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# BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY EDITION,  
 AUGUST 26, 2020

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VOLUME 115, NUMBER 285

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## City Council approves budget, tax rate, and homestead exemption

*Amendments to City Code regarding 'Administration' approved unanimously*

By **IRIS RANGEL**

Herald Staff Writer

City Council members gathered Tuesday for a regular meeting to discuss the upcoming fiscal year budget, tax rate amendments to City Code, and other routine agenda items.

A public hearing surrounding the annual budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 opened the meeting on Tuesday afternoon at City Council. However, there were no public comments during the public hearing segment. With no public comments to be heard, council members moved into the agenda which was completed within a couple of hours.

The council voted unani-

mously to pass the first reading of an ordinance adopting an annual budget for the City of Big Spring for the Fiscal Year beginning Oct. 1, 2020 and ending Sept. 30, 2021.

In keeping with budget discussion, the Council addressed the fixing and levying of ad valorem taxes for Big Spring for the Year 2020 in a first reading of an ordinance. The council discussed the ad valorem tax at \$0.601130 on each \$100 valuation. The M&O rate was set at \$0.601130 with the principal and interest rate of \$0.116170 for a total tax rate of \$0.717300. After discussion,

the Council voted 7-0 to pass the first reading. Council members also discussed and approved the first reading of an ordinance adopting the annual budget for the city of Big Spring with an unanimous vote. In addition, council members - except for the Mayor - accepted in a 6-1 vote an additional 20% penalty to defray costs of collecting delinquent taxes that remain delinquent on July 1 of the year in which they become delinquent. In a way to offset some of the hardship presented this past year, the Council also looked at a first reading of an ordinance granting a partial residence homestead exemption for Tax Year 2020 and granting a partial residence homestead exemption to any individual who is disabled or age 65 or older. The council voted to approve 7-0.

As part of the City Manag-

er report, Todd Darden provided an update on the large item pick up which recently took place for District 2. According to Darden there were 16 tons collected. The next Large Item Pick Up is set for Sept. 16 in District 3. Darden also reminded the Council members of the Port-to-Plains virtual feasibility study that took place on Tuesday and will be taking place again on Wednesday at 4 p.m. According to Darden, reminders for the Census 2020 were included in the recent round of water bills and he once again encouraged residents to take part in the Census, as the deadline approaches.

"We are in the final stages of the Census and still down in numbers. This goes through October 31. So, if you have not completed your form,

See **CITY**, Page 3



**Upcoming Events:**

**Howard College Public Hearing Tax Increase**  
 Thursday  
 5:30 p.m.

**BSISD Board of Trustees**  
 Thursday  
 5:15 p.m. - Public Hearing  
 5:45 - Special Meeting

**Howard County Bowl**  
 7 p.m.  
**Memorial Stadium**  
**Buffaloes v. Bulldogs**

**Toasty Tuesday**  
 every Tuesday at  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Community invited

**Coahoma Lion's Club Trade Day & City Wide Garage Sale**  
 Sept. 26  
 8 - 5 p.m.

**Howard County Fair**  
**CANCELLED**

**Joyful Season**  
 Sept. 18-20

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 www.bigspringherald.com



## Special meetings, public hearings to take place Thursday at Howard College, Big Spring ISD

*BSISD to hold public hearing at 5:15 p.m., special meeting 5:45 p.m. in BSISD Board Room; Howard College to meet at 5:30 p.m. in Fireplace Room*

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Managing Editor

As governing bodies are looking to finalize budgets and set tax rates for the upcoming fiscal year, a series of special meetings will be held this Thursday. The Howard County Commissioners held a public hearing regarding their proposed budget on Monday, during the regular session meeting and approved the budget, which will soon be posted on the County website. The City Council of Big Spring also held a public hearing regarding the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, on Tuesday at the City Council Chambers. The Council voted to approve the proposed budget and tax rate.

The Howard College Board of Trustees will be holding a special meeting on Thursday, in the Fireplace Room at Howard College. The meeting can be attended in person or by calling into the meeting line at 1-888-204-5987 and entering access



code 3148424#.

The public hearing will focus on the proposed tax increase for the upcoming fiscal year budget. At the last meeting of the Howard College Board of Trustees the proposed tax rate was discussed at a 3% increase from previous year.

During the public hearing, the community will have an opportunity to speak on the proposed increase.

In addition to the special meeting of the Howard College Board of Trustees, the Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees will also be hosting two public hearings. The first of the public hearings, at 5:15 p.m. will take place in the Board Room at the Big Spring High School, and focus on the the proposed 2020-21 Budget and Proposed Tax Rate.

See **MEETING**, Page 3

## Steer Nation hosts Community Pep Rally

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Managing Editor

Steer Pride was roaring at Memorial Stadium on Saturday night as students, athletes and families joined together for the annual Community Pep Rally.

The 2020 Steer Football team was introduced to the community, as students, coaches and family members gathered together to kick off football season.

"Without a doubt, this was the best community pep rally I have attended in the five years I have lived in Big Spring. The excitement and enthusiasm were amazing," Big Spring ISD Superintendent Jay McWilliams said. "We had a tremendous turnout from our parents and community members. It was a great night to honor our student athletes, band, and our



Photo submitted by Tiffany Dawson

The Big Spring Steers hosted the annual Community Pep Rally last Saturday. Steer Nation joined together to kick off the 2020 Football season and let their Steer Pride shine. This was the first time Steer Nation has been able to come together since the pandemic began.

See **STEER**, Page 3

**THIS ISN'T OUR FIRST RODEO**

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## Obituaries

## Dr. Robert William Federman



Dr. Robert William Federman, 87, formerly of Big Spring, passed away May 26, 2020, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. A private burial service was held.

He was born Oct. 15, 1932, in Minneapolis, Minnesota and married Mary Lillian Longan July 8, 1989, in Big Spring, Texas. She preceded him in death Dec. 19, 2015.

Mr. Federman served in the United States Army from Oct. 1954 until Nov. 1974 retir-

ing as a Major. He served in the medical service corp. He worked as a psychologist and was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Big Spring, Texas.

