

BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY EDITION,
 DECEMBER 16, 2020

The Law Offices Of
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BigSpringLaw.com
 1301 S. Gregg St. • (432) 264-1800

VOLUME 116, NUMBER 74

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75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION



Forsan Buffalo Band brings home 2nd Place from State Competition



By AMANDA DUFORAT
 Managing Editor

The Alamodome was rocking Monday for the UIL State Marching Band Competition. Two local bands – Forsan Buffalo Band and Big Spring Pride Drive – competed in the State Competition held in San Antonio on Monday. The Buffalo Band earned a Silver Medal and brought home a 2nd Place award.

“What an incredible accomplishment during unprecedented times,” Forsan ISD Superintendent Randy Johnson said.

The Forsan Band has traveled to the State Marching Competition for the past 12 years and each time is a unique experience. As the band traveled once again to the Alamodome, the experience was a unique one in that the competition was one of the few that has been able to take place since the pandemic started.

“We have been State Champions. We have been Silver Medalists, but we have also been outside the medals looking in many times,” Johnson said. “To break into the top three is huge and then when you consider the many interruptions that came due to COVID, it makes the accomplishment even more outstanding.”

See **BAND**, Page 3

Courtesy photo
Forsan Buffalo Band Directors and Drum Major hold up the 2nd Place Trophy at the Alamodome after Monday’s award ceremony.

Upcoming Events

Comanche Trail Festival of Lights is open until Dec. 25

Operation Love Letter is accepting letters to be distributed to area nursing home residents. Drop off locations are located throughout town.

City offices available by appointment or electronic communication only

Angel Trees are out in the community. Deadline: Dec. 15 for angel adoption.

Christmas Tree Forest is open at Heritage Museum. Open until Christmas

Wash your hands, wear a mask, social distance when possible. Slow the spread.

Share your community photos with us. E-mail editor@bigspringherald.com

City Council approves new \$65,000 software in special meeting Tuesday

By IRIS RANGEL
 Herald Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council met yesterday afternoon for a special meeting concerning the purchase of a new software and a possible increase to the General Fund Budget.

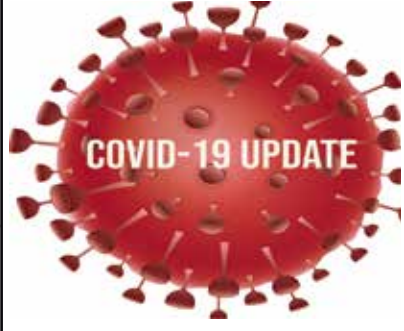
The meeting was called to order, and after taking a moment for public comment, Assistant City Manager John Medina moved into discussion with Council members on the possible purchase of Smartgov Software in an agreement with Dude Solutions.

According to Medina, the city currently uses several different softwares to cover various fields regarding the Code Enforcement Department. The Smartgov Software would allow for all of these functions to be integrated into one software and system. The new software would also allow citizens to submit permit and inspection requests virtually and allow code enforcers to submit complaints and letters through an online self-service portal, stated by Medina.

See **CITY**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Iris Rangel
City Council met in a special meeting Tuesday afternoon to discuss two items. The next meeting will take place in January 2021. The meeting was open to the public and viewable through live stream on Channel 17 or online at mybigspring.com.



Scenic Mountain Medical Center has reported:
 • 17 Covid-19 positive patients
 • 2 in ICU & 2 vents

SMMG & SMMC Testing through 12/15:
 • 2,261 tests
 • 605 positives for 26.5% positivity rate

For the month of December, 325 patients have tested of which 95 were positive for a rate of 27.7% positivity. 5 tests are pending.

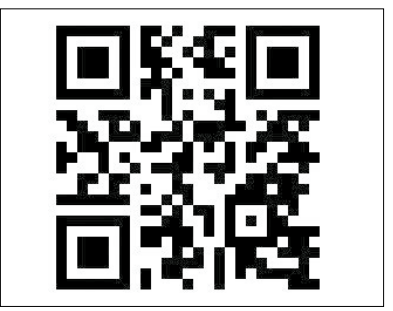
Howard County has reported:
 • 2,260 positive cases
 • 49 Covid-19 fatalities
 • 3,062 recoveries
 • 484 active cases
 1,335 probably cases

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

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 www.bigspringherald.com



Coahoma Board of Trustees to meet Thursday; Public hearing on TAPR and routine agenda set

By AMANDA DUFORAT
 Managing Editor

The Coahoma ISD Board of Trustees will convene for the last regular meeting of the year on Thursday, at 6 p.m. in the Elementary Board Room located at 400 Ramsey Street.

The meeting will begin with roll call and establish a quorum before the meeting is called to order and the opening ceremony commences.

There will be a moment for an open forum before the public hearing on the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) begins. This will allow an opportunity for the community to ask questions and address the Board regarding the report.

As part of the consent agenda the Board will look to approve minutes of previous meetings and budget amendments. There will also be consideration and possible approval of the Region 17 Education Service Center

2020-2021 West Texas Food Service Cooperative Interlocal Agreement.

The Board will also be looking to approve the Howard County Road and Bridge Department Interlocal Cooperation Contract.

An update will also be provided on annual required hours of continuing education for school board before heading into the information items. The Enrollment/ADA/WADA Report will be presented to the board as well as the November Tax Report, Financial Reports and board meeting dates.

Superintendent Brad Cox will present a Covid-19 update and virtual learning. There will also be updates provided regarding agriculture department updates and athletic department updates.

There will be an executive

session to discuss personnel before the meeting adjourns.

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

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Obituaries

Jan "Coach" East

Jan "Coach" East was born Nov. 28, 1945, in Center, Texas to Rufus Ermen East and Annie Ruth Presswood. He married Joan Elaine Walker on Feb. 18, 1971, in Garden City, Texas. He attended Stephen F. Austin University and graduated with his Bachelors of Science in 1969. He continued his education at Angelo State University and graduated with his teaching certificate in 1972. Jan taught and coached at Coahoma and Forsan for over 31 years.

Coach is survived by his wife, Elaine East; his sons Todd East and wife Lana, and Stephen East and wife Angela; his grandsons, Nathaniel East, Braden East and Grayson East; his granddaughters, Katie East and Brennan East; his great grandson, Kayden East; his sisters Barbara Guidry and husband Shelby, Liz East and wife Kelly Smith, Debbie

LaGrone and husband Killis; his mother in law, who he loved like his mother Faye Walker; and his sister in law, Sandra East.

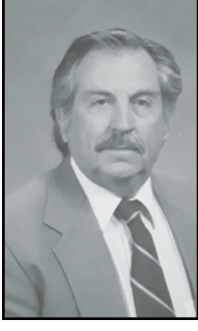
He was preceded in death by his parents, Rufus Ermen East and Annie Ruth Presswood; and his brothers, David East and Jon East.

