottom left gaps. I put on a new seal strip, and no more mice.

Two more things:

1. Possums are marsupials, like koalas and kangaroos, not rats or rodents. They have prehensile tails and used to hang upside down in trees. They will play possum if you happen on them, unless they have young, are trapped or you come

at them. They just hiss then. Mostly they play possum. They eat insects and fruits and berries.

2. Before you become a National Wildlife Habitat, check with Dad. No more use of pesticides, herbicides or nitrate fertilizers on the lawn. You could still become one, but you would be telling a lie, and what is that lesson to your children? -- Rules for Being a Kind Human

**Dear Rules for Being a Kind Human:** I love the message of kindness to all living things in your letter. Thank you.

**Dear Annie:** Thank you for your expert advice and knowledge for caring for an elderly parent. I didn't expect

my letter to be published. I had hit rock bottom when I wrote that letter. Before my letter was published today, I stopped feeling sorry for myself and got help! Your headline "Draining My Battery to Support Others" was spot on. I was tapped out!

I did exactly what you mentioned in your reply as for getting home help or a nursing facility. A couple times a week, I have visiting nurses and an exercise therapist for my mother.

I am still confined, but I have some relief knowing that skilled people are doing a better job than I have done. It's working out well. Of course, my duties are still numerous doctor appointments

a month, emergency room trips, groceries and all the things necessary to make sure she is comfortable. At 91, I know my time is limited with her. I would like to make the most of it by spending quality time with her and not being so overwhelmed with all these extra duties.

Thank you again for your support. -- Tired and Worn Out

**Dear Tired and Worn Out:** Thank you for your letter. It filled me with joy to know that you took responsibility for your life and made positive changes to recharge your battery!

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

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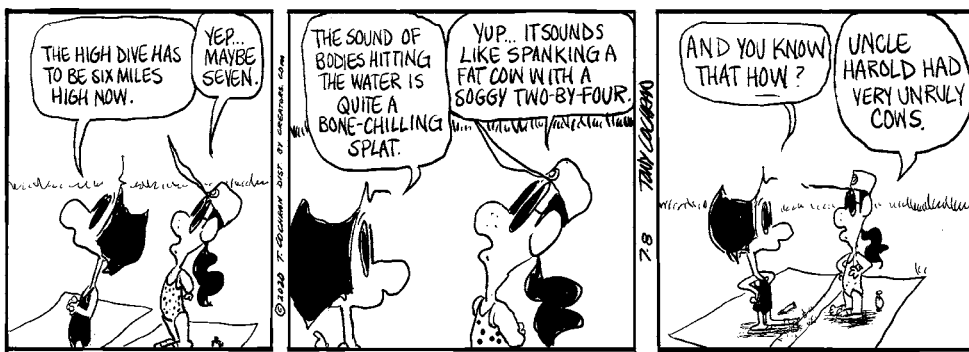


	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery	
5:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	For Such	(DVS)	Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy	Movie: Red Dawn (DVS)	SportsCenter	Backstory	Focused TBA	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Expedition Unknown	
6:PM	News	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Minuto para ganar	News	Cowgirl	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	SportsCenter	NBA2K League: Week 9, Day 2.	Jersey Retirement	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Expedition Unknown		
7:PM	Gold	Te doy la vida	MasterChef	Tough as Nails	Cennet (SS)	Chicago Med	News	Spy in the Wild	Andy G.	The 100	Big Bang	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite	MLS Soccer: Group Stage	MLB Baseball	WWE NXT	The First 48	Expedition Unknown		
8:PM	Conners	Amor eterno	Ultimate Tag	Game On!	100 dias para enam	Chicago Fire	Light of Southwest	NOVA	Andy G.	Bulletproof	Big Bang					The First 48	Expedition Unknown		
9:PM	S.H.I.E.L.D.	Como tu no hay dos	FOX 24 News at 9	SEAL Team	Enemigo Intimo (SS)	Chicago P.D.	Light of Southwest	China: Power	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Movie: The Legend of Tarzan (DVS)	MLS Soccer: Group Stage	E:60	Cuba Warriors	Chrisley	The First 48: Miami	Mysteries of Deep	
10:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	black-ish	Conan					Chrisley	The First 48	(09) Dino Hunters	
11:PM	J. Kimmel	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Noticias	Tonight Show	Words of Dr. Wil	Spy in the Wild	Perry Mason	black-ish	Full				Johnsonville ACL Corn-hole	World Poker	Mod Fam	The First 48	Expedition Unknown
12:AM	Nightline	Contacto deportivo	Funny	James Corden	100 dias para enam	Seth Meyers	Issues4	NOVA	Twi. Zone	Gold	Conan	Movie: Jack the Giant Slayer (DVS)	SportCtr			Mod Fam	The First 48	Expedition Unknown	
1:AM	Extra	Inocente de ti	Two Men	Simpsons	Holly	Caso	Late-Lilly	Jesus IS	Alfred Hitchcock Hr.	Millionaire	Broke Girl				MLB Baseball	Mod Fam	The First 48	Expedition Unknown	
2:AM	Mel Robbins	Papá a toda madre	Pawn	ET	Programa	News	Light of Southwest	China: Power	Mannix	Outdoor	Broke Girl				Law & Order: SVU	The First 48: Miami	Mysteries of Deep		
3:AM	Paid Prg.		Pawn	Dr. Carras	Programa	Inside Ed.				Stay	Broke Girl								