Survivors include three sons, Rick Federmann of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Robert Federman of Irvine, California, and Mark Federman of Salmon, Idaho; one daughter, Sherrie Coultrip of Colorado Springs, Colorado; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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*

## Rev. Flynn Vincent Long Jr.

Reverend Flynn Vincent Long, Jr., 92, passed from this life to join the Church Triumphant on Aug. 20, 2020. He died peacefully in his sleep at his home in San Angelo.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel, Big Spring. The family will be present from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Thursday for visitation. Due to Covid 19, a graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28 at Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring. A memorial service is planned for a later date.

Flynn was born May 9, 1928, in Shreveport, Louisiana to Reverend Flynn V. Long and Martha Venable Fitzgerald. He was raised in Harlingen and Austin, Texas, where he graduated from Austin H.S. He received a BA Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa from Davidson College, and a Bachelor of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He was ordained to ministry to serve as Assistant Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Midland, Texas, in June 1952. As the oil boom was on in Midland, he was asked that fall to become the organizing pastor of a new church called Westminster Presbyterian where he served until 1958. He married Carole Calkin of Bartlesville, Oklahoma in 1954 and they raised three children: Martha, Flynn III, and Sarah. In 1958 the family moved to Fort Worth, Texas where he become organizing pastor of St. Giles Presbyterian Church until 1971. In 1971 he received a grant from the Midland, Texas Presbyterian Foundation to do independent research for The Great Speckled Bird. A Study in American Presbyterian Heritage. He also served as interim pastor of Bethany United Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas (1973-1975).

Flynn's service and leadership in the church included service on various committees of the General Assembly prior to his calling in 1975 as Assistant then Associate Stated Clerk. He served on the Task Force on the Effective Presbytery, Committee on Assembly Operations and Chair of the sub-committee that wrote new Standing Rules for the General Assembly, and the Task Force on Mission Funding. During those years, he also traveled the country extensively garnering support for the reunion of the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches that ultimately led to reunification in 1983. He married Grace Ville in Atlanta in 1980. In 1984, they returned to Texas where he pastored the First Presbyterian Church of Big Spring until his retirement in 1997. Grace preceded him in death in 1999.

Throughout his sixty plus years in ministry he served on various committees of the former Synod of Texas, and the Synod of the Sun being elected Moderator (1989-1991). He chaired numerous committees in the old Southern PCUS Presbyteries of El Paso, Central Texas, Trinity, and Covenant, and

was Moderator of the former El Paso and Central Texas Presbyteries. In later years, he served on the Presbytery of Tres Rios' Committee on Ministry, the Permanent Judicial Commission, numerous task forces and commissions. His ecumenical service includes the Board of World Mission, World Council of Churches, Texas Conference of Churches, and National Council of Churches Governing Board and President of the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies. He was also involved in many community agencies in Midland, Fort Worth/Dallas, Atlanta, and Big Spring, and served as a Trustee of Schreiner College, Kerrville, Texas.

He authored publications on Presbyterian worship, Christian education, church history and polity, and presented his lectures entitled "The Great Speckled Bird, A Study in American Presbyterian Heritage" to more than 300 congregations.

He married Kay Moritz in Taos, NM September 24, 2004. They moved from Big Spring to San Angelo in 2010 and became part of the St. Paul Presbyterian Church family. Flynn was well known for his Western attire, cowboy boots and hat, and wore a Scottish Geneva gown when preaching. He loved playing his bagpipes and banjo in the neighborhood and for church events. He was devoted to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the congregations he served. He deeply loved his family, his many friends, and colleagues.

Survivors include wife Kay Long of San Angelo, Texas; sister Teeka Baldwin of Dallas, Texas; daughter Martha Long Mann and husband John of Fort Worth, Texas; son Flynn Long III of Kerrville, Texas; daughter Sarah Long Jordan and husband Max of Arlington, Texas; Kathryn Breitbarth of Fort Worth, Texas; niece Blair Baldwin Hudson of Dallas, Texas; nephews George Baldwin and wife Mary of Dallas, Texas, Sam Baldwin of Appenzell, Switzerland, and Tom Baldwin and his wife Felicia of San Antonio, Texas; grandchildren Katie Long Gramatikakis and husband Georgios of Kerrville, Texas; David Long of San Marcos, Texas; Austin and Matthew Ortiz of Waco, Texas; Valerie Goerlitz of Eagan, MN, and Kelly Haberman and husband Mike of Pillager, MN; great grandchildren Tina and Yana Gramatikakis, Ulysses and Arlo Haberman, and Ivy Goerlitz.

The family wishes to thank the dedicated staff and care givers of Hospice of San Angelo for their loving care during the past month.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 100 E. 27th Street, Austin, Texas 78705, Schreiner University, 2100 Memorial Blvd, Kerrville, Texas 78028 or your church or favorite charity.

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

*Paid Obituary*

## Bonnie Long

Bonnie Long, 90, of Big Spring, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020. Graveside inurnment services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Aug. 22, 1929, in San Angelo, Texas, to Guy and Bonnie Thompson. She married James O. "Jim" Long on Dec. 11, 1953, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Dec. 6, 2008.

Bonnie retired from Texas Electric Service Company after over 34 years of service, and was a member of the TXU 25 year club. She had served on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and as the third president of the Blue Blazers. She was also a graduate of

one of the first Leadership Big Spring groups. Bonnie had served on the Board of Directors of Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center and the Board of Directors for the Big Spring Country Club.

Bonnie was a member of the First United Methodist Church and the Epworth Sunday School Class.

Survivors include Keith and Becky Crane, very close friends; and several nieces and nephews including Linda Driver and Lynn Rollins

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Pauline Thompson Driver; a sister-in-law, Joy Henderson and husband, B. W.; brother-in-law, Robert Long; and a special niece, Jan King.

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*

## Valerie Hernandez

Valerie Hernandez, 47, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Take Note

• Pack 305 Cub Scouts will be hosting a Sign-up Drive by Ice Cream Social in the NazFamily Church parking lot on Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Those in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to stop by and find out more about cub scouting.

• West Region Cotton Marketing Update: U.S. Market Outlook is set for Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 7 a.m. The meeting will be held over a Zoom call. There will be another Zoom meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7 a.m. To find out more information or to register, contact the Howard County Extension Office for more details.



