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# BIG SPRING HERALD

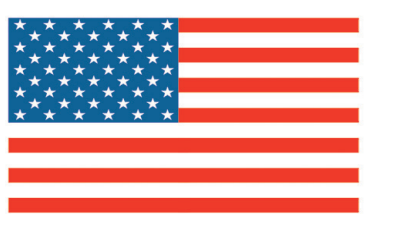
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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**Upcoming Events**

*Howard County Commissioners Meeting Today 3:30 p.m. County Courthouse*

*City offices available by appointment or electronic communication only*

*Silver Wings Ball Jan. 30 The Club at Silver Hills 5:30 p.m. cocktails 6:45 p.m. dinner*

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

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Find us online at:  
 www.bigspringherald.com



## Operation Love Letters delivery completed over the holidays

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

Mission: To write a letter, extend a warm hello and let our senior citizens and those who are being isolated know they are not alone. Operation Love Letter issued the challenge a little over a month ago, and on Dec. 23 - just a few days before Christmas - John Flores made the rounds and delivered 2,500 letters to nursing homes, West Texas Center and group homes. "My vision was to make people smile. I never guessed that it would kick off the way it did," Flores said.

While the vision was one from the heart, as with many things things past year, Covid put a kink in the plan. Just a couple weeks into Operation Love Letter, Flores ended up catching Covid and was out for two

See **LETTER**, Page 3



HERALD photo

**Operation Love Letters were delivered right before Christmas to area nursing homes and living facilities across Howard County. The residents said they were blessed and had big smiles across their faces as they read through letters.**

## A moment in history The young school teacher



Courtesy photo/Heritage Museum

**Pictured above are Della Katherine Russell with fellow friends and teachers.**

*Editor's Note: The Heritage Museum offers a piece of history each week for the Big Spring Herald readers to enjoy. The articles are only the tip of the iceberg on the history that is housed in the Heritage Museum. For those wanting to find out more about Big Spring history, stop by the Heritage Museum and explore the numerous exhibits and display cases that highlight the foundation of the community.*

By **TAMMY SCHRECENGOST**

Heritage Museum

On June 19, 1901, Della Katherine Russell arrived at her mother's home after graduating from Baylor Female Col-

lege for Women. The wheels of the creaking buck board circled at the house on Johnson street before coming to a halt. Della shook the dust from her full skirt and gathered it tightly as she stepped to the ground. The tall pretty, young woman brushed back the blonde hair that had blown across her eyes. Turning slowly, she surveyed her surroundings, as her tin trunk was lifted from the wagon, her mother, Mrs. Samuel B Russell hurried from the house to welcome her daughter to her new home. Hiding her unhappiness, the newcomer soon excused herself to rest after the long journey from East Texas. As she lay on the bed, the spread was so hot it burned her cheeks, and if the tears had fallen, the dampness would soon have evaporated. "Oh, Mother" the girl whispered, "We've come to the awfulest place in the world."

Though Della arrived in Big Spring in 1901 with hopes of becoming a schoolteacher, she soon took a job as a bookkeeper with Patty, Matthews and Wolcott General Merchandise Store.

She met Pete Agnell, who was employed by the Texas & Pacific Railroad. Courting involved church activities at the Baptist Church, sitting on the grassy vacant lot next to the Birdwell Hotel where the "talented Rix family would often perform." There was dancing at the Opera House (on Main) but Della's mother wouldn't hear of her daughter dancing. During a picnic on Scenic Mountain, Pete carved their initials in a large rock as they enjoyed each other's company. Della said, "that was the first time I saw my first Eastman Kodak camera."

Pete and Della were married on October 14, 1903. Della had to be coaxed in giving up her dream of becoming a teacher,

See **HISTORY**, Page 3

## The Great Snowfall 2020: Howard County welcomes in 2021 with one of the largest snowfalls on record for the area

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

As 2020 rolled out a blizzard like snowfall fell upon Howard County. The morning of Dec. 31 flurries began to fall from the sky across Big Spring and the surrounding areas. For the next 24 hours almost, snow continued to fall. The last day of 2020 delivered one of the biggest - if not a record setting - snowfalls Howard County residents have ever seen.