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



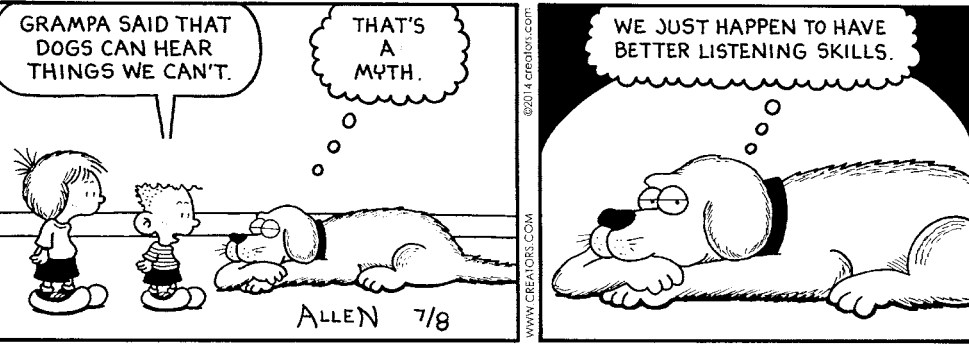
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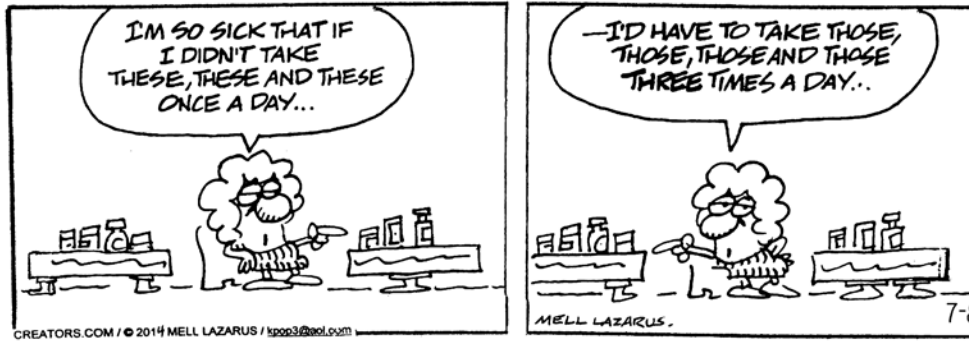
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 8, the 190th day of 2020. There are 176 days left in the year.  
 Today's Highlight in History:  
 On July 8, 2000, Venus Williams beat Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 7-6 (3) for her first Grand Slam title, becoming the first Black female champion at Wimbledon since Althea Gibson in 1957-58.  
 On this date:  
 In 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, outside the State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.  
 In 1889, The Wall Street Journal was first published.  
 In 1947, a New Mexico newspaper, the Roswell Daily Record, quoted officials at Roswell Army Air Field as saying they had recovered a "flying saucer" that crashed onto a ranch; officials then said it was actually a weather balloon. (To this day, there are those who believe what fell to Earth was an alien spaceship carrying extra-terrestrial beings.) Demolition work began in New York City to make way for the new permanent headquarters of the United Nations.  
 In 1950, President Harry S. Truman named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea. (Truman ended up sacking MacArthur for insubordination nine months later.)  
 In 1972, the Nixon administration announced a deal to sell \$750 million in grain to the Soviet Union. (However, the Soviets were also engaged in secretly buying subsidized American grain, resulting in what critics dubbed "The Great Grain Robbery.")  
 In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford announced he would seek a second term of office.  
 In 1989, Carlos Saul Menem was inaugurated as president of Argentina in the country's first transfer of power from one democratically elected civilian leader to another in six decades.  
 In 1994, Kim Il Sung, North Korea's communist leader since 1948, died at age 82.  
 In 2011, former first lady Betty Ford died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 93. Atlantis thundered into orbit on a cargo run that would close out the three-decade U.S. space shuttle program.  
 In 2012, Roger Federer equaled Pete Sampras' record of seven men's singles titles at the All England Club and won his 17th Grand Slam title overall, beating Andy Murray 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.  
 In 2014, President Barack Obama appealed to Congress for \$3.7 billion in emergency spending to deal with the immigration crisis on the nation's