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## Nelda Ann Shaw Tobias

Nelda Ann Shaw Tobias, 89, of Brownwood formerly of Knott, Arlington and Andrews, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 23 surrounded by her loved ones. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28, 2020 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring. Burial will follow at The Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born to Willie Summerfield Shaw and Angeline Peterson Shaw on Sept. 15, 1930 and married Richard "Dick" Raymond Tobias July 25, 1952, in Yuma, Arizona after meeting him just three weeks before on July 4 in Long Beach California. She would have thrown a fit if her own children or grandchildren had married someone they only knew for three weeks but for her it led to a long, wonderful marriage. She joined her husband Dick on many adventures in Hawaii and all around the country but most importantly on their greatest adventure - their children Terri, Ricky and David.

She is survived by her daughter, Terri Mathis and husband, Larry of Brownwood and son David Tobias and wife, Renee of Plano; four grandchildren, Summer Shaffer and husband, Luke, Chase Mathis and wife, Jennifer, Toby Mathis and wife, Angela and Mark Tobias; and four great-grandchildren, Haden and Rilynn Mathis and Sadie and Sam Shaffer. Nelda is also survived by her sisters and brothers Joann Peugh of Knott; Frank and Starlie Shaw of Seminole, Roosevelt and Patsy Shaw of Coahoma, Ronald and Jennie Shaw of Smyer and many, many nieces and nephews.

Nelda joins her husband Dick, son Ricky, parents and brothers and sister and many other loved ones in heaven.

The family asks any honorariums be made to Chatfield Assisted Living in Brownwood, Texas.

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*

## John Randal Lewis

John Randal Lewis, 61, of Big Spring died Wednesday Aug. 19, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 83 inmates at the time of this report.

• **PEDRO HERNANDEZ**, 45, was arrested by BSPD on charges of criminal mischief (\$750 to \$2,500) and assault family violence threat or offensive touch.

• **STEVE LOPEZ**, 55, was arrested by BSPD on charges of failure to appear/possession of a controlled substance penalty group one (less than one gram), criminal mischief impairment/interruption/divert public water, motion to revoke probation/burglary of habitation, alcohol treatment requirement/escape from custody, harassment of public servant, evading arrest detention, and failure to identify-fugitive from justice.

• **MAXWELL DELLMAN PATHION**, 50, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

**HERALD**

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association and The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811  
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**MEMBER  
2020**

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**CITY**

Continued from Page 1

please do so, it is very important to our community and our representation and all the other things each entity gets out of the city. The citizens support their communities," Darden said.

There was also an update given on an item off the agenda. According to Darden, the Animal Shelter has been provided an air conditioning system that is currently up and running.

As Darden wrapped up the City Manager's Report he informed the Council of the new Kiosk payment that has been implemented. According to Darden, this will provide another avenue for residents to take care of their utility bill payments.

"I think the citizens are using it well and wisely. It's one of those items we got to purchase with Covid, otherwise I don't think our budget would have allowed it," he said.

Council approved several Consent Items in a group vote as they have done in the past few meetings. The consent items included approval of City Council minutes of the regular meeting of Aug. 11th, 2020 and of the special meeting of Aug. 13, 2020. The council also decided to approve the consent item approval of the City Council minutes of the regular meeting of July 28, 2020 which had been tabled last meeting.

The final reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the Big Spring City Code entitled "Amusements and Entertainment" section 6-2 "Definitions" to add a new definition for "Skill or Pleasure Coin-operated machines" and a new section 6-13 entitled "Restriction of Skill or Pleasure Coin-operated machines within 300 feet of a church, school, or hospital. This agenda item was motioned for approval by Council member Raul Marquez Jr. and was then seconded by Council member Camila Strande to pass unanimously.

For the agenda items Vouchers for 08/13/2020 and 08/20/2020, there was a motion made by Council member Marquez to table both items until the next regular meeting. Council member Gloria McDonald seconded the motion for it to pass 7-0.

Emergency Reading of a resolution to transfer a retired law enforcement dog to the animal handler in consideration for the sum of \$1 on the animal's retirement and providing for severability. The service dog, named Song, has been assigned during

his service to Fire Marshall Dan Hendrickson. The council approved for Song to be transferred to Hendrickson, in an unanimous vote.

"Song is our ignitable liquids canine. She's been working here since April of 2015 with our Fire Marshall. She's seven years old and has recently encountered some health conditions that no longer allow her to work. She's been retired now and will live out her days with Fire Marshall Hendrickson and his family. Happy as she can be I hope," Chief Ferguson said.

Discussion then began on the first reading of an ordinance Amending Chapter 2 of the Big Spring City Code Entitled "Administration," by Amending Section 2-19 "Reimbursement of Expenses of City Council" by Adding a New Subsection (C) to Prohibit Issuance of Payment Cards to Councilmembers; by Adding a New Subsection 2-27 Entitled "No Key Access to City Buildings" to Prohibit Councilmembers from Having a Key to Any City Buildings to Prohibit Councilmembers from Having a Key to Any City Building; and Adding a New Section 2-28 Entitled "No Office for Councilmembers" to Restrict Councilmembers from Establishing an Office in Any City Building; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date. There was a motion by Council member Jim De Pauw to approve the first reading of the ordinance along with a second by Council member Strande, however, Council member McDonald made a suggestion to add an amendment to the ordinance.

"I think included in that, we ought to not be buying any electronic equipment for any council members," she said.

With this suggestion, according to City Attorney Andrew Hagen, this type of topic should be further discussed at another time where purchasing procedures and approvals are up for discussion. Council member McDonald then retracted her statement and the motion passed 7 to 0.

District 1 Councilmen Marquez began discussion on the agenda item Resolution of ordinance regarding restrictions to manufactured housing within permitted zones. According to several of the council members, throughout districts 1, 2, and some of 3, there are several cases where the need for city restrictions to manufactured buildings should be put in place. Council members then opened up discussion on possible zoning restrictions such as skirting, removing axels, cement foundations, and

driveways to manufactured/mobile homes. According to City Manager Darden, 80% of the Big Spring community is manufactured/mobile homes.

"I don't think we're trying to eliminate manufactured homes in these areas where they've been permitted to be zoned. I think we just want them to look a lot better. We want them to take pride in the lot; in the area that they're placing these homes," Marquez said.