"The snow of the century. I've lived here since 1947 and this is a first," one Big Spring resident said.

According to the National Weather Service the total rainfall received for Big Spring was 14". Residents across



Courtesy photo

**Howard County saw between 10 and 17 inches of snowfall on New Year's Eve and New Year's morning.**

Howard County - depending on their location - reported snowfall between 10" and 17". The emergency services in Howard County were issuing warnings and updates leading up to the snowfall and then continued as the conditions worsened. The quick accumulation

of snow even earned Big Spring a spot in the nation spotlight as The Weather Channel reported on current conditions.

As New Year's Eve night set in, the accidents began to pile up and the interstate came to a standstill outside Big Spring. Howard County Sheriff's Department announced in the early afternoon of Dec. 31 that I-20 between Mile Marker 191 and 195 - also known as Rattlesnake Gap- was shut down due to several wrecks and stranded vehicles. There were reports of travelers who were stranded for 18 plus hours due to the road conditions.

According to research done by Tammy Schrecengost at the Heritage Museum, the greatest snow in a 24-hour period occurred at Capracotta, Italy on March 5, 2015 with a total of

See **SNOW**, Page 3

**Happy New Year! 2019**

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## Obituaries

### Sterling Maverick Ritchey

Sterling Maverick Ritchey, 23 months old of Midland, was called home to be in the perfect hands of her Heavenly Father on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020.



The family will be received friends on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring, Texas. Her celebration of Life will be held Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church with burial following at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring, Texas. Services will be livestreamed at [www.fbcbigspring.com/livestream](http://www.fbcbigspring.com/livestream).

Sterling was born Jan. 23, 2019, to Laci and Matt Ritchey in Midland, Texas. She entered this world as the most beautiful little girl and was filled with so much joy. Her contagious smile would light up an entire room and leave a lasting impression on everyone she met. She touched many hearts, and she will always be loved very much by her family and friends. Some of her favorite things include playing with her dog Ra-

dar, loving on her Culley doll, riding in her pink car, dancing to Bubble Guppies, going to church, swinging in her backyard, and riding her bike with her friends. She played hard, loved to get dirty, and wore her Elsa dress and click-clock shoes proudly. She enjoyed watching the horses, cows and chickens, looking for "reindeers", and her favorite songs were "Jesus Loves Me", "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star", and "Rain, Rain, Go Away". She loved being with all of her cousins and enjoyed watching their every move and would do her best to imitate them -- she stole their hearts and gave them a run for their money. Some of the things she looked forward to the most were being greeted by her daddy's "Wake up!" first thing in the morning and being her mommy's helper. She loved her mommy and daddy fiercely, and she taught them and countless others how to love deeper than ever expected.

Sterling's friends and family are so thankful for the 23 months they were able to spend with her. They find comfort in knowing that she will spend eternity with her Heavenly Father. Her family prays that her life will continue to be a light to others and point them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They will always remember her sweet voice sing-

ing, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong; they are weak but He is strong" and cling to that promise that she so enthusiastically professed.

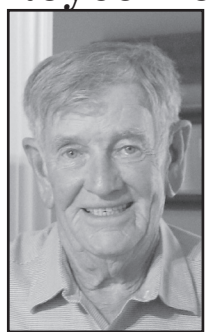
She is survived by her parents, Laci and Matt Ritchey of Midland; grandparents, Jimmy and Theresa Sterling of Vincent; grandparents Mike and Robin Ritchey of Big Spring; great grandmothers Lucille Sterling of Vincent, Leona Turner of Ker-ville, and JoAnn Ritchey of Big Spring; aunts and uncles Tara and William Renfro of Vincent, Karen and Ryan Rechichar of Vincent, and Raegan and Nate Bayless of Decatur; cousins Riley Turtle and Rankin Renfro of Vincent; Ty and Bay Rechichar of Vincent, and Turner, Teagan, and Truett Bayless of Decatur.

