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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEEKEND EDITION, DECEMBER 5-6, 2020



VOLUME 116, NUMBER 65 COPYRIGHT 2020 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION

Scenic Mountain Medical Center preparing to administer new Covid-19 treatment

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Last month Governor Greg Abbott issued a press release stating that doses of Covid-19 vaccine and treatments would be making their way to Texas over the next few weeks. In a press conference held earlier this week, Scenic Mountain Medical Center Chief Medical Officer Rohith Saravanan, M.D. M.B.A. announced that the local hospital (SMMC) has received 35 doses of the new antibody monoclonal treatments, and will begin administering treatments in the next week or so.

“(The treatment) is an infusion and normally is a couple hours process. It’s not just a come in to the office, get a shot and go,” Dr. Saravanan said. “There is a lot of preparation that goes into setting up the treatment and determining if the patient should be receiving it.”

Currently, Scenic Mountain Medical Center is working on the logistics of administering the treatment for those patients who would best benefit from it, along with the referral

source and process. Before a treatment will be administered there is blood work and labs that need to be conducted to ensure the treatment will be effective. In addition, the patient will be monitored while receiving the treatment to ensure no adverse reactions. Once the infusion – 700 mg dose – has completed the patient will be able to return home. “Once the patient has received the infusion they will go home and hopefully, not return to the hospital to be admitted. That is the point of this treatment is to treat those who have the potential to become very sick and require hospitalization. By giving this treatment you are preventing them from hospitalization therefore helping the healthcare system deal with capacity related issues,” Dr. Saravanan said.

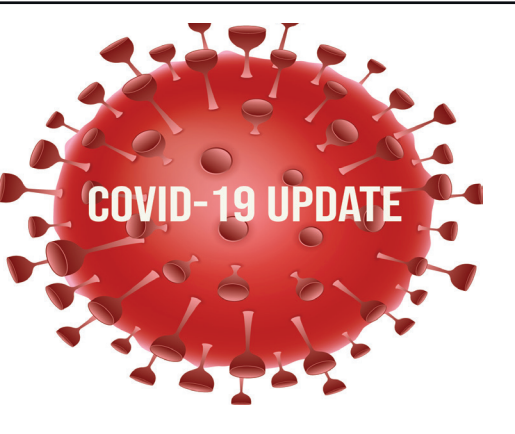
According to Dr. Saravanan, there is specific criteria to determine which patients would benefit from the treatment. Those who have underlying conditions that would make a patient more high risk for hospitalization, such as those with kidney or liver failure, cancer, COPD, heart conditions or other severe health conditions. Those who are over the age of 55 or those under 40 with chronic medical conditions.

“For patients who fall into the criteria then you know there is the potential of hospitalization. You identify that high risk and when they become positive you catch them early in the illness and provide the treatment,” he said. “The level of detail is not so important, the overall velocity of who you are giving this to is what the community needs to understand.”

The antibody monoclonal treatment is similar to the one received by President Donald Trump when he was ill. The antibody is specifically against one of the proteins that is on the coat and it identifies the virus, finds the virus so it can not be effective anymore and allows the white blood cells in your body to fight against it. The antibodies label the virus for destruction by the white blood cells.

“This treatment is intended for those who are more likely to be hospitalized when they contract the virus. This is not for those who are young and healthy people who would not normally be hospitalized. About 80 percent of the population who get the virus won’t ever see the hospital, they will only experience mild symptoms or appear asymptomatic. The smaller minority people who have chronic diseases and are older are the ones who are at a higher risk and are prime candidates for this treatment.”

See **TREATMENT**, Page 3A



Scenic Mountain Medical Center has reported:

- 23 Covid-19 positive patients
- 7 in ICU & 3 vents
- 16 in MedSurg/Telemetry

SMMG & SMMC Testing through 12/3:

- 2,053 tests
- 543 positives for 26.4% positivity rate

For the month of December, 117 patients have tested of which 33 were positive for a rate of 31.7% positivity.

Howard County has reported:

- 2,134 positive cases
- 37 Covid-19 fatalities
- 1,454 recoveries
- 643 active cases

*SMMC provided numbers for in-house patients/SMMG testing since the onset of Covid-19; info obtained from Texas Health Department website

Upcoming Events
 United Way of Big Spring and Howard County Christmas Grocery distribution
 Dec. 12

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Martinez, Elder recognized by Young Marines

Unit Young Marine, Battallion Young Marine announced for 2020

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Instilling leadership qualities in the youth of today is one of the main focuses of the Cross Roads Young Marines. Each year, there is one Young Marine who demonstrates character growth above all others and in recognition of that growth he or she will earn the award of Unit Young Marine. The 2020 Unit Young Marine was YM CPL Karson Elder, who was recognized last month at the Young Marine Recruit Graduation. Elder first joined the Young Marines at the age of 8 years old in November 2018. Since then he has worked his way up through the ranks, and at age 11, he is a Corporal. Elder earned the rank of Corporal at the graduation ceremony where he was also presented with his award.

The Young Marines focuses on teaching leadership skills, respect, the importance of investing into your community, respect and responsibility, amongst other basic foundation principals of a great leader. According to Commander Roger Rodman, also a retired veteran and Big Spring resident, the selections are based on the improvement and achievements in several categories: attendance, education - guide books and physical achievements.

“The Young Marines have helped me stay fit and has taught me about the drugs and the effects they would have on me,” YM CPL Elder said. “They (Young Marines) have supported me during physical training when things get tough, and I feel like I have gained a lot of experience in new places and things that we have been able to visit as a group.”

While Elder is barely 11 years old and a 5th grader at Coahoma, he is already planning for his future and working towards his goals. Elder plans on

See **AWARD**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Amanda Duforat
Anthony Martinez (left) and Karson Elder (right) were recognized as Battalion and Unit Young Marine for 2020.

Forsan ISD Board to recognize Cross Country, Football students

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

The Forsan ISD Board of Trustees will convene for a regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. in the Library on the JH/HS Campus, located at 411 W. 6th Street.

After the pledge and invocation, a call to order will take place as well as an establishment of quorum. There will be a public hearing on financial accountability rating (FIRST) followed by a public comment section.

After the public has had an opportunity to speak, the Board will recognize the Cross Country and Football players before heading into the

See **BOARD**, Page 3A

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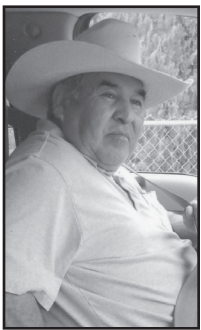
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OUR DOWNTOWN BIG SPRING OFFICE WILL BE OPEN SOON!

Obituaries

Habacue D. Lopez

Habacue D. Lopez, 70, of Big Spring, died Monday, Nov. 30, 2020. Viewing and visitation will be Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020, from 9:00 AM to 9 p.m. with a Vigil service



at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel. Funeral service will be on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, at 10 a.m. at the Myers & Smith Chapel with Minister Ralph Anderson of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Habacue Lopez was born and raised in Big Spring, Texas. Mr. Lopez was a Vietnam Veteran, having serviced bravely with the U. S. Marine Corp for this county. After receiving an honorable discharge, he worked for the City of Big Spring and for TX Dot, where he retired. Even after retirement, Mr. Lopez stayed active by cutting yards and doing work as a handyman. Mr. Lopez was an honest and kind man. He was known for being a hard worker. He believed

that a handshake was a man's word.

Mr. Lopez was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. He leaves behind four children and two stepsons, Lucas (Melinda) Lopez, Lory (Dominic) Lopez-Rocha, and Robert Lopez from his marriage to Olga Lopez. He also leaves behind Brayan Lopez, Esau (Kathy) Najera and Allen (Summer) Najera from his marriage to Rosa Lopez. He leaves behind 11 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He is survived by his wife Rosa Lopez, and one sister Martha Sandoval.

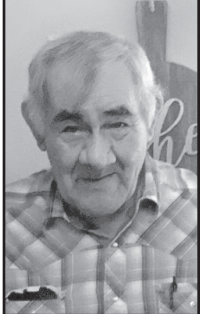
He was preceded in death by his wife: Olga J. Lopez; six sisters: Anna Lopez, Ruth Conteras, Maria Louisa Diaz, Manuela Rosales, Maria Elena Gonzales, and Rosa Flores; four brothers: Lucas Lopez, Joel Lopez, Santos Lopez, and Ponciano (Chino) Lopez; and his parents: Ponciano and Hortencia Lopez.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Paid Obituary

Tomast Nava Sanchez

Tomas Nava Sanchez, 74, of Big Spring passed away on Dec. 2, 2020.



Due to the pandemic, the family has decided to have private services.

Tomas enjoyed studying global geography and had a passion for politics. He loved supporting his local government associations and being on the road.

Tomas Nava Sanchez is survived by his daughters, Yolanda Perez and husband Daniel, and Blanca Sanchez and partner Gilbert Pego Recio; his son,

Thomas Sanchez Jr. and wife Candace; his grandson, Steele Sanchez; his granddaughters, Danielle Sanchez and partner Johnny Rios, Jasmine Grosse, and Chloe Sanchez; his sisters Margarita Yanez and Lucila Sanchez; and his multiple nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Epifanio Hernandez Sanchez and Consuelo Nava; and his brothers, Francisco Sanchez and Emilano Sanchez.

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

Paid Obituary

Gladys Custer

Gladys Custer, 83, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020. Viewing and visitation will be Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020 at Myers & Smith Funeral Home from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with family receiving friends from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



Gladys F. Custer was born in Lorraine, Texas on March 18, 1937, to W.R. and Julia Dodd Taylor. She moved to the Big Spring in 1942. She was the youngest of seven children. Gladys grew up in the Jones Valley area of Big Spring running the hills with her girlfriends. She left school early to work and help support her mother. She would later attain her GED in Germany.

Gladys married Bob Custer on Feb. 15, 1955 in Lovington, NM. Bob was serving in the Air Force at Webb Air Force Base when they met. Gladys stayed in Big Spring when Bob served in Vietnam. She would eventually agree to packing up the family and moving with Bob to Germany where the Custer's would travel and make great family memories. Bob preceded her in death on March 1, 2000.

When Bob, Gladys and their children, Barbara, Tammy and Carrie, returned to the states they were again stationed at Webb. Gladys got busy raising the girls and working. Gladys worked at Gibsons, Furr's Supermarket and retired at H & R Block after 25 years. When Gladys worked at Furr's she employed many of her kids (not just her own - they were ALL "her kids") doing inventory. This gave many of those kids a work ethic.

Gladys grew up playing volleyball and soft ball, but softball was her love. Softball, hard work and caring for others resided in her the rest of her life.

Gladys loved her kids and knew keeping them

busy and engaged in activities would help keep them out of trouble. In 1974 she and Jane Upton went to Austin to petition for Miss Softball America in Big Spring. The first sign-up had hundreds of girls. A softball board was formed and three different divisions were created. Gladys was instrumental in having the current softball fields donated. Gladys also coached softball and her coaching words-of-wisdom would go on to help the girls in their own lives. She formed relationships with girls that would last her lifetime. The girls and softball were important to her.

Gladys' Church was the Salvation Army where she also served on the Salvation Army Park Board.

Gladys was a lot of great things but most important she was a mother to Pennie Girl (fur baby), Barbara (Tommy) Richmond, Tammy Newell and Carrie (Shayne) Burris; Granny to Karma (J' Dana), Tiffany (Rodney), Amanda, Seth (Amber), Zachary, Matthew (Chelsey), Sarah (Monty), Hollie (Brandon) and great -grands Alec, Tristan, Sophia, Kaitlyn, Taylor, Reagan, Kaden, Addison, Degan, Axel, and Logan; Aunt Gladys to several nieces and nephews.

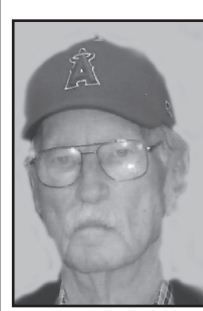
Autumn Rain :

" Do not stand at my grave and weep:I am not there. I do not sleep, I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond's gilt of snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn's rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush. I am the swift uplifting rush and quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry; I am not there. I did not Die."

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Paid obituary

Willis Aaron Burchett



Willis Aaron Burchett, 91, of Big Spring passed away on Dec. 3, 2020. A memorial service will be held Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Margaret Darling

Margaret Darling, 61, of Big Spring, passed away Friday, Nov. 27, 2020, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be 2 p.m. Monday December 7, 2020, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park. Due to the current situation with COVID mask and social distancing is required.



Margaret was born March 4, 1959, in Big Spring, Texas to James and Betty Findley. She graduated from Forsan High School in 1977. Then she went on to marry the love of her life Jimmy Darling, Jr. Sept. 8, 1979 in Big Spring. She was a dedicated wife and mother that loved her family dearly.

In 1989, she graduated from Howard College with a degree in accounting. In May of 1991, she became a team member at Cosden Credit Union and with that her love of helping the community grew. She devoted almost 30 years to Cosden Credit Union and took pride in helping the community. She was also a long-time member of Hillcrest Baptist Church. In her free time, she often crocheted blankets which she often won prizes for in the County Fair. She cherished spending quality time with her husband and her precious family. Spending lunch on Saturdays visiting and loving on her dear mother and sisters. She loved to laugh and to talk about the future that God has in store. If you were blessed enough to know Margaret, you know that she was a true child of God. She displayed a heart for her Heavenly Father in all she did and who she was- her beautifully kind heart, her delight in selflessly helping others, her unforgettable, infectious laugh... She leaves us far too soon, but she leaves behind a legacy of a servant's heart. She showed this not only with her words but with so many actions of love.

Survivors include her beloved husband, Jimmy Darling Jr of Big Spring; one daughter, Amy Darling-Huitt and husband, Preston, of Big Spring; her mother, Betty Findley of Big Spring; three sisters, Vicki Eastman and husband, Edwin of Stratford, VT; Charleta Butrum and husband, Roger of Big Spring; Jamie Roberts and husband, Troy of Stanton; Brother and Sister in Laws, Jody and Charlotte Darling of Elk City, OK, Kathy Smith and Fabian of Llano, Texas, Karen Keller. Daughter-in-law, Teresa Darling; Grandchildren, Sierra Dreshman, Cody Huitt, Braden Huitt, and Kelli Jo Darling; three step-grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. All of these she loved wholeheartedly.

She was preceded in death by her father, James Willard Findley; and one son, James Edward Darling.