southern border, where unaccompanied children were showing up by the thousands (Republican lawmakers rejected the request). Washington became the second state to allow people to buy marijuana legally in the U.S. without a doctor's note.  
 In 2018, divers rescued four of the 12 boys who'd been trapped in a flooded cave in northern Thailand with their soccer coach for more than two weeks. (The remaining eight boys and their coach were rescued over the next two days.)  
 Ten years ago: The largest spy swap between the U.S. and Russia since the Cold War unfolded as 10 people accused of spying in suburban America pleaded guilty to conspiracy and were ordered deported to Russia in exchange for the release of four prisoners accused of spying for the West. Violent protests erupted in Oakland, California, after a Los Angeles jury convicted a white former transit officer, Johannes Mehserle (yoh-HAH'-nes MEZ'-ur-lee), of involuntary manslaughter (instead of murder) in the videotaped fatal shooting of an unarmed black man, Oscar Grant. During an ESPN prime-time special, basketball free agent LeBron James announced he was leaving the Cleveland Cavaliers to join the Miami Heat.  
 Five years ago: On a rough day for tech, a "router issue" at United Airlines suspended all of the company's flights for nearly two hours, leading to 800 flight delays and 60 cancellations; a "technical problem" at the New York Stock Exchange halted trading; and the Wall Street Journal's website, WSJ.com, had "technical difficulties." (Government officials said it did not appear that the incidents were related, or the result of sabotage.) Medicare said it planned to pay doctors to counsel patients about end-of-life care, the same idea that sparked accusations of "death panels" and fanned a political furor around President Barack Obama's health care law.  
 One year ago: Iran began enriching uranium to 4.5%, just breaking the limit set by its nuclear deal with world powers. Billionaire financier Jeffrey Epstein was charged with sexually abusing dozens of underage girls; the newly unsealed federal indictment came more than a decade after he secretly cut a deal with federal prosecutors to dispose of nearly identical

allegations. (Epstein was found unresponsive in his jail cell a month later; the medical examiner ruled the death a suicide.) After a remarkable run at Wimbledon, 15-year-old American Coco Gauff lost to former No. 1 Simona Halep, 6-3, 6-3, in the fourth round.  
**Today's Birthdays:** Singer Steve Lawrence is 85. Actor Jeffrey Tambor is 76. Rock musician

Jaimoe Johanson is 75. Ballerina Cynthia Gregory is 73. Actress Kim Darby is 73. Actress Jonelle Allen is 72. Children's performer Raffi is 72. Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck is 71. Actress Anjelica Huston is 69. Writer Anna Quindlen is 68. Actor Kevin Bacon is 62. Actor Robert Knepper is 61. Rock musician Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode) is 59. Country singer Toby Keith is 59. Rock musician Graham

Jones (Haircut 100) is 59. Rock singer Joan Osborne is 58. Writer-producer Rob Burnett is 58. Actor Rocky Carroll is 57. Actor Corey Parker is 55. Actor Lee Tergesen is 55. Actor Michael B. Silver is 53. Actor Billy Crudup is 52. Actor Michael Weatherly is 52. Singer Beck is 50. Country singer Drew Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 50. Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco is 47. Actress Kathleen Robertson is 47.