Other items on the agenda included:

- Big Spring Economic Development Corporation Board of Director's minutes for special meeting of Aug. 6, 2020 approved

- Bids were awarded to ITD Services for installation of fiber optics innerduct for landfill at a bid of \$100,584; Western States Fire Protection Company out of Lubbock for the alarm system in Building 19 on the Industrial Park for a bid of \$87,234 and for sprinkler system in Building 19 for a bid of \$173,330.

- First amendment to the lease agreement with Isomeric, Inc. approved

- Request to apply for Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant approved. If approved, according to Big Spring Police Department Chief Chad Williams the monies will go toward the purchase of technology.

- Agreement with Cap-Rock Holdings, LLC and Authorizing the Mayor or His Designee to Execute any Necessary Documents was tabled again

*Iris Rangel is a staff writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, call 432-263-7331.*

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Flynn V. Long, Jr., 92, died Thursday. Graveside services will be 11:00 AM Friday at Mount Olive Memorial Park. He will be in state 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Thursday. The family will receive friends from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Samuel Marquez, 74, of Big Spring died Monday, August 24, 2020. Graveside services will be at 2:30 PM Thursday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Jovita G. Jimenez, 76, of Big Spring died Monday, August 24, 2020. Visitation will be from 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Thursday with the Vigil Service at 7:30 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 2:30 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

John Randal Lewis, 61, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Valerie Hernandez, 47, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

**MEETING**

Continued from Page 1

During the public hearing, those wishing to speak regarding the proposed budget or tax rate can do so before the meeting adjourns.

The second special meeting will take place at 5:45 p.m. also in the high school board room. The Board of Trustees will open the meeting with public comments before moving onto the consent agenda.

The Board will look to approve minutes from the Aug. 13, 2020 regular board meet-

ing before heading into the action items on the agenda.

Topping the action items is the approval of the updated 2020-2021 school calendar. Students returned to the classroom on Aug. 19 and are taking part in classes in person or online, depending on the situation that works best for the families.

Board of Trustees will also look at approving innovative course of kinesiology, before heading into the discussion on budget and tax rates for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Board of Trustees will be looking to approve the final amended budget for 2019-

2020 and then look at approving the proposed budget for 2020-21 Fiscal Year. After the proposed budget is discussed and possible action is taken, the trustees will be looking to approve the tax rate resolution for Tax Year 2020.

The public is invited to attend any or all of the public hearings and special meetings that have been called by Howard College and Big Spring ISD.

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

**STEER**

Continued from Page 1

outstanding coaches and sponsors that spend endless hours working with our kids preparing them for success."

The Steer football team took part in the first scrimmage last week against Levelland and performed well, according to McWilliams. This coming week will be the first time the Steers will be taking the field for the long awaited, and uncertain football season.

"I think the community can look forward to an outstanding football season; there is a new sense of confidence with our young men in the fact they know how hard they are working, and they also know they are accountable to each other in everything they do, on and off the field," he said. "I feel like Steer fans will be proud of the team that hits the field for our great community this Friday at 7 p.m."

McWilliams continued, "I honestly believe this was a great "shot in the arm" for our community, as it actually gave everyone the chance to come out and not only enjoy each other's company, but to also pay tribute to our kids that go the extra mile in representing our high school. It brought a sense of normalcy to our community and our kids, plus it showed that we are all united in the belief that we will indeed get through this crisis and that much brighter days are on the horizon. It was great to see so many coaches, teachers, parents, and community members wearing their black and gold proudly, and completely united in our support of the Lady Steer and Steers."

According to McWilliams a pep rally will take place this Friday, but details are still being worked out at this time. In order to allow for social distancing, the pep rally will take place outside, but final details are still being completed.

"Steer Nation is on the rise, and our kids have had a great four days of school to this point," McWilliams said.

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



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# PIGSKIN PICKS

## Football Contest

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**Enter To Win \$50 At These Participating Merchants!**



**Bargain Mart**

1. Vernon
2. Motley County
3. Grape Creek
4. Sands
5. Garden City
6. Colorado City
7. Grady
8. Borden County
9. Stephenville
10. Loraine



**Franklin & Son**

1. Big Spring
2. Westbrook
3. Stanton
4. Sands
5. Garden City
6. Albany
7. Grady
8. Borden County
9. Stephenville
10. Midland Tx LCA



**Gary B's Music**

1. Big Spring
2. Westbrook
3. Stanton
4. Sands
5. Sterling City
6. Albany
7. Grady
8. Borden County
9. Stephenville
10. Loraine



**Pizza Inn**

1. Big Spring
2. Westbrook
3. Stanton
4. Sands
5. Garden City
6. Colorado City
7. Grady
8. Borden County
9. Sweetwater
10. Loraine



**Porter's**

1. Vernon
2. Westbrook
3. Grape Creek
4. Sands
5. Garden City
6. Albany
7. Grady
8. Borden County
9. Stephenville
10. Midland Tx LCA



**Sonic**

1. Big Spring
2. Westbrook
3. Stanton
4. Sands
5. Garden City
6. Colorado City
7. Grady
8. Borden County
9. Stephenville
10. Midland Tx LCA



**Wild West Wingz**

1. Big Spring
2. Motley County
3. Stanton
4. Sands
5. Garden City
6. Colorado City
7. Grady
8. Borden County
9. Stephenville
10. Midland, Tx LCA

### Official Game Rules:

Find this week's games between the merchant's ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win, and fill in the official entry form on this page with your team choices. Clip the entry form out of the page and drop it in the Pigskin box at one of the listed merchants.

**Do not drop your entry form at the Big Spring Herald office.**

\*The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50!

You must be 18 to enter. *No photo copies accepted.*

\*In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner.

For the tie breaker, the entry with the correct team will win.

If both entries have guessed the same team, the second tie breaker will be the one closest to the total points.

\*Decisions of the judges are final.

\*Employees and family of the Big Spring Herald are ineligible.

\*All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1pm Friday of the week played.

\*Winners will be announced on the next week's Pigskin Contest Page.