The family request in lieu of flowers, donations to the Forsan ISD Scholarship Fund in Jan's name. Donations may be sent to P.O. BOX 689, Forsan, Texas 79733.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Paid Obituary

Charles S. Burks, Sr.



Charles S. Burks, Sr., 85, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020.

Viewing and visitation will be at Myers & Smith Funeral Home until 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020.

Graveside services will be at the Ackerly Cemetery at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020. Burial will be at the Ackerly Cemetery.

Charles was born on November

23, 1935 in Big Spring.

He is survived by five sons: Charlie Burks of Garden City, Tracy Burks of Richmond, Carlos White of Sugarland, James White of Lake Whitney, and Don White of La Grange; one daughter: Carla McCullough of Big Spring; and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one son: Wayne White; two brothers; and one sister.

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

Lenora Mancha



Lenora Mancha, 77, passed away Dec. 5, 2020.

She was preceded by her husband Ben Mancha; her parents, Delores Arellano and Manuel Chavez; and her sister.

She is survived by her son Bobby Mancha; daughters Melissa Mancha and Niemo Regalado; a brother Manuel Chavez, Jr.; sisters Victoria Marquez, Mary Kreitter, Yvonne Conrad; grandchildren; great-grandchildren.

Lenora was born April 19, 1943 in Midland, Texas

A memorial will be held at 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020, at Myers and Smith Funeral Home and Chapel.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home, Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Jennifer Lyn Carnahan

Heaven got a little more shiny, bright and colorful when Jennifer Lyn Carnahan passed away Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020, at 9 p.m. She was a literal picture of walking by faith and a hero to many people. She endured more than most, but didn't let it stop her from loving God and loving people. She would help anyone at any time.

She was born in Silverton, Texas, on Dec. 5, 1948. She retired from the Department of Health and Human Services after building a career around helping others in need. Her dream was to spend every moment possible camping in the mountains. She is survived by her husband, Patrick Carnahan, who adored her despite her endless home improvement projects. Her son-in-law and daughter, Dave and Stacey Park of Forsan who thought she was the best and "coolest" mom ever; son-in-law and daughter Shane and Jenny Sayles of Forsan, who became the shopping buddy she always wanted. Her perfect grandchildren were her domino playing, crafting, and movie watching buddies Dustin and Alexandria Fontana of Lubbock,

Ian Park, Walker Park and Nolan Park of Forsan, and Sydni Sayles also of Forsan. Her biggest fan was her big brother and sister-in-law Phillip and Darlaine Gibson of El Paso; nieces and nephews Gus and Kim Ortega, children, Meaghan and Sam of Odessa; Rob and Tasha Hopper, children Madison, Paige, and Bobby of El Paso; Christopher and son NESTA Gibson of California. She was preceded in death by her equally tough and inspiring daughter, Carrie Carnahan; mother and father, Billy and WillaDean Garrett, and sister, Kay Garrett.

Services will be at Trinity Baptist Church on Thursday, December 17th at 1 p.m. For those unable to attend, there will be a link provided on the Trinity Baptist YouTube page. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the most loving people of Home Hospice of Big Spring, 111 E 7th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16 NIV

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

Paid Obituary

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

• Celebrate Recovery meets at First United Methodist Church Youth Hall, 400 Scurry, from 6-8 p.m. Hurts, habits and hang-ups. Leave message for Joyce Webb at 325-212-860

THURSDAY

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

• Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

• Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 8900 block of E. Moss Lake Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of E. 11th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of E. 6th Street. No transport was required.

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

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of S. Highway 87 and McDonald Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 4400 block of Palm. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of E. 6th Street. No transport was required.

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

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Esperanza Correa

Esperanza Correa, 93, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Jesse Mince

Jesse Mince, 78, of Big Spring died Tuesday Dec. 15, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Patsy Watkins Cate

Patsy Watkins Cate, 66, of Big Spring passed away on Dec. 14, 2020.

At this time service date and times are pending. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **VIRGINIA DANLYN HALE**, 28, of 406 6th Street, Odonnell, Texas, was arrested on charges of public intoxication, possession of dangerous drug, and fail to identify giving false/fictitious information.

• **RONALD EDWARD WILKINS**, 53, of 1425 E. 6th Street, was arrested on a charge of assault causes bodily injury family member.

• **CLINTON JAY EPKE**, 41, of 101 Jonesboro Road, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **JASON C. RODRIGUEZ**, 28, of 7000 S. Service Road, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Birdwell Lane.

• **UNWANTED SUBJECT** was reported in the 7000 block of S. Service Road.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 2500 block of Wasson Road.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 1800 block of State Street.

• **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 3000 block of State Street.

• **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of Calvin and Laurie.

• **WELFARE CONCERN** was reported in the 3700 block of Wright Avenue.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 800 block of S. Owens Street.

• **WELFARE CONCERN** was reported in the 400 block of W. 6th Street.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1400 block of E. 6th Street, Forsan, Texas.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 92 inmates at the time of this report.

• **TROY DANIEL AUSTIN**, 34, was arrested by HCSO on charges of motion to revoke probation/possession of controlled substance penalty group one (less than one gram) and motion to adjudicate/possession of controlled substance penalty group one (less than one gram).

• **CLINTON JAY EPKE**, 41, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• **VIRGINIA LUCY HALE**, 28, was arrested by BSPD on charges of public intoxication, possession of dangerous drug, and fail to identify giving false/fictitious information.

• **JASON C. RODRIGUEZ**, 28, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• **RONALD EDWARD WILKINS**, 53, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of assault causes bodily injury family member.

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

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

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

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**MEMBER
2020**

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

CITY

Continued from Page 1

“It’s a very integrated system. This item will not only be paid by the CARES grant, but it will improve efficiency,” Medina said.

Public Works Director Shane Bowles also noted that there is a function in the software for both residents and the Code Enforcement Department to submit and view where in the process a permit or inspection request is.

Discussion was then held regarding annual maintenance fees for the new software by Council member Cody Hughes. According to Medina, there is an annual fee to utilize the software in the amount of \$24,480 per year for unlimited users and services. It was noted that there are also offsets and fees to turn off the current software and systems used by

the city.

“The efficiency that this program will bring to us will equal...a code officer and a half,” Bowles said.

There was some discussion regarding how long the process to would take to integrate the new system into the city where Medina stated that it would take approximately 10-12 months for the entire system to go live once approved.

Council member Cody Hughes moved to approve the purchase and Mayor Thomason seconded. The motion passed in a 3 to 1 vote, with Council member Nick Ornelas voting against.

“I’m not opposed to it, I just don’t think that it’s an emergency... it’s not life or death. I think that we had enough time to get it done... It should have been on the agenda. We had enough time to get it done,” Council member Nick Ornelas said.