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

Paid Obituary

Maria De La Garza

Maria De La Garza, 74, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020. Viewing and visitation will be Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a vigil at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020 at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.



Maria was born on Oct. 12, 1946.

She was survived by three daughters: Irma De La Garza Chapa, Leticia De La Garza Dominguez, Marisa De La Garza Barrientes; 14 grandchildrena; and 13 great grandkids.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Eliseo De La Garza, Jr.; one daughter: Sandra De La Garza Ramirez; her father and mother: Jose and Maria Torrez; and two brothers; and two sisters.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

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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

AWARD

Continued from Page 1A

becoming a firefighter in order to be able to help people.

"I am very proud of him (Elder). He has worked so hard since he joined the Young Marines," Tessa Williamson said. "He became very responsible for his age and respectful to others. He has lived up to everything he learned and accomplished."

The Cross Roads Young Marine program is open to those who are age 8 years of age through high school graduation. The mission is focused on impacting the youth of the community in a positive manner so they can in turn positively impact America in the future. The mission is achieved through development programs that nurture and develop members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug free lifestyle.

"The Young Marines is an outstanding program

that teaches children to have discipline, respect, responsibility, and honor for themselves and others," Williamson said.

Williamson added, "I highly recommend this program to anyone, especially if their child is struggling at home or in school with anything. Karson is a very loving and helpful person. He has grown so much over the past few years since he started the Young Marines, not only physically, but mentally as well. The outcome of this program is phenomenal."

YM SSGT Anthony Martinez was also recognized for this growth and achievements over the past year, as the Battalion Young Marine for 2020. According to Commander Rodman, the Battalion Young Marine is selected off the same criteria as the Unit Young Marine award, but has the additional criteria of a higher rank, which highlights the commitment to the program and advancement in rank.

Martinez, 14-year-old, has been in the Young Marines for three years and is ranked as a Staff Ser-

geant. He is currently an eighth grader at Forsan Junior High.

"His dad and I are proud of all his accomplishments, and this award is no exception. He has worked hard and overcome obstacles to be successful in the Young Marines. Watching him work with the other Young Marines is truly amazing," Cynthia Litke, Martinez's mother, said. "We are truly blessed to watch him grow in this program and cannot wait to see what the future holds for our Young Marine."

According to Martinez, after graduation he plans to become a United States Marine.

Those wishing to support the Cross Roads Young Marines can do so by volunteering, monetary donations or enrolling a youth from the community. In addition, helping to raise awareness for the program is encouraged and much appreciated.

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

TREATMENT

Continued from Page 1A

The treatment is to be administered to patients who only have mild symptoms and are within five days of onset, and within three days of positive direct SARS-Co-V-2 test. For those who present to the Emergency Room or primary care providers office, the following criteria will be utilized to determine if the new, experimental, treatment is safe for the patient.

- Adult and pediatric patients with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing who are 12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg and
- Patient at high risk for progressing to severe Covid-19 disease and/or hospitalization as per criteria
- High risk for progression to severe COVID disease is identified as patients who meet at least one of the following: BMI greater than or equal to 35; chronic kidney disease, diabetes, immunosuppressive disease; currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment; 65 years or older; 55 years and have cardiovascular disease, hypertension, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or other chronic respiratory disease; age 12-17 and have BMI over 85th percentile, sickle cell disease, congenital or acquired heart disease, neurodevelopmental disorders, medical related technological dependence or asthma, reactive airway or other respiratory disease requiring daily medication.

In addition to the 35 doses at SMMC, Midland Memorial and Medical Center Hospital have also received doses. According to information provided during a Thursday press conference, Medical Center has already administered four doses and has been conducting follow ups with those particular patients.

"Odessa Regional Medical Center has not received their doses at this time, but residents in West Texas do have access to this form of treatment. The distribution process was to allow for at least one hospital in each area to have access to doses, which is one of the reasons behind why SMMC received some," he said. "One of the most important things we can ask from the community is to not self select yourself for this treatment. Allow the medical professionals to make this determination, especially if you are one of the younger, healthier patients who do not have underlying conditions that increase hospitalization possibilities."

In addition to the new treatments, Governor Greg Abbott announced earlier in the week that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made an initial allotment of over 1.4 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccines to

the State of Texas for the month of December. These vaccines, which should begin arriving in Texas the week of Dec. 14, will be distributed to qualifying providers across the state who will administer these immunizations based on the Vaccine Distribution Principles developed by the state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel. Additional allotments may be made later this month for December. Also, increased allotments are expected in January and the following months.

"The State of Texas is already prepared for the arrival of a COVID-19 vaccine, and will swiftly distribute these vaccines to Texans who voluntarily choose to be immunized," said Governor Abbott. "As we await the first shipment of these vaccines, we will work with communities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19."

Dr. Saravanan also addressed the recent announcement by the CDC that is relaxing the quarantine duration from 14 days to 10 days and no symptoms or seven days with a negative test.

"The CDC still recommends the 14 day quarantine, but it also recognizes the balance to reduce the economic hardship while still reducing the spread of the virus," he said.

To keep up with information pertaining to the West Texas region, including Howard County visit the Texas Health Department website for case counts or tune in to daily press conferences hosted by medical professionals across the region.

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

BOARD

Continued from Page 1A

agenda items.

The Administrator's Reports will be delivered by the JH/HS principal and Elementary principal before the Board hears from Superintendent Randy Johnson. Johnson will update on the enrollment report and future agenda items.

As part of the Consent Agenda, the Board will look to approve the minutes of the December meeting and monthly financials, including Rev & Exp report, investment report, activity report and list of bills. Textbook committees will also be discussed. The Board will also look to approve Forsan ISD Board Operating Procedures Manual. School calendar changes for 2020-2021 will also be discussed.

Regarding personnel, the Board will look at Superintendent Evaluation Instrument and hear about hiring and resignations before adjourning for the evening.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Rudolfo DeLeon, Jr. AM until 9:00 PM
86, died Sunday. Monday with a Vigil
Funeral Mass will be Service at 7:00 PM at
at 10:00 AM Saturday Myers & Smith Chapel.
at Holy Trinity Funeral Mass will be
Catholic Church with at 10:00 AM Tuesday at
burial at Trinity Holy Trinity Catholic
Memorial Park. Church.

Shirley White, 87, Arthur Yanez, 65,
died Wednesday. died Wednesday.
Services are pending Services are pending
at Myers & Smith at Myers & Smith
Funeral Home. Funeral Home.

Margie Barron, 93, Josefa Salgado, 88,
died Thursday. died Thursday.
Services are pending Services are pending
at Myers & Smith at Myers & Smith
Funeral Home. Funeral Home.

H. D. Lopez, 70, died Gladys Custer, 83,
Monday. Visitation died Thursday,
will be 9:00 AM until December 3, 2020.
9:00 PM Sunday. Visitation will be 9:00
Funeral service will be AM until 9:00 PM
at 10:00 AM Monday at Sunday with the fami-
Myers & Smith Chapel ly receiving friends
with burial at Trinity from 4:00 PM until 7:00
Memorial Park. PM at Myers & Smith
Funeral Home.

Maria De La Garza, Memorial services
74, died Wednesday. will be at a later date.
Visitation will be 9:00

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Expedition will continue to invest in the community and to deliver big benefits to our clients by acquiring oil and gas minerals and leases in the area.

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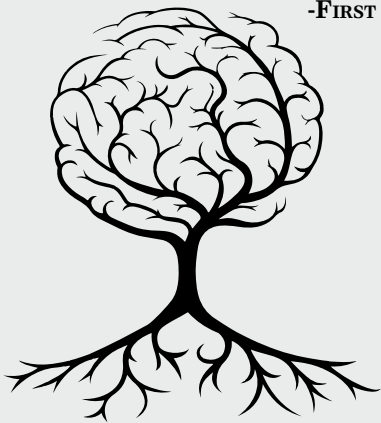
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Opinion

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

-FIRST AMENDMENT



Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Form letters, letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered. **No political based letters will be printed.**
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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A bullet didn't stop the amazing Joe Murphy

Joe Murphy has made a living as a singer and entertainer most of his adult life. He was born in Tulsa and after a long stay in a hospital was adopted by James and Joy Murphy of Rule, Texas. He became quite popular as a youngster and at age four, residents of Rule threw him a going away party when the family moved to Carthage.

When he was a senior in Carthage high school, Joe was a big man on campus: 6 feet 5, 190 pounds, varsity baseball pitcher and an exemplary student. In April of 1978 he went home for lunch and to change clothes for a game that afternoon.

He stopped at a drive-in to visit with some friends. A 16-year old sophomore student was there playing around with a pistol. He pulled the trigger a few times.

"I told him to put that thing

away, that this was no place to be pulling the trigger on a pistol," says Joe. "He said 'don't worry, Joe. It's not loaded.' About that time the gun went off. The bullet hit me in the throat and instantly paralyzed me from the chest down."

Although he can't walk, he can use his arms and hands. After the shooting, Joe was in rehab 3 months and slowly gained back his voice.

"The bullet had gone through my voice box and I was told I wouldn't be able to talk properly again. I had a tracheotomy and had to hold my hand over a little gizmo on my throat to keep the air from going out so I could talk. It was raspy and finally healed."

Joe, who is 60 now, says his parents and friends helped and encouraged him.

"My parents bought me a guitar for graduation, and I started playing it to exercise my hands. Then I started trying to sing a little bit, then started singing for the public."

Friends encouraged Joe to en-

ter a talent contest that the Louisiana Hayride was conducting. He entered, won and became a regular on the Louisiana Hayride 6 years.

Joe, or Sugar Joe, as some people call him, formed a band and performed all over East Texas. He won "Entertainer of the Year" at several East Texas Oprys.

These days he's still performing with his guitar.

"That's my band now, just my guitar. It always shows up for work on time."

Joe has been in a wheel chair 42 years and has spent lots of time in hospitals, but it hasn't kept him from entertaining, hunting, fishing, driving up and down country roads and being thankful.

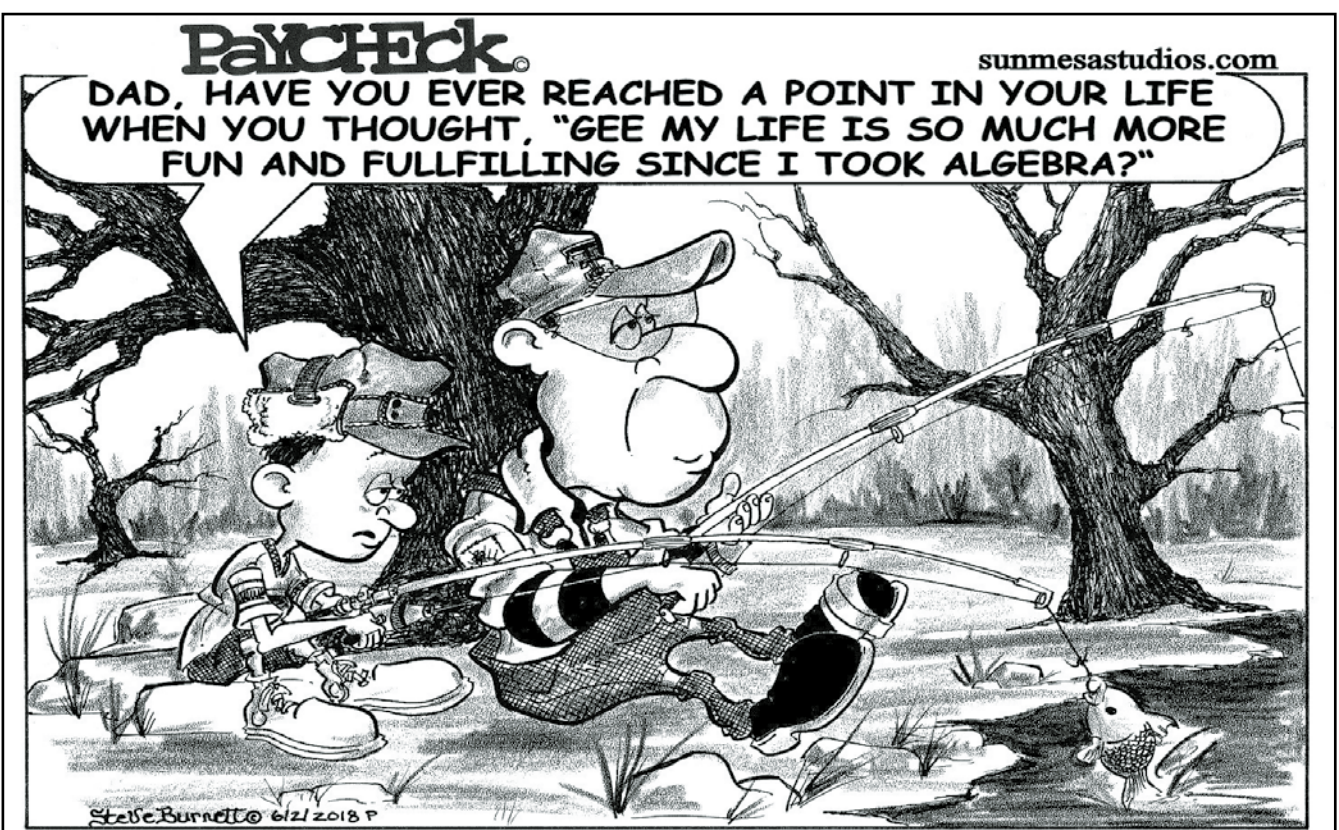
"You know, one door shut but the Good Lord opened another one."

Joe says the 16 year old who shot him spent a little time in juvenile detention but was never charged with anything.

It was called an accident. The boy with the "unloaded gun" moved from Carthage with his family.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH



Stew gets no better ...

Uncle Mort's "throw-away" lines grow mountainous in trash heaps on his place back in the thicket.

Some heard, though, are "keepers," worthy of repeated consideration.

When still in his 90s, he warned about paying the least bit of attention to kitchen recipes that have unrecognizable or multi-syllabic words, exotic wines or ingredients to be "folded in." He also said upon sighting the words "foie de gras," one should "duck" into simpler, less "uppity" recipes. Finally, he suggested avoiding recipes running in large, metropolitan newspapers.

"Look for 'em in community newspapers, where Mort claims they are more lovingly shared, often handed down to daughters, granddaughters, great-grands, etc." I spotted such a recipe in a recent edition of Granbury's Hood County News.