Pallbearers will be David and Emily Waldrop, John and Diana Mosley, Brian and Connie Lee, Timber and Peggy Floyd, Jeff Jacobson, and Nery Rios.

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

*Paid Obituary*

### Royce Donald Sharp



Royce Donald Sharp passed away Dec. 31, 2020.

Royce was born Sept. 11, 1938, in Atoka, OK.

Royce was preceded in death by his parents, Pearl Sharp and Marion "Ted" Sharp and his son, Corey Don Sharp.

Survivors include his wife Katie Shar; son: Jeff Sharp of Colorado City, Texas; one daughter: Carla Wilson of Midland; five grandchildren; four brothers: Wayne Cantrell of Hobbs, NM, Wayland Gene Sharp of Enid, OK; Steve Sharp of Panhandle, Texas, and William "Bill" Sharp of Riverside, CA

Services will be at 2 p.m. Jan. 6, 2021, and interment will take place at Mount Olive Cemetery, in Big Spring, Texas. Due to the COVID 19 virus and restrictions, the service will be graveside and masks will be required.

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

### Terry Coates

Terry Coates, 61, of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith for expenses.

### Rosalinda DeLeon

Rosalinda DeLeon, 78, of Big Spring, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Judy Bair

Judy Bair, 66, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Larita Beck

Larita Beck, 69, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Terry Coates

Terry Coates, 61, of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Support Groups

### MONDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees It, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### TUESDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

• Caregivers Support Group, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are held at the Senior Citizens Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. These meetings are open for any caregiver, whether medical professional or family member. For more information, please call Becky Letz at 267-1628.

• Al-anon family group meets at 8 p.m. at 615 Settles.

## Take Note

• West Texas Centers will be hosting the January 2021 Mental Health First Aid training classes twice in January. The classes will be held on Jan. 26, 2021 for Adult Mental Health First Aid, and Jan. 28, 2021 for Youth Mental Health First Aid. Both classes will be virtual.

• A gofund me page for Ed Flores, who recently tested positive for coronavirus and was recently transferred to Lubbock. Donations are requested to help with medical bills and travel expenses so his wife can be close with him. Ed worked with Shroyer for about 25 years and 87 Auto Sale as a mechanic; he has always been willing to help out people even when they didn't have enough money to pay him. Donations can be made at GoFundMe by Monica Medina. For more information on how to help, e-mail [jessemonica1234@gmail.com](mailto:jessemonica1234@gmail.com) or call 432-517-7675.

• Isaiah 58's last distribution will be Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. The food pantry will be closed for the holiday season, through the end of the year beginning Dec. 21. through January 5, 2021.

• The City of Big Spring recently announced that due to a recent increase in COVID-19 cases, all indoor city-owned rental facilities including our venue, The Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, will be closed for the rest of the year. With this announcement and with no other venue options that will properly social distance our musicians, we will be unable to kick off our season on Dec. 19 with our "Holiday Spectacular" Concert. Be watching our Facebook page, Symphony website (Bigspringsymphony.org), the Big Spring Herald, KBYG and KBST for further details and a new kick-off date for our season, appropriately entitled, "The Versatile Big Spring Symphony". Thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate through these unusual times. We hope to see you very soon. May you and your family stay safe and healthy through the rest of this Holiday Season!

• The Howard County Courthouse will only be open by appointment. All doors except the handicapped entrance located on the west side of the building will be locked. All who enter will be screened following Covid guidelines. Face masks are required for all who enter.

• City of Big Spring offices have moved to by appointment only or electronic communication only. Contact information for all departments can be found on the city website at [mybigspring.com](http://mybigspring.com).

• Forsan Food Pantry will be open twice a month from 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Families who are in need can pull up to the front doors of the Junior High/High School and receive a free box of pre-packed meals. If you have any questions or need to pick up a box at a different time, contact Kaci Wash at 432-457-2223 ext 821 or Jenny Sayles at [jennysales@yahoo.com](mailto:jennysales@yahoo.com).