Afterwards, Interim Finance Director Adam Czajkowski began conversation with the Council regarding an emergency reading for an increase to the General Fund Budget for the purchase of a new software system to assist the Code Enforcement Department and applying for reimbursement from the Coronavirus Relief Fund from the State of Texas CARES Act.

This increase would be in the amount of \$65,000.000 and would offer online permitting to reduce office visits by citizens, residents, and developers – saving time and promoting social distancing, according to Czajkowski.

Due to the pandemic, the state of Texas made funds available through the CARES grant for COVID-19 related expenses. The deadline for requests of reimbursement are Dec. 31, 2020, stated by Czajkowski.

“We have not had a single reimbursement denied yet. So, again, there’s no reason to believe that this request for reimbursement would not be approved,” Czajkowski said.

Once discussion was over, Council member Cody Hughes motioned to approve the increase to the General Fund Budget for the fiscal year beginning in Oct. 1, 2020 and ending in Sept. 30, 2021 in the amount of \$65,000.000. Mayor Thomason then seconded the motion, passing unanimously.

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

BAND

Continued from Page 1

The Forsan Band has had several opportunities to overcome since the onset of the pandemic, from a late start of band practice due to Covid, cancelled football games and limits placed on training opportunities, but despite the hurdles, the band was able to not only advance to State, but to bring home the Silver.

“I am super proud that our directors and students saw this process through, did not give up, and continued to improve their show in spite of the complications,” he said. “These students have learned lessons that they may not be aware of, but of those lessons of overcoming adversity, teamwork and creating a strong work ethic will pay off throughout their lives.”

In addition to placing 2nd in the State Competition, Forsan Band had two members were named to the All-Region Band during the weekend.

According to Band Director Veronica Tagle, this is the fifth time the Forsan Band has received a medal for being in the top three bands and the 12th time they have performed at the State Competition.

“These past two years in Forsan have been extremely exciting. I’ve enjoyed being able to participate in the State Marching Band contest for the first time in my career,” Tagle said. “I couldn’t have asked for a better band and teaching staff to share this experience with.”

She continued, “We are spending the next few days celebrating, taking a couple of weeks off and then getting ready for our concert season when we get back from Christmas break.”

The Big Spring Pride Drive Band exhibited a well-performed show at the State Marching Competition Monday afternoon. However, the band did not make the Top 10 in the Division 4A category.

According to the UIL 2020 State Marching Band Results for Division 4A, the Big Spring Band placed 18th.


The State Champion for the 4A Division was Argyle High School, with Meilissa High School placing 2nd and Burnet High School placing 3rd.

The State Champion for the 2A Division was Thorndale High School, beating out Forsan by three points, and in 3rd Place was Post High School. In the 2A Division there were a total of 18 bands competing for the State Championship title.

Both bands achieved major accomplishments this past week and have represented Howard County well.

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

Weather



Today: Sunny, with a high near 54. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 29. South wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 62. South wind around 5 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 33.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 63.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 32.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 63.

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 35.

(Weather courtesy National Weather Service via forecast.weather.gov)

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<p>Josefa Salgado, 88, died Thursday. Funeral Service will be at 10:00 AM Saturday December 19, 2020 at Life Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.</p> <p>Lenora Mancha, died Saturday. Memorial Services will be at 1:00 PM Saturday, December 19, 2020, at Myers & Smith Chapel and the family will receive friends from Noon until 1:00 PM Saturday</p> <p>Ricardo “Rick” Arguello, 62, died Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.</p> <p>Charles S. Burks,</p>	<p>Sr., 85, died Saturday. Graveside services will be 10:00 AM Thursday at Ackerly Cemetery.</p> <p>Santos Lopez, 52, died Friday. Funeral service will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.</p> <p>Jennifer Carnahan, 72, died Sunday. Funeral services will be at 1:00 PM Thursday at Trinity Baptist Church.</p> <p>Esperanza Correa, 93, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.</p> <p>Jesse Mince, 78, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.</p>
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Big Spring Showtime Steers lose battle at home against Lubbock High 51-42

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

In a low-scoring affair where both teams struggled to make shots for long stretches of game-time, the Big Spring Showtime Steers fell to the Lubbock High Westerners 51-42 at home on Tuesday night.

"It was a sloppy game," Head Coach Kris Hise said.

It seemed to take until the late in the third quarter for Big Spring to switch into another gear and begin to trim their opponents' lead. Before that, a mixture of inaccurate passes and the inability to get many shots to fall had put the Showtime Steers in a bad position. The score was 20-11 at halftime with only two Big Spring players recording a made basket through the first 16 minutes of action.

Outside of guards Gavin Greathouse and Chris Martinez, there was a lack of scoring from Big Spring and that caused problems against the Westerners rotation.

Martinez scored the first eight points of the game for the Showtime Steers and ended the game with a team-high 20 points. He was 4-for-14 from beyond the arc and was the only Big Spring player to knockdown a shot from that distance. Greathouse pitched in eight points of his own while Tyree Brawley, SaQuon Fizer, and Isaiah Holloway each notched four points apiece.

The only other Big Spring player to record a bas-



HERALD Photo/Shawn Moran

The group of SaQuon Fizer, Gavin Greathouse, Alex Leuschner, Chris Martinez, and Kaegen Mitchell together to discuss the plan during Tuesday's loss.

ket was Kaegen Mitchell (2 points) - who, along with Hollaway, combined for 13 rebounds on a night where boards were tough to come by.

Lubbock High entered Tuesday night with only one win so far on the season, but they played like a group on the rise inside Steer Gym. Big Spring was coming off of a hard-fought win over a tough Lubbock Colorado squad this past weekend and might have taken their own too lightly in this one.

"We're going to continue playing schools that push us and make us a better team. We just didn't get it done tonight," Hise said.

Lubbock High was led in scoring by Javon Lee,

who had 13 points and started to produce well in the second half. Cole Stephens came off the bench and notched 10 points of his own. The Westerners were an efficient group during the winning minutes of game time and their players knocked down some crucial free throws near the end of regulation to keep the Showtime Steers at arm's length.

Big Spring will play in one more game on Friday night in Fort Stockton before taking a week-and-a-half off for the holiday season. Last season the Showtime Steers faced off against the Panthers twice and grabbed two wins by 21 points (72-51; 67-46).

A repeat performance like one of those this year will take a better performance than the one Big Spring's players gave Hise on Tuesday night. It is still early in the season and Big Spring is still learning to play consistently without injured team captain and leading scorer Kyleer Seymore. Big Spring is leading on Friday night will send Big Spring into their time off with momentum and a good mindset that they are back on track.