The stew recipe-traced by columnist Nancy Pricer to her late mother-in-law-first saw light of day in The Norman Rockwell Illustrated Cookbook.

Anything associated with Rockwell is fine stuff, advantaged by a name with a distinctive "down home" feel.

Several years ago, my wife of 54 years bought a "cutesy" wall hanging, stating "Kitchen is Closed."

She meant it. Dipping deep into the well of compromise, I agreed to taking on cooking chores if she'd accept KP duties.

Brenda agreed. I mess up; she

cleans up.

Now, back to the stew recipe. At the risk of "quibbling," I don't like the name: "Lazy Lady Stew." Now I'm not believing for a minute that Old Norman would have given in to "reverse chauvinism." After all, he painted pictures of numerous lazy men.

Who knows? Maybe his own grandmother provided this recipe, but he dared not offend her by suggesting a different name.

I plowed into rounding up the ingredients, noting that only three have more than two syllables-potatoes, tomatoes and onions.

If your appetite is whetted, and/or you happen to remember those marvelous Rockwell paintings that for decades appeared weekly on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post, following is the "Lazy Lady Stew" recipe, with added comments that I think

make it even better.

Here are the ingredients: 2 lbs. cubed stew meat, 1 10-oz. package frozen peas, 2 cup sliced carrots, 2 chopped onions, 2 potatoes, peeled and sliced about 1/2 inch thick, 1 tsp salt, dash of black pepper (maybe 1/3 tsp), 1 can cream of tomato soup, 1/2 of soup can of water and 1 bay leaf.

Bake in a 275-degree oven for six hours.

Wait up! I don't expect anything to truly bake at 275 degrees. If it does, it'll be as rare as pine trees in West Texas.

I followed other instructions almost to the letter, except I im-

mediately crossed out peas, which I don't enjoy unless they are "blackened." Instead, I substituted a 10-oz package of mixed vegetables. It never hurts to add celery, so I did. And water chestnuts, too. (Bay leaves may be multiplied to suit your taste, or eliminated if you choose.)

Now, back to the baking modifications. I tossed all ingredients into a crockpot, setting the temperature on high for eight hours. (An hour or so may be trimmed off IF the potatoes are cut in dice-sized cubes. Otherwise, you'll wind up with a dish you'll otherwise like, but object to chomping into not-fully-cooked potatoes.)

My wife offered "thumbs up" on the stew, but muttered about my using meat tenderizer next time. I thought the cubed beef was plenty tender, but some battles simply are not worth waging.

During her "cooking years," she also preferred simple recipes. I chuckle at the thought of her mother standing at her side for the "cake-cutting" at our wedding reception, saying, "Remember, dear, you must use the sharp edge."

Since I've modified the recipe, I may enter the fair competition-no, not the state fair, but the county fair. I may call it "Chef Newbury's Old-Tyme Stew." That's the way Cracker Barrel would spell it.

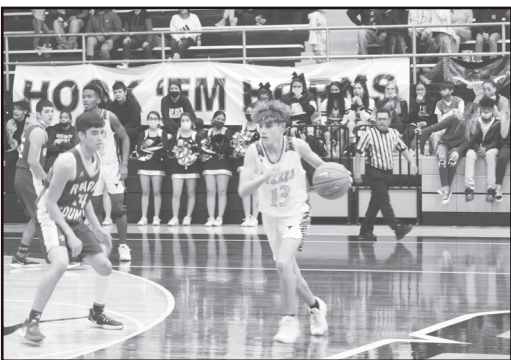
Dr. Newbury is a former educator who writes weekly and is a longtime public speaker. Comments/speaking inquiries to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com Twitter: @donnewbury. Facebook: don newbury

DAILY PRAYER

May we ask for Your assistance, Lord, when we don't know which way to go. Amen

Do you have a passion for writing? Do you want to share your work with others?
Submit your column for consideration to editor@bigspringherald.com.

Steers win 60-49 over Reagan County



HERALD Photo/Shawn Moran

Gavin Padron makes his way around the three-point arc where he knocked down two shots.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

In a game that appeared like it was going to be a blowout following the first quarter, the Big Spring Showtime Steers escaped with a hard-fought 60-49 win over the visiting Reagan County Owls on Friday night.

“They gave us some different looks and made it hard on us offensively for two quarters. The first and fourth quarters we actually executed our offense and ran through some stuff but in the second and third we didn’t do it at all,” Head Coach Kris Hise said.

Gavin Greathouse led the deep Steer roster with 13 points while also grabbing a couple of steals and dishing out four assists. Isaiah Holloway came up big in the fourth quarter by making a couple of shots to finish the game with a total of 10 points.

Each Big Spring player saw time on the court and after pulling away 18-4 after the first eight minutes of the game, the Steers hit a wall and the Owls stormed back into the game. At halftime, the Steers led 25-18 after

being outscored 14-7 in the second quarter.

The third quarter was just as competitive with the Owls outscoring the Steers 13-12. Big Spring led 37-31 going into the fourth and needed some players to bring the momentum back onto their side.

Enter Gavin Padron.

The guard drilled back-to-back three-point shots to give his team a double-digit point cushion with their lead. Freshman guard Tyree Braulley also stepped up big with a pair of made shots late as the Showtime Steers began to put the squeeze on Reagan County. Holloway was also a big factor in the fourth and his energy once again seemed to inject new life into his squad.

“They’ve shot the ball well the last two games,” Hise said. “We rely on them to come off the bench and do that. Just need to have effort all the time.”

If Big Spring can keep their energy up for all four quarters, they will be a tough team to beat no matter who they play. Their full-court press has been cooking all-season long and each player has continued to improve.

The Showtime Steers will be back on the court Saturday afternoon with a meeting against Idalou (0-1). Hise was happy with the win on Friday night but knows that it will take a stronger effort against the Wildcats.

“We better rebound tomorrow,” Hise said.

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

Lady Steers crush Pecos 66-23



HERALD Photo/Shawn Moran

Tristan Smith goes up for a layup.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

The Big Spring Lady Steers took the court home on Friday night against the Pecos Lady Eagles. For the second game in a row, Big Spring crushed the competition and they now sit at .500 (4-4) after a 66-23 drubbing of the Lady Eagles.

“We played pretty solid across the board,” Lady Steer coach Eric Tuttle said. “We mixed it up on defense and overall they just do a really good job of doing what I ask of them.”

Junior point guard Tristan Smith led the Lady Steers with a season-high 22 points while junior forward Ryan Terraza added another double-double to her resume with 11 points and 13 rebounds. Smith also dished out five assists and had six steals on the defensive end. The entire Lady Steer defense forced the Lady Eagles into handfuls of mistakes and turnovers. On the other hand, Big Spring only turned the ball over 12 times - a solid feat for a high school game - while absolutely dominating the boards on both ends of the court.

Altogether, all 10 players that took

the court for Big Spring on Friday night recorded at least two points on one made basket.

“Everybody that came in brought good energy,” Tuttle said. “I stress to the girls all the time to be a player on the court that’s going to make all your teammates better around you. It doesn’t matter if they’re a starter or coming off of the bench, when they’re on the court they should try to make everyone around them better.”

The Lady Steers went 5-for-18 from beyond the three point arc as a team, but Mya Blanco was able to knockdown three of her own for nine points. Big Spring also dominated the game by rarely making it to the free throw line. They converted on 4-of-6 from the charity stripe and Tuttle will surely want his team to draw more fouls the next time out on the court.

The Lady Steers will be taking the court again on Saturday afternoon when they travel to Idalou to take on the Lady Wildcats (5-2).

“I’m hoping we can be versatile tomorrow in their division. They’re a top-ranked team in their district. It’ll be a good test for us to try to break the press. If we’re going to be successful doing that in the district games, we need to see it early against good teams that can do it well,” Tuttle said.

According to MaxPreps, Idalou is currently ranked as the No. 16 3A team in the state of Texas. Their only losses of the season so far have been to an undefeated No. 1-ranked 5A Lubbock Cooper team and to Canyon - the No. 1 4A team in the state.

Safe to say the Lady Steers will have their hands full on Saturday afternoon.

B.A.S.S. Announces Long-Awaited 2021 Bassmaster Elite Series Schedule

Special to the Herald

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — After the shortest offseason break in the trail’s 16-year history, B.A.S.S. officials announced Thursday that the Bassmaster Elite Series will open its 2021 tournament slate Feb. 11-14 on the St. Johns River in Florida.

The season-opener will begin just over three months after the final event of a 2020 schedule that was reworked due to the COVID-19 pandemic, causing a much later finish than usual.

“We’re as excited about this schedule as any that we’ve ever put together for the Elite Series,” said B.A.S.S. CEO Bruce Akin. “It features a good mix of venues that have become fixtures for B.A.S.S. and a few we’ve been to before but haven’t visited in a while.”

The St. Johns River falls into the category of a fixture, with B.A.S.S. having visited the picturesque fishery 22 times for major events since 1973, including three times during the past five seasons.

Connecticut pro Paul Mueller won a weather-shortened event in 2020 with a three-day total of 47-6, and events in 2016 and 2019 were won by Missouri legend Rick Clunn. Each of Clunn’s victories allowed him to break his own record for the oldest angler to claim an Elite Series trophy.

Whether the St. Johns weights are eye-popping usually depends on the finicky Florida weather and which stage of the spawn the bass are in. Regardless, big largemouth will be the target.

From Florida, the season will shift north Feb. 25-28 to Knoxville, Tenn., which has played host to two fantastic major B.A.S.S. events the past four seasons, including the record-breaking 2019 Bassmaster Classic. Like that Classic, the 2021 event will take place on the Tennessee River where largemouth and smallmouth will both likely come into play.

“Knoxville was thrilled to host the Bassmaster Elite Series in 2017,” said Chad Culver, senior director of the Visit Knoxville Sports Commission. “It was the first time B.A.S.S. had been here since 1981. That event led to Knoxville hosting the 2019 Bassmaster Classic - the largest in event history.”

“Needless to say, we could not be more excited to welcome B.A.S.S. back to the waters of Knoxville and East Tennessee.”

Elite Series action will pause for the 2021 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk, which is set for March 19-21 on Lake Ray Roberts near Fort Worth, Texas. Then the schedule

will resume April 8-11 on another Texas fishery, the Sabine River in Orange.

Trips to the Sabine often see anglers targeting narrow canals where largemouth are the prize. While the winning weights are sometimes small, the weigh-in crowds are some of the largest B.A.S.S. sees anywhere. The 2013 Elite on the Sabine drew 33,000 spectators — the second-largest crowd in Elite Series history.

B.A.S.S. has visited the Sabine four times for major tournaments, including the 2018 Elite Series event that was won by Louisiana pro Greg Hackney.

“We are excited to continue our partnership with Bassmaster and are looking forward to another great event that promotes both the great sport of bass fishing as well as the great area of Orange County, Texas,” said Orange County Judge John Gothia.

Elite Series pros Brandon Cobb, Garrett Paquette and Patrick Walters each earned a Century Belt — 100 pounds in a four-day event — on Lake Fork in 2019 and 2020 respectively, and more anglers hope to join their ranks when the Elite field heads back to the fishery April 22-25.

After their stops in Texas, the Elites will embark on a midseason Alabama swing, visiting Neely Henry Lake in Gadsden May 6-9, Lake Guntersville in Scottsboro May 20-23 and Pickwick Lake in Florence June 10-13. Though all in one state, each fishery will offer vastly different scenarios.

The trip to Lake Guntersville will mark the 26th time B.A.S.S. has visited the famed fishery, making it the second most popular destination in B.A.S.S. history behind only Sam Rayburn Reservoir in Texas. The “Big G” has earned its place in sportfishing history, ranking No. 2 on Bassmaster Magazine’s list of Best Bass Lakes of the Decade.

Guntersville hosted two B.A.S.S. events in 2020 alone, including the Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk, which was won by North Carolina pro Hank Cherry.

“We are excited and honored to host the 2021 Bassmaster Elite Series in Scottsboro. We recognize and appreciate the tremendous impact fishing has on our economy, tourism and quality of life, particularly a tournament of the stature and exposure of a Bassmaster Elite,” said Scottsboro Mayor Jim McCamy.

Highlights from Big Spring’s Junior High games

Special to the Herald

The Lady Steers Junior High basketball teams faced off against Snyder earlier this week. Here are the results and highlights from all four games:

7th Grade A Team

The 7th Grade A team fought hard but lost to Snyder 27-15. Players of the game are our leading scorers Breanna Woodruff with 12 points and Caitlyn Moraes with 2 points. The defensive players of the game are Emily Carreon, Berg Pinkley, and Arielle Viera.

7th Grade B Team

The Lady Steers 7th B team faced off with Snyder last night and fought hard till the very end. That hard fought game ended in a defeat to Snyder with a score of 32-12. The player of the game was Lynzi Arrieta with 6 points. Savannah Carrillo, Albonee Gonzales, Abigail Diaz and Jaylee Gonzales played great on offense as well. On defense, Leah Ramirez and Bella Rios played hard all game and had multiple steals from the opposing Tigers.

8th Grade A Team

The Lady Steers 8th Grade A Team hosted the Lady Tigers from Snyder Thursday evening. In this first game of the season, the Lady Steers fell short by a score of 51-23. Niomi Wines led all scorers with 20 of the Lady Steers 23 points. Natasha chipped in with a field goal and a free throw for 3 points. The Lady Steers travel to Levelland on Monday evening to take on the Lobettes for their first road game of the season.

8th Grade B Team

The 8th Grade B Team showed up to play Snyder but fell with a score of 18-8. Our offensive player of the game is Erika Castaneda for her great shots on goal. The offensive players of the game were Kychia Huey and Ambrie Franco for their stellar defensive skills.

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SUNDAY COMICS

BIG SPRING HERALD

Weekend Edition December 5 & 6, 2020

Archie

I'VE THOUGHT IT OVER, AND I'VE DECIDED: BETTY IS THE ONE FOR ME!

VERONICA DUMPED YOU AGAIN, EH?

HOW'D YOU KNOW?

SIGH!

DON'T WORRY, BETTY!

ONE DAY, HE'LL WAKE UP AND REALIZE YOU'RE THE ONE FOR HIM!

OH, I KNOW! HE WILL!

BETTY, I'VE WOKEN UP AND REALIZED YOU'RE THE ONE FOR ME!

YOU'RE THE KINDEST, MOST THOUGHTFUL... SWEETEST... UM...

WINK

LATER!