### Pigskin Picks Entry Form

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

**TIE BREAKER-**  
Circle the winner  
and note total points  
scored

**COAHOMA VS  
FORSAN**

Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



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5. GARDEN CITY VS STERLING CITY

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7. GRADY VS HIGHLAND

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8. BORDEN COUNTY VS CALVERT  
10. LORAIN VS MIDLAND TX LCA

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**★ WINNER ★**

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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

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Hiring Full-time Office Clerk. Must be dependable and organized. Must have basic computer knowledge and be willing to learn and acquire new skills. To Apply please EMAIL resume to [publisher@bigspringherald.com](mailto:publisher@bigspringherald.com). Call 432-263-7331

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Matt Scott 432-755-7065 [matt.scott@expeditionroyalty.com](mailto:matt.scott@expeditionroyalty.com)

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The Last Straw

Dear Annie: I am 68 years old and have been married to my husband for 44 years, and we have two children and three grandchildren. Our son has the three grandchildren, and he is close to the final decree of divorce from his wife of 13 years.

I have always tried to allow our children to live their lives. Our daughter is married and has a very successful career. Our son is successful in the music industry.

I knew there was trouble when I first met the woman who is our soon-to-be ex-daughter-in-law. The problem I saw at the time was the mother. I got a bad vibe from some of the comments

she made the first time I met her but brushed it off as nervousness around new people. Fast-forward to a year later, when our son and daughter-in-law decided it was time to look for a house. She and her mother looked for houses and settled on one just eight minutes apart.

As time went on, it became evident that the mom was way too involved in the marriage and their home life. If there was any conflict or problem to work out, our daughter-in-law would run over to Mom's and spend the day. She did not work outside the home. Our son at one point was working two jobs to put a roof over their heads.

Eventually, the situation proved too much for my son. His wife

became controlling like her mother and would not allow him much interaction with the kids. He could not take it anymore, and to emphasize the point and try to impress upon her how serious the situation was, he left and got an apartment. They spent a year in counseling, ending with the therapist telling them they needed to separate. The wife said, "I just want him gone."

So now the divorce is happening.

The child visitation schedule was agreed upon in January. The situation has been a nightmare ever since. Our son shows up at the designated time and place to pick up the kids for his parenting time, and she refuses to allow them out of the house. She and her mother are there and

make derogatory comments about our son in front of the children.

Our son has been recording the interactions, and I have listened to them and am heartbroken as to what is being said in front of the children. They are 12, 10 and 8 years old. Our son's lawyer just wants to keep things peaceful and avoids filing a contempt of court order even though the mom is in complete contempt of court. I have tried to be supportive of my son, but it is difficult to watch this go on and on.

The final straw was yesterday, our son's birthday, when he was supposed to have the kids from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. However, he was willing to spend less time to be accommodating. He was going to pick them up and

take them to a park for a picnic lunch for just a couple of hours. No go.

What should I do? I am very stressed about the welfare of the kids and knowing how the mom and her mother are discouraging the father-child relationship. I think his lawyer is not doing a very good job of advocating for him. -- Stressed-out Grandma

Dear Stressed-out Grandma: I am so sorry you have to witness this. It is so hard to see your son in pain and your grandchildren hurting. The father-child relationship is as important as the mother-child relationship, and it is a shame she is taking out her frustration with your son on your grandchildren. She does sound like a narcissist and very immature, and her mother sounds even

worse. Sadly, there isn't much you can do except support your son and encourage him to maybe get a new lawyer and keep fighting to see his children.

The kids are getting to an age where they will have opinions of their own. If they find out that their mother was keeping them from their father, they will have a lot of resentment toward her. Once they turn 18, my guess is they will turn back to your son. But let's hope a good attorney can help your son and grandchildren now. The attorney should also be fighting for you and your husband to be able to spend time with your grandchildren. Best of luck.

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Words on the Sagittarius Moon

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you challenge yourself, you discover yourself. If you wait, the world will do it for you, but it won't be the same kind of challenge -- not as specific, not as interesting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maybe it wasn't your quest to be extremely attractive inside and out, but it happened anyway -- a benefit of tending to the important things, serving the people around you consistently, making pleasantness your job.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It really doesn't matter whether you do a thing alone or with lots of help. What matters is getting this thing done and in the bag, so to speak. You may as well accept whatever help you are offered.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Attempt to debunk your own theories. Most mistakes, be they personal, professional, financial or other, are mistakes of ego. Leaving oneself unchecked is arrogance. Instead, ask, "Could I be wrong?"

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Of all the things you could rail against, one of the most futile is that of human nature, which is indomitable, illogical and wildly successful. Since human nature often wins out, it makes sense to work with it, not against it.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You feel successful when you are lifting others, creating ease in the world, building beauty, contributing to health, breaking down barriers to emotional sunshine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If the person who's the best is also the worst, maybe it's love. Love is a 3D experience. If you're getting the good, bad and ugly, then you've brought a person all the way into your heart -- no angle left behind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Plow ahead while your energy is high. You'll feel like taking detours, following distractions and generally going your own way, but don't. Where deep focus meets high energy, there's exciting progress to be had.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Not every debt has to be paid back. Sometimes people give to you out of a deep need to contribute. The usefulness they feel in that moment fulfills the transaction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The complex problems beckon you today, and you're



BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

uniquely qualified to take them on. Note that you'll likely need to look at the situation from a dozen or more different angles before it starts to make sense.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're more open to new experiences than most people, and because of this, you'll find yourself in a colorful place today, if not physically then at least intellectually or virtually.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Without the evil queen, there is no fairytale. Every superhero needs a nemesis. In other words, someone has to be the bad guy, and if it's you, don't sweat it. There's an advantage in disagreement.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 26). People come with their own strange math. It takes but a few chosen loved ones with whom you share thoughts and hours to enrich your life beyond measure. The relationships you build are among your finest creations. A move figures into 2021. You'll inhabit new and transform old environments. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 44, 22, 1

and 49. ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: (Part Three of Three) This is in continuance of the question series begun Monday, Aug. 24. A Virgo wrote about her plans to include her Sagittarian mother, who is suffering from depression, in her family household.

I responded: "You can cut through the necessity of a Sheldon Cooper-esque 'roommate agreement' with one seemingly selfish mandate: Always ask, 'What's in it for me?'"

