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Young & 15th Street closure

The City of Big Spring has approved for Driver Pipeline Company to close access to Young Street at the intersection of 15th St to repair utility lines to the area. Houses in the block of Young between 14th & 15th will have limited access through the 14th St intersection. Utility repairs are expected to be completed on Monday, September 28, 2020. We appreciate your patience and understanding on this matter.

Sinclair Oil, eminent domain hot topics in Tuesday Council meeting

By **IRIS RANGEL**
 Herald Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council met in regular session Tuesday to discuss various topics including the appointment of a Municipal Judge, hiring a new Code Officer, and a first reading of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 004-2020 declaring the City of Big Spring a Sanctuary City for the Unborn.

Interim City Manager Shane Bowles provided his first Interim City Manager's Report updating council on the Large Item Pickup in District 3.

"We did not have anyone call the next day saying they were missed. We did not have anyone that was overseen. Everyone that called got picked up and it was very successful," Bowles said.

According to Bowles, the next Large Item Pickup is scheduled to take place Oct. 1 in District 4.

Bowles also gave a Large Holes and Backfill update stating they are falling further behind.

"As you've probably noticed around town we're falling further behind on filling holes. Nevertheless, we have gotten with a local contractor to help us get caught back up on that. We do realize it's a problem and we are looking into getting that back to where we were..." he said.

According to Bowles, the Census will start sending people door to door soon and will also be providing assistance in filling out the census.

"They are there to see if you have filled it out or if you need help filling it out. We encourage everyone to fill out their census because it does help with funding for our town," he said.

Discussion on hiring a new Code Officer was held between Council Members and Bowles where he mentioned the

Council has been attempting to get additional code officers primarily for illegal dumping.

"The solution we came up with was not going through the general fund to get a code officer, but to use sanitation. That's an enterprise fund and hasn't been hurt as drastically by the economy. Right now we're looking at creating a new code officer slot that focuses on illegal dumping and is funded through sanitation," Bowles said.

For the city to gain a new code officer, a budget amendment for the next fiscal year would need to be made at the next Council meeting.

Bowles reported 28 properties were ready to be seized and go to auction via Purdue, Brandon and Clarke. According to Bowles, these seizures began several months ago. Bowles is looking to turn

See **CITY**, Page 2

DAV 100th Anniversary
 Sept. 25

Rail Crossing Awareness Day
 Sept. 25

Bikes Across Big Spring
 Sept. 26
 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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

Summer in the Sun campaign results in \$5,000 donation to local United Way from Star DJCR



Courtesy photo

This past weekend, Star Dodge presented the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County with a \$5,000 donation from the Summer in the Sun campaign. Star Dodge employees were allowed to wear shorts to work for a donation to the local United Way. Over the course of the summer, the donations were collected and were presented in a check this past weekend and will benefit the 14 local supported agencies.

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Summer has wrapped up and cooler temperatures are on the horizon. With the summer months wrapping up, Star Dodge wrapped up their Summer in the Sun Fundraising campaign to benefit the local United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

"Giving back to the community is something Star Dodge is proud of and encourages all employees to invest back into the community in which they live and work," Tabitha Clark, Star DCJR Public Relations, said. "We are constantly thinking of fun ways to get our employees involved in the community while adding a little bit of excitement to their work day."

Since summer began employees were presented with the opportunity to wear shorts to work, as long as they made a donation to the campaign. In addition to the employees, Star Dodge extended the campaign fundraiser to area businesses in the form of a competition. Several other businesses - media outlets, local owned businesses, and more - opted to take part and will soon be presenting their checks to the local United Way.

"We are grateful for the donation from Star Dodge and truly appreciate their partnership throughout the year," Christian Fair, Executive Director of the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, said. "We are grateful for those who are continuing to support the United Way this year. We

See **DONATE**, Page 3

Big Spring Social Security Office moving to new location

Special to the Herald

In a press release issued last week, the local Social Security office announced a new location coming soon to serve Big Spring and Howard County residents.

The Big Spring Social Security office will relocate to its new location in the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Business operations at 2006 E FM 700 (across from Spring Creek Fellowship), Big Spring, TX 79720, will end at close of business Friday, October 9.

Social Security employees continue to work remotely to provide the vital services the public relies on through online services and phone services, and offices are not able to accept in-person visitors at this time, except by appointment for dire need situations, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus for more information about services during the pandemic.

Most Social Security services do not require the public to take time to visit an office. People may create their my Social Security account, a personalized online service, at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Through their personal my Social Security account, people can check personal information and conduct business with Social Security. If they already receive Social Security benefits, they can start or change direct deposit online, request a replacement SSA-1099, and if they need proof of their benefits, they can print or download a current Benefit Verification Letter from their account.

People not yet receiving benefits can use their online account to get a personalized Social Security Statement, which provides earnings

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Obituaries

Donald (Don) R. Robbins

"I'm going to see a man about a dog". That was his routine reply to his young children when he left the house each day for practically any reason. He has left us now, and we are sure he has that same agenda.

Donald and his twin brother Ronald were born in Ft. Worth, Texas. The twins and their older brother, Cooper, Jr. were raised on the game of football by their father, career Texas high school football coach Cooper Robbins, Sr, TAMU class of '28. Donald and his brothers played on their father's 3A state championship football team at Breckenridge High School in 1951. The brothers all went on to attend Texas A&M on football scholarships, while their father was hired as an assistant football coach at Texas A&M.

Don was a member of A Company and a "survivor" of the legendary Junction Boys in 1954. Playing tight end and as honorary co-captain, he was a member of the Texas A&M Southwest Conference championship team of 1956. After graduation in 1956, he remained on as a graduate assistant under Coach Bear Bryant while achieving his Master's Degree in Education.

At graduation Don was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and after one year of active duty in the U.S. Army, Don made football coaching his life-chosen career just like his father had chosen before him. From 1957-1972, Don coached at the high school level as well as the collegiate level. As defensive coordinator at UTEP, he helped the team to victory in the Sun Bowl in 1967. As head coach for the University of Idaho, his 1971 team won the Big Sky Conference championship and he was voted conference Coach of the Year. He also remained in the

U.S. Army Reserve until 1974.

In 1978, Don began the 2nd phase of his career, switching from coaching to public school administration. During this same time period, he and his wife Judy joined other administrators from across the country for yearly summer trips across the globe to see other countries and experience different cultures. He retired in 1991, and they elected to return to Aggieland, where he regularly attended and supported Aggie men's and women's sports up until this year. Even in retirement, however, his principles never changed from those engrained since his childhood. He continued to advocate for hard work, individual effort, personal accountability, and teamwork as the key components to winning and success, both on the field and in life.

Coach Robbins is preceded in death by his parents, Cooper Robbins, Sr and Elizabeth Nabors Robbins, his older brother Cooper Robbins, Jr, and his beloved rescue dog, Brownie. He is survived by his 2nd wife, Judith Roman Robbins, Bryan, Texas, his twin brother Ronald Robbins (wife Mary Sue Robbins) Claremore, Oklahoma, daughter Dr. Rhonda Robbins (husband Robert Bykerk) Sun Valley, Idaho, daughter Laura Robbins Kemper (husband Boyce Kemper) Big Spring, Texas, son Lt. Colonel Donald Kyle Robbins, U.S. Army, TAMU class of '89, (wife Wendy Robbins) Stuttgart, Germany, 4 grandchildren, 2 step grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and 6 step great grandchildren.

An Interment Service will be held at Oakwood Cemetery, 701 Grand Ave., Ft. Worth, Texas on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020, at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers or gifts, Don and family request that donations be made to the Texas A&M Veterinary Hospital, the Aggieland Humane Society or the charity of your choice.

Paid Obituary

Glenn E. Daniel

Glenn E. Daniel, 79, of Coahoma, passed away Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020, in a Lubbock hospital. Graveside services will be 10:00 AM Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020, at Trinity Memorial Park with Rev. Brad Daniels officiating.