UP NEXT: Big Spring (6-4) travels west to Fort Stockton to take on the Panthers at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night.

LADY STEERS: Lost 96-35 to Lubbock Cooper.

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

Both Forsan basketball teams notch Tuesday night wins

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

Tuesday night was a good night to be on the hardwood and brought a pair of wins to the strong Forsan basketball programs.

First, the Lady Buffs went on the road to Winters and dominated the Lady Blizzards 59-32 behind 23 points from Kaeli Woodall. The Lady Buffs are now 9-2 on the season and have completely controlled their past two games. They still have one more game before the break against Colorado City at home on Friday night and will look to head into the holiday season on a three-game win streak.

"The girls are continuing to work on being better at the little things and playing unselfish basketball," Head Coach Seth Johnson said.

In addition to Woodall, fellow sharpshooting guard Taryn Spivey scored 14 points and both Rylee Evans and Reagan Smith added eight points each.

The Lady Buffs led 21-6 at the end of the first quarter and never looked back. Forsan is continuing to grow together as a team and the Lady Buffs will undoubtedly be battling for the

district win in January.

The Buffaloes also came away with a big win on Tuesday night. After beginning the season with four straight losses, the Buffs have turned it around and notched four straight wins. They defeated the Stanton Buffaloes 65-49 last night and are now 4-4 this season.

Head Coach Cory Richardson is proud of the progress his team is making and knows that their best basketball still needs to be ahead of them.

The Buffaloes will play two more games before they head into their break. This Friday night they will travel to Sands to take on the Mustangs before traveling to battle the San Angelo HomeSchool Saints on Saturday afternoon.

If all goes according to plan, Forsan will come back from the holiday break on a six-game winning streak ready to battle a currently undefeated Wink team.

UP NEXT: The Lady Buffs (9-2) will play the Colorado City Lady Wolves at home on Friday night (6:30), while the Buffaloes travel to Sands to take on the Mustangs (8:00).

NCAA Basketball AP Top 25

Ranking	Team	Overall	Points	Prev
1	Stanford (26)	4-0	742	-
2	Louisville (1)	5-0	692	-
3	Connecticut (1)	1-0	676	-
4	NC State (2)	6-0	673	-
5	South Carolina	4-1	640	-
6	Arizona	4-0	607	-
7	Oregon	5-0	544	8
	Baylor	3-1	544	-
9	Kentucky	6-0	507	-
10	Texas A&M	6-0	470	-
11	UCLA	4-1	445	-
12	Arkansas	7-1	409	13
13	Mississippi State	2-1	406	12
14	Maryland	3-1	356	-
15	Indiana	2-1	323	-
16	Northwestern	1-0	290	17
17	Ohio State	4-0	220	18
18	Syracuse	4-0	211	20
19	Michigan	5-0	205	-
20	Missouri State	3-1	192	21
21	Oregon State	3-2	117	15
22	Texas	4-1	115	23
23	South Florida	3-1	113	NR
24	DePaul	2-2	78	-
25	Gonzaga	3-2	69	-

RECEIVING VOTES:

Wake Forest (23), Michigan State (15), Iowa State (15), Virginia Tech (13), Georgia (12), West Virginia (5), North Carolina (5), South Dakota State (4), Utah (3), Arizona State (3), Villanova (2), Boston College (2), Florida State (2), Iowa (1), Rutgers (1)

NCAA Basketball AP Top 25

Ranking	Team	Overall	Points	Prev
1	Gonzaga (54)	3-0	1,541	-
2	Baylor (7)	4-0	1,491	-
3	Iowa (1)	6-0	1,427	-
4	Michigan State	6-0	1,307	-
5	Kansas	6-1	1,289	-
6	Houston	4-0	1,169	7
7	Villanova	5-1	1,163	9
8	West Virginia	6-1	1,113	11
9	Creighton	4-1	1,037	8
10	Tennessee	2-0	941	12
11	Texas	5-1	873	13
12	Wisconsin	4-1	846	13
13	Illinois	4-2	742	6
14	Texas Tech	6-1	669	17
15	Florida State	3-0	619	20
16	Missouri	5-0	491	NR
17	Virginia	3-1	456	18
18	San Diego State	5-0	455	24
19	Rutgers	4-0	396	21
20	Ohio State	5-0	392	22
21	Duke	2-2	345	10
22	North Carolina	4-2	328	16
23	Louisville	4-0	164	25
24	Clemson	5-0	156	NR
25	Michigan	6-0	142	NR

RECEIVING VOTES:

Richmond (140), Saint Louis (121), Virginia Tech (115), Xavier (55), Oklahoma State (48), Oregon (31), Indiana (22), Florida (18), Arizona State (13), UCLA (9), UConn (7), Arizona (5), Syracuse (4), Georgia (4), Arkansas (4), SMU (1), Minnesota (1)

Bulldogs drop a game to C-City Wolves on Tuesday 60-28



Courtesy Photo

Raheem Ashford puts up a shot over two defenders on Tuesday.

COLORADO CITY — The Coahoma Bulldogs fell to Colorado City 28-60 on Tuesday night in a non-district game.

Raheem Ashford continues to be a big asset to the Coahoma varsity team. The CHS junior led in points with 10. Freshman Billy Bailey had a standout game with eight points while Ryan Shifflett, also a freshman, had six. Brysen Kerby and Juan Samaniego nailed a 2-point basket each.

Next: Coahoma hosts O'Donnell at 7 p.m. on Friday at the CES Competition Gym. The JV Bulldogs will play at 5:15 p.m.

Dance Lab returns to competition at Redline West TX Classic

Special to the Herald

This past weekend, Dance Lab's competitive cheerleading teams competed at the Redline West Texas Classic in Lubbock. The event was hosted with several COVID protocols in place to ensure a safe event. DLC (Dance Lab Cheer) Fury, ages 5-7 performed in the Tiny Level 1 Exhibition division. First time performing at a competition, the girls gave an energetic and fun performance. DLC Rage, ages 7-12, competed in the Youth Level 1 Elite Division. After a zero deduction routine, Rage ended with a 2nd place finish. DLC Swarm, ages 9-15, competed in the Ju-

nior Level 2 Elite division. Swarm finished 4th in the largest division of the competition. Dance Lab also had two individuals compete in solo events. Alexa Mehan, age 14, competed in Junior Best Tumbling. After competing her elite, level 5 tumbling skills, Alexa placed 2nd in her division. Pailee Fontana, age 12, competed in Youth Best Jumps. Pailee demonstrated excellent technique and height in her jumps and went home with the 1st place trophy. Dance Lab plans to attend more COVID safe events throughout the year and are excited to see improvement in their scores.