Sometimes the answer to "What's in it for me?" will be practical. (SET ITAL) I get more help around the house. I get financial relief. I get a fuller feeling of family. I get the benefit of generational love for myself and my children. (END ITAL)

Other times, the answer isn't so pretty. (SET ITAL) I get a feeling of superiority. I get to feel needed, maybe a little too much. I get the level of gratitude that puts me above reproach. (END ITAL)

Even when this is the case, your awareness will nullify the need for many a conflict. I would encourage you to ask yourself "What's in it for me?" consciously and constantly. "What's in it for me?" could very well be the key to making this chapter among the richest in your personal and familial history.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker Topsy turvy

Bridge bidding table with North, East, South, West hands and bidding sequence.

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable. The bidding: North East South West. Opening lead — ace of diamonds. There are times when standard defensive signals can be used to imply the opposite of their usual meaning. All it takes to decipher them is an alert partner and some straightforward logic. For example, take this deal where West led the ace of diamonds against four hearts. East couldn't tell whether West had led from A-x, in which case he wanted the suit continued in order to give West a ruff, or whether West had led from A-x-x, in which case East would prefer a spade shift before dummy's queen of diamonds became

Tomorrow: No communication, no squeeze. ©2020 King Features Syndicate Inc.

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

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!

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

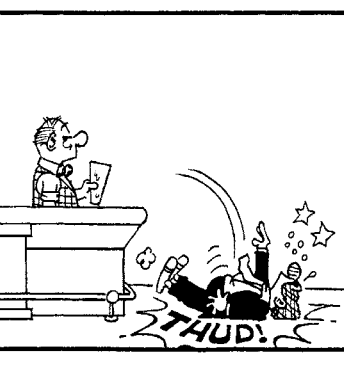
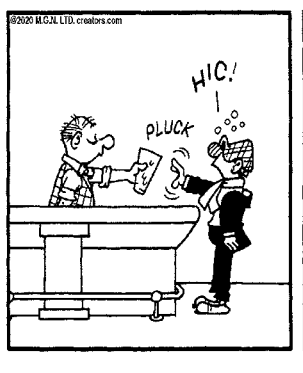
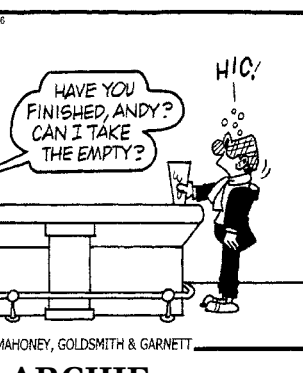
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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) 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		Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy		SportsCenter		Texans	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Expedition
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	Freedom		Hap.Days	Burgers	Fam. Guy			Baseball	Baseball			Unknown
6:PM	News	Rosa de	Big Bang	CBS 7	Exatlón	News	Cowgirl	PBS News-	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	NBA Basket-	MLB	WNBA	Rangers	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Expedition
6:30	Wheel	Guadalupe	Big Bang	ET	Estados Unidos	News	Israel	Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	ball: Orlando	Baseball:	Basketball:	Pregame			Unknown
7:PM	United	Te doy la	MasterChef	Big Brother		America's/	News	PBS	Andy G.	Make It	Big Bang	ball: Magic vs	New York	Mystics vs	MLB Base-	WWE NXT	The First 48	Expedition
7:30	Gold	vida	(DVS)		(SS)	Talent	Truth	NewsHour	Andy G.	Work!	Big Bang	Milwaukee	Yankees	at Atlanta	ball: Oakland			Unknown
8:PM	Conners	Amor eterno		Tough as	Cennet (SS)	Ellen's Game	Light of	Convention	G. Pyle	Coroner	Big Bang	Bucks.	Braves.	NFL Live	MLB Base-	The First 48	Dodgeball	
8:30	House			Nails		Southwest		Coverage	G. Acres		Big Bang		Trail	Blazers vs	ball: Texas Rang-			
9:PM	The Rep	Como tú no	FOX 24	Republican	Enemigo	Convention	Light of		Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang		MLB	UFC Un-	Movie: The	First 48-Haunts	Growing	
9:30	ABC	hay dos	News at 9		intimo (SS)		Southwest		Heroes	Seinfeld	Full		Baseball:	leashed	Bourne		Belushi	
10:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Amanpour-	C. Burnett	black-ish	Conan		Los Angeles	SportsCenter	Postgame	Ultimatum,	(:04) The	
10:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	Words of	Co	Perry Mason	black-ish	Full		Dodgers	Camp	Joan Allen			
11:PM	Nightline	Contacto	Mod Fam	Late Show-	Titulares	Dr. Wil	Food -- Deli-			Gold	New Girl		at San	SportsCenter	World Poker			
11:30	J. Kimmel	deportivo	Funny	Colbert	Cennet (SS)	Seth Meyers	Issues4			Gold	Conan		Francisco	Giants.		Cannonball	(:03) The	
12:AM	Extra	Inocente	Two Men	James	Corden	Holly	Caso	Late-Lilly	Alfred Hitch-	Millionaire	Broke Girl		Giants.	SportsCenter	Around	MLB Base-	(12:03) The	
12:30	Mel Robbins	de ti	Simpsons	Holly	Corden	Holly	Caso	Late-Lilly	cock Hr.	Millionaire	Broke Girl		at San	Pardon	MLB Base-	ball: Oakland	First 48	
1:AM	Papá a toda	madre	Pawn	ET	Programa	Programa	News	Light of	Mannix	Outdoor	Broke Girl		Braves.	MLB	Baseball:	at Texas Rang-	Law & Order	
1:30	Paid Prg.		Pawn	Dr. Carras	Programa	Programa	News	Light of		Copper	Broke Girl			Baseball:	at Texas Rang-		Law & Order	