13-4
JERRY STARBUCK
GIVES BELMONT

JUST WHEN HE WAKES UP, SOMEONE COMES ALONG AND HITS HIS SNOOZE ALARM!

Visit: www.archiecomics.com

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MOMMA

BY MELL LAZARUS

LIFE IS FUNNY, MOMMA...

- WE'RE CHILDREN FOR YEARS AND YEARS AND YEARS, AND THEN -POOF!- WE'RE ADULTS..!

HOW SOON DO YOU EXPECT TO POOF?

MELL LAZARUS.

CREATORS.COM / © 2015 MELL LAZARUS / kpop3@aol.com

Agnes
by TONY COCHRAN

IT IS TIME... IT IS TIME FOR US TO EMBARK ON THE LONG ROAD TO EXQUISITE BEAUTY.

NAH, IT CAN WAIT A FEW MORE DAYS.

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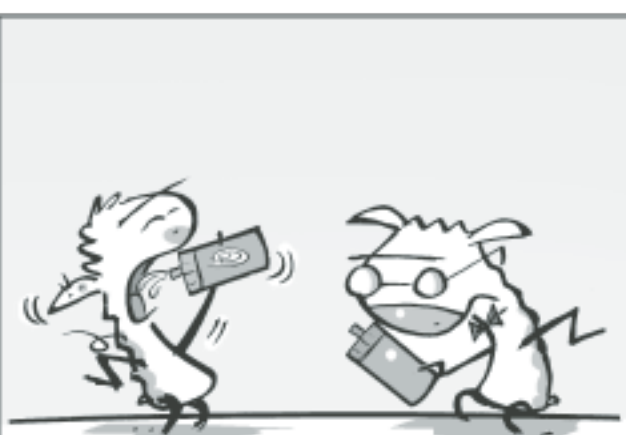
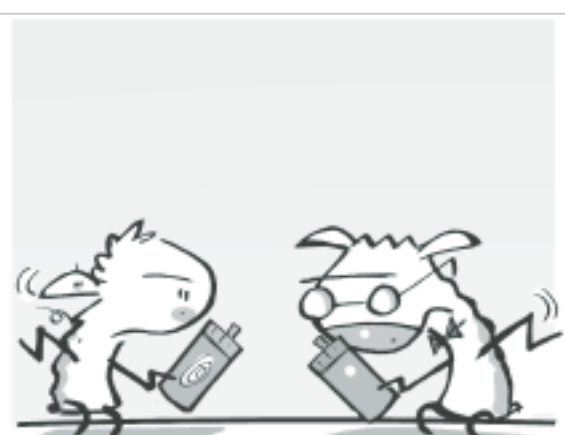
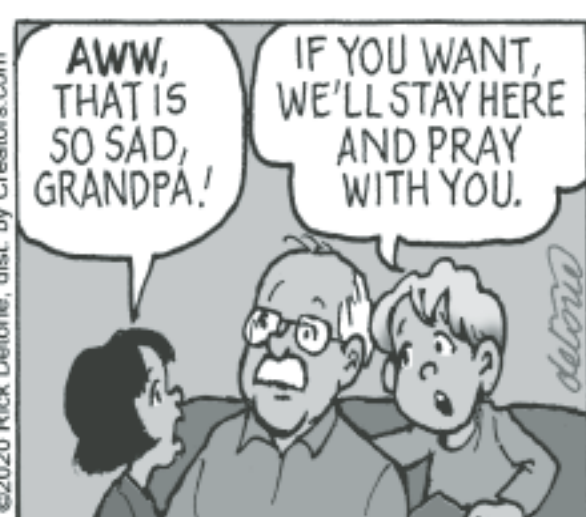
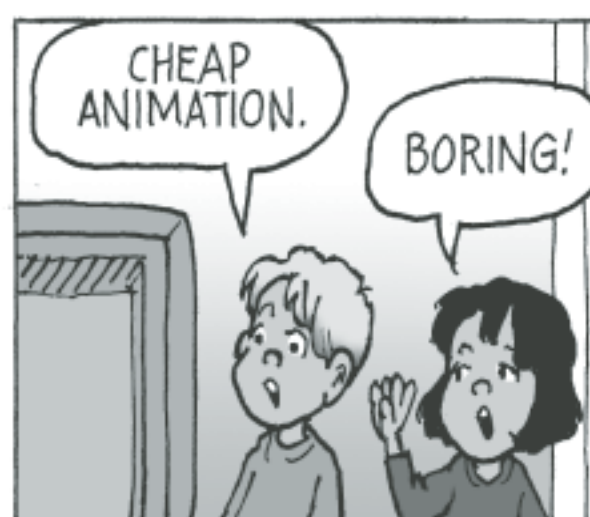
THE ROAD TO BEAUTY WAITS FOR NO ONE!

SURE IT DOES. IT'S A ROAD. IT JUST LAYS THERE. IT HAS NOTHING ELSE TO DO.

12-5-2020
TONY COCHRAN

HM... PERHAPS IT COULD WAIT UNTIL I POLISH OFF THE OREOS.

NO, NO... GO IF YOU MUST... I'LL POLISH.



ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



Check this out, at the library this week

As Covid-19 cases rise we ask patron's visiting the library to wear a mask throughout the duration of their visit, including inside the computer lab. During these times we encourage patrons to take advantage of our online resources, like eBooks and audiobooks for all ages, remote printing, and curbside pickup.



Sandra Verdin

Grab and Go services are available, patrons may browse and checkout materials for 30 minutes max. Please maintain social distancing while visiting the library. These precautions are taken for your safety and staff safety.

Visit the library's homepage for detailed information about our remote services, online resources and helpful links. Call the library if you have any questions you may have about any of our services, and visit our website and Facebook page for any updates.

This week's reviews include large print western, biography and non-fiction titles.

Two western novels are included in "Valley of the 99" (LP W OVE W) By Wayne D. Overholser. In "The Courage Builder," the small ranchers in Harmony, Oregon, are up against it with the price of cattle down and Skull Ranch, owned by a syndicate, trying to buy them out. Dan Riley spends a month trying to find a bank to help them, but he fails. As pressure mounts, Riley is determined to find out who is really in charge of the syndicate, and the only man willing to help him is Andrew Daniels, a former newspaper man whose courage comes from a bottle. Ex-gunman Rod Devers in "Valley of the 99" has started up a ranch, but small things going wrong on his land make him think someone might be trying to drive him out. In addition, the \$2,000 he borrowed to buy his herd is coming due in a few months.

His brother George ramrods the biggest ranch in the area, owned by Karl Hermann, who is on his way back to town. The two bit ranchers in the area are convinced Hermann, is coming to grab up all the land and they organize a group of vigilantes, the 99, to protect themselves. When Rod refuses to join the 99 and accepts his brother's offer of a temporary job to protect Hermann and his daughter during their visit the small ranchers turn against him.

On Winston Churchill's first day as prime minister, Hitler invaded Holland and Belgium. Poland and Czechoslovakia had already fallen, and the Dunkirk evacuation was just two weeks away. For the next twelve months, Hitler would wage a relentless bombing campaign, killing 45,000 Britons. It was up to Churchill to hold the country together and persuade President Franklin Roosevelt that Britain was a worthy ally and willing to fight to the end.

In "The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz"

(B CHU W) By Erik Larson, Larson shows in cinematic detail, how Churchill taught the British people "the art of being fearless." It is a story of political brinkmanship but also an intimate domestic drama, set against the backdrop of Churchill's prime-ministerial country house, Chequers, and his wartime residence, Ditchley, where Churchill and his entourage go when the moon is brightest and the bombing threat is highest; and of course 10 Downing Street in London.

Drawing on diaries, original archival documents, and once-secret intelligence reports, some released only recently, Larson provides a new lens on London's darkest year through the day-to-day experience of Churchill and those closest to him: his wife, Clementine; their daughters, Sarah, Diana, and the youngest, Mary, who chafes against her parents' wartime protectiveness; their son, Randolph, and his beautiful, unhappy wife, Pamela; her illicit lover, a dashing American emissary; and the advisors in Churchill's "Secret Circle," to whom he turns in the hardest moments.

"The Splendid and the Vile" takes readers out of today's political dysfunction and back to a time of true leadership, when in the face of unrelenting horror Churchill's eloquence, courage, and perseverance bound a country, and a family, together.

Sweeping and unprecedented in scope, "America's game: the NFL at 100" (796.332 RIC J) by Jerry Rice traces pro football's grand transformation from a loose coalition of regional teams constantly on the verge of collapse to surviving the Great Depression and World War II to its eventual preeminence as an international phenomenon. A fitting acknowledgment of the sport's extraordinary, ongoing legacy, "America's Game" offers and unprecedented breadth of stories including: revealing portraits, details of the most intense rivalries, ruminations on the greatest defensive units, and anecdotes of key off-the-field watershed developments.

Compelling, insightful, authoritative, and filled with surprising tales from the locker room to the trenches, it is an intimate chronicle and must-read for NFL fans of all ages.

When Ada Calhoun found herself in the throes of

a midlife crisis, she thought that she had no right to complain in "Why we can't sleep: women's new midlife crisis" (305.244 CAL A) by Ada Calhoun. She was married with children and a good career. So why did she feel miserable? And why did it seem that other Generation X women were miserable, too?

Calhoun decided to find some answers. She looked into housing costs, HR trends, credit card debt averages, and divorce data. At every turn, she saw a pattern: sandwiched between the Boomers and the Millennials, Gen X women were facing new problems as they entered middle age, problems that were being largely overlooked. Speaking with women across America about their experiences as the generation raised to "have it all," Calhoun found that most were exhausted, terrified about money, underemployed, and overwhelmed.

Instead of their issues being heard, they were told instead to lean in, take "me-time," or make a chore chart to get their lives and homes in order. In "Why We Can't Sleep," Calhoun opens up the cultural and political contexts of Gen X's predicament and offers solutions for how to pull oneself out of the abyss-and keep the next generation of women from falling in.

The result is reassuring, empowering, and essential reading for all middle-aged women, and anyone who hopes to understand them.

"Life and reading are not separate activities, when you read a great book, you don't escape from life, you plunge deeper into it." Julian Barnes, "A Life with Books"

Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, for Grab & Go access to the library.

Customers have 30 minutes to browse the shelves, checkout items, make copies and send a fax, an appointment is still required to use a computer. Please visit our website at <http://howard-county.ploud.net> and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HowardCoLibrary for more information.

You may reach us at 432-264-2260 and our fax number is 432-264-2263.



Courtesy image

In an effort to help slow the spread of Coronavirus, the Howard County Library offers an array of online services and encourages patrons to utilize curbside service if possible and other online resources. When entering the Howard County Library, and while inside the building, please use a mask and social distance.



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For more information on hearing health please visit: www.yourhearingclinic.com

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- BIG SPRING CLINIC** 104 W. Marcy Drive, Big Spring, Texas 79720, 432-271-3907
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You better watch out ... You better not cry ... Santa has dispatched his elves

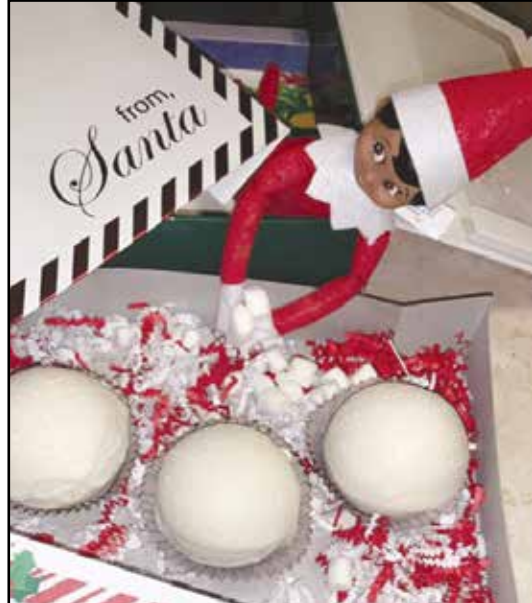


Courtesy photo submitted by Jessica Zarraga
Pictured directly left: Fred Elf arrived on Thanksgiving Day, in a box. He came with a note saying he was scared to get out of the box due to cats.

Courtesy photo submitted by Andrea Galvan
Pictured far left: ChicaLinda arrived in a box with Little Debbie Christmas Trees for breakfast.



Courtesy photo submitted by Lauren Barber
Shimmer has arrived in the Barber household. Shimmer came in offering reindeer rides as a way to enter the holiday season.



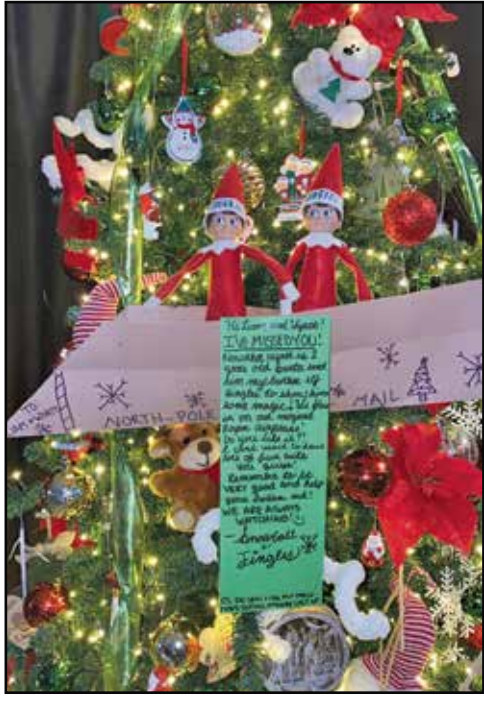
Courtesy photo submitted by Stephanie Rivera Hernandez
Pictured above: The Elf has arrived in the Hernandez household.



Courtesy photo submitted by Mindy Sedberry
The Sedberry's elf came kicking into Christmas and is ready to keep an eye out for Santa.



Courtesy photo submitted by Amanda Delgado
Pictured left: The elf came in feeling under the weather. He may be quarantined for 14 days.



Courtesy photo submitted by Ashley Munoz Wilson
Snowball and Jingles have officially landed. The daring duo came flying in from the North Pole and are ready to have a little holiday fun in the Wilson household.

Courtesy photo submitted by Kayla Cline
Max has arrived in the Cline household and is ready to get into a little bit of mischief and make memories with the children before returning to Santa.



Courtesy photo submitted by Ray Alexander
Ray's daughter teaches 8th grade Math. Her elf Angelina has always made yearly visits to her classroom with a daily problem for the students to solve. Due to restrictions this year it isn't possible. Since Angleina just arrived from the North Pole she will be quarantined along with necessary supplies including her iPad.