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Announcements

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1901 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, TX 79720

Contact our Job Center
432-268-7341 or
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Complete an application online at
<https://accesshr.hrhc.state.tx.us>

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Parkplace Retirement Living is seeking a creative, organized person for the position of Cook/Chef in a family friendly environment. This position requires knowledge of ordering processes, menu development and proper safety and sanitation procedures. This position works 12 hour shifts. Pay based on experience. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

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The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for the following position:

Meter Technician –
Responsible for installing, repairing, and calibrating flow, level, and pressure metering equipment. Position also provides assistance in repair of communication equipment supporting the District's SCADA system. Intermediate level position with basic understanding of electronics/electricity needed.

For additional information visit www.crmwd.org

We are looking for an ambitious, creative, self-starter, to fill a staff writer role at the Big Spring Herald.

Do you have a heart to share others' stories and the desire to be involved in your community? We want to hear from you!

This individual would provide news coverage, build pages, and update social media accounts/website.

Indesign and Photoshop are a plus, but will train the right person. We are looking for a creative, outgoing individual familiar with social media. Must be a self-starter, and be able to meet deadlines.

Individual will be responsible for several areas of coverage, from feature stories to hard news. Must have a flexible schedule.

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

West Texas Opportunities, Inc. (TRAX) is accepting applications for a driver for Public and Medical Transportation in Big Spring. Applicants must be at least 25 years old, must have a good driving record, be well-organized, dependable, attend work as scheduled, and have a Texas Class C driver license in good standing. Applicants must obtain a Medical Examiner's Certificate at WTO, Inc. expense, before hiring and kept current thereafter, at company expense. Ability to speak both English and Spanish is preferred. Drivers must successfully

Help Wanted

complete CPR/first aid training within 60 days of employment. Pre-employment substance abuse testing required. A criminal background check will be required. Benefits package includes company-paid medical, dental and life insurance, retirement plan, 16 paid holidays, 12 Annual Leave & 12 Sick Leave days per year. Obtain an application at 2001 Scurry St. or print application online at www.gowto.org. Contact Paula Vela at 806-872-8354 with questions. Position open until filled. WTO, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

Items for Sale

For Sale: Lighted Christmas Poinsettias, Cactus, Trees, and more decorations of all sizes. Call 432-935-5307 or 432-816-2922 or come by 1433 Hilltop Rd.

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Legals

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 11, 2020
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 4, 2021
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit, P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Rule 37 Case No. 0328201
Status/Permit No. 865868

Legals

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ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit, P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Rule 37 Case No. 0328201
Status/Permit No. 865868

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the HIGHPEAK ENERGY HOLDINGS, LLC, [RRC Operator No. 385826] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the lease line distance requirement because the Applicant is less than the required Rule 37 lease line distance to an unleased or non-pooled interest within the subject unit for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 11, Bk. 25, H&TC RR CO Survey, A-20, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, HOWARD County, being 13 miles NE direction from COAHOMA, TEXAS, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if

Legals

no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at (512)463-6751. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Procestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, YOU MUST FILL OUT, SIGN AND MAIL, FAX, E-MAIL OR DELIVER TO THE AUSTIN OFFICE OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS THE ENCLOSED NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST. A COPY OF THE INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST ALSO BE MAILED, DELIVERED, FAXED OR E-MAILED ON THE SAME DATE TO THE APPLICANT AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ON THE SERVICE LIST. THIS INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON:

Jan 4, 2021

Legals

IMPORTANT: THE MAIL-BOX RULE DOES NOT APPLY. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO FILE A PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY, TO BE EFFECTIVE THE DAY FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF SUCH 21 DAY PERIOD.

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)
Lease/Unit Name SHAFER 12-32 A UNIT
Lease/Unit Well No. A 2H
Lease/Unit Acres 960.0
Nearest Lease Line (ft) null

Lease Lines : 275.0 F NORTH L, 864.0 F West L
Survey Lines : 275.0 F NORTH L, 864.0 F West L

Wellbore Profile(s) :
Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 500.0 F NORTH L
1430.0 F WEST L

Terminus Location
BH County: Borden
Section: 32 Block: 25
Abstract: 1503
Survey: H&TC RR CO / SHAFER, J A
Lease Lines: 100.0 F NORTH L
1165.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines: 100.0 F NORTH L
1430.0 F WEST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 6300 feet.

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Matt Scott
432-755-7065
matt.scott@expeditionroyalty.com

Rayne Austin
432-755-7065
rayne.austin@expeditionroyalty.com

Christmas Holiday DEADLINES for Classified Ads

Tuesday 12/22 Edition by Monday 12/21 at 10am

Wednesday 12/23 Edition by Monday 12/21 at 3pm

Thursday 12/24 Edition by Tuesday 12/22 at 10am

Friday 12/25 Edition by Tuesday 12/22 at 12pm

Weekend 12/26-27 Edition by Tuesday 12/22 at 3pm

Monday 12/28 Edition by Wednesday 12/23 at 9am

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Legals

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Missy Dwyer, at (432)528-2203.

#10735

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Permian Basin Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson, Ector, Howard, Martin Counties, and portions of Borden and Midland Counties, are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning **December 21, 2020**.

All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone.

To mitigate risk, beekeepers should notify the Foundation of beehive locations near cotton fields. The Foundation will monitor treatments in these locations where bees are present to ensure the security of hives.

For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

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SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A delicate precaution

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 6 4
♥ J 8
♦ 8 6 4 3 2
♣ AK 9 8

WEST
♠ K Q 9
♥ 10 9 7 2
♦ A
♣ 10 7 4 3 2

EAST
♠ J 8 7 3 2
♥ 6 4 3
♦ 9 7
♣ Q J 6

SOUTH
♠ A 10 5
♥ AK Q 5
♦ K Q J 10 5
♣ 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥ Pass 3♠ Pass
3♠ Pass 5♦ Pass
6♦

Opening lead — king of spades.
From a pairs championship comes this deal where at most tables the contract was six diamonds. Not all the declarers were successful, however, going down one when they failed to play the hand correctly.

At those tables where the slam failed, the play followed essentially the same lines. West led the king of spades, won by declarer with the ace. South could not afford to tackle trumps at once, since the defense

would win and cash a spade trick, so he led a heart to the jack and continued with the A-K, discarding dummy's remaining spade.

When declarer next led the ten of diamonds, West took the ace and returned a heart. Dummy ruffed, and East overruffed with the nine to sink the slam.

West's heart return was certainly not difficult, since the play of that suit had marked declarer with the A-K-Q-x of hearts. West simply had to hope his partner could overruff dummy.

Those declarers who made the slam adopted a more cautious approach to the play. They recognized that the lead of a fourth round of hearts by either defender would put the slam in danger. So to cater to that possibility, after taking the J-A-K of hearts, they next cashed dummy's A-K of clubs and discarded the queen of hearts! Then, and only then, did they lead a high trump to force out the ace and so make the slam.