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This Date In History

**Today in History**  
Today is Wednesday, Aug. 26, the 239th day of 2020. There are 127 days left in the year.  
Today's Highlight in History: On August 26, 1968, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago; the four-day event that resulted in the nomination of Hubert H. Humphrey for president was marked by a bloody police crackdown on antiwar protesters in the streets.  
On this date:  
In 55 B.C., Roman forces under Julius Caesar invaded Britain, with only limited success.  
In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women's right to vote, was certified in effect by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.  
In 1944, French Gen. Charles de Gaulle braved the threat of German snipers as he led a victory march in Paris, which had just been liberated by the Allies from Nazi occupation.  
In 1957, the Soviet Union announced it had successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile.  
In 1958, Alaskans went to the polls to overwhelmingly vote in favor of statehood.  
In 1961, the original Hockey Hall of Fame was opened in Toronto.  
In 1972, the summer Olympics games opened in Munich, West Germany.  
In 1974, Charles Lindbergh — the first man to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic — died at his home in Hawaii at age 72.  
In 1985, 13-year-old AIDS patient Ryan White began "attending" classes at Western Middle School in Kokomo, Indiana, via a telephone hook-up at his home -- school officials had barred Ryan from attending classes in person.  
In 2004, the nation's supply of vaccine for the impending flu season took a big hit when Chiron Corp. announced it had found tainted doses in its factory, and would hold up shipment of about 50 million shots.  
In 2017, Hurricane Harvey spun into Texas, unloading extraordinary amounts of rain. (The hurricane killed nearly 70 people, damaged more

than 300,000 structures and caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage.) Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. beat UFC fighter Conor McGregor in a boxing match in Las Vegas that was stopped by the referee in the 10th round; it was the last fight of Mayweather's career and earned him an estimated \$200 million.  
In 2018, a gunman opened fire on fellow gamers at a video game tournament in Jacksonville, Fla., killing two men and wounding 10 others before taking his own life. Playwright Neil Simon, whose comedies included "The Odd Couple" and "Barefoot in the Park," died at the age of 91.  
Ten years ago: The government of Chile released a video of the 33 miners trapped deep in a copper mine; the men appeared slim but healthy as they sang the national anthem and yelled, "Long live Chile, and long live the miners!"  
Five years ago: Alison Parker, a reporter for WDBJ-TV in Roanoke, Virginia, and her cameraman, Adam Ward, were shot to death during a live broadcast by a disgruntled former station employee who fatally shot himself while being pursued by police.  
One year ago: As the Group of Seven summit wrapped up in France, President Donald Trump pitched his own Doral golf resort in Florida as an ideal site for the next G-7 summit; the idea was scrapped after bipartisan concern that Trump would violate a clause in the Constitution prohibiting presidents from accepting gifts or payments from governments. Charges including aggravated manslaughter were filed against four employees of a Florida nursing home where 12 people died in sweltering heat after a hurricane cut power. An Oklahoma judge found that Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries had helped fuel the state's opioid crisis; the judge ordered the consumer products giant to pay \$572 million. (The

award was later reduced to \$465 million after the judge acknowledged a miscalculation; the case is on appeal.)  
Today's Birthdays: Pop singer Vic Dana is 80. Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer Valerie Simpson is 75. Pop singer Bob Cowill is 71. Broadcast journalist Bill Whitaker is 69. Actor Brett Cullen is 64. Former NBA coach Stan Van Gundy is 61. Jazz musician Branford Marsalis is 60. Country musician Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio) is 59. Actor Chris Burke is 55. Actor-singer Shirley Manson (Garbage) is 54. Rock musician Dan Vickrey (Counting Crows) is 54. TV writer-actor Riley Weston is 54. Rock musician Adrian

Young (No Doubt) is 51. Actor Melissa McCarthy is 50. Latin pop singer Thalia is 49. Actor Meredith Eaton is 46. Rock singer-musician Tyler Connolly (Theory of a Deadman) is 45. Actor Mike Colter is 44. Actor Macaulay Culkin is 40. Actor Chris Pine is 40. Comedian/actor/writer John Mulaney is 38. Actor Johnny Ray Gill is 36. Country singer

Brian Kelley (Florida Georgia Line) is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cassie (AKA Cassie Ventura) is 34. Actor Evan Ross is 32. Actor Danielle Savre is 32. Actor Dylan O'Brien is 29. Actor Keke Palmer is 27.

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Newsday Crossword

CREATIVE DESTRUCTION by Winston Emmons  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
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- ACROSS**  
1 Prod with a finger  
5 Degs. in finance  
9 \_\_\_ and kicking  
14 Online auctioneer  
15 Singer Clapton  
16 Walking speeds  
17 Very hard to find  
18 Cry of triumph  
19 Star's dealmaker  
20 Establish a new standard  
23 Have a meal  
24 Common urban tree  
25 Even if, in verse  
26 Tell what just happened  
32 Daughter, for one  
35 Vietnam neighbor  
36 Cow complaint  
37 Plant's underground part  
38 Hotel room cleaners  
40 Congregation's affirmation  
41 Away from the office  
42 Actor Penn or Connery  
43 "No wager"  
44 Succeed in deception  
48 Basketball's contents  
49 CIO's union partner  
50 Observed  
53 Be a debunker  
58 December song  
59 Author Austen  
60 Three-layer cookie  
61 Furious

- 62 Of bad character  
63 Actor Neeson  
64 To date  
65 Johnny who played Willy Wonka  
66 Gentle, as zoo animals
- DOWN**  
1 In itself  
2 President in 2015  
3 Gold purity measure  
4 Keep your \_\_\_ on (watch)  
5 Courage  
6 Rodeo bull  
7 Any assistant  
8 Lasting mark  
9 Southwestern Native Americans  
10 Tropical island inlet  
11 Cake decorator  
12 Sell from a soda machine, say  
13 Winter hours in DC  
21 Bunch of sheep  
22 Moral climate  
26 Three-ingredient sandwich, for short  
27 Oscar actor  
28 Tiny bit  
29 Actress Stone or Thompson  
30 Adversities  
31 Princes, for instance  
32 Gator's cousin  
33 Typical TV drama length  
34 Tiny bit  
38 Urban area, briefly  
39 Sound of satisfaction  
40 Gorilla or chimp  
42 Pan on a stove  
43 Doing nothing  
45 Author Truman  
46 Feline treat  
47 Useful  
50 Iraq neighbor  
51 Squad of best players  
52 Mock-denial question  
53 All \_\_\_ (fully attentive)  
54 Dental exam image  
55 Played CDs at a party  
56 Roof overhang  
57 Drop feathers  
58 Espionage org.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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# NFL teams adjusting from 80,000 die-hards to 80 decibels

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The jokes write themselves: The Jacksonville Jaguars are going to play home games in front of a significantly reduced number of fans this season.