Christian rock musician Stephen Mason (Jars of Clay) is 45. Actor Milo Ventimiglia (MEEL'-loh vahn-tih-MEEL'-yuh) is 43. Rock musician Tavis Werts is 43. Singer Ben Jelen (YEL'-in) is 41. Actor Lance Gross is 39. Actress Sophia Bush is 38. Rock musician Jamie Cook (Arctic Monkeys) is 35. Actor Jake McDormann is 34. Actress Maya Hawke is 22. Actor Jaden Smith is 22.

Newsday Crossword

WHAT YOU CAN'T BUY by Carolyn Stewart Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS												
1	5	9	13	17	21	25	29	33	37	41	45	49
2	6	10	14	18	22	26	30	34	38	42	46	50
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15	23	27	31	35	39	43	47	51	55	59	63	67
16	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68
17	25	29	33	37	41	45	49	53	57	61	65	69
18	26	30	34	38	42	46	50	54	58	62	66	70
19	27	31	35	39	43	47	51	55	59	63	67	71
20	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72
21	29	33	37	41	45	49	53	57	61	65	69	73
22	30	34	38	42	46	50	54	58	62	66	70	74
23	31	35	39	43	47	51	55	59	63	67	71	75
24	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76
25	33	37	41	45	49	53	57	61	65	69	73	77
26	34	38	42	46	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78
27	35	39	43	47	51	55	59	63	67	71	75	79
28	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80
29	37	41	45	49	53	57	61	65	69	73	77	81
30	38	42	46	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82
31	39	43	47	51	55	59	63	67	71	75	79	83
32	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84
33	41	45	49	53	57	61	65	69	73	77	81	85
34	42	46	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86
35	43	47	51	55	59	63	67	71	75	79	83	87
36	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88
37	45	49	53	57	61	65	69	73	77	81	85	89
38	46	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	90
39	47	51	55	59	63	67	71	75	79	83	87	91
40	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92
41	49	53	57	61	65	69	73	77	81	85	89	93
42	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	94
43	51	55	59	63	67	71	75	79	83	87	91	95
44	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96
45	53	57	61	65	69	73	77	81	85	89	93	97
46	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	94	98
47	55	59	63	67	71	75	79	83	87	91	95	99
48	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	100

Answer to previous puzzle

RAITS	CHAT	MERIT
OBSE	HALO	ERODE
ALPS	ELMO	TRYON
RESALE	VALUE	ALIT
MIRE	ROLL	
DOREMI	ENGRAVED	
INA	BONNIE	KILO
NEWS	OTC	MESAS
EAVE	SERENE	ITAS
STEADILY	EDITED	
GRAS	GRIN	
MPG	RIVER	VALLEY
ALTIEN	OREO	AURA
REESE	LIEU	IRAN
EASED	TENS	DISK

7/8/20



# MLS to resume season minus 1 team amid growing virus concern

By ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

Major League Soccer is about to resume its season — in a state that has seen a huge spike in coronavirus infections, with one team absent because of a COVID-19 outbreak, and with plenty of worry about what will happen next.

The MLS is Back tournament starts Wednesday in Florida. The league's teams are sequestered in resorts for the duration of the World Cup-style tournament, which will be played without fans at ESPN's Wide World of Sports complex at Walt Disney World.

FC Dallas withdrew from the tournament on Monday after 10 players and a coach tested positive for the virus. On Tuesday, Nashville SC's status was thrown into doubt with five confirmed positive tests.

"It's a strange time, because on one hand you're focused to get ready for this tournament, and get pumped up and get excited about it because the tournament sounds a lot of fun, World Cup-style," Real Salt Lake veteran Kyle Beckerman said. "But then on the other hand you're thinking, 'Is this even going to happen?' So there's mixed emotions going on."

The tournament kicks off with a match between Orlando City and expansion Inter Miami, a nod to the host state. Nashville was supposed to play Chicago in the second game on Wednesday night, but it has been postponed.