Note that those declarers who failed in six diamonds also would have gone down had the East-West hands been reversed. In that case, assuming a spade lead followed by three rounds of hearts and the ten of diamonds, East would win with the ace and return a heart for West to ruff to produce the same result.

Tomorrow: Bizarre — but correct.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Saturn Crosses Borders

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are many levels beyond excellence. You'll elevate a work by fusing the styles you already know and adding your own unusual elements. The fresh approach will impress and fascinate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As soon as you put a word to how you are feeling, the feeling is subtly changed into something your consciousness can process. There are times when this helps and other times when wordlessness is divine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your powers of mind control are augmented, and you'll guide your own thoughts as an expert rider would guide an obedient horse; the slightest tension on the reins and your thoughts go off in the direction of your choosing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People want what they want. Don't wait for someone to desire in the same direction or intensity as you. Whatever you can do to release others from your expectations will make everyone happier, especially you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Knowing that your role in a group is essential and that you are crucial to the outcome of other people's goals, you often make decisions based on what everyone needs but you. Press pause on that tendency today. Act in self-interest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It can take a

long time to learn the ropes, or it can take a short time. Being your own teacher is the hard way. You're better off looking around, reaching out and even paying to avoid needless confusion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you don't know what to do to support another person, just try something. Effort will be admirable, regardless of how it lands. That you care to respond at all is, in and of itself, meaningful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Even though "no drama" is among your proclamations, the fact is that without some degree of tension and conflict, the story of a relationship would be mighty boring. Maybe change your mantra to "some drama."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be made aware of how the word "responsibility" means something different to everyone. The standard you hold yourself to is so far from universal, it may as well come from a different ZIP code of the multiverse.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Charm

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



can be used for benevolent or nefarious purposes. Distrust it in others today, and that goes double for yourself. Question motives. Why is it, do you think, that this added layer of social grease is suddenly necessary?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The need to socialize and the reliance on other people for survival will be noticeably balanced by an individual and hard-to-explain need for tranquility and a connection with something beyond human.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will get the same message that others get, but you'll hear something very different in it. If language is a code, then you crack it, deciphering the intent and motive behind each word.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 16). There is no consensus on what constitutes a lifestyle upgrade. Your genius will be in sensing the change that's right for you and then bravely opening yourself to a generous source and accepting what comes. Settling into the new groove will take some creative prob-

lem-solving. Supportive alliances help, too. Leo and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 28, 1, 44 and 16.

COSMIC ALERT: Next week brings the great Jupiter-Saturn conjunction, a rare and significant alignment. It's coming into formation now with Saturn returning to Aquarius. Saturn has been following Jupiter across the night sky for the better part of 2020 and will finally catch up on the solstice, Dec. 21. Because Jupiter and Saturn are the biggest luminaries in our solar system, they earn the term "great" as a qualifier to everything they do. And because their orbit is on the distant reaches of our solar nucleus, their changes happen much less frequently, offering a more momentous impact on our consciousness.

Jupiter is luck and Saturn is lessons. As the lessons planet crosses into Aquarius, the sign of philanthropy and the better angels of humanity now, it strikes a metaphoric chord. What happens to a person happens to humanity. The evils of one belong, to some degree, to all, and the elevation of one elevates all. It is not possible to act without impact. The age-old parental advice, "What if everybody did it?" applies. The only logical thing to do is to hold oneself to the standard that would, were everyone to behave in kind, improve matters.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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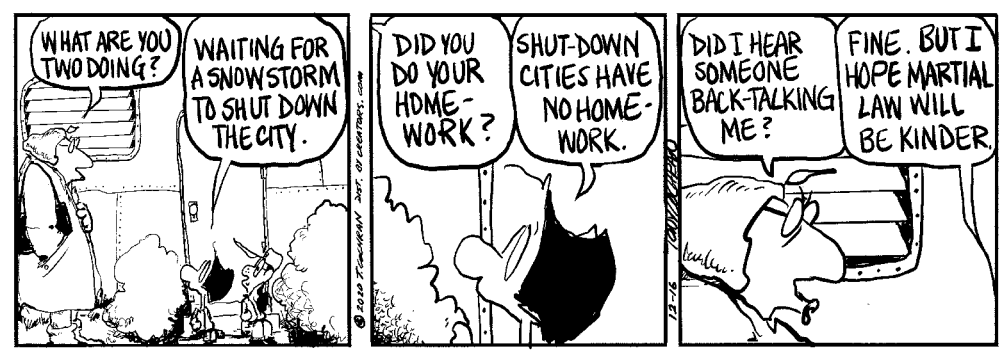
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Table with 30 columns (KMid, UNi, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, KWES2, WTBS, TNT, ESPN, ESPN2, FSN, USA, A&E, DISC) and 24 rows of TV listings.

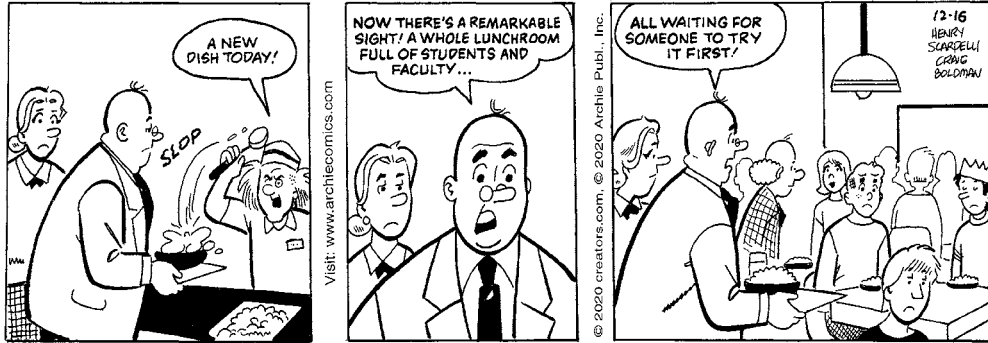
ANDY CAPP



AGNES



ARCHIE



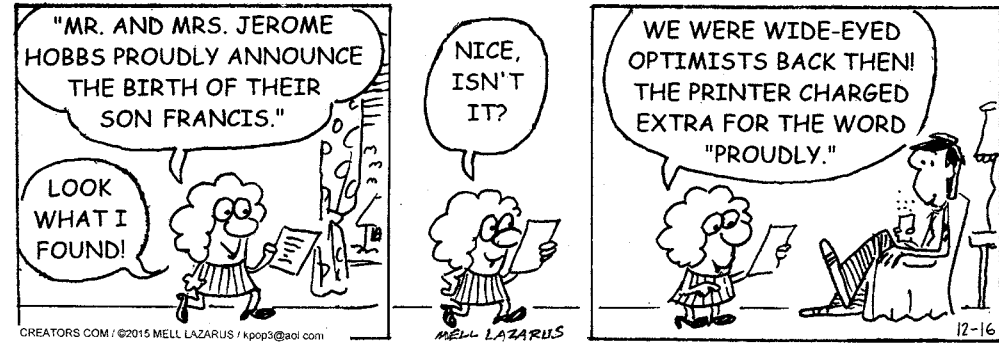
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This Date In History