• Cub Scouts meet Monday from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Naz Family Church, located at 1400 S. Lancaster.

• Howard County Republican Club meets the second Monday of each month at 421 Main Street. Everyone is welcome. The meeting takes place at Noon. For more information call 432-213-7628.

• A new group named Taking Care of Business has started in Howard County. It is made up of people of all ages and genders who want to be better than they

are. The focus of the fledgling organization is to engage in meaningful discussions that promote personal growth. Additionally, the organization will plan and execute worthwhile activities within the community. There is no membership fee and attendance is not taken. The only requirements are that you be positive or want to be more positive than you are, consider yourself to be a good person but want to be better than you are, and that you have a desire to help others be better too. Childcare is available during the discussion time if you let us know. Topics to be avoided include Religion and Politics, though we can dance around them.

Taking Care of Business is being sponsored by the local Masons and it meets in the Masonic Lodge on the court square. It is not necessary that you have any masonic affiliation to participate in this Growth Group. All Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed as defined by local, state, and federal authorities. At this time refreshments will not be served but you are welcome to bring your own and not share. The meetings take place at 219 South Main Big Spring, Texas. For more information write to Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com or just come to the meeting.

• The Life Center in Big Spring is helping moms and dads with a Diaper Day Giveaway! Call for a five minute phone appointment and a pickup time for free diapers, wipes and formula. 432-606-5041.

• The Senior Supper Club has come out of hibernation to resume its normal Tuesday evening dinners. The Come-One-Come-All group will be meeting on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and orders will be placed around 5:30 p.m. after much socializing from a distance. The Senior Supper Club is an informal group of folks from Howard County who meet at least weekly and sometimes more for Dutch-Treat food at different area restaurants. Sometimes the group also meets for cards, dominoes, or desserts and fellowship. For more information, contact Colonel. Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com.

• St. Vincent de Paul will be open the following dates beginning November 2020.

## Dr. Rudy Haddad

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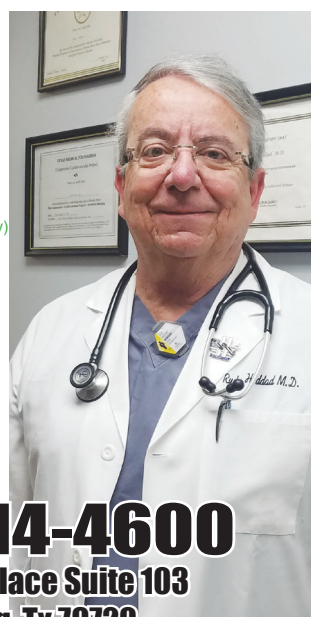
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**MEMBER 2020**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

# LETTER

Continued from Page 1

weeks recovering. During that time, he was unable to make the rounds to gather letters or send out routine encouragements to bring it more letters. In the beginning, Flores was aiming to bring in 5,000 letters which could be dropped off at the more than 30 locations around Big Spring.

"I was originally wanting to have at least five letters per resident. We ended up being able to provide four letters and some candy to each of the residents that we delivered to," he said. "In the end we were able to bring smiles to many faces."

Operations Love Letters was another representation of what can happen when community members band together for a common goal. More than 30 businesses signed up as drop off locations, business owners and community members gathered together to decorate buckets and Superrod printed special banners for each of the facilities that would be receiving letters.

During one of the drops, one of the recipients said, "These letters are a blessing. A true gift from God."

The mission of Operation Love Letters was an idea that God placed on Flores heart, and one that has been guided by His hand from the beginning.

Letters came in from area school districts, hospital employees, churches, families and civic organizations. Some where store bought cards, others were hand made designs and others were a simple note, but regardless of how each community member chose to express their caring thoughts, each was penned with love.

While this round of Operation Love Letter has wrapped up, the mission still exists. More details to come on when the next round will be gathered ...