He was born Dec. 20, 1940, in Colorado City, Texas and married Joan Davis June 19, 1960, in Colorado City.

Glenn was raised and attended school in Westbrook and had attended Howard College. He also attended carpenter and Millwright trade school in Houston. Glenn had worked all over the world, including India, Kuwait, England and the Dominican Republic before retiring and moving to Howard County, where he farmed and ranched. He enjoyed hunting and target shooting.

Survivors include his wife, Joan Daniel of Coahoma; one son, Wacey Daniel and wife, Vicki of Big Spring; and a grandson, Kyle Daniel.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one brother.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com

Paid Obituary

Virginia Blair Pherigo

Virginia Blair Pherigo, 78, of Big Spring passed away on Sept. 21, 2020. She will lie in state Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020, at 2 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Cemetery.

Virginia was a born in Norfolk, Virginia on Oct. 31, 1941. She was a shift leader at the Big Spring State Hospital and was affiliated with the Spring Creek Fellowship Center.

Virginia is survived by her loving husband Steven Dale Pherigo; her daughter Laura Anne Fusilier; her son Christopher Lee Fuqua and Rhonda; her daughter in law Laura Strickland and husband Ernie; her step daughter Fara Pherigo; her brother Darlee Skinner and wife Cynthia; her grandchildren Ross Berry, Kimmy Teeters, Kaela Worley, Robert Strickland, Gia Ortega; her step grandchildren, and Luke and Leia Bosworth; 8 great grandchildren, one who arrived the day before her passing, Edward Theodore Berry; and her nephews Brian and David Skinner.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents Obed Edward Skinner and Lucy Blair Faison; her brother Gene Skinner; and her son Edward Obed Berry.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com

Paid Obituary

CITY

Continued from page 1

the properties back to the tax roll for potential buyers. The seizure sale will be held on Nov. 3, 2020.

According to a representative from TxDot, the reliever route is currently closed due to a break in an agreement with the contractor for signage. Bowles stated the route will remain closed until the proper signage is placed.

The entirety of the Consent Agenda was approved in a unanimous vote with a motion made by Council Member Camila Strande and a second made by Council Member Gloria McDonald. Items on the Consent Agenda included:

- Approval of City Council minutes of Sept. 8, and of Sept. 12, 2020

- Final readings of resolutions amending Chapter IX of the Big Spring Personnel Policy Entitled "Conduct," Section 3 "Political Activity" to reduce political activity restrictions on non-firefighter city employees to the same level as firefighter city employees; to allow employees to run for office;

- Amending Section 9 of the purchasing policy entitled "Purchase Orders" to limit purchases for Council Member use of computer hardware and related goods and services by requiring City Council to approve such purchases in advance; cancelling orders of such goods and services currently in effect; and declaring equipment purchased without such approval surplus property and ordering it be sold;

- Approving a negotiated settlement between the executive committee of cities served by Atmos West Texas ("Cities") and Atmos Energy Corp., West Texas Division regarding the existing rates to be unreasonable; adopting tariffs that reflect rate adjustments consistent with

the negotiated settlement; finding the rates to be set by the attached settlement tariffs to be just and reasonable and in the public interest; approving an attached exhibit establishing a benchmark for pensions and retiree medical benefits; approving an attached exhibit regarding amortization of regulatory liability; requiring the company to reimburse cities' reasonable ratemaking expenses; determining that this resolution was passed in accordance with requirements of the Texas Open Meeting Act; adopting a savings clause declaring an effective date; and requiring delivery of this resolution to the company cities' legal counsel;

- An ordinance amending Chapter 32 of the Big Spring City Code of Conduct entitled "Licenses, Taxation, and Miscellaneous Business Regulations," Article II "Taxation," Section 32-34 "Homestead Exemption for Aged Persons" by amending the permanent homestead exemption for individuals 65 and over and codifying a permanent homestead exemption for persons who are disabled.

Council Members received a presentation on delinquent property tax collection from Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott LLP.

"I think it's a moot point just because of the interlocal agreement that you have with the county. The county passed a resolution back in 2004 passing on the 20% attorney fee. One thing I'd ask you to remember about that fee, is that if you're owed a dollar, you get paid your dollar. Our services are free. It's passed onto the delinquent taxpayers, not the current taxpayers. That's the only person that pays for a fee," Tracy Crites said.

Once the Council reviewed the new information given from Crites, they moved into the related agenda item,

Final reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 32 of the Big Spring City code entitled "Licenses, Taxation, and Miscellaneous Business Regulation," Article II "Taxation," Division I "Generally" by adding a new section 32-28 entitled "Additional Penalty for Collection Costs for Delinquent Taxes" to assess an additional 20% penalty to defrayed costs of collecting delinquent property taxes. According to City Attorney Andrew Hagen, the interlocal agreement with the county could be terminated, however, the soonest it could be terminated would be in May.

Discussion began on hypothetical situations where the taxpayer could not afford to pay their property tax due to the current economic downturn.

"We saw that coming, we all live in West Texas too, so it's affecting us as well. Of course we have to act within the boundaries of the law, so looking at that, every homestead owner is entitled to a payout agreement... We think that's the best way that offers the public some protection, gives them a little room to take care of the problem, and work with them... We want the public to know there are options," Crites said.

According to Crites, Howard County collections are at an average compared to surrounding areas, however, there are more delinquent personal property taxes due to more business personal property in the area. Regarding values, Crites noted that there was a decline.

A motion was made by Council Member Terry McDaniel to approve the final reading and seconded by Council Member Gloria McDonald. The motion passed in a 6 to 1 vote with Mayor Thomason opposed.

Another presentation was given by Kyle Carooth discussing a Right-of-Way License or

Easement with SinClair Oil.

According to Carooth, SinClair Oil is proposing three oilwells and pipelines to be placed within city limits. Each padsite would have oil, gas, and water being produced from it. Carooth noted the purpose of each pipeline would be to alleviate truck traffic and flares due to the pipelines allowing for each utility to be routed outside of the city.

The first padsite (Washington-Moss) is proposed to be constructed behind Pizza Inn. This specific pipeline would be just shy of a mile and a half long, and would begin near East 25th street and Birdwell and continue outside of the city; second padsite (Steer Nation) is proposed near the East side of the USDA NRCS office. However, this specific wellsite does not have any city aspect; third padsite (Comanche Marcy) is proposed to be constructed near Willard and Parkway. There is a 40 acre tract on the northside of said location that SinClair Oil owns that is currently being looked at for routing the gas out of the facility site.

There are also Comanche Marcy flowlines being proposed to be constructed near Hern and Parkway, more specifically Bilger Street, to be continued on to the facility site located near the 40 acre tract.

According to Carooth, steel construction for the pipelines is being proposed as it holds the capability to be utilized while still maintaining extreme safety measures for both the city and its citizens.

Overall, each pipeline would be installed 6 to 10 feet deep while taking into account any fore

See CITY2, Page 3



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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
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$13.00 monthly; \$135.00 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$15.00 monthly Howard; \$19.00 elsewhere.



MEMBER
2020

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

CITY2

Continued from page 2

seen growth within the community.

Carooth noted through utilizing pipelines, this would allow less truck traffic within city limits and would allow for local workforce to be created for Big Spring and help lower emissions created by flares. There are several options the Council can review on specific construction of the proposed pipelines.

In discussion of appointment of a Municipal Judge, a motion was made by Council Member McDonald to reappoint Municipal Judge Timothy Judge Green and seconded by Council Member Raul Marquez. The motion passed unanimously and Municipal Judge Green was resworn in.

Council heard the first reading of the resolution authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to jointly negotiate with and retain outside legal counsel for the purposes of representing the City in an eminent domain proceeding relating to 1505 East Second Street.