Additionally, Toronto FC's opening game against D.C. United was moved from Friday evening to Sunday morning. Toronto was supposed to depart on Friday, but additional testing meant the Reds didn't arrive until Monday.

MLS shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic on March 12, after the league's teams had each played two regular-season games.

Commissioner Don Garber said that despite the disappointment about Dallas, the case shows that the league's extensive testing in its so-called bubble is working.

"We knew when we created this tournament that we would experience some impact of some of the coronavirus," Garber told The Associated Press. "We're all learning to live with COVID-19 and to adapt to the pandemic and to ensure that we're taking care of each other and taking care of ourselves and following the health and safety protocols as closely as possible. We also knew that when we launched this tournament, there would be an element of risk."

Also troubling are the rising cases in Florida. On Tuesday, the state reported 7,347 new infections and 380 new hospitalizations.

Portland Timbers coach Giovanni Savarese said it's important to be vigilant.

"I think MLS has worked very hard to try to create a safe environment," Savarese said. "But nevertheless, we still have to continue to make sure that we take always as a priority the health of the players, and making sure that they're safe."

While there are legitimate concerns, most of the teams are looking forward to getting back on the field and the feeling of a bit of normalcy.

"We are proud of Major League Soccer, and we want to show our game to the

world," Orlando City coach Oscar Pareja said. "We're committed to that."

OPTING OUT

LAFc captain and reigning league MVP Carlos Vela opted out of the tournament, choosing to remain home with his pregnant wife and their young son.

Vancouver's Fredy Montero and Lucas Cavallini also decided not to go for personal reasons. Cavallini revealed that two family members had died because of COVID-19.

"I would love to be out on the field with my teammates fighting with everything I have to play for this club and community in Orlando. Unfortunately COVID-19 has had a very big impact, taking away two beloved members of my family. I feel that it is best that I remain home to support my loved ones at this challenging time," he said in a statement.

The Whitecaps' Andy Rose also decided not to go because his wife is expecting a baby. Real SL defender Nedum Onuoha opted out because of the time apart from his family.

KEY INJURIES, OTHER ABSENCES

Minnesota's Ike Opara is undergoing treatment for an undisclosed condition and likely won't join the team until the knockout rounds. LA Galaxy's Jonathan dos Santos will miss the tournament because of hernia surgery. Inter Miami rookie Robbie Robinson left the bubble for what were described as personal reasons and won't be allowed to return.

DALLAS DISAPPOINTMENT

Dallas coach Luchi Gonzalez spoke to reporters on Tuesday, a day after the team withdrew from the event. He said players felt hurt and hopeless in the moment — but they also knew there was going to be risk.

"I don't think there was going to be a right or wrong moment (for the tournament). I think it needed to happen and there's no regrets," Gonzalez said. "I'm not sorry I'm having this experience with these players, because I know it's a good learning lesson for the league, for the game and for all the other teams."

EARLY STARTS

Because of the heat and humidity in the Orlando area during the summer, some games will be played at 9 a.m. That means routines will have to be adjusted, like big pregame meals.

"Never have I ever coached a 9 a.m. real game, so that will be an experience," Sporting KC coach Peter Vermes said. "At the same time, I think that we're going to obviously readjust the way we do things. Maybe wake up a little bit earlier, try to fuel the body a little bit differently, probably the night before and earlier that day."

THE SKINNY

The 25 teams (following Dallas' withdrawal) are divided into six groups for the preliminary round. Each team will play three group-stage games over 16 consecutive days. The results in the group stage will count toward the regular season. The winner of the final match on Aug. 11 will get a place in the 2021 CONCACAF Champions League. The teams are playing for a \$1.1 million prize pool.

# Mahomes' big bet on football pays off with \$503 million deal

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

Patrick Mahomes risked everything when he opted for football over baseball.

Turns out, he got baseball money anyway.

One day after the former two-sport star got a 10-year deal worth up to \$503 million, the richest contract in American sports history, the reigning Super Bowl MVP repeatedly insisted this deal was about more than money. He wants to be the cornerstone of a dynasty in Kansas City.

"That's how I've always been built — to follow my passions and do things to the best of my ability," the Chiefs quarterback said Tuesday on a Zoom call. "It's never been about money for me. I'm glad we have this done and I can go out and be the same player that I was and the same person that I was."