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

# SNOW

Continued from Page 1

100.8 inches. Chicago's largest 24-hour snowfall is 23 inches which occurred on Jan. 26-27, 1967. Mt. Ibuki, Japan recorded the world's greatest snow accumulation of 38.8 feet on Feb. 14, 1927. One resident recalled a snowfall in 1976 that was bigger than what was received this past New Year's Eve, but no confirmation was able to be made. On the Big Spring Herald Facebook poll, Franklin E. Weber recalled a snowfall that took place in early November 2001 which accumulated 13 inches and Judy Plumlee recalled receiving 18 inches of snow on Easter weekend in 1994.

On New Years morning, Howard County residents woke up to a blanket of fresh fallen white snow. Families joined together and built snowman, took an opportunity to go sledding in their neighbor hoods and even made their way into their yards to measure just how much snow had fallen. While many were out enjoying the snow, there were those who were having to clean up damage from the snowfall. Some residents reported carports and awnings caving in due to the weight of the snow. There were even some businesses who reported

damage, including Sonic.

Once again though, the helping hand and caring heart of Big Spring residents shone through and community joined together to help each other out. From pulling vehicles out of the snow, helping clear up debris or just ensuring neighbors had groceries or a ride to work the next day, residents across Howard County were willing to lend a helping hand.

By Sunday night roadways were clear and the only remnants of the breath-taking snowfall are piles of snow that has been cleared from driveways and parking lots, melting snowmen, and puddles of melted snow.

However, Howard County residents won't soon forget one of the greatest snowfalls ever seen in West Texas and there are plenty of photographs to prove it. Pick up a copy of the upcoming weekend edition of the Big Spring Herald to view Community Report photos submitted to the Big Spring Herald which highlighted some of the snowfall and creative snowmen made across the community.

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

# Take Note cont.

• VFW Post 2013 meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. New members are being sought. The Post is located at 500 Driver Rd. Qualified veterans, those who have served in a foreign war, who are interested in joining the VFW are encouraged to attend a meeting to find out more information.

• O'Neal-Kunkle, Chapter #47 of the Disabled American Vets (D.A.V.), meets the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 2204 Runnels Street. For more information, please contact Norman Witcher at 432-413-6663.

• Home Hospice is looking for volunteers (18+) and junior volunteers (9-16 years old). Applications can be picked up at the Home Hospice office, located at 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite A between 8 a.m and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Adult volunteers will need to complete a training and must be able to pass a background check. Volunteer duties will include home visits; junior volunteers will be

helping with office work, community events and holiday activities. More information can be obtained by calling 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon the first Monday of every month. We meet at Howard College in the Cactus Room. Our vision is that every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the most beautiful city in Texas. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Tammy at 432-935-0057.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on

becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies, as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help.

# HISTORY

Continued from Page 1

but she wanted to be a good wife and mother. Pete bought their first home, a new ten room house at 311 West Sixth Street in 1908. Della insisted the home be paid off before they moved in and this proved to be a wise decision. Tragically, after only 8 years of marriage, Pete was killed in a railroad accident, leaving Della alone with three small children to support. Shortly after the death of her husband, Della's mother, Mrs. Russell, became an invalid and had to move in with her daughter.

Della's true pioneer spirit was forthcoming as she opened a private school in her home for children. She needed to be at her home to take care of her ailing mother and the children so the Superintendent, Mr. Brasher, sent the "overflow" first grade students to Della. Her little school was called the "Big Spring Primary School." Tuition was \$3 per month unless a child missed due to whooping cough or measles. In that case, there was no charge for that month. Her day began at 5:30 am. Once the family was fed, she coached high school Latin students until time for the younger children to arrive. In the evenings, she often coached railroad men in their correspondence courses. After the children had gone to bed, she studied and planned for the next day or sewed for the family.

Mr. Brasher persuaded Della to take over the first grade at Central Ward on January 1, 1919. She brought 15 of her students, who joined with 65 other young students at Central Ward. However, this was not her largest class. During the oil boom, she had a double session with an average attendance of 93.