The property would be utilized for a new listation building as the current one is at capacity, according to Bowles. City Attorney Hagen looked for advice from colleague Andy Cox as eminent domain is a delicate decision for any body of government to take action on. The proposed lot is an empty lot that has never been utilized and is in the floodplain region. The lot currently has many unknown heirs, a total of 21 property owners. According to Tracy Crites, each known owner has been contacted, but none have come forward to pay the delinquent taxes for the property.

The current property has been in arrears since 2005 and would require a special commissioners hearing to be set in order to secure the city's right to the full title. According to Bowles, utilizing the empty lot would be more cost-efficient for the city than finding another location. A listation facility is used to maintain the city's sewer system while providing a growth option for the city of Big Spring. A motion was made by Council Member DePauw to approve and seconded by Council Member McDonald. The motion passed 6 to 2 with Council Member Doug Hartman and Mayor Thomason opposed.

"The point being is we don't know who we're taking it from and we'll never determine that because now we have three deceased heirs and there's no telling how many they have; they're not that interested in the property that they've ever maintained it or paid property taxes. It would be one thing if this was somebody's homestead and they wanted to keep it... nobody likes eminent domain, but, this is for the other 25,000 people in Big Spring to be able to maintain our sewer system. By that reasoning, I think this is justified. This is not like we're going to go out and take everyone's property, it's just one tract of land and I feel justified in voting in favor of eminent domain," DePauw said.

Consideration and possible action regarding the Howard County 9-1-1 Communications District's proposed budget of \$850,000 to be paid through the 9-1-1 Communication's fund balance was unanimously approved. According to 9-1-1 Communications Supervisor Cherrie Burcham, the 9-1-1 Communication building project has been in progress for six months with hopes to break ground in January 2021.

Regarding the first reading of an ordinance amending ordinance number 029-2020 which adopted the annual budget for the City of Big Spring, Texas for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2020 and ending Sept. 30, 2021 by increasing the General Fund Budget to purchase additional equipment for the specialty built infectious disease ambulance;

providing for severability; according to City Secretary Don Moore, the need to outfit an ambulance would require an increase of both revenue and expenditures, but would be funded through the CARES grant.

A motion was made by Council Member Strande to approve the first reading and was seconded by Council Member DePauw and passed unanimously.

Assistant City Manager John Medina initiated the first reading of a resolution amending the Big Spring Personnel Policies and Procedures Chapter VII Entitled "Compensation," Section 2 "Administration of Range/Step Salary Schedules," Subsection C to remove employee merit raises; and amending Chapter XII entitled "Non-Disciplinary Separation," by repealing Section 4 "Retirement" in its entirety in order to remove mandatory retirement of employees at age 70.

According to Medina, certain policies did not follow federal law and needed to be amended. The resolution to the amendment included a 5-year seniority plan instead of the previous 3-year plan; an overall pay raise for certain staff instead of several specified merit raises which would also include a 5-year anniversary date with a 2.5% increase. Beginning in October, 14 City of Big Spring employees will be hitting their 5-year anniversary date and will impact the budget by \$14,000. Regarding the Retirement portion of the amendment, Medina proposed to remove the current policy put in place that requires any employee 70 years or older to consider retirement. A motion was made by Council Member McDaniel to approve the first reading and was seconded by Council Member Doug Hartman to pass unanimously.

Hagen then presented the first reading of a resolution amending the Chapter IX of the Big Spring Personnel Policies and Procedures entitled "Conduct," Section 7 "Relations with Mayor/Council" to limit the definition of the term "information". According to Hagen, this resolution would amend the Personnel Policy currently in place and limit Council Members to only utilize records of the city such as physical documents, audio recordings, and video recordings. Council Member Strande then motioned to approve the first reading, seconded by Council Member McDaniel to pass unanimously.

Mayor Thomason then moved into discussion for the consideration and approval of a first reading of a resolution directing the Mayor to seek outside legal counsel for the purpose of reviewing potential changes to the City Attorney's Employment Contract.

Council Member McDaniel moved to approve the first reading, seconded by Council Member Doug Hartman. After discussion, Strande moved to remove the agenda item as a resolution and made a motion to direct the Mayor to seek outside legal counsel for the purpose of reviewing potential changes to the City Attorney's Employment Contract. Council Member De Pauw seconded the motion with it passing in a 7 to 0 vote.

Mayor Thomason addressed the Executive Orders given by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to allow the reopening of certain businesses to 75% capacity. Howard County currently has 286 active COVID-19 cases with 15 of those cases being outside of the Big Spring FCI.

"While it is not looking as bad as it could, we still need to reiterate social distancing, wearing masks, and using hand sanitizer," Thomason said.

Council Members adjourned into Executive Session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of City Manager and Interim City Manager and also to seek advice of its legal counsel about pending or contemplated litigation, and on a

matter or matters in which the duty of the attorney to the City under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct would not allow the attorney to provide advice to City Council in open session.

After a two hour Executive Session, Council Members reconvened into Open Session to take action on the Executive Session items.

Council Member Strande moved to approve action regarding City Manager and was seconded by Council Member McDaniel to pass unanimously.

Council Member Strande moved to approve action regarding Interim City Manager and was seconded by Council Member Marquez. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McDonald made a motion to approve action regarding City Attorney and was seconded by Council Member Hartman to pass unanimously.

Other agenda items discussed:

- Authorize the Interim City Manager of His Designee to negotiate without contracting authority a Right-of-Way License or Easement within the City of Big Spring to Sinclair Oil or another party, with such negotiating authority to expire after 180 days. A motion was made by Council Member McDaniel and seconded by Council Member Camila Strande to pass unanimously.

- Consideration and possible action of an agreement with Cap-Rock Holdings, LLC was withdrawn from the agenda by Mayor Thomason until a new agreement has been made.

- Vouchers

- An agreement with Maxar/DigitalGlobe for an extended lease for up to 20 years at the Big Spring McMahan Wrinkle Airpark or other city-owned property was approved.

- Nolan Dominguez was appointed to the Parks & Recreation Board by acclamation.

- An agreement with area agency on aging for the provision of congregate and home delivered meals passed with a unanimous vote.

- An engineering agreement with Jacob & Martin, LLC for water line replacements under the City's 2020 Texas Community Development Block Grant administered by Texas Department of Agriculture was approved with a unanimous vote. Motioned by Mayor Thomason; Seconded by Council Member Jim DaPauw. This agreement would allow the city to use the \$350,00 grant to replace water lines located on Austin Street and 15th Street.

- The first reading of an Ordinance No. 004-2020 declaring the City of Big Spring a Sanctuary City for the Unborn by amending the title of the ordinance to "Safe Haven for the Unborn"; amending section B "Declaration," Subsection 1 to amend the declaration to "Safe Haven for the Unborn"; amending the order of Section C, Subsection 2 for clarity; amending Section C, Subsection 2 to provide an affirmative defense for abortions that are medically necessary was withdrawn by Council Member McDonald to be brought back at a later date.

- BSEDC Board of Directors Minutes for Aug. 18, 2020 were approved.

Iris Rangel is a Staff Writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, please email reporter@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Lucy McElreath, 75, died Thursday. Funeral service will be at 1:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Rickey Earl Hokes, Sr. 60, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

OFFICE

Continued from Page 1

information as well as estimates of future benefits. Texas residents may request a replacement Social Security card online if they meet certain requirements. The portal also includes a retirement calculator and links to information about other

online services, such as applications for retirement, disability and Medicare benefits.

Many Social Security services are also available by dialing toll-free, 1-800-772-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call Social Security's

DONATE

Continued from Page 1

understand this year is different. The creative ways we have seen for fundraising are very much appreciated."