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NEW LISTINGS!

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Big Spring ISD

Anderson Accelerated

Monday: Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, cereal and string cheese, assorted fruits, assorted milk. Lunch: BBQ chicken melt, Egg chef salad, assorted vegetables, juice, assorted fruits, assorted milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: Mini Cinnamon Roll bites, cereal with string cheese, assorted fruits, assorted milk. Lunch: Pizza sticks with sauce, popcorn chicken salad with flatbread, assorted vegetables, juice, assorted fruits, assorted milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon sugar donut, cereal and string cheese, assorted fruits, assorted milk. Lunch: Chicken -n- waffles, taco nacho salad, assorted vegetables, juice, assorted fruits, assorted milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast: Coco puff breakfast bar, cereal and string cheese, assorted fruits, assorted milk. Lunch: Chicken fried steak with roll, chef salad with flatbread, assorted vegetables juice, assorted fruits, assorted milk.
 Friday: Breakfast: Blueberry waffle bites, cereal and string cheese, assorted fruits, assorted milk. Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, yogurt, cheese, and fruit salad, assorted vegetables, juice, assorted fruits, assorted milk.

Elementary

Monday: Breakfast: Yogurt with crackers, assorted fruit, 100% juice box, assorted milk. Lunch: Chicken patty sandwich, sunbutter and jelly sandwich, fruit and vegetables, milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: Coco Puff Pastry, assorted fruit, 100% juice box, assorted milk. Lunch: Hamburger on a bun, ham and cheese sandwich, fruit and vegetable, milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: Mini cinnamon bagel bites, assorted fruit, 100fi juice box, assorted milk. Lunch: Chicken nuggets with roll, taco nacho salad, fruit and vegetable, milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast: Cinnamon sugar donut, assorted fruit, 100% juice box, assorted milk. Lunch: Country fried steak, turkey and cheese sandwich, fruit and vegetable, milk.
 Friday: Breakfast: Blueberry waffle bites, assorted fruit, 100% juice box, assorted milk. Lunch: Tony's pepperoni pizza wedge, yogurt, cheese and crackers, fruit and vegetable, milk.

High School

Monday: Breakfast: Bagel with jelly, waffle bites with fruit, egg/sausage/cheese, burrito, refried beans, Trix cereal bowl, assorted fruit and juice, assorted milk. Lunch: Egg roll with rice, bacon-burger, chicken/spicy chicken sandwich or nuggets, cheese/pepperoni pizza, assorted vegetables, assorted fruits and juice, assorted milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll, pancake bites with fruit, egg/sausage/cheese burrito, refried beans, Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, assorted fruits and juice, assorted milk. Lunch: Burrito, hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken sandwich or nuggets cheese/pepperoni pizza, assorted vegetables.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: Apple frudel, waffles bites with fruit, egg/sausage/cheese burrito, refried beans, Trix cereal bowl, assorted fruits and juice, assorted milk. Lunch: Fish sandwich, hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken sandwich or nuggets, cheese/pepperoni pizza, assorted vegetables.
 Thursday: Breakfast: Banana muffin, pancake bites with fruit, egg/sausage/cheese burrito, refried beans, Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, assorted fruits and juice, assorted milk. Lunch: Chicken fried steak, hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken sandwich or nuggets, cheese/pepperoni pizza, assorted vegetables.
 Friday: Breakfast: Cinnamon sugar donut, waffle bites with fruit, egg/sausage/cheese burrito, refried beans, Coco Puffs cereal bowl, assorted fruits and juice, assorted milk. Lunch: Big Steer burger/walking taco, hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken sandwich or nuggets, cheese/pepperoni pizza.

Intermediate

Monday: Breakfast: Cinnamon toast crunch pastry, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or corn dog, assorted juice and milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon sugar donut, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or chicken tacos, assorted juice and milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: Mini cinnamon bagel, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or burrito, assorted juice and milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast: Coco Puff pastry, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or chicken fried steak, assorted juice and milk.
 Friday: Breakfast: Blueberry waffle bites, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or hot dog, assorted juice and milk.

Junior High

Monday: Breakfast:

Cinnamon Toast Crunch pastry, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or corn dog, assorted juice and milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon sugar donut, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or chicken tacos, assorted juice and milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: Mini cinnamon bagel bites, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or burrito, assorted juice and milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast: Coco puff pastry, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or chicken fried steak, assorted juice and milk.
 Friday: Breakfast: Blueberry waffle bites, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or hot dog, assorted juice and milk.

Kentwood Pre-K

Monday: Breakfast: Fudge poptart, fruit, 1% milk. Lunch: Cheeseburger with smile fries, fruit, 1% milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: Apple Jacks cereal, fruit, 1% milk. Lunch: French toast bites with tater tots, fruit, 1% milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: Mini cinnamon bagel bites, fruit, 1% milk. Lunch: Popcorn chicken, fruit and vegetable, 1% milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast: Cereal bowl, fruit, 1% milk. Lunch: Hot dog on a bun with chips, fruit and vegetable, 1% milk.
 Friday: Breakfast: Blueberry waffles, fruit, 1% milk. Lunch: Cheese pizza, fruit and vegetable, 1% milk.

Elementary/Moss Lunch

Monday: Chicken patty sandwich with smile fries, Sunbutter and jelly sandwich, fruit and vegetables, milk.
 Tuesday: Hamburger on a bun, ham and cheese sandwich fruit and vegetables, milk
 Wednesday: Chicken nuggets with roll, Sunbutter and Jelly sandwich, fruit and vegetable, milk.
 Thursday: Country fried steak, ham and cheese sandwich, fruit and vegetable, milk.
 Friday: Tony's pepperoni pizza wedge, yogurt,cheese and crackers, fruit and vegetable, milk.

Coahoma K-12 Breakfast

Monday: Sausage biscuit, 100% fruit juice, fruit, milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast burrito with hashbrowns, 100% fruit juice, fruit, milk.
 Wednesday: Chicken-n-waffles, 100% fruit juice, fruit, milk.
 Thursday: Stuffed bagel with sausage or pancakes with sausage, 100% fruit juice, fruit, milk.
 Friday: Dutch waffle with bacon or french toast with bacon, 100% fruit juice, fruit, milk.

Coahoma K-8 Lunch

Monday: Steak fingers with gravy, roll or Philly cheesesteak sandwich or popcorn chicken salad, potatoes, tomato cup, strawberries and bananas, milk.
 Tuesday: Spaghetti bowl with breadstick or french bread pizza with marinara or tuna salad, garden salad, California veggies, fruit cup, milk.
 Wednesday: Boneless chicken wings or Texas chili with cornbread or chef salad, celery sticks, carrots, peaches, pudding, milk.
 Thursday: Mexican combo plate or quesadilla or taco salad, corn, beans, salsa, fresh fruit, milk.
 Friday: Popcorn chicken with roll or sloppy joes, vegetable medley, potatoes, pears, dessert, milk.

Coahoma 9-12 Lunch

Monday: Steak fingers with gravy, roll, or Philly cheesesteak sandwich or popcorn chicken salad, potatoes, tomato cup, strawberries and bananas, milk.
 Tuesday: Spaghetti bowl with breadstick or french bread pizza with marinara or tuna salad, garden salad, California veggies, fruit cup, milk.
 Wednesday: Boneless chicken wings or Texas chili with cornbread or chef salad, chips, celery sticks, carrots, peaches, pudding, milk.
 Thursday: Mexican combo plate or quesadilla or taco salad, corn, beans, salsa, fresh fruit, milk.
 Friday: Popcorn chicken with roll or sloppy joes,

vegetable medley, potatoes, pears, dessert, milk.

Forsan

Monday: Breakfast: French toast sticks with sausage or cereal strawberry cup, fruit juice and milk (elementary); french toast sticks, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk (JH/HS). Lunch: Steak fingers or chicken and waffles or PB&J sandwich, tots, baby carrots, strawberry cup, fresh fruit, and milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: Cereal bars, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk (elementary); Sausage kolache with cheese stick or cereal, apple slices, fruit juice and milk (JH/HS). Lunch: Pulled pork BBQ sandwich or Asian bowl tangerine chicken or turkey and cheese sub, savory green beans, fries, snowball salad, fresh fruit and milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: Honey buns, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk (elementary); Chicken and waffles or cereal, mandarin oranges, fruit juice and milk (JH/HS). Lunch: Pizza (JH/HS) or turkey chef salad (JH/HS) or PB&J sandwich or turkey and cheese sub (elementary) fresh veggie cup, garden salad, applesauce cup, fresh fruit and milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk (elementary); Breakfast pizza or cereal, strawberry cup, fruit juice and milk (JH/HS). Lunch: Christmas meal, turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, roll, fresh fruit, pumpkin pie, and milk.
 Friday: Breakfast: Mini powdered donuts, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk (elementary); Mini powdered donuts with bacon or cereal, applesauce cup, fruit juice and milk (JH/HS). Lunch: Chicken nuggets with mac and cheese (elementary) Nashville hot chicken strips with mac and cheese (JH/HS) or mini corn dogs or PB&J sandwich, corn, tots, strawberry cup, fresh fruit and milk.

Sands

Monday: Sunbutter and jelly sandwich, fruit, fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Pizza, baby carrots, garden salad, cookie, grapes, milk variety.
 Tuesday: Breakfast strudel, cheese stick, fruit, fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Chicken tortilla soup, cornbread, pinto beans, sliced cucumbers, fruit cup, ice cream, milk variety.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: French toast sticks, yogurt, fruit, fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Asian bowl, egg roll, crunchy broccoli salad, mandarin oranges, milk variety.
 Thursday: Breakfast: Sausage kolache, cheese stick, fruit, fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Chicken sandwich, oven fries, fresh veggies cup, peaches, milk variety.
 Friday: Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit, fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Corn dog, tater tots, tomato cup, grapes, milk variety.

Senior Center

Monday: Hamburger steak with onions, macaroni and cheese, green beans, pie, bread, milk.
 Tuesday: Soft beef taco, Spanish rice, lettuce and tomato, cookies, milk.
 Wednesday: Loaded baked potato, bacon bits butter sour cream, corn on the cob, green salad with tomato wedge, muffin, milk.
 Thursday: Catfish, tarter sauce, french fries, coleslaw, fruit, hushpuppies, milk.
 Friday: Oven fried chicken/gravy, rice pilaf, broccoli, chocolate pudding, bread, milk.

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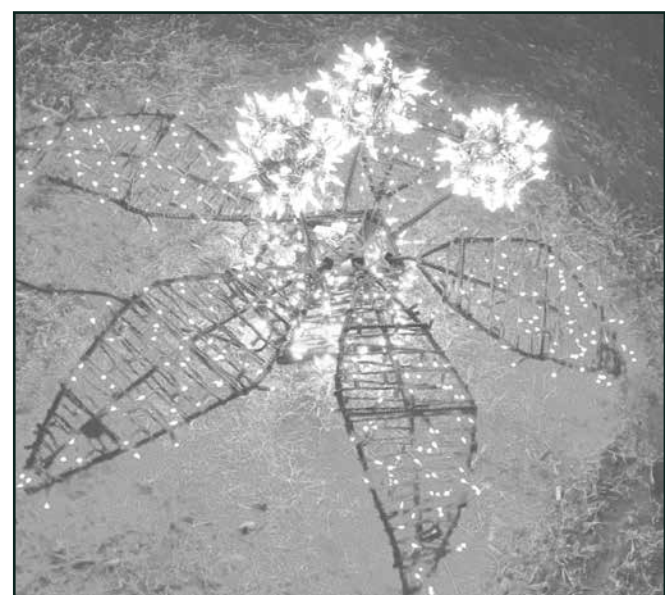
Chamber of Commerce happenings ...



Courtesy photos/Bruce Schooler

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Boot Barn for their investment into the community with a Thank You Presentation on Tuesday. Boot Barn employees along with a few Chamber Ambassadors joined together for the presentation. Each week the Chamber of Commerce recognizes a Chamber member for their investment into the community of Big Spring and Howard County.

Highlighting Howard Co. Business Martinez Welding - Following a dream



Courtesy photos

Martinez welding has been serving the Howard County community for the past few years for welding needs - commercial and residential - as he follows his dreams. This holiday season he is even building lighted poinsettias. Pictured at right is Martinez working in the field.



By AMANDA DUFORAT

Managing Editor

No job is too big or too small for Martinez Welding. When it comes to needing a job done, whether it be commercial grade or residential repairs, AJ Martinez and crew can offer the quality work needed, for a lasting, quality weld.

"Being able to go into business for myself was a dream I have had for awhile, and through the support of my mom, my family and my friends, these past few years I have been able to make that dream a reality," AJ Martinez, Owner of Martinez Welding, said.

Martinez, along with a couple of friends, started up Martinez Welding in 2018. After gaining experience working with other experienced welders and refining his craft after college, Martinez's dream began to grow. For more than five years Martinez has been working on projects in Howard County.

"Welding is an art in itself, there are so many intricacies that have to be learned, in addition to the safety that surrounds the work," Martinez said. "Every aspect of the job requires attention to detail. While some may think it's just welding, it's more than that and you can see the effort placed into a job when you look at the finished project. The more effort and care you put into a project, the longer it will last and the better quality you end up with."

In addition to ensuring Martinez Welding is known for quality work and lasting products, giving back to the community who helped build him is an important part of the business growth model for Martinez. Since before the inception of his company, Martinez - along with his mother - has been

taking part in events throughout the community and supporting the youth. Martinez Welding has been a part of the Scenic Mountain Back to School Bash, Christmas parades, donated school supplies and more.

"The community support is the lifeline of a business, especially in a small town," he said. "Starting a small business can be difficult, but through the support of family, friends, and community word of mouth, it is possible to not only grow but grow successfully. The community invests in small businesses - even if they don't realize it - by supporting us, and it's only right that we take the opportunities we are given to give back."

In addition to welding fences and other custom projects, during the holiday season Martinez Welding is taking orders for lighted poinsettias. There are different sizes of poinsettias that can be ordered for businesses or homes around Howard County and surrounding areas.

"Everyday jobs are what keeps the business going, but the holidays allow us to add a little bit of extra fun into what we do for a living," Martinez said. "Big Spring is the lighted poinsettia capital of Texas and being able to make these for Howard County residents is really an honor and brings the holiday spirit to life."