Della taught school in one room at Central Ward for 13 years. She was heartbroken when the school ordered it to be demolished. She carried two bricks from the building and kept them in her home until her death.

During the depression, her meager salary was paid in warrants and she was trying to help her youngest child through Baylor. Alvin wrote many

despairing letters to his mother saying he was coming home. As soon as the letter arrived, Della wrote back to Alvin to "Hang on a little longer." One-night things appeared hopeless. She read her bible, paced the floors, and prayed. During a fitful sleep she seemed to hear a voice. "See Hart Phillips." (a local rancher and oil man." Mr. Phillips and his wife were out of town, but his secretary wrote to him about Della's dilemma. He wrote back and the secretary, Mrs. Bea Carpenter, handed the letter to Della. Mr. Philips wrote, "I hear teachers are having a hard time; I want you to take up some of the warrants."

Through the years, Della managed to continue her studies, during the summers, she found means to study at Baylor and the University of Texas, earning her master's degree.

Della taught at West Ward (Cedar Crest) for several years before retiring in 1944. She helped found the Mother's Club, the Home and Study Club, and the P.T.A. in 1925.

A devout Baptist, Della always took notes on meeting and sermons and usually walked everywhere she needed to go. Della managed to formally educate all three of her children which led them into successful career choices.

"For a long, long time, I wanted to be a teacher - a good teacher. Regardless of success or failure, I have always had the inherent conviction that I was doing the thing I was meant to do; the thing I wanted to do; and the thing I loved to do." Della K. Agnell said.

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## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Alvin Marin, 83, died Thursday. Visitation 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM January 10, 2020 with a vigil service at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service at 10:00 January 11, 2020.

Marcelino Rangel, 86, of died Monday. Services will be at 10:00 AM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Monday, January 4, 2021. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Irma Chapa, 56, died Monday. Viewing and visitation will be Monday, January 4, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM with a vigil service at 7:00 PM. Funeral service will be Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 10:00 AM at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Mauricio Hernandez, 66 of Big

Spring died December 17, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Royce Sharp, 82, died Thursday. Graveside services will be Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 2:00 PM at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Rosalinda DeLeon, 78, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Terry Coates, 61, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith for expenses.

Larita Beck, 69, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Judy Bair, 66, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



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# Lady Steers defeat Ft. Stockton for second time this season heading into District



HERALD File Photo

Tristan Smith looks for an open teammate to pass the ball during a game last week.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

The Big Spring Lady Steers returned to the court over the weekend and grabbed a 40-36 victory over Fort Stockton in their final non-district contest of the season.

"I thought we played well and we're all ready to get going now in these district games," Head Coach Eric Tuttle said.

Big Spring defeated Fort Stockton for the second time this season after grabbing a 60-35 road win over the Lady Panthers in early December.

Forward Ryen Terrazas recorded her ninth double-double of the season with 13 points and 12 rebounds. The backcourt duo of Jacqueline Belew and Tristan Smith both notched nine points each and the Lady Steer defense controlled the game for all four quarters.

Big Spring (7-9) will open the district portion of their schedule on Tuesday night when they host

the Lubbock Estacado Lady Matadors (5-9). In the first district game of the season, the Lady Steers will be playing a team that they did not even go up against once last season. It will be a new district rivalry matchup for both sides.

"I think these few games we've played after the break have helped us get back into basketball shape and have set us up for a good performance in our district," Tuttle said.

The Lady Steers won two of their three games following winter break and will be looking to take that momentum into what Tuttle refers to as the "second season".

After finishing the 2019-20 season with an 8-19 overall record, Big Spring has a chance to grab their eighth win of the 2020-21 season on Tuesday night.

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

## Doing it the Right Way: Celebrating the Career of Scott Farmer

Special to the Herald

Success can be measured in more than just championships. In the realm of intercollegiate athletics, it can include graduation rates, community involvement, and making a difference in a student-athlete's life.