Fair continued, "This year has proven to be a challenge when it comes to fundraising. This year, our agencies are going to need our support. We can't say thank you enough to those who have donated to the United Way, every dollar counts and is appreciated. Every donation makes a difference." To find out more about the agencies or to donate to the United Way, call 432-267-5201.

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2. Stanton
3. Lorenzo
4. Garden City
5. Water Valley
6. San Francisco 49ers
7. Tennessee Titans
8. Seattle Seahawks
9. Arizona Cardinals
10. Greenbay Packers



Franklin & Son

1. Forsan
2. Stanton
3. Sands
4. Garden City
5. Borden County
6. San Francisco 49ers
7. Tennessee Titans
8. Dallas Cowboys
9. Arizona Cardinals
10. New Orleans Saints



Gary B's Music

1. Forsan
2. Stanton
3. Sands
4. Garden City
5. Borden County
6. San Francisco 49ers
7. Tennessee Titans
8. Seattle Seahawks
9. Arizona Cardinals
10. Greenbay Packers



Pizza Inn

1. Forsan
2. Stanton
3. Sands
4. Garden City
5. Borden County
6. San Francisco 49ers
7. Minnesota Vikings
8. Dallas Cowboys
9. Detroit Lions
10. Greenbay Packers



Porter's

1. Reagan County
2. Stanton
3. Sands
4. Garden City
5. Water Valley
6. New York Giants
7. Tennessee Titans
8. Dallas Cowboys
9. Arizona Cardinals
10. New Orleans Saints



Sonic

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3. Sands
4. Van Horn
5. Borden County
6. San Francisco 49ers
7. Tennessee Titans
8. Dallas Cowboys
9. Arizona Cardinals
10. New Orleans Saints



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5. Borden County
6. San Francisco 49ers
7. Tennessee Titans
8. Seattle Seahawks
9. Arizona Cardinals
10. Greenbay Packers

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. _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

TIE BREAKER-
Circle the winner and note total points scored

COAHOMA VS MERKEL

Total Score: 50 + _____ = _____



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PRIZE MAY BE PICKED UP FRIDAY AFTER 12 PM

Lady Steers take down Estacado 3-1 in first district match of season

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

ESTACADO — The Big Spring Lady Steers (9-9) played their first district game of the season on Tuesday night on the road against their new district rival, the Estacado Lady Matadors.

Big Spring was able to take home the win in four sets (25-17, 18-25, 25-16, 25-16) and played well as a team while being without star player Kalyn Whitehead for the match.

“We fought through some adversity tonight playing without Kalyn,” Big Spring Head Volleyball Coach Kaitlyn Braswell said. “I think we competed hard and I was proud of all of them out there tonight.”

Whitehead’s absence forced the Lady Steers’ coach decided that she would call up Brooklyn Hyatt from the Junior Varsity for the match against the Lady Matadors. Instead of blending in as a role player like some young players do in their first varsity action, Hyatt stood out from her teammates and her performance on the court may have helped find her a permanent place on the Varsity roster.

“I was proud of her and I thought it was great how she didn’t play scared out there and didn’t look out of place,” Braswell said.

Regardless, the Lady Steers are now 1-0 in district play and are currently sitting atop the standings. Braswell’s team seems to improve as a squad every time that they take the court together and will have a chance to grab their first home district win when they take on Lake View this upcoming Saturday afternoon.

GAME RECAP

Big Spring began the match by bringing the energy to the Estacado gym and quickly jumped out to an early lead behind the serving ability of Hyatt.

Estacado was forced to take a timeout when trailing by six (10-4) early in the set and attempted to regroup. However, Big Spring had other plans and kept the pressure on their opponent. The first set included a pair of great plays that were made by Jalen Sykes and the Lady Steers were able to coast to a 25-17 first set victory.

The Lady Matadors began to pick up some steam near the end of the first set and took that momentum with them into the second set. Big Spring’s Jac-



HERALD Photo/Shawn Moran

Junior Varsity call-up Brooklyn Hyatt serves during Tuesday night’s 3-1 Varsity win over Estacado.

queline Belew, Jocelyn Gonzales and Ryen Terrazas all made great plays in the second set but their effort began to slip near the end and Estacado was able to take control.

Big Spring was holding a 15-12 lead midway through the set when Estacado’s Autumn Paige took over serving for the Lady Matadors. Estacado proceeded to score the next 11 points of the set and ended up with a thrilling come-from-behind 25-18 second set win over the Lady Steers.

“It was just a mental thing. I think we got too comfortable where we were and we just needed to bring our energy back up to the level we played during that first set win,” Braswell said.

Big Spring got back on track during the third set with Tristan Smith kicking things off for the Lady Steers and scoring the first point of the set. This time, the Lady Steers played great team ball and seemed to find a renewed sense of enthusiasm that they had lost during the second set. The Big Spring side of the gym also got more involved in cheering on their team and it seemed to give the Lady Steers a much-needed jolt of energy on their way to a 25-16 third set victory.

The Lady Steers came out just as hot to begin the fourth set and quickly found themselves with a 12-4 lead. However, Estacado was not done yet and they still had some more fight to give.

In the blink of an eye, the set was within one point with the Lady Steers leading 15-14 and they seemed to be fading fast. That is when senior Ryen Terrazas took the reigns for the Lady Steers and put the team on her back.

“She’s our go-to,” Braswell said. “We’re confident in her ability and she’s who we send it to when we’re in trouble. We always think we can get out of whatever bind we’re in when she’s on the court.”

Big Spring was able to close out the set and match by scoring 10 of the last 12 points and another 25-16 set victory.

UP NEXT: The Lady Steers host Lake View on Saturday at Big Spring High School (12:00 p.m.). The JV games will be played before the Varsity game, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

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

Kickoff time change for game against Lubbock High on Thursday

Special to the Herald

The Varsity Football game between the Big Spring Steers and the Lubbock Westerners has had a change of start time.

The game was originally slated to begin at 7:30 p.m. at Lubbock, but will now begin at 7:00 p.m.

The following is some important info to know about purchasing tickets and attending the game on Thursday night (tickets are available online only):

- Adults \$8.00 - Online only
- Students \$3.00 - Online only
- General Admission Gate Tickets \$10.00 Limited to the 50% capacity rule

To purchase tickets, visit the website: <https://www.vancoevents.com/us/book/sessions?eid=1869&ses=4495&sec=4613>

Spectators must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms as outlined by TEA and UIL. Spectators must also be symptom free before arriving at the athletic facility.

Masks or face coverings are required as you enter, exit, and move around the athletic facility as outlined by the governor’s order and/or the Lubbock ISD Health and Safety Plan.

Spectator seating will be permitted in designated seats only. Members of a single household may sit together, distanced at least six feet from any mem-

bers of other households.

District passes will be admitted within the 50% capacity rule. You must get a ticket from the gate for admittance.

The district’s clear bag policy will be enforced. No outside food or drink will be permitted.

All tickets will be General Admission and will be limited to 50% capacity. Rules for sports activities and fans are subject to change based on guidance of the UIL.

Online tickets will be posted online at noon on Tuesday of game week.

Online ticket sales will close at midnight prior to game day.

Big Spring Junior High Volleyball matches against Sweetwater



HERALD File Photo

Special to the Herald

7th Grade A Team

The 7th Grade Lady Steers swept Sweetwater in their home openers earlier this week. The 7th Grade A Team won in two sets, 25-10 and 26-24. Caitlyn Morales and Laneigh Rushing had great games on defense. Marissa Rodriguez, Milly Owens, and Breanna Woodruff played tremendous offensive games.

7th Grade B Team

The 7th Grade B Team played a marvelous game and won in two sets, 25-10 and 25-12. Jaylee Gonzales started the game off strong scoring 11 points in the first set just on serves. The three players of the game for their stellar offensive skills were Jaylee Gonzales, Abby Hilario, and Trinity Gilbert. Then, Tatyonah had great defense in this game.