The Chiefs are banking on it.

They rewarded the 24-year-old Mahomes with \$477 million in guarantee mechanisms, a no-trade clause and opt-out clauses if he doesn't hit those guarantees — clauses more commonly associated with baseball contracts than football deals.

But almost from the moment Kansas City traded up to select the Texas Tech star with the No. 10 overall pick in the 2017 draft, the front office had been mapping out a strategy to keep Mahomes.

"Going back to the first free agency I was part of in 2018, we had the idea of structuring deals with Pat in mind," general manager Brett Veach said.

"The one thing, as Pat's success kept going on, the numbers kept bigger and bigger. So it took off and that was a good challenge to have. But I remember

when this first came out, (director of football administration) Brandt (Tilis) came to me said 'Pat's going to be a baseball contract, he's that good.'"

He certainly has been the past two seasons.

His strong arm, fleet feet and uncanny ability to accurately throw from different angles already have made the 24-year-old into one of the league's big stars. His humble, charming personality has resonated with fans and teammates alike, and the resume is starting to fill up, too.

After throwing only 35 passes as a rookie, Mahomes broke virtually every single-season franchise passing record in 2018 when he was the league's MVP, the Associated Press Offensive Player of the Year and led the Chiefs to their first AFC championship game in a quarter century.

Then, despite missing two games with a dislocated right kneecap last season, Mahomes closed the regular season with six straight wins and capped the season by rallying Kansas City with two fourth-quarter touchdown passes to give the Chiefs their first Super Bowl title in 50 years.

That's all coach Andy Reid needed to see a long-time investment would be worth every cent.

"I'm so happy for Pat, for the Kansas City Chiefs organization and really for the city of Kansas City for having this opportunity to have a true franchise quarterback here, one that was drafted here which hasn't happened for almost the duration of the Chiefs organization," Reid said.

"I think Brett did a phenomenal job of organizing this. I joked that he and (former general manager John) Dorsey wore me out about bringing Pat here,

saying he was the best player they'd ever seen."

And it almost never happened.

Mahomes was a top baseball prospect out of high school and might have followed his father, Pat, and his godfather, LaTroy Hawkins to the big leagues if he had been selected earlier in the 2014 draft.

Some thought he was worthy of a \$1 million deal. But the fear of Mahomes spurning the baseball world for football sent his draft stock sliding, until the Detroit Tigers took him in the 14th round.

That was the only sign Mahomes needed.

But he still found a way to cash in with a deal that surpasses Mike Trout's previous record with the Los Angeles Angels of \$426.5 million.

Mahomes wanted even more from the Chiefs.

By agreeing to a deal that would keep him in Kansas City for 12 more years, Mahomes wanted to make sure the 62-year-old Reid would still be coaching and that the Chiefs had enough flexibility under the salary cap to reward his teammates.

Once he checked those two boxes, Mahomes was ready to sign for the half-billion dollar paycheck.

"I knew from the moment I stepped on Arrowhead Stadium field that this was where I wanted to spend my entire career," Mahomes said.

"I've always believed in the legacy thing and I think you see that with the whole entire team. They want to be a part of this culture and they want to build a dynasty. That takes a lot of work and I think we have those guys in this locker room."

# NFL, NFLPA still haven't resolved all protocol for camps

By ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL and the NFLPA haven't come to an agreement on all protocols for training camp and the pre-season as the report date for teams draws closer.

The two sides finalized the protocols regarding team travel, media, and treatment response, and have also updated the facilities protocol to specifically address training camp based on recommendations from a joint committee of doctors, trainers and strength coaches formed by the league and players' union.

The league sent a 42-page memo to teams last Friday outlining those proposals. But the NFL Players Association and its president, Cleveland Browns center JC Tretter, say testing and the number of pre-season games remain unresolved.

"Our normal return date for training camp is quickly approaching and we are still far from back to 'normal,'" Tretter wrote in a letter on the union's website.

"Our main concern is player safety, both in regard

to preventing the virus' transmission as well as preventing injuries after an extended and historically unique layoff."

Tretter reiterated that players don't want to play any pre-season games and want a 48-day training camp schedule to give them more time to prepare for the season and avoid injuries. He cited an increase in injuries following the 2011 lockout.