City restaurant on orders from John Gotti. In 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25. In 2001, after nine weeks of fighting, Afghan militia leaders claimed control of the last mountain bastion of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida fighters, but bin Laden himself was nowhere to be seen. Ten years ago: The House joined the Senate in passing a massive bipartisan tax package preventing a big New Year's Day tax hike for millions of Americans. Interviewer Larry King, joined by a parade of former guests, concluded his CNN talk show after 25 years. Five years ago: The Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the first time in nearly a decade, lifting its key rate by a quarter-point to a range of 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent. The first attempt to find a Baltimore police officer criminally responsible for Freddie Gray's death from a broken neck in a police van ended with a hung jury and a mistrial in the case of William Porter. One year ago: House Democrats laid out their impeachment case against President Donald Trump; a sweeping report from the House Judiciary Committee said Trump had "betrayed the Nation by abusing his high office to enlist a foreign power in corrupting democratic elections." Boeing said it would temporarily stop producing its grounded 737 Max jet as it struggled to get approval from regulators to put the plane back in the air; it had been grounded since March after two deadly crashes. Drew Brees became the NFL's all-time leader in touchdowns passes, throwing for four TDs to lead the New Orleans Saints to a 34-7 victory over the Indianapolis Colts. "The Rise of Sky-

walker," the conclusion of the third trilogy in the "Star Wars" movie franchise, was given a standing ovation at its world premiere in Hollywood. Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney and co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Morris Dees is 84. Actor Joyce Bul-

fant is 83. Actor Liv Ullmann is 82. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 79. Pop musician Tony Hicks (The Hollies) is 75. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 74. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 71. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 69. Actor Xander Berkeley is 65. Actor

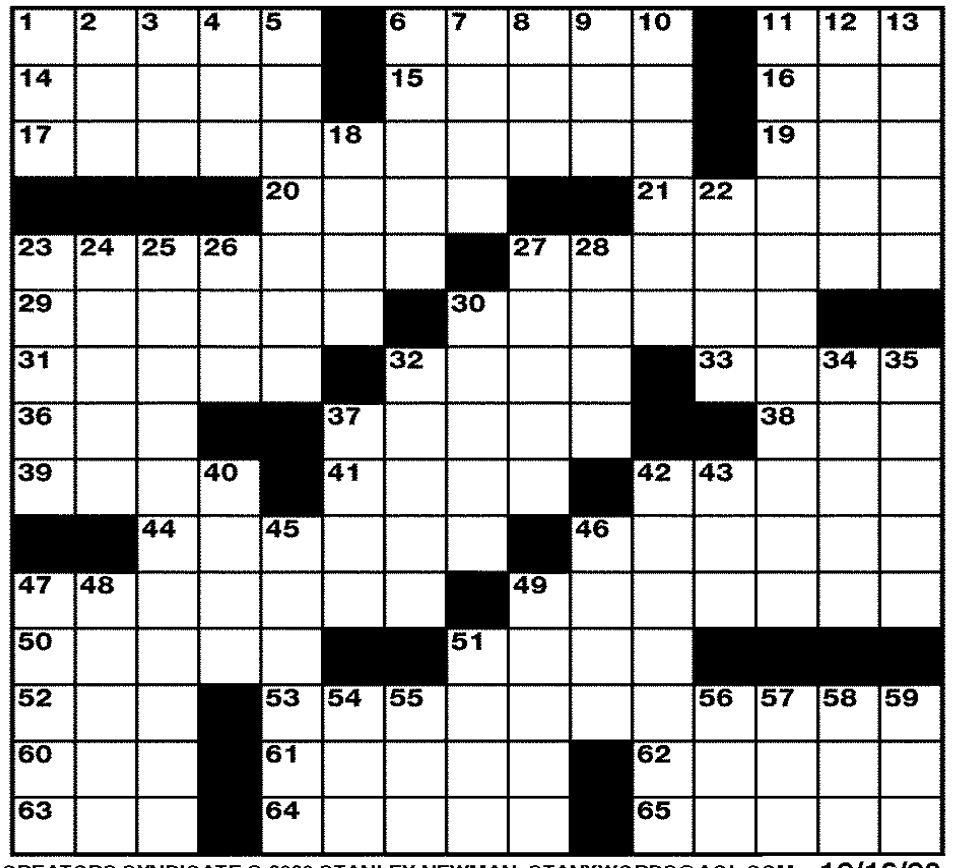
Alison LaPlaca is 61. Actor Sam Robards is 59. Actor Jon Tenney is 59. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 57. Country singer-songwriter Jeff Carson is 57. Actor-comedian JB Smoove is 55. Actor Miranda Otto is 53. Actor Daniel Cosgrove is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michael McCary is 49. Actor Jonathan Scarfe is 45. Actor

Krysten Ritter is 39. Actor Zoe Jarman is 38. Country musician Chris Scruggs is 38. Actor Theo James is 36. Actor Amanda Setton is 35. Rock musician Dave Rublin (American Authors) is 34. Actor Hallee Hirsh is 33. Actor Anna Popplewell is 32. Actor Stephan James is 27.

Newsday Crossword

PARK IT by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Find a sum of numbers, 6 "Beat it!", 11 Kind of camera, for short, 14 Reagan's chimp costar, 15 Either of two African nations, 16 After-dinner hot drink, 17 Gavel wielder, 19 Cereal grain, 20 Firm up, as muscles, 21 Treasure find, 23 Advisory group, 27 Breathed out, 29 Retort to "Am too!", 30 Excellent two-pair hand, 31 Coin with Abe's portrait, 32 Fashion designer Christian, 33 Former Italian coin, 36 Stamped return env., for example, 37 ___ with faint praise, 38 Liquor in martinis, 39 Willy Wonka creator, 41 black-and-white cookie, 42 Shoplifting, e.g., 44 Emulated a banshee, 46 New Orleans cuisine, 47 Played for time, 49 Gave the cold shoulder to, 50 Wall painting, 51 Mushroom piece, 52 "Big Blue", 53 Capital city, 60 Director Ang or Spike, 61 Pursuer of Bugs, 62 Oneness, 63 Muff a grounder, 64 High society, 65 Canterbury coins, 11 Police informer, 12 Sailor's shore time, 13 Deemed worthy of, 18 Sonnet creator, 22 Cuban leader Castro, 23 Dressed like Dracula, 24 Place for a bout, 25 Second-stringer, 26 Tourist stop, 27 Money-saving, in brand names, 28 Gen-___ (post-boom babies), 30 Pointed at a target, 32 Acted bold, 34 Rummage (through), 35 Contributed, with "up", 37 Distribute, with "out", 40 Song syllables, 42 Fabricate, as charges, 43 Coop brooder, 45 "Haven't decided yet", 46 Gourmet cook, 47), in an emoticon, 48 Potato or yam, 49 Squirrel away, 51 "Keep it" mark, 54 90-degree bend, 55 "What ___, chopped liver?", 56 Early afternoon, 57 Pitcher's success, 58 Miscellaneous abbr., 59 Diner loaf