8th Grade A Team

8th Grade A Team lost in three sets to Sweetwater, 22-25, 25-21, and 22-25. Our girls fought until the very end. We had Jaycee Smith, CarNesha Rutledge, Niomi Wines, and Trinity Muniz as players of the game for their aces and kills at the net.

Mendez Claims 52nd Southern Texas PGA Professional Championship

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS (September 22, 2020)—Gilbert Mendez, PGA Teaching Professional at GolfTEC - Westlake has claimed the title at the 52nd Southern Texas PGA Professional Championship after shooting rounds of 66-67 for a 36-hole score of 133 (-9). With his victory, Mendez will take home a check for \$7,700.

“I just kept telling myself to focus and whatever happens, let it happen,” said Mendez. “I’m very excited to move forward and play in the PGA Professional Championship.”

Coming into the final round, Mendez led the field by 5 strokes. Today, Mendez had four birdies on the back nine, securing him the win. Omar Uresti, PGA Life Member, finished the event in second place with a final score of 138 (-4).

Along with Mendez, six other PGA Professionals earned exemptions into the 2021 PGA Professional Championship at today’s tournament. Justin Engel, PGA Assistant Professional at Shadow Hawk Golf Club, Ben Willman, PGA Teaching Professional at Axis Golf Academy, Ryan Polzin, PGA Head Professional at Oak Hills Country Club, Brandt Kieschnick, PGA Golf Coach at Sam Houston State University, Gregory Hiller, PGA Director of Instruction at TPC San Antonio, and Rich Barcelo, PGA Director of Instruction at Bluejack National will join Mendez at the PGA Professional Championship presented by Cadillac, Club Car and OMEGA with supporting sponsors Titleist/FootJoy, NIKE, and TaylorMade and presenting partners Golf Channel and PGA TOUR in Port St. Lucie, Florida Sunday April 25 – Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

As a member of the 2019 PGA Cup Team, Ben Kern, PGA Head Professional at Georgetown Country Club is automatically exempt into the 2021 PGA Professional Championship, as is Cassey Russell, PGA Director of Golf at Big Easy Ranch, who was a top 20 finisher at the 2019 PGA Professional Championship.

Pair Finishes in Top 10 as Men's Golf Makes Season Opening Statement

Special to the Herald

In a very competitive field, Parker Beaty and Connor Benjamin turned in brilliant performances at the LSC-RMAC Shootout at Butterfield Trail Golf Club in El Paso. Powered by a brilliant second round, Beaty ended up in a three-way tie for second place shooting 6-under. Benjamin started strong and finished in a two-way tie for tenth at 2-under.

After a 5-under second round, Beaty was just three shots off the lead heading into the final round. An eagle on the par 5 second hole pushed him to 2-under for the round and just in back of the lead. Three bogeys brought him back to the field, but two birdies on the final five holes including his 18th of the day pushed him to 1-under for the round and temporarily the clubhouse leader. Benjamin started the day slow and was 2-over halfway through the round. He played clean golf the rest of the way, with three birdies to get to 2-under for the event and break into the top 10.

Colton Hilburn finished just outside the top 10 in 14th place at even par over all three rounds. The sophomore eagled hole two for the second straight round and finished the front nine at 2-under. Phillip Hurtado had his best round of the weekend, shooting just 3-over in the final round. He struggled on the front nine yesterday but played to just 1-over par today. All four Falcons finished with a 75 or lower final score.

The Falcons made their moves on par 5s, finishing them at 12-under par and led the field with seven eagles. The team was second on par 4s at 5-over for the event. Hilburn and Benjamin were among the low scorers on par 4s, both shooting 3-under for the event. Beaty played all par 4s to a 1-under score. Beaty led all scorers with three eagles, while Hilburn and Benjamin had two a piece.

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Announcements

Complete the census at www.2020census.gov or at the Howard County Library M-F 9 AM- 5:30 PM. No appointment needed. Ask at the front desk.

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Contact Amanda Duforat 432-263-7331 Ext. 230 for questions or to submit your resume at editor@bigspringherald.com.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Just plain common sense

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 10 9
♥ Q 5
♦ Q 9 8 4
♣ A 9 7 3

WEST
♠ J 8 4 2
♥ K 8 3 2
♦ 5
♣ J 10 8 2

EAST
♠ Q 7
♥ J 10 7 6 4
♦ 7 3
♣ K Q 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A 6 5 3
♥ A 9
♦ A K J 10 6 2
♣ 4

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1♦
Pass 3♦ Pass 6♦

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

You don't have to be a great mathematician to solve most of the basic play problems that arise in bridge. The ability to count to 13 covers a large percentage of the arithmetical problems that may crop up, and most of the others can usually be resolved by logic and prior experience.

Consider this deal where West leads a club against your six-diamond

contract, and you win with dummy's ace. You cash the A-K of trump and must then try to avoid the loss of both a spade and a heart.

One possibility is to play the A-K and another spade, hoping the opposing spades are divided 3-3. If they are, your fourth spade would become a trick on which you could discard a heart from dummy.

However, the probability of finding the spades 3-3 is only about 36%, so this method of play is not particularly attractive. But a somewhat different line of play makes you a decided favorite. After drawing trump, you should lead a low spade toward dummy and finesse the nine. Let's say East wins the nine with the jack or queen. You ruff the probable club return and lead another low spade, this time finessing the ten. If the ten wins, as it does in the actual deal, the rest of the tricks are yours.

The probability of finding West with either the queen or jack of spades, or both of them, is about 75% — approximately 3-1 in your favor. But even if the 36% and 75% figures are not familiar to you, experience and common sense should tell you that the second line of play is far more promising than the first.

Tomorrow: Safety first.
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SUDOKU

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!

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

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

ANSWER:

Message from Mercury

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Hands off! You've done all you can and brilliantly so. Everyone will take away something different from today's scene, and there's nothing you need to do to improve the experience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The stars indicate a weak force becoming powerful or a meek person coming into a position of authority. There will be a reckoning. Those who would take advantage of the small will now have something big to deal with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Expressing emotions changes them. Many feelings cannot live the same way out in the open. They only had power when they were contained. Free reign dissipates them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). To stick to what's right while encountering difficulty takes a strong character. To stick to what's right while tempted with ease takes an even mightier character.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Take an idea, mix in some emotion, and, suddenly, it all feels very alive, special and real. But that doesn't make it so. Stay aware that sometimes our egos trick us into thinking things are more important than they really are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Novelty and discovery are the orders of the day, espe-

Tomorrow's Horoscope



cially in regard to people you've known a while now. You'll be amazed at how new situations and relationships bring out different sides of people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may not realize it, but you're starting to pay attention to different things than before. This is the beginning of a new interest, a fresh tangent, and one that will wind and curl around many opportunities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You need a system for going back through your work. You've missed a few gems. Maybe the timing wasn't right back then, but now you could mine these with great success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The idea that life should be, at least some of the time, amusing is a relatively modern one. With so much available to amuse you today, the best things around are still two eyeballs looking back into yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). This long wait will get tedious. When you're not feeling patient, it's hard

to force yourself into the virtue. Perhaps, it will help you to re-frame this period as one of "anticipation" instead. There really is something to savor here.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have plenty of initiative, and yet it is still possible to become bored, especially when you're a bit trapped. A secret part of you longs for escape -- that's the part that can block imagination.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Create your own reality. You don't need any special license to do this, and yet you forget to exercise the right. Inspiring people in your environment will help you remember.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 23). First comes the overwhelming sense that you were meant for something, and then the discovery of just what. Your ancestors planted the tree. This solar journey, you sit beneath it having vivid dreams that weave their wishes and intentions into your own. You'll shine in a way they couldn't, fulfilling a destiny. Cancer and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 9, 31, 5 and 16.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: (Part Three) A Virgo manager seeks to treat employees with equanimity. "Whenever the Sagittarius does something wrong, I correct and retrain. Whenever the Aquarius does something wrong, I'm frustrated and I blame..."