To find out more about services offered by Martinez Welding or to order a lighted poinsettia, call AJ Martinez at 432-213-4364.

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

Texas weekly gas updates by GasBuddy

By GASBUDDY

Special to the Herald

Texas gas prices have risen 0.8 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$1.80/g today, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 stations. Gas prices in Texas are 2.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 44.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas is priced at \$1.44/g today while the most expensive is \$2.69/g, a difference of \$1.25/g. The lowest price in the state today is \$1.44/g while the highest is \$2.69/g, a difference of \$1.25/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.11/g today. The national average is unchanged from a month ago and stands 47.6 cents per gallon

lower than a year ago.

Historical gasoline prices in Texas and the national average going back ten years:

November 30, 2019: \$2.24/g (U.S. Average: \$2.59/g)
November 30, 2018: \$2.16/g (U.S. Average: \$2.46/g)
November 30, 2017: \$2.26/g (U.S. Average: \$2.48/g)
November 30, 2016: \$1.91/g (U.S. Average: \$2.15/g)
November 30, 2015: \$1.82/g (U.S. Average: \$2.03/g)
November 30, 2014: \$2.53/g (U.S. Average: \$2.76/g)
November 30, 2013: \$3.12/g (U.S. Average: \$3.26/g)
November 30, 2012: \$3.14/g (U.S. Average: \$3.39/g)
November 30, 2011: \$3.11/g (U.S. Average: \$3.29/g)
November 30, 2010: \$2.65/g (U.S. Average: \$2.83/g)
Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:
Midland Odessa- \$1.91/g, down 4.8 cents per gallon from last week's \$1.95/g.

See GAS, Page 4B

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Jasmine Ahrnkeil, 1301 Princeton, Big Spring
Sherri Monique Aldridge, 1507 E. Sixth St., Big Spring
Anthony Anderson, 3401 Camellia Dr. #707, Temple
Steve Antoine, 1425 E. 6th St., Big Spring
Katie Cole L. Baker, P.O. Box 3372, Big Spring
Letitia Baucham, 1202 Stanford, Big Spring
Linda Beck, 1713 Worley Rd., Banner Elk, N.C.
Joshua Bell, 1962 Tuscola, Snyder
John Bochnicka, 538 Westover Rd. #260
Chad Wayne Brown, 3901 Ave. O, P.O. Box 391 Snyder
Douglas "Doug" Lee Brown, 205 W. 14th St. P.O. Box 275, Monahans
James Bullard, 202 Fourth St., Palestine
Melinda Burns, 2218 Carlton Way, San Angelo
Wayne Richard Buyce, 4042 Morningside Way, Canyon Lake
Gloria Cerna, P.O. Box 55, Lamesa
Matilda Cortez, 302 N St. Teresa
Roy E. DeBlanc, 1066 Cutrer Rd., Osyka, Miss.
Laura W. Dennis, 1511 Scurry, Big Spring
Humberto Diaz Jr., 3417 N. Midland Dr, Midland
Nelba DeLosRios Diaz, 10600 McMillian Dr., Austin
Krista A. Dickson, 6917 Todd, Sachse
Jimmy Dodson, 405 31st St., Snyder
Ben Doherty, 5019 McKinney St. No. 105, Dallas
Angela Doty, 1401 E. Rundberg, Austin
Clayton W. Durbin, 6508 Centerpoint, Big Spring
Tina Marie Ellis, 4002 Austin Ave., Snyder
Selena Bethani Enriquez-King, 100 E Parker, Midland

Joanna Esparza, 501 S.Tackitt Seymour, Texas
Carol W. Evans, 809 E 33rd, Plainview, Texas
Chris M. Fagan, 3508 W. Eighth St., Amarillo
Kristen Falcon, 2606 Fairchild Dr., Big Spring
Leza Faulkner, 1102 South Water, Burnet
Mumduh Felemban, 9338 Perrin Beitel Apt. 701, San Antonio

Alexander Fernandez, 404 Cypress, Colorado City
Juana Fierro, 406 N. W. 5th St., Big Spring
Tracy D. Flores, 2401 Russell Ave., Abilene
Ellen French, P.O. Box 942, Poteau, Okla.
Sharlamarr Frink, 3723 Monclair, Odessa
Johnnie Fuller, 3801 23rd St., Snyder
Juan E. Garcia, 3355 River Road North Keizer, Okla.
Mary Jo Garner, 11802 Silver Barring Cove, San Antonio

William Gene Garner, 704 Rosemont, Big Spring
Rosa M. George, 509 W. Second St., Stanton, Texas
Perry Gholar, 1510 Nolan, Big Spring
Elizabeth Gomez, 509 Raleigh St., Plainview
Guillermo Gomez, 2107 Morrison, Big Spring
Jennifer Gonzales, 2616 Hunter Dr., Big Spring
James E. Gonzalez, 604 Neff St., Sweetwater
Jeremy Goodman, 3471 Green Meadow #24, San Angelo

Kay Grant, 4405 N. Garfield #1005, Midland
Isaiah Green, 4801 State St., Abilene
John Grima, 914 E. Sixth St., Big Spring
Thomas E. Gross, 4100 S. Highway 87 #37, Big Spring
Lynn Guerrero, 203 W. Ave #3, Clayton, N.M.
Melissa Gutierrez, 3310 SF Austin, No. 58, Brownwood

Sandra Ann Gutierrez, 1501 N. Fourth Place, 1312 S Ave. L, Lamesa
Mike Haddix, 401 Humble St. Apt. E, Midland
Dylan Hammons, 4401 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
William J. Harman, HC 76, Box 147K-1, Big Spring
Nicholas D. Hasenbalg, 207 W. Williams St. #9 Breckenridge

Ann Hashem, 120 Airbase Rd. 15-5, Big Spring
Christine Henderson, 420 N. El Paso
Juanita Hernandez, 1502 Bluebird, Big Spring
Scott Herrera, 4608 Ash St, Big Spring
Billy Dean Hill, 7117 Alissa, Rowlett, Texas
Johnny R. Hill, 704 San Antonio, Big Spring
Kaleb Hill, 910 Baylor, Big Spring

Shatiya Lasha Jenkins, 4590 N Texas #198 Odessa
David Kelley, P.O. Box 724, Salado
Joni D. Kelly, 3050 Co. Rd 139, Colorado
Renola S. Kelly, 4503 LA Salle Circle, Colorado City
Kimberly Jo Kennemur, 120 Hooser Rd., Big Spring
Cynthia Lee Kent, Moved to Newport News, Virginia
Kayle R. Lane, P.O. Box 83965, Waco
Rafael Lemus, 1804 Mittell, Big Spring
Jesse Paul Lopez, 101 Scurry St., Big Spring
Ruben Lopez Jr., 107 Milburn St., Snyder, Texas
Clifford G. Lowe, 501 Circle, Big Spring
Patricia D. Lyons, 7502 Interstate 27 number A, Lubbock

Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham Ave., Odessa
Bruce Edward Mallard, P.O. Box 3265 504 Westover Big Spring
Barbara A. Marshall, P.O. Box 1065, Deming, New Mexico
James Martinez, P.O. Box 269, Ft. Davis
Rene N. Martinez, 8618 Serene Ridge, Big Spring Texas

Victoria Josephine Martinez, 323 S. Main St., Lorraine
Karen McCalister, 5925 Raton Ln. number 154, Ft Worth
O'Neal McClain, 911 17th St., Snyder
Diana McCool, 504 Donley, Big Spring
Ethel Laverne McVae, 4202 Parkway Rd., Big Spring Texas
Heriberto Palafox Mora, 1311 Mobile St., Big Spring
Felicia Ornelas, 538 Westover Rd.
Dana Kay Peach, 1806 N 13th, Lamesa
Nicole Preston, 1605 E 11th place, Big Spring
Jacquelin Dannon Ramey, 1404 E 6th St. Big Spring

See RECORDS, Page 4B

AAA Texas: Statewide gas prices average rises after Thanksgiving holiday

Special to the Herald

AAA of Texas

The statewide gas price average in Texas is \$1.85 for a gallon of regular unleaded fuel, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch. That price is five cents more than on this day last week and is 38 cents less per gallon compared to this day last year. Of the major metropolitan areas surveyed in Texas, drivers in Odessa are paying the most on average at \$2.09 while drivers in the Sherman-Denison area are paying the least at \$1.74 per gallon. The national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded is \$2.16, which is four cents more when compared to this day last week and 43 cents less than the price per gallon at this same time last year.

After filling up with the cheapest gas on Thanksgiving Day in 12 years, AAA Texas is tracking an increase in prices at the pump since last week. Recently, crude oil prices rose on positive news related to the progress of COVID-19 vaccines, globally. Rising crude prices are likely contributing to the modest increase in retail gas prices. However, overall U.S. demand for gas sunk to its lowest level since mid-June and regionally supplies increased.

"The statewide average increased from last week even as demand fell across the country," said AAA Texas spokesperson Daniel Armbruster. "Even as prices at the pump jumped week-to-week, Texans are still paying far less than this time last year."

Drivers in Texas are paying some of the cheapest prices at the pump, ranking 3rd lowest in the country, according to gasprices.aaa.com.

Prices up to date at press time using market prices posted at 3:41 a.m. Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free and revamped AAA App for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route and learn traffic conditions along that route, find discounts, locate parking, book a hotel and request and track AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at www.AAA.com/mobile.

To help members and non-members identify quality auto repair shops that can assist in the maintenance and repair of their vehicles, AAA offers the Approved Auto Repair program as a free public service. AAA-approved repair facilities meet and maintain high professional standards for training, equipment, cleanliness and customer service. Motorists can look for the Approved Auto Repair sign at local auto repair facilities, or search for a nearby AAA-approved shop online at AAA.com/Repair.

AAA Texas branch offices throughout the state can be found by visiting www.AAA.com. Follow AAA Texas on Twitter: @AAATexas and Facebook: www.facebook.com/AAATexas.

Christmas tree farms report good quality and demand despite challenging growing season

Texas AgrifLife

Special to the Herald

Texas Christmas tree growers experienced a challenging growing season, but a good holiday season market is making any additional effort and expense worth it for many.

Greg Grant, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service horticulture agent, Smith County, said 2020 has been a challenging season for many agriculture industries and businesses due to weather and COVID-19. But Christmas tree farms and nurseries in general have been a bright spot for Texas.

There were concerns about how the pandemic might affect tree farms, but indications are that the season is providing good market conditions for Texas producers, he said.

"It was an odd year horticulturally speaking with a normal spring, decent summer and an atypically dry fall, so it's good that the trees – the Leyland cypress and Virginian pines that are grown locally – fared relatively well," he said. "And the concerns about whether people would just stay home and put up a plastic tree this year seem to be subsiding as consumers have shown they want live trees and want to get out and have a traditional holiday experience with their families."

Christmas trees and holiday experiences

Bob Jones, owner of Spring Creek Growers in Magnolia, said demand for Texas-grown Christmas trees is very strong overall. COVID-19 has required increased expenses and logistical complications for his operation, but it has also increased customer traffic and demand for "choose and cut" trees.

"We've implemented all the sanitation, social distancing and safety measures, including curbside pickup, to make our customers comfortable, but what we're seeing and hearing is that people are tired of being cooped up and they are looking for activities outdoors."

Jones said customer visits to his operation, which also includes cut trees – Fraser firs from North Carolina and Noble and Nordmann firs from Washington, a holiday setting for family gatherings and photos, a bakery and hayrides, have picked up throughout the week.

Tree prices increased minimally to help offset some of the added expenses, but Jones said they are competitive with other suburban areas around the state. "Choose and cut" trees, those picked out and then cut down by the customer as a holiday family experience, start around \$60-\$65 with prices increasing according to height, and cut trees from out of state start at \$80-\$90.

"Slight price increases were likely similar around the state, either based on tighter supplies of shipped trees and very strong demand or to absorb costs associated with the pandemic," he said. "Prices might have gone up a little more in bigger markets, but I think most producers are sensitive to the fact many families may have other spending priorities this year."

See **CROP**, Page 10B

GAS

Continued from Page 3B

San Antonio- \$1.63/g, down 0.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$1.64/g.

Austin- \$1.68/g, unchanged from last week's \$1.68/g.

"As the nation saw subdued traffic for Thanksgiving, gas prices have been mostly stable in the last week as gasoline demand plummeted to the lowest

since spring as Americans stayed closer to home," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "With oil holding near a pandemic high around \$45 per barrel, we may see additional upward pressure in the weeks ahead, but it's unlikely to be earth shattering. We're likely to remain in somewhat of a limbo until early 2021 or vaccines begin to see widespread distribution and Americans slowly start venturing back to their normal lifestyle- if they ever do."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. Unlike AAA's once daily survey covering credit card transactions at 100,000 stations and the Lundberg Survey, updated once every two weeks based on 7,000 gas stations, GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

RECORDS

Continued from Page 3B

Gilbert P. Ramirez, 1614 Settles, Big Spring
Byron Roberts, 2206 Alabama St Big Spring
Michael Robinson, 801 Anne St., Big Spring
Veronica Romero, 103 Becker Rd., Big Spring
Yuri Lozano Rubio, 421 Cedar, P.O. Box 173, Colorado City
Polly Ann Rusk, 4201 W Hwy 80, Big Spring
Elizabeth Salazar, 1808 Hearn, Big Spring, Texas
Shane Skaggs, 1 Courtney Place, Apt. 301, Big Spring
Derrick Dewayne Smith, 703 West 16th, San Angelo, Texas
Leon Torres, 1500 Lincoln, Big Spring
Michael Ray Watson, 1503 Tucson Rd., Big Spring
Tamara Ruth Whitt, 1909 Morrison, 2526 Fairchild, Big Spring
Jamie Wiggins, 1905 Wasson Rd., Apt. #28, Big Spring

Marriage Licenses:

Bradly Scott Slade, 24, and Claire Deanne Walker, 23, both of Big Spring.
Adolio Alaniz, 70, and Lydia Diaz Infante, 74, both of Lamesa.
Arturo Molina Jr., 46, and Monica Gomez, 50, both of Midland.
David Matthew Rodriguez, 32, and Marisa Danielle Mendoza, 30, both of Big Spring.

County Court Rulings

(Note: The State of Texas is listed as the prosecutor in all County Court Rulings.)

Defendant: Shawn Carr II
Offense: Driving while intoxicated
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$270 court costs, \$60 reimbursement fee; 30 days.