Answer to previous puzzle: SLATS, ADAM, SHAG, PUTUP, TOME, KILO, ALIBI, LOOT, INTO, SUPERMARKET, DASH, AAS, OHSURE, BUSILY, MERIT, ASAN, BEAD, NURSE, BESTSELLINGBOOK, ASHEN, ALTO, BLUE, NOELS, FRYERS, VENDOR, BAA, ALE, PRIMETIMETV, LASS, AREA, STREE, ETTIE, TANS, ICIER, TEIST, ASSIT, NEEDED

'It's just weird': Pandemic uncertainty on recruiting trail

By **STEVE MEGARGEE**

AP Sports Writer

The personal touch that helps coaches sell their programs to blue-chip prospects is missing this year.

Restrictions brought about by the pandemic prevent face-to-face communication between players and coaches. Staffs can't visit high schools. Plenty of states didn't even play high school football.

"It's just weird," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. It all creates uncertainty as high school seniors finalize their college selections during the early signing period, which begins Wednesday. Many signings will bond a player and coach who haven't yet spent time in the same room.

"Almost half of our players that are going to sign, we haven't met face to face or shook hands," Minnesota coach P.J. Fleck said.

There are various opinions over the pandemic's short-term impact.

About 80% of last year's Football Bowl Subdivision recruits signed in December rather than waiting until February. Mike Farrell, the director of recruiting for Rivals, doesn't expect that percentage to change while Barton Simmons, the 247Sports director of scouting, believes fewer prospects will sign early this time.

The pandemic didn't necessarily hinder elite recruits who already were being heavily pursued. But it caused headaches for other prospects looking to raise their stock at camps or high school games that never took place.

"I've had several high school coaches here in Florida call me about some 2021 guys that they had who are really, really good players that had FBS offers," South Florida recruiting coordinator Jules Montinar said. "And all of a sudden, now they've got nothing."

College staffs feel hamstrung because they couldn't evaluate players in the usual manner.

"We've been really dependent upon camps," Duke coach David Cutcliffe said. "We've signed a lot of people out of camps where we can get our hands on guys, coach them and see what their effort levels are and what their character's about and how good they are at the end of the day, as opposed to the beginning of the day. All of those things are just out the window."

The lack of official visits under pandemic-imposed NCAA restrictions also has caused problems. Coaches liked seeing how each recruit interacted with prospective teammates during those visits.

"You get a better feel for kids and their families

when you're face to face," Florida State recruiting coordinator David Johnson said. "It's a little different on Zoom."

Those restrictions also have prevented coaches from touring high schools or attending games. Ohio State defensive coordinator Kerry Coombs said he likes to talk to the janitor and lunch lady to learn more about the player away from football. Not this year.

"That's hard to do, right?" Coombs said. "You can't Zoom the janitor."

It has been even tougher on the prospects themselves. That's particularly true in the 16 states, including California, that didn't have a fall high school football season.

Jason Negro coaches St. John Bosco, a national prep power in Bellflower, California. He has been sending out tapes of combine-style workouts showing the height, weights, wingspans and speed of players.

He also mailed out tapes matching his cornerbacks up with Clemson-bound wide receiver and St. John Bosco senior Beaux Collins to show college staffs how those defensive backs would fare against Power Five talent. Of course, most schools without fall seasons don't have top-100 recruits on campus to give their prospects similar showcases.

"For the West Coast states, I think there's going to be a lot more kids who may sign in February or post-February because there's just not going to be a lot of evidence for them to show they're college-level athletes," Negro said. "California. Oregon. Washington. Nevada. Those are some pretty good football areas in terms of having kids who can play at the next level who aren't having any kind of experience."

St. John Bosco defensive end Iele Moore fits that

profile.

The former rugby player from New Zealand moved to the United States last year. Moore is listed at 6-foot-3 and 265 pounds on the 247Sports database and has Power Five physical skills.

But he lacks varsity game experience. Moore, who says he has an offer from Duke, is waiting until February to sign and hoping California's high school football season starts by then.

"Right now, a lot of the coaches are just waiting for me to get the pads on," Moore said.

High school juniors may get hampered even more, even if the NCAA ends the recruiting dead period April 15 rather than extending it once again.

Many Power Five programs already had assembled much of their classes or had narrowed down their targets by the time the pandemic arrived. Those schools don't know as much about the juniors without having evaluated them in person.

"The '22 class, you're going to have to really be careful in your vetting and what you're getting and not just go off statistics or old film," Wisconsin director of player personnel Saeed Khalif said.

Schools also could face a long-term roster crunch.

When the NCAA granted college athletes the opportunity for an extra year of eligibility due to the pandemic, it permitted seniors to come back without counting against their team's 85-man scholarship limit. That 85-man limit will likely return in 2022.

That could force tough decisions on how many of this year's high school juniors to eventually sign, extending COVID-19's impact on recruiting long after the pandemic itself has faded.

"It's definitely been super challenging to say the least," Montinar said. "But the flip side to it is everyone's playing by the same rules. It is what it is."

Tara VanDerveer becomes winningest women's basketball coach

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP) — Tara VanDerveer made history, and then took a moment to tell her Stanford players what they mean to her.

"The most important thing I can do as a coach is love you," VanDerveer said. "I love the game of basketball and I want to help you be the best you can be. You're the people that I care about. Thank you."

Typical Tara, wanting to share the joy on a night when the spotlight shined brightly on her — and her alone.

VanDerveer became the winningest women's college basketball coach Tuesday night, passing the late Pat Summitt with her 1,099th victory as No. 1 Stanford romped to a 104-61 victory over Pacific.

Dressed casually in all black, VanDerveer received the game ball after the final buzzer. Her dancing players chanted "Tara! Tara!" and gave her a new oversized pullover reading "T-DAWG" to celebrate the latest milestone for the Hall of Fame coach in her 35th season on The Farm and 42nd overall as a college head coach.



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All decisions are final at the discretion of the Big Spring Herald

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