You could create rules to follow in order to make sure that everyone gets the same treatment. This is the way groups, organizations, indeed entire civilizations attempt to create change. This route is often effective, though one can liken it to treating the symptoms of an illness without irradiating the illness itself.

The root problem here is that you, on some basic level, do not like the Aquarius. So, the richest opportunity for self-growth is not the one in which you engage great wells of self-control to behave fairly with people you don't like. Rather, the highest calling available to you now is the calling to love everyone.

Perhaps, it will be enough in this professional setting to begin by finding something to like about your frustrating Aquarius. Learning more about this person and the challenges at play in his life might be enough to ease the relationship, and yet there's another key you can turn to unlock the deeper levels of the issue. More tomorrow.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.
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Annie's Mailbox

Words Can Be Painful

Dear Annie: I just found out tonight that my brother's second-oldest adult son passed away today. My brother's oldest son passed three years ago. My brother has been estranged from the family for a long time -- since he was in Vietnam. I have maintained a relationship with him by calling him a few times a year. He never calls me. I am the only sibling out of six who keeps in touch with him. My husband does not think highly of him, nor did he think highly of my nephew who just passed. The reason is that there was not a great meeting, which took place at our wedding.

ments left me feeling hurt and sad. Are my feelings legitimate? -- Hurting

Dear Hurting: Yes, your feelings are legitimate. No one has the right to tell you how to feel, and you just found out that your nephew died. That is very sad, and when we are sad, it is nice if our spouse comforts us. Continue to encourage your husband to seek forgiveness in his heart for your nephew and brother. Tell him that it is not for their sake but for yours and his. It doesn't feel good running around with a big bag of gripes that you have with people.

If he is unable to respond to your grief, then I would seek counseling.

many other organizations in the community. I was on many different boards. You can build relationships, as Annie said, by asking people for coffee or a movie. People in retirement homes don't always get visitors, so seeing a smiling face coming to do activities or just to chat with them is much appreciated. I am not sure if you are religious, but my church family has always been there for me in times of need. Churches are great places to build long-lasting friendships. There are many groups to join and ways to help. Reach out to whatever group interests you. You may feel alone, but you aren't. There are many friendships out there waiting for you! -- Friendship Is Waiting

make other people feel better, we feel better ourselves. It's amazing how that works.

Dear Annie: I have learned over many years that children and their spouses may have a great deal of love for others but also may like their space. I'm a "the more the merrier" type, but I realize that everyone doesn't march to that drum.

Giving space and patience to adult children who like quiet time is a gift of understanding. And, yes, we can't envy others just because their families are more social. It's quality time, not quantity of time, that counts. -- Accepting Different Needs

So, when I broke the news to my husband, he said to me, "Sorry, but (expletive) your nephew for how he treated me, and (expletive) your brother." I am really hurt. I told my husband that his com-

Dear Annie: I am writing in regard to "Lonely Later in Life." I am 94 years old. When I retired, I donated my time to the SPCA, retirement homes and

Dear Friendship Is Waiting: Thank you for your letter. You have found joy, happiness and connection while serving others. Sometimes, when we

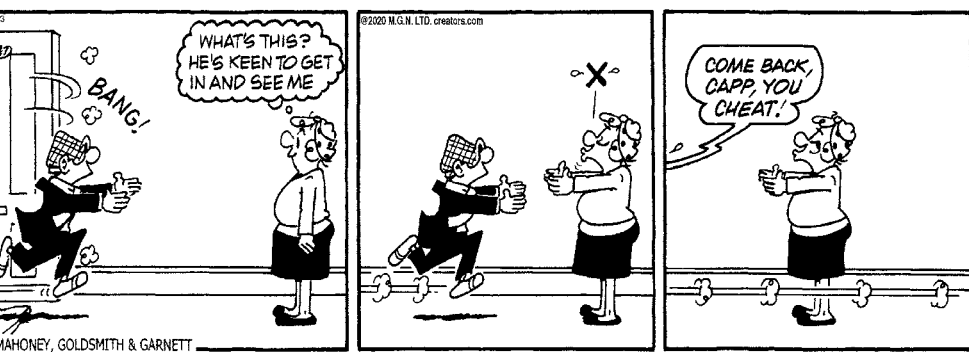
Dear Acceptance: Thank you for your letter and wisdom.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.
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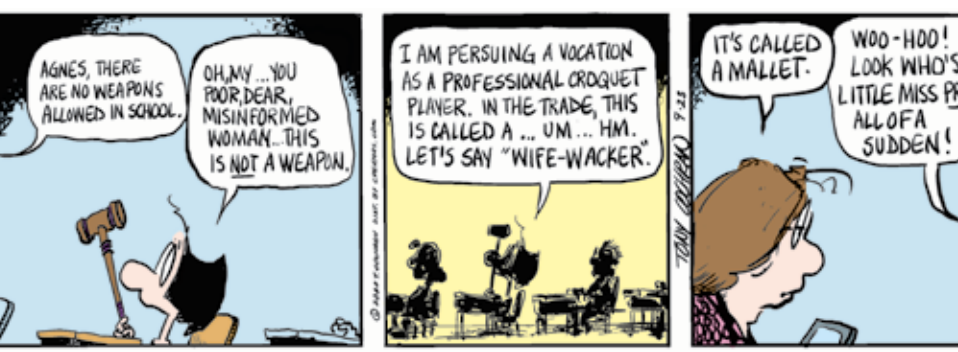
Please thoroughly wash your hands to keep us healthy!

	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWTT (14)	KWES15 (15)	WTBS (33)	TNT (34)	ESPN (35)	ESPN2 (36)	FSN (38)	USA (55)	A&E (58)	DISC (60)
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Midland	Atlanta	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Sports	New York	New York	Discovery
5:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	For Such	France 24	Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy	Connie Nielsen (DVS)	SportCtr	Daily Wager	MLB Baseball: Texas Rangers at Arizona Diamondbacks.	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Expedition Unknown
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	Freedom	Newsline	Hap.Days	Burgers	Fam. Guy							
6:PM	News	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Exatlón Estados Unidos (SS)	News	Cowgirl	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld		NFL					
6:30	Wheel		Big Bang	ET		News	Israel		M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld		NBA Countdown					
7:PM	Movie: Guardians of the Galaxy, Dave Bautista	Te doy la vida	The Masked Singer	Big Brother		America's Talent		Islands of Wonder	Andy G.	The 100	Big Bang	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite	MLB Baseball: St. Louis Cardinals at Kansas City Royals.					
7:30		Amor eterno	I Can See Your	Love Island		America's Got Talent		NOVA (DVS)	G. Pyle	Coroner	Big Bang							
8:PM																		
8:30																		
9:PM																		
9:30	Gold	Como tú no hay dos	FOX 24 News at 9	48 Hours Suspicion	Falsa identidad (SS)			Light of Southwest	Hacking Your Mind	Heroes	Seinfeld	Movie: Wonder Woman, Connie Nielsen (DVS)						
10:PM																		
10:30	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	Millionaire	Conan							
11:PM																		
11:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Noticias Titulares	Tonight Show	Words of Dr. Wil	Islands of Wonder	Perry Mason	Millionaire	Full							
12:AM	Extra	Inocente de ti	Two Men	Simpsons	Drew Barrymore	Programa	News	Light of Southwest	Hacking Your Mind	Mannix								
1:AM	Paid Prg.	Paid Prg.	Pawn	Dr. Carras	Programa	Inside Ed.												