Defendant: Kevin Payton
Offense: Assault causes bodily injury family member
Sentence: \$100 fine; \$270 court costs; \$110 reimbursement fee; time served.

Defendant: Gabriel Hernandez
Offense: Evading Arrest
Sentence: \$100 fine; \$270 court costs; \$60 reimbursement fee; time served.

Defendant: Gabriel Hernandez
Offense: Theft of property between \$100 and \$750 shoplifting
Sentence: \$100 fine; \$270 court costs; \$100 reimbursement fee; time served.

Defendant: Sackie Brito Jr.
Offense: Criminal mischief between \$750 and \$2,500
Sentence: \$100 fine; \$270 court costs; \$70 reim-

bursement fee; time served

Defendant: Sackie Brito Jr.
Offense: Resist arrest
Sentence: \$100 fine; \$270 court costs; \$70 reimbursement fee; time served.

Defendant: Juan Martinez
Offense: Fail to identify fugitive from justice
Sentence: \$100 fine; \$270 court costs; \$70 reimbursement fee; time served.

Defendant: Erik Qualls
Offense: Criminal trespass
Sentence: \$100 fine; \$270 court costs; \$110 reimbursement fee; time served.

Defendant: Erik Qualls
Offense: Terroristic threat - family
Sentence: \$100 fine; \$270 court costs; \$60 reimbursement fee; time served.

District Court Filings

Plaintiff: Navigator Oil & Minerals, Inc. et al
Defendant: Ricky Yabarra, as Trustee of David G. Putnam Trust date 4/5/1984, et al.
Type of Case: Civil Case - Other
Date: November 30, 2020

Plaintiff: Bena Damgaard

Defendant: Travis Damgaard
Type of Case: Divorce - Children
Date: December 1, 2020

Plaintiff: PCA Acquisitions V, LLC
Defendant: Ricky Lee Aldridge
Type of Case: Contract - Consumer/Commercial/Debt
Date: December 1, 2020

Plaintiff: Jessica Kay Soto A/N/F Emily Nicole Fortenberry
Defendant: Andrew Ray Faz
Type of Case: Protective Order - No Divorce
Date: December 1, 2020

Plaintiff: William Tilley
Defendant: Maria Tilley
Type of Case: Divorce - Children
Date: December 1, 2020

Plaintiff: Malouf Intrests, Inc.
Defendant: Lexington Insurance Company
Type of Case: Contract - Consumer/Commercial/Debt
Date: December 1, 2020

Plaintiff: Eliopoldo Cazares-Nieves
Defendant: AES Drilling Fluids, LLC and Larry Clinton
Type of Case: Injury/Damage - Motor Vehicles
Date: December 2, 2020

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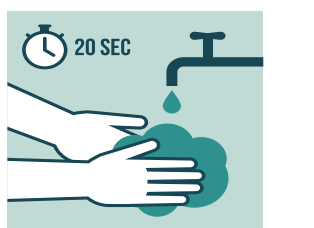
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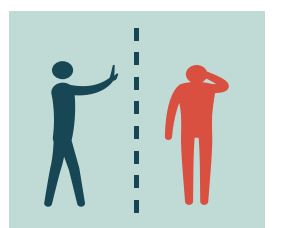
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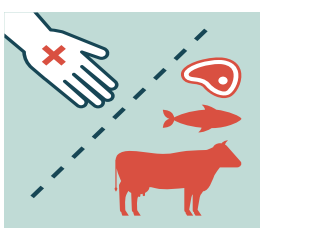
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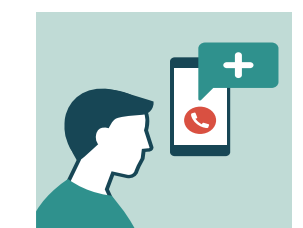
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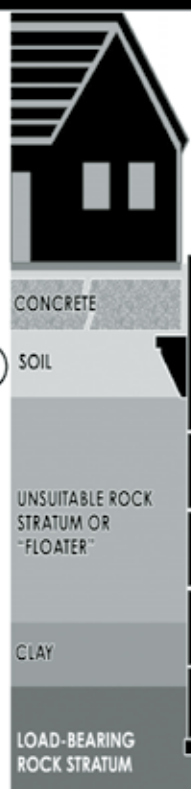
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Annie's Mailbox

Shower Her With Gratitude

Dear Annie: My girlfriend has done a lot for my family and me, but they show little enthusiasm for her. How can I get them to appreciate her more and to reciprocate what she has done? I live in fear of them attacking her or being cynical about romance itself.

She has helped me to get a raise, helped me get a job, written letters to my family, gotten me a huge discount on rent, given my family free food and done other great things. -- Lazy

and Ungrateful In-laws

Dear Lazy and Ungrateful In-Laws: Your girlfriend sounds wonderful and very generous with both her time and finances. Congrats on finding what sounds like a keeper.

As far as your ungrateful parents are concerned, you should speak with them directly and express your concerns. If they continue to be ungrateful, then it might be time to pull back on your girlfriend's generosity. Instead of focusing on your parents, try and focus on your gratitude

toward her. I can feel your love and appreciation through this letter.

Let go of your expectations of your parents and spoil her. Take her out to a nice dinner (or, since we're still in lockdown times, cook her a nice dinner), or surprise her with flowers. Just something to tell her you love and appreciate her.

Dear Annie: I have been married for 24 years, and I found out in August that my wife has been involved in an affair since last January. I found out by going through her

text messages and confronted her about it. She admitted to it but said that it has not gotten more physical than kissing. Now we are separated because she wouldn't end it, but I still love her.

I am alone now, and she, of course, is still in her relationship outside our marriage, but I would really love to have my family back together. She said that the reason she did it is because she just doesn't love me that way anymore. I am so confused how someone can give up on a marriage that they have

been in for half of their life. I have my faults, but I am certainly a good man and have sacrificed so much for my family.

She has agreed to go out to dinner with me, and I am so nervous and excited that I don't even know what to talk about at dinner. Any advice as to what to do? -- Alone and Confused

Dear Alone and Confused: I am so sorry you are going through this. It is understandable that you still love her. When you have dinner with her, ask if she would be

open to going to marriage counseling to try to save your marriage.

If she says no and that she wants to stay in her affair, it is time for you to walk away. Seek the help of a professional therapist for yourself. You sound like a wonderful, thoughtful and loving man with a great deal to offer. I have no doubt you will either rekindle with your wife or find true love with someone else.

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

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kids' corner

PEOPLE FACT!

THE AVERAGE PERSON SPENDS MORE THAN \$800 ON THESE EACH DECEMBER.

ANSWER: CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Shopping Word Find

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

BIRTHDAY	PURCHASE	SALE
CLOTHING	REGISTER	SHOPPING
GIFTS	RETAIL	STORE
HOLIDAY	RETURN	TOYS

N K M I S B P R R P S Y
M Z H T E H A R E R K A
Q I O W L U E V T U Q D
G R E R A T O S U W B H
E N L E S A H C R U P T
R G I I B O C A N X J R
R E G H P Z S T F I G I
S E T P T D F S J R T B
R Y I A H O L I D A Y V
E N O B I T L Q L L Y E
G T A T D L Z C J I B Z
H Z E Y D Q T W M E K C

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

E O N - D Y A L A E S

ANSWER: One-day sale

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1783: U.S. GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON BIDS FAREWELL TO HIS OFFICERS AT FRAUNCES TAVERN IN NEW YORK CITY.
- 1881: THE FIRST EDITION OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES IS PUBLISHED.
- 1954: THE FIRST BURGER KING IS OPENED IN MIAMI, FLORIDA.



TRANSACTION

an instance of buying or selling something

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Error prevention

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 9 2
♥ K J 7 3 2
♦ K J 8 4
♣ 9 6
WEST EAST
♠ 8 6 4 3 ♠ A 5
♥ 5 ♥ Q 10 4
♦ A 9 2 ♦ Q 10 7 6 3
♣ J 10 7 4 ♣ A 5 2
SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 7
♥ A 9 8 6
♦ 5
♣ K 8 3

king and wound up making four hearts, losing only a spade, a heart and a club.
East berated his partner for not putting up the ace when the diamond was led. West defended himself by contending that South might have held two diamonds instead of only one, in which case rushing up with the ace could have handed declarer the contract.
In fact, East was at least as much at fault as West. East could see three sure defensive tricks in his hand, and so needed to find West with one trick, most likely to be the king of spades, the ace of hearts or the ace of diamonds.
East should therefore have shifted to a diamond at trick two to head off a possible mistake by West. The diamond return by East could do no harm if South had the ace, but could do a great deal of good if West had the ace.
The secret of good defensive play lies not only in avoiding mistakes yourself, but also in attempting to minimize the chance of your partner making a mistake. Good defense is usually a matter of close partnership cooperation, and the diamond return by East at trick two certainly falls under that heading on this deal.

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 1NT Pass
2♥ Pass 4♥
Opening lead — queen of clubs.
Assume you're East and that partner leads the queen of clubs against South's four-heart contract. You win with the ace, and the question is what to return at trick two.
When the deal occurred, East returned the five of clubs. South won with the king and led a diamond toward dummy at trick three. West followed low, hoping declarer would misguess and play the jack from dummy. But South went up with the

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Receipt
SPANISH: Recibo
ITALIAN: Ricevuta
FRENCH: Reçu
GERMAN: Kassenzettel

Did you know?

WHEN SHOPPING FOR GIFTS FOR CHILDREN, IT IS WISE TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE SUGGESTED AGES ON THE PRODUCT PACKAGING. THIS HELPS ENSURE SAFETY.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: LAPTOP KEYBOARD

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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!

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

ANSWER:

YOUR NUMBERS COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

Lowering your high blood pressure could save you from a heart attack or stroke. If you've stopped your treatment plan, restart it or talk to your doctor about creating one that works better for you.

Start taking the right steps at ManageYourBorg

JODI, heart attack and stroke survivor.

ad COUNCIL
American Heart Association
AMA

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Moon Goes Quincunx Happy

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As proven by Sylvester and Tweety, where natural enemies meet, there are endless possibilities for entertainment. There will be no need to take sides today, but do stand ready to intervene.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Action geared toward creating stability down the line is favored. Think into the future. What could you start now that would grow to serve you in bigger and more beautiful ways?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll decide on what standards you need to meet, and you're really the only one whose opinion matters here. Others may expect or even pay for things, but ultimately, you are the boss of you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). While it's nice to be complimented -- awarded, even -- it's of no benefit unless it comes with opportunity. It's the

opportunities that give you a chance to build, create and contribute. Make it known; that's what you're after.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be making choices having to do with your personal expression and projection. Style is tricky and personal. What's natural to one person is pretentious to the next. A controlled stretch is better than an impulsive reach.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Those who care to receive the approval of a leader will compete for favoritism and position. Steer clear of such games. Focus on doing work that could make you indispensable, not just in this group but in any group.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To rely on someone is to be susceptible to their control. You'll find a partnership in which you can work together for the greater good, neither party needing the relationship too much and both benefiting from it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Today, you respond well to the rules you make for yourself. You have greater powers of self-control at your disposal, in part because certain aspects of your process are starting to become automatic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It is dangerous to allow yourself to sail on the winds of compliments or fly on the uplift of accolades. If you can't deflect, accept graciously, and then put it up on a high shelf. It has nothing to do with the work at hand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll solve a problem and gain followers. People who are confused are

By HOLIDAY MATHIS easily led. You won't take advantage. You'll do some



high-level thinking about how to avoid a co-dependent dynamic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Power dynamics get worked out. Relax; don't compete. There's nothing to prove. You walk with confidence as the commander of yourself, not with arrogance as the commander of the whole world.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The beauty in having limited experience in an area is that the early experiences glow with specialness. There's nothing to compare that would tell you

otherwise. You'll move quickly through this phase, so enjoy it while it lasts.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 6). You'll grow in power and defend against the abuse of it. It will feel wonderful to do for yourself what you long ago wished someone else would have done for you. Furthermore, you'll get to pay it forward. You'll create a presentation of sorts, and it will bring you money and other resources needed to launch a new venture. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 6, 44, 12 and 20.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: This week brings the final solar trine of the year, involving the Sagittarius sun with the vigor of Mars in Aries. Sagittarius fire-sign energy is a bow drawn back and ready to send the arrow soaring. Mars in Aries is a cavalry charge. The triangulation offers no resistance. So, what is it you would wage war on?

The enemies of injustice, hatred and

greed are ever present in the world, though the plan of attack is tricky. Perhaps the world's evils are better to target within the confines of one's own being. We tend to be most bothered by what we have, at least to some degree, inside of ourselves. To challenge those qualities, question our beliefs and behaviors, and generally keep ourselves in check is to harness the harmonious potential of this week's aspects.

This is also the last full week of Venus in Scorpio and prime time to engage in the art of seduction. Whether you are trying to reel in customers, attract friends and followers, or design a romantic strategy, Venus in Scorpio lends an instinct for pacing as well as hints for a successful approach. This is an excellent week to let space and silence do the work for you. Absence can be highly alluring. Let them miss you and fill in the blanks with their fantasies.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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Bacon makes meals even better

Some people may argue that bacon should be its own food group. Bacon has the potential to improve any recipe with its salty, addictive flavor, but it is equally delicious all on its own. It's found in breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Those who have tried chocolate-covered bacon also may insist that bacon holds its own as a dessert.

Bacon is a salt-cured pork product that is made from pork belly or less fatty back cuts. Just as there are many different ways to incorporate bacon into favorite dishes, there are several methods to preparing the food, including in a fryer, on the stovetop, in a microwave, or in the oven. While each chef has his or her preferences, oven cooking may produce the most consistent results.

According to The Spruce: Eats, bacon is fatty so it needs to be cooked slowly at a low

temperature so that most of the fat renders away while leaving the finished product crispy and golden brown. To achieve this most easily, arrange bacon slices on a sheet pan and place in the center rack of a cold oven.

Close the door and turn the oven on to 400 F. Check the bacon after 17 to 20 minutes. The bacon is done when it is golden brown but not excessively crisp. Cooking time will vary depending on the thickness of the bacon slices and how quickly the oven reaches temperature. Remove the sheet pan and transfer the bacon to a plate lined with paper towels to absorb any fat. Cooking bacon in this manner also enables home chefs to prepare a greater amount of bacon at one time, which can be beneficial when feeding a hungry crowd.