"How's that different than any other year?" Don't laugh. The Jaguars — along with Atlanta, Cincinnati, Miami, Tampa Bay and others — might be better equipped to handle the NFL's drastic change in hometown support. They've dealt with it for years.

Videoboard enhancements? Player-generated content? On-field celebrations recognizing community heroes and military veterans? Some NFL teams have been doing those and more for decades to help offset fewer butts in seats.

"One of the unfortunate advantages of being in a smaller market like Jacksonville is we have to get a little more creative in terms of how we create that home-field advantage," Jaguars President Mark Lamping said. "We'd have to do that if it's normal capacity or not."

Twenty-one of the NFL's 32 teams have ruled out spectators for the start of the season, with Buffalo, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Minnesota and San Francisco the latest to announce plans Tuesday. At least eight are preparing to host a limited number of fans.

The bottom line: home-field advantages created by generations of fandom — most notably and noticeable in Green Bay, Kansas City, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Seattle — could be momentarily wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic.

Teams are adjusting. New-age videoboards and top-of-the-line sound systems are taking center stage and assuming the all-important role of helping hype players in home venues. Those extras could spill into living rooms as several teams, including Jacksonville, are launching phone apps designed to provide in-stadium experiences to those watching from couches and comfy chairs.

Want to see player introductions? Want to experience a military flyover just before kickoff? The Jag-

uars are giving fans at home a peek at both through their new app.

The television product, meanwhile, might not look a whole lot different aside from empty venues or sparse crowds. The NFL's TV partners are expected to add fan reaction to broadcasts.

For players and fans on hand, the voids will be filled by simulated crowd noise. The NFL is expected to allow 80 decibels piped in, a number many teams are already using during training camp practices and scrimmages.

General managers, coaches and team officials are preparing to play with that simulated crowd noise. Normal conversation is about 60 decibels. Double that for a rock concert. Eighty decibels equate to being in heavy traffic or next to a lawn mower. Anything above 85 is consider dangerous, depending on the duration of the exposure, the number of times exposed and the use of hearing protection.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium holds the record for the loudest NFL game. Chiefs fans registered 142.4 decibels on Sept. 29, 2014, while hosting the New England Patriots on Monday Night Football.

Going from 80,000 die-hards to 80 decibels will sound like relative silence for anyone accustomed to a raucous, three-hour Sunday afternoon.

"I'm a defensive guy, so I need fans," Philadelphia Eagles cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman said. "I love my fans. That's a big edge. People don't know how much it affects offense. It affects receivers, especially when the momentum is on the defensive side. It becomes a mental game, almost. Fans yelling, crowd going crazy, people are just raving. You can get caught up in that."

Miami Dolphins offensive coordinator Chan Gailey questioned how the piped-in noise will be monitored.

"Who controls the volume on that?" Gailey said. "If you get a homer that slips that volume a little bit louder on third down, I'm not sure I'm for that a lot."

Home-field advantage was hardly a huge factor in

2019. Home teams posted their second-lowest winning percentage since the AFL-NFL merger, going 132-123-1. That's just a touch over .500, and only ahead of the 1972 season, when home teams went a combined 90-87-5.

Nonetheless, it's become the hot topic across the NFL this week. Buffalo Bills coach Sean McDermott made headlines by saying "it's honestly ridiculous" that some teams will allow fans and others won't. But those decisions were dictated by state and local guidelines, not the league.

"When I first came into the NFL, they were like, 'Well, we're playing in these stadiums and it's loud and it's the NFL,'" Jaguars coach Doug Marrone said. "And I'm thinking, 'Wait a minute, I've been in the SEC for two years. We average more people. You know what I'm saying? It's louder in the SEC than it is in the NFL.'"

Rowdy crowds are hardly the only benefit to playing at home. Visiting teams in Denver deal with altitude. In Jacksonville, Tampa Bay and Miami in September, it's sweltering heat and humidity. In Buffalo, Chicago, Green Bay and New England in December, it's freezing temperatures.

"I think there'll always be some home-field advantage for all the teams just because (of) different surfaces, different way the field plays, the way the wind blows in each stadium. There'll always be a little bit of that," Green Bay Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst said.

Still, the thought of a Lambeau Leap into empty stands, or no Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, or few, if any, Terrible Towels is hard to imagine.

"It's going to show if you really love football or not because without fans it's still a football game at the end of the day," Miami Dolphins rookie cornerback Noah Igbinoghene said. "You've got your teammates. You've got your coaches. I feel like that's all you really need."

"Yes, fans are a big part of the sport. The fans make the sport what it is, I feel like. But that's just the reality we're in right now, so we've got to adjust and we've got to come together as a team and hype ourselves up."

# Baylor soccer gearing for 9-game schedule in fall of 2020

When the Big 12 decided that it would play a nine-game conference-only schedule, the Baylor soccer team responded with a mix of joy and relief.

After exploring several different scenarios, Big 12 soccer teams will begin games Sept. 11 as the Bears host TCU at Betty Lou Mays Field.

"Getting anything is great at this point, so we're excited about that," said Baylor coach Paul Jobson. "It will be interesting stepping on to the field for

the first time without any type of exhibition or non-conference match right into it. But I think that's a challenge that our girls will be really up for."

There will be no post-season tournament this fall after the NCAA announced that it plans to postpone its soccer championship to possibly the spring due to COVID-19 concerns.

NCAA board members cautioned that fall championships should be played in the spring only if they can be conducted safely and in accordance with federal, state and local health guidelines. The final decisions on bracket sizes and composition will be approved by the board at a later date.

Jobson would be open to bringing his team back for an NCAA spring tournament.

"If I've learned anything from the COVID season is not to look too far ahead for sure," Jobson said. "If they allow us to do something in the spring great. The more matches we can play, the coaches are always going to like that. I don't know what a championship is going to look like, I have no idea how they're going

to get that going. I'd be for it, especially if we get to play now and later, that sounds like the best of both worlds to me."

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