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



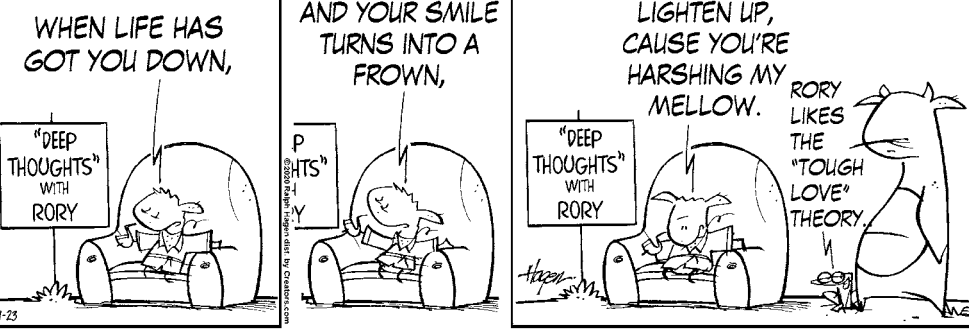
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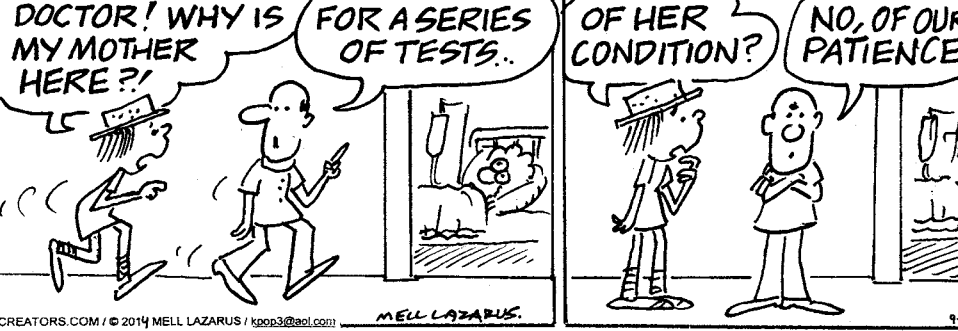
ONE BIG HAPPY



THE BARN



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 23, the 267th day of 2020. There are 99 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 23, 1952, Sen. Richard M. Nixon, R-Calif., salvaged his vice-presidential nomination by appearing on television from Los Angeles to refute allegations of improper campaign fundraising in what became known as the "Checkers" speech.

On this date:

In 63 B.C., Caesar Augustus, the first Roman emperor, was born.

In 1806, the Lewis and Clark expedition returned to St. Louis more than two years after setting out for the Pacific Northwest.

In 1846, Neptune was identified as a planet by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle (GAH'-luh).

In 1932, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded.

In 1939, Sigmund Freud (froyd), the founder of psychoanalysis, died in London at age 83.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman announced there was evidence the Soviet Union had recently conducted a nuclear test explosion. (The test had been carried out on Aug. 29, 1949.)

In 1955, a jury in Sumner, Mississippi, acquitted two white men, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, of murdering Black teenager Emmett Till. (The two men later admitted to the crime in an interview with Look magazine.)

In 1957, nine Black students who'd entered Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas were forced to withdraw because of a white mob outside.

In 1987, Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., withdrew from the Democratic presidential race following questions about his use of borrowed quotations and the portrayal of his academic record.

In 1999, the Mars Climate Orbiter apparently burned up as it attempted to go into orbit around the Red Planet.

In 2001, President George W. Bush returned the American flag to full staff at Camp David, symbolically ending a period of national mourning following the 9/11 attacks.

In 2002, Gov. Gray Davis signed a law making California the first state to offer workers paid family leave.

Ten years ago: The U.S. del-

egation walked out of a U.N. speech by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahhd) after he said some in the world had speculated that the U.S. staged the September 11, 2001 attacks in an attempt to assure Israel's survival. Congressional Republicans unveiled their "Pledge to America," a strongly worded manifesto promising to return government to the people. Teresa Lewis, 41, was executed by the state of Virginia for arranging the killings of her husband and stepson to collect on a \$250,000 insurance policy.

Five years ago: In the first canonization on U.S. soil, Pope Francis elevated to sainthood Junipero Serra, an 18th-century missionary who'd brought Catholicism to the American West Coast. Earlier in the day, the pontiff met with President Barack Obama at the White House and was greeted by adoring crowds during an outdoor procession. Chinese President Xi Jinping, visiting Seattle, addressed Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos, billionaire investor Warren Buffett and other top American and Chinese business leaders, vowing his country would work to remove barriers to foreign investment and improve intellectual property protections. Volkswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn resigned, days after admitting that the world's top-selling carmaker had rigged diesel emissions to pass U.S. tests during his tenure; Winterkorn denied any personal wrongdoing.

One year ago: During a meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations, President Donald Trump denied telling the president of Ukraine that his country would only get U.S. aid if Ukraine investigated the son of Democratic rival Joe Biden. World leaders gathered at the Climate Action Summit at the United Nations pledged to do more to prevent a warming world from reaching even more dangerous levels; even before they spoke, they were scolded in a speech by

teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg, who shamed them for their inaction by repeatedly asking, "How dare you?"

Hundreds of thousands of travelers were left stranded across the world after the British tour operator Thomas Cook collapsed, immediately halting almost all of its flights and hotel services and laying off employees; the 178-year-old company had helped cre-

ate the package tour industry.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Julio Iglesias is 77. Actor Paul Petersen (TV: "The Donna Reed Show") is 75. Actor/singer Mary Kay Place is 73. Rock star Bruce Springsteen is 71. Director/playwright George C. Wolfe is 66. Rock musician Leon Taylor (The Ventures) is 65. Actor Rosalind Chao is 63. Golfer Larry Mize is 62. Actor Jason

Alexander is 61. Actor Chi McBride is 59. Country musician Don Herron (BR549) is 58. Actor Erik Todd Del-lums is 56. Actor LisaRaye is 54. Singer Ani (AH'-nee) DiFranco is 50. Rock singer Sam (formerly Sarah) Bettens (K's Choice) is 48. Recording executive Jermaine Dupri is 48. Actor Kip Pardue is 44. Actor Anthony Mackie is 42. Pop singer Erik-Michael

Estrada (TV: "Making the Band") is 41. Actor Aubrey Dollar is 40. Actor Brandon Victor Dixon is 39. Actor David Lim is 37. Pop singer Diana Ortiz (Dream) is 35. Actor Cush Jumbo is 35. Actor Skylar Astin is 33. Former tennis player Melanie Oudin (oo-DAN') is 29.

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Newsday Crossword

LET'S PLAY POKER by Adrian Kabigting Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Nervously walk back and forth
- Made upset
- Dance club VIPs
- Ram of the zodiac
- Egypt's capital
- Written promise to pay
- Wrap Old Glory into a triangle
- Sixth sense, for short
- Strongly assert
- Regarding, in a memo
- Cuts, as a TV's sound
- "Call again" phone feature
- Free ticket
- Exercise one's authority
- Cul-de- (dead end)
- Stand on two legs, as a horse
- Revise for publication
- Flower associated with the Netherlands
- Scottish hat
- Very upset
- Barbell metal
- Harmonious agreement
- Absorb, with "up"
- Protest loudly
- Religious offshoot
- Comrades
- "Same here!"
- Users of scratching posts
- Actress Watson or Thompson
- Imitate
- Do a car maintenance task
- Driveway material
- Sound out of a speaker

DOWN

- Show to be true
- Wasn't feeling well
- Comedian called "The Entertainer"
- DC winter hrs.
- Tops with frosting
- Inflatable boat
- Measure of 2+ pounds
- Chapter of history
- Religious doctrines
- Low-cal beverages
- San __ (Silicon Valley city)
- Has an evening meal
- At a great distance
- Oscar actress Berry
- Theater aisle worker
- Interest group for seniors
- __ talk (coach's encouragement)
- Gate-closing device
- Slight remnant
- Bookstore section with joke books
- Puente of Latin jazz
- Short walking distance
- Mix with a straw
- Subtle glow
- Keeps secluded
- Hawaii map, in a US map
- Singing competition series, for short
- Bar assoc. member
- Beef cooked in an oven
- "Green" vehicle
- Sheep's coat
- Shark Tank turndown
- Casts forth
- Big word in a store window
- Facts and figures
- Brand of tablet computers
- Formally relinquish
- Corrosive chemical
- Stopped fights, in brief
- Palette selection
- Omelet tidbit