When you have a batch of bacon, transform it into any number of different recipes, including as a variation on the classic BLT sandwich. Enjoy "BLT

Bites" from Home Made Interest, a food and entertaining blog. It's great as an appetizer for the holidays, or for mouth-sized morsels while watching a sports game.

BLT Bites
Makes 12 servings

12 crackers, such as RITZ®

1 cup spring mix salad

4 slices cooked bacon

4 grape tomatoes, sliced

3 teaspoons mayonnaise

1. Cut the bacon into 1-inch squares.

2. Chop salad mix into small pieces and mix with mayonnaise.

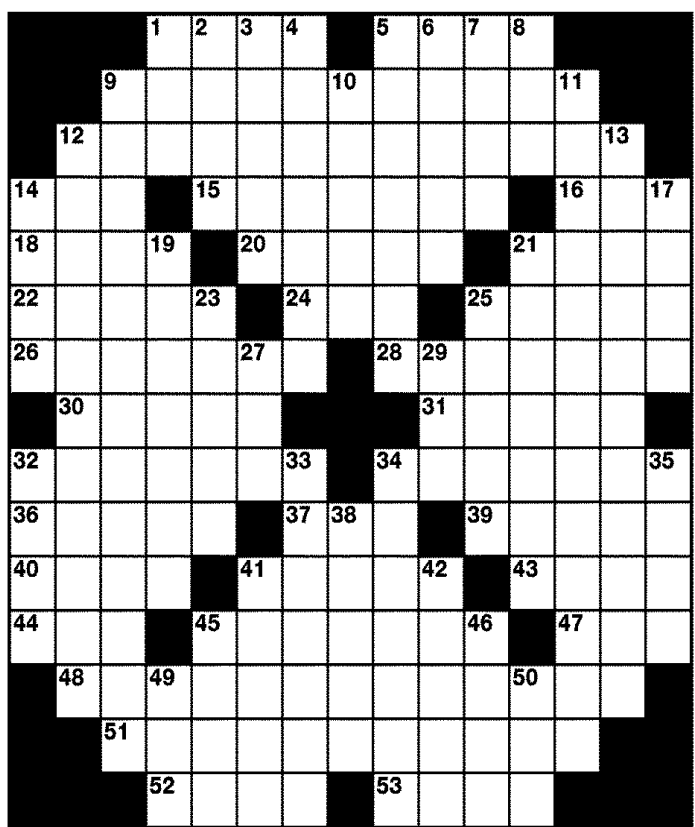
3. Scoop a teaspoon of salad on each cracker and place a piece of bacon on top.

4. Top with a slice of grape tomato.

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Anna Stiga
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Trident resemblers
 - 5 Limelike
 - 9 View from Armenia's capital
 - 12 It's unmatched in Old Maid
 - 14 House trailer
 - 15 Destructive contingent
 - 16 Iliad mischief maker
 - 18 Absorbs fully
 - 20 Barack selection of 2010
 - 21 Nissan's sportiest
 - 22 Overworked
 - 24 What Israel became, in George's family
 - 25 A Bemstein successor at the New York Philharmonic
 - 26 Mission assistant
 - 28 New homeowners, usually
 - 30 Sandwiches since the 1600s
 - 31 Pants are sold in them
 - 32 Joan of Arc museum city
 - 34 Another name for the "world's lowest point"
 - 36 Legendary
 - 37 Certain seed
 - 39 Certain seedy place
 - 40 Collector's item
 - 41 They're chosen in schoolyards
 - 43 It can tum on Whirlpool washers
 - 44 Appraisal abbr.
- DOWN**
- 1 Whom Emerson called "the jingle-man"
 - 2 One hoping for damages
 - 3 Common concavity
 - 4 Film noir stock character
 - 5 Source of resources
 - 6 Six-Oscar director/producer (1933-1946)
 - 7 Destinations for many contributions
 - 8 Household name
 - 9 Impressively versatile
 - 10 ___ hours
 - 11 Youngsters' support group
 - 12 Performer's brief pause
 - 13 Agent's quest
 - 14 Staple of Polish vegetable salads
 - 17 Historian's study
 - 19 Can't look away from
 - 21 High points in the sky
 - 23 Word from the French for "burst out"
 - 25 Board
 - 27 Seller of Bike USA, KitchenHQ, etc.
 - 29 It has a head and hops
 - 32 Puss in Boots villain
 - 33 Things to lift
 - 34 Distinguished
 - 35 Allied
 - 38 In other words
 - 41 Constitution's last Article
 - 42 Did great
 - 45 Sandwich seller
 - 46 Recognizing
 - 49 Lower ___
 - 50 Single letter on pet adoption papers



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/5/20

Answer to previous puzzle

L	A	S	I	K	B	E	C	H	B	O	W	L
O	U	T	R	E	U	R	S	A	A	L	O	E
T	R	A	I	N	D	R	A	I	N	D	R	A
S	A	I	S	Y	E	S	A	B	A	Y	I	S
A	N	A	P	A	M	E						
D	R	O	W	N	G	R	O	W	S			
J	A	M	E	S	T	A	T	B	O	W		
I	D	E	D	G	R	O	S	S	C	A	R	A
N	A	G	M	U	M	S	A	M	M			
G	R	A	S	S	C	R	A	S	S	C	L	A
T	I	S	C	I	A	O						
A	F	L	A	T	E	P	O	C	H	A	L	
C	L	A	N	S	P	L	A	N	S	P	L	A
R	A	Z	Z	E	S	P	N	U	I	N	T	A
E	N	Y	A	T	U	B	A	P	O	K	E	D

12/5/20

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Ages 3-6



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Ages 7-12

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COLORING CONTEST RULES



1. Contest open to children ages 3-12
2. Limit one contest submission per person
3. Contest entries may be completed using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
4. Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but NOT in coloring pictures.
5. All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 5 pm on Monday, December 14, 2020. Winners will be published in the Sunday, December 20, 2020 edition.
7. Decision of judges is final.
8. Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
9. All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

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Reader's Corner

Postscript: Big, ridiculous goal

My friend, Anita, is felting up a storm. Philip is cooking something new and posting a photo of it every day. Megan is reading Shakespeare on video, Jason is doing woodwork projects, Tom and Mary and Katie are sewing thousands of masks, and Peggy is studying Spanish, German, and Latin—all at once. Then there are the folks who are just trying to make it through the week, working jobs that demand more and more of them every day.



Carrie Classon

There is no right way to do this.

I decided to participate in NaNoWriMo—which stands for “National Novel Writing Month” and is held every year in November. November is a month when I am usually much too busy traveling and visiting family to commit

to writing 50,000 words in 30 days—which is what NaNoWriMo is all about.

Except this year, I was not going anywhere. So, I thought, “Why not?”

There are a lot of good reasons why not, the biggest one being that, in order to “win” a person needs to write 1,667 words seven days a week—if they don’t take a day off on Thanksgiving.

While 1,667 words may not be an impossible number of words to write in one day, it is a heck of a lot of words to write every day.

“Why are you making your life more stressful?” my husband, Peter, asked.

I knew he had a point. But I thought it would be fun because I figured, this year more than any other, there would be a lot of interesting people doing it. And I was right.

NaNoWriMo encourages writers to strike up friendships with the more than 300,000 participants. The “National” is not quite accurate;

there are people writing from all over the world. Everyone I met online had a story—how they were working from home, or their business was closed, or they were going to be doing something else that was canceled. There was a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and encouragement and positive energy.

This year in particular, having this big goal gave a bit of structure to my life that seemed to be lacking. It provided a reason to stretch in a year where just getting by often feels like more than enough. It noted the passing of the days and gave me a badge for showing up and writing—first one week, then another—until I made it to the end.

Most importantly, it connected me to others.

And right now, that is what I am missing more than anything. Encouraging a writer in England whose B&B is closed to get her words written, providing sympathy to a writer who is struggling with her novel while caring for her elderly mother, having a writer in Hawaii say he found my writing funny—these were the connections that made this big, ridiculous goal worthwhile. These connections made the goal irrelevant.

Of course, not all the writers finished. Some got called back into work. Some simply became overwhelmed by day-to-day life. There is no right way to do NaNoWriMo either.

We all had an adventure. We did something that made a shrinking world feel a little bigger. We might even have written a few good words in there, somewhere.

In the end, I did write 50,000 words. I don’t know if I’ll ever participate in NaNoWriMo again; I’m writing most of the time anyway.

But I’m glad I did it this year. When I hit 50,000 words, I had a reason to celebrate.

Right now, I think we’re all looking for reasons to celebrate.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

Reader's Corner

Faith

Every morning before I go out to test my line of cars filled with children sick from the virus I find myself reading a book I have never read cover to cover.

I ran across a passage in Hebrews 11:1 that says “Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.”



Dr. Joseph Chavez

When I walk through the hospital and see the faces of our medical staff heroes or hear them speak, it feels like this pandemic will never end. As we enter the holidays I believe that faith is what we have to hang to.

It is something to believe in. I believe that there will be a day when we can take off the mask and not worry about becoming sick or making some else sick.

I believe that even with this “new normal” that there will be something to be thankful for in thanksgiving and something to give on Christmas morning.

I have faith that there are people who can still smile under that mask. There are people who still hold the door open for you as you are coming to work or just to shop.

The holiday spirit lives in everyone that desires to have it. I believe that having faith that this spirit is in you helps you accept that gift of life that is so fleeting and can be taken from you at any time.

Whether you are alone for thanksgiving and/or Christmas or with family will not matter.

If you accept life’s gift and are thankful and grateful that you are alive even for today, you will be fulfilled.

You see the purpose is to live life with our given potential and to take care and be kind and just maybe love one another, and please remember to smile and laugh.

The last thing you should do over the holidays is dream and hope.

Please remember that in a blink of an eye life can be over, so have faith that there will be another day full of life’s gift.

CROP

Continued from Page 4B

Christmas tree quality, challenges

Jones said tree quality was good this year, but that the growing season was challenging due to drought. August was especially difficult as dry conditions required intense moisture monitoring on the farm.

“We went into a flash drought where it turned very hot and dry very quickly, and August is when the trees typically get their first flush that we follow with a trimming in September, and then trees typically respond with another flush where they really fill out nicely,” he said. “So, we were pouring water 24/7 to keep them hydrated through those flushes.”

Jones said disease pressure was minimal this year, but that he maintained his proactive integrated pest management program throughout the season to monitor and avoid any potential problems. Leyland cypress trees can be susceptible to a fungus, seiridium canker, but there were few issues this season.

Overall, despite some challenging weather, the 2020 holiday season should be good for many Christmas tree farms, especially those that provide an array of outdoor activities related to the holiday season.

“There’s really not much competition for time this year,” he said. “People aren’t traveling, not taking their typical trips, so they are hungry to get out and do something, especially families with kids.”

Tree care at home

Grant said there are a few things consumers can do to extend the life of their Christmas tree.

Providing water to any fresh-cut tree as soon as possible is an important first step, he said. He also recommends trimming the base of pre-cut trees to allow the tree to better absorb

water before and after it is placed in the home.

“I would recommend placing the tree in a bucket with plenty of water as soon as you arrive home and let it soak up as much moisture as it can overnight,” he said.

“Then place the tree and fill the stand’s reservoir and monitor the reservoir and add water as needed. A lot of people put water in the reservoir as soon as they get home, but then they have a tree skirt and presents around it and forget about additional water. But proper watering will extend its life and help reduce the chances of having a brittle tree or dropping needles, and a potential fire hazard.”

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

CENTRAL

Rain and cooler temperatures arrived late in the reporting period. Cattle producers provided supplemental feed in most areas. Livestock were in good condition. Recent rains brought much-needed moisture to help later-planted wheat. Cornfields were slowly being cultivated and amended. Stock tanks were low. Winter wheat stands were patchy, reflecting variable germination. Some growers were changing planting plans from winter wheat to spring sorghum. The weather outlook for December was drier and warmer than normal. The weather was good for pecan harvest with good quality and yields.

COASTAL BEND

Some very needed rain fell across the district over Thanksgiving weekend with totals averaging 2-3.5 inches and isolated reports of

5-8 inches in Calhoun and Wharton counties. The added moisture was absorbed quickly and should help winter pastures, planted wheat and future plantings.

Some producers were fertilizing. Some hay was still being baled. Cattle producers increased supplemental feeding following the wet cold snap. Local livestock auctions reported large runs of cattle. Pecan harvest continued with good yields and quality.

FAR WEST

Temperature highs were in the low 80s with lows in the upper 30s. Half an inch of rainfall was reported in northeastern parts of the district. The ground was still very dry with almost no topsoil moisture and very little subsoil moisture. Producers were fighting off African rue, prickly pear and mesquite. Rangeland, pasture and winter wheat conditions were very poor. Some winter wheat fields had not emerged. Livestock were being supplemented with feed.

WEST CENTRAL

Conditions remained dry for most of the district. Some areas received up to 1 inch of rainfall, but not enough for any substantial change. Planted wheat had not emerged due to dry soil, and wheat that had emerged was not doing well. Livestock were being fed hay and supplements pretty heavily to keep body condition scores up. Cotton harvest was winding down with about 75% of fields harvested.

SOUTHWEST

Dry conditions continued until a cold front delivered trace amounts

to 1.5 inches of rain across the district. Rains should help oat and wheat fields that had not yet emerged. A hard freeze was in the forecast. Rangeland and pasture conditions should improve following the rains. Livestock were in fair condition. Livestock producers continued to provide heavy amounts of supplemental feed. Culling and premature weaning of calves were standard practices for all producers. Local hunters said deer were in fair shape and staying around feeders, as there was little to no green browse available.

SOUTH

Most areas reported short to very short soil moisture. Northern and southern parts of the district reported adequate soil moisture conditions. La Salle County reported 1-1.5 inches of rainfall. Jim Wells reported 0.5 inch of rain and Kleberg-Kennedy counties reported up to 1 inch.

The first freeze was in the forecast with lows of 30 degrees expected. Temperatures were warm and cooled at the end of the reporting period. Peanut harvest neared completion with some late-planted fields to go. Wheat fields continued to develop. Pasture and rangeland conditions were poor, but rainfall should help. Livestock supplemental feeding continued. Pasture and rangeland conditions continued to decline in drier areas, and supplemental feeding increased.

Hidalgo County producers performed tillage practices and weed control should be next. Sugarcane and citrus harvests continued. A few canola fields were blooming. Winter vegetables looked good. Some hay baling operations continued.



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