Answer to previous puzzle

SLAM	STOW	JAMB
POISE	PUPA	ETAL
ELFIN	ABEL	WARE
POTATO	SACK	ELIS
ARM	BELLES	
TATTLE	FLYER	
HOUR	OBOE	LYCRA
TINNO	SLANT	BOAR
SLEEPS	ELSE	OMIT
HEEDS	PIXELS	
FRAYED	YEN	
ROTC	GARMENT	BAG
IDEA	ERIC	AROSE
LEIS	REBA	TENPM
LONE	SASS	EXES

9/23/20

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Stanley Cup Faceoff: Stars, Lightning showing value of draws

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — When Ron Francis knew something was working on faceoffs, he would experiment and not use his best moves right away.

That was usually during the regular season. In the playoffs and in the Stanley Cup Final, the Hall of Fame center knows players can't afford not to go all out to win them.

"They've become more and more key as the games become more and more important," said Francis, now the general manager of the NHL's expansion Seattle Kraken. "In its simplest form, if you win the puck, you have possession. You start with possession and then you're automatically on offense. If you lose the draw, now you're on defense and you've got to go hunt to get it back and expend energy to kind of get it."

Faceoffs late in tight games are always important, particularly those in the zone of a team clinging to a lead. While overall faceoff performance has been debated in recent years with more information available and different ways to analyze its importance, this final is showing the value of draws because of how the Dallas Stars and Tampa Bay Lightning prefer to play.

Dallas lost 64% of faceoffs in the first period of Game 2 and fell behind 3-0. The way Tampa Bay can dominate when it has the puck puts a spotlight on the faceoff circle in this series.

"It's hard enough to get the puck, so it's a set situation: one of the few times you can somewhat control what's going to happen, and faceoffs are it," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "Often times you can see a team, if they've got a huge advantage in the faceoff circle, especially on special teams, it's an advantage."

Keith Jones thinks it's a bigger advantage than ever before because of faceoff rule changes designed to increase offense. Gradually since 2005, the NHL has made it so all power plays start in the offensive zone; the team that ices the puck can't change its players; the player on defense has to put his stick down first; and any puck shot out of play on offense stays in the attacking end.

Jones, a former NHL winger and now an NBC Sports analyst, pointed to multiple overtime goals in the Islanders-Flyers series that resulted from an icing mistake and a lost defensive-zone faceoff. Francis also noted the Stars' power-play goal in Game 2 that came five seconds after a faceoff win.

"Certainly the four dots in the end zones are the most critical because they can lead to goals," said Francis, a top faceoff artist as a player. "It's a part of the game that maybe a lot of people don't talk about, but I think it's extremely important and it leads to possession, which leads to offense."

That's why Stars interim coach Rick Bowness harped on the faceoff discrepancy early in the game Monday night. His team lost 13 of 20 even-strength faceoffs, then took penalties and turned the puck over more as a result of not

being in control. The Lightning scored twice on the power play and once at 5-on-5.

"When you're losing the faceoffs like we did in the first period, you're chasing the game," Bowness said. "To beat this team, we need to be better in the faceoff circle and we need to manage the puck a lot better. If we do that, then we're going to take less penalties."

Because Dallas is the most penalized team in the playoffs, faceoffs are a nice starting point to cutting down on the lack of discipline. It becomes a mix of video study and practice, taking draw after draw during a morning skate.

"Every single time when you win the faceoffs, you are in charge of the game and you are creating the plays," Stars defenseman Andrej Sekera said. "We've just got to make sure that we have a plan after every faceoff and try to get the puck out from our zone up and go in their zone and play some hockey there."

Easier said than done, especially without injured center Radek Faksa, who has won 128 of his 266 attempts for Dallas but brings added value no matter the result.

"I don't think we can underestimate how important Faksa's been to that team for a long time, and that's part of his game," Jones said. "Probably not something that jumps off the page, but he's an important guy not just in the faceoff circle but then sorting things out after a faceoff win or a loss."

Possibly missing forward Blake Comeau, too, Dallas might have to find a way to better compensate if faceoffs again tilt heavily in the Lightning's favor. Francis as an assistant coach would chart faceoffs live on the bench to know which matchups were good and bad for his team.

"To me, it was always kind of a chess match sort of within the game with me and the other centermen," Francis said. "If you're losing multiple draws against (someone), you can't keep sticking with the same thing. You've got to try and change something up or figure out what's kind of going wrong for you."

Figuring out what's going wrong on faceoffs could also help players on the Stars — and Lightning, who Cooper said have been "hot and cold in that department" — get their all-around game in order. Jones looks at how someone like Sidney Crosby shored up his faceoff prowess and believes it there is a clear boost from winning a visible, one-on-one competition.

"How it must feel psychologically to a centerman who's struggling on the draws and knows that he's letting his team down — he knows his wingers have to go out there and block a big blast from the point," he said. "Some of those things are critically important to a player's psyche, not just the importance of possessing the puck but also the importance of winning draws and building confidence."

Maldonado, Valdez push Astros past Mariners 6-1 on Tuesday

SEATTLE (AP) — Martin Maldonado hit a three-run home run, Framber Valdez struck out eight to set career highs for wins and strikeouts, and the Houston Astros beat the Seattle Mariners 6-1 on Tuesday night to close on their fourth straight playoff berth.

Houston (28-27) is second in the AL West, comfortably ahead of the fourth-place Mariners (24-31) and the third-place Los Angeles Angels (25-31). The defending AL champions have five games left.

Houston has won three of four, scoring more than four runs for just the second time in its last 12 games.

"It's fun when you get some hits," Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "It's not fun when you don't get any hits."

Maldonado's sixth homer, off reliever Brandon Brennan, highlighted a five-run sixth inning that included Michael Brantley's tiebreaking leadoff home run against Casey Sadler (1-2). Sadler threw a pair of wild pitches, including one that scored a run, and walked two. "Sadler has been so sharp here recently," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "It just wasn't quite on his game tonight."

Valdez (5-3), a 26-year-old left-hander in his third big league season, allowed one run and five hits in seven innings, and he has 76 strikeouts in 70 2/3 innings this season. He gave up a leadoff single to J.P. Crawford and an RBI double to Kyle Seager in the first, then settled and scattered three hits over his final six innings.

Valdez said he felt like he earned a start if the team makes the playoffs and credited his sports psychologist with sharpening the mental part of his game.

Maldonado, his catcher, said you can see the positive impact.

"I would say the ability to control his emotions" is the most improved part of his game, Maldonado said. "He's always had

good stuff, last year, even the year before. He's still the same guy. It seems like he cares more now. It seems like he's developing better. He's not allowing stuff to get into his head."

Kyle Tucker went 4 for 5 for the Astros with a run and an RBI. He has hit safely in eight straight games.

Maldonado said it felt like the team was shaking off its offensive doldrums.

"We know how to win once the playoffs start," he said.

SLUGGING SEAGER
Seager raised his career total to 702 RBIs and joined Edgar Martinez, Ken Griffey Jr. and Jay Buhner as the only Seattle players with 700 or more RBIs.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Astros: CF George Springer returned to the lineup after a day off. Giants manager Dusty Baker gave

Springer a day off Monday after saying data being analyzed by the team suggested Springer was at risk for a potential injury if he didn't get a rest.

Springer led off the game with a single and went 1 for 5. He has hit safely in 18 of 19 games.

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