"The world of college athletics needs more Scott Farmers," said Michael Lotief, the former Head Softball Coach at the University of Louisiana - Lafayette who worked under Farmer from 2007-16. "He was never going to compromise who he is and what he stands for and I always admired him for that. We had our share of headbutting and didn't agree on everything, but at the end of the day he was fair, decent, and cared about you."

After over 30 years of working in intercollegiate athletics as a coach and administrator, Farmer is retiring and will get the opportunity to spend time with his family that's been lost over the years. He spent the last three years as the Director of Athletics at UT Permian Basin, helping turn around the Falcons and built a foundation for the department to be successful for years to come.

"Scott epitomizes what it means to be an Athletic Director who sees all the angles. He sees the administrative side, the coach's side, and the fan side at all times," said Stefni Lotief, former Head Softball Coach at the University of Louisiana - Lafayette and administrator alongside Farmer. "He always had that passion and that drive to get better. He wanted to make everyone around him better and his passion was contagious. That's why he was so successful at every stop he had."

Growing up the son of an Athletic Director and coach, Farmer knew he wanted to work in the field, but wasn't sure of the capacity he wanted to work in. After a successful swimming career at Georgia Southern University, during which he volunteered in the athletics department, Farmer was named the Head Coach of the school's women's swimming team. His teams were wildly successful, capturing eight consecutive conference titles plus one on the men's side. The entire time, Farmer also served as an Assistant Athletic Director. With a young family, he knew he couldn't devote his time to both positions and made the decision to step down as the winningest swimming coach in GSU history.

"It was a very difficult decision. We had just won both conference championships and I had to tell my athletes I was making the move," said Farmer. "In the end it was the right choice. There's a lot of parts about coaching I miss to this day, and there's a lot of parts I do not miss. Moving to just the administrative side allowed me to impact more student-athletes than I ever could."

As a former coach, Farmer understood the challenges coaches faced and what it takes to be successful. That experience translated into making it easier for him to lead his coaches and staff as he became and Athletic Director.

"When Scott came to Troy, he had some experience in athletic training," said Chuck Ash, former Head Athletic Trainer at Troy University who

worked with Farmer from 1999-07. "It made everything so much easier to not have to coach him and teach him what was going on before making a decision. What stood out to me was he was a great decision maker. I really trusted his decision-making ability. Smart guys can make a good decision for today, but wise ones can make a good decision for all time. Scott was one of the wiser people that I dealt with in athletics."

He was brought to Troy to oversee their transition to Division I-A (now FBS) and the department became the first school to make the transition based off four years of football ticket sales.

"People always respected him because he was up front and honest," said Ash. "He was never a salesperson selling a gimmick or something he didn't believe in and that spilled into all aspects of his leadership. That's what made his time at Troy so successful."

After successfully moving Troy into the Sun Belt Conference and spending time serving as the interim AD, Farmer moved to UL - Lafayette where he was tasked with helping rebuild the Ragin' Cajuns. In 2011, he was named the UL Director of Athletics replacing his mentor David Walker.

"Scott came into an athletic department at UL that was underfunded, morale was bad, and there was no pride in the community," said Michael Lotief, whose program went to five consecutive Super Regionals during Farmer's tenure. "He did some amazing things here; the proof is everywhere. He worked tirelessly. He didn't go around selling championship, he sold integrity, pride, community involvement, and making a difference in people's lives. Once everyone started to care for each other and bought into it, that's when the winning came about."

The department saw unprecedented success under Farmer's guidance. Graduation rates were at an all-time high for the department. The football team went to and won four straight New Orleans Bowls from 2011-14. The Ragin' Cajuns were named the 34th best athletic department in the NCAA Division I.

"UL was quite the challenge," said Farmer. "They had pockets of success, but it was never sustained. We changed the fundraising model by establishing the Ragin' Cajuns Athletic Foundation which raised over \$10 million a year each of the last couple years I was there. I was very proud of go aches from his previous stops everyone says he made a major impact on their life."

"Scott's the best person I've had the privilege of working for," said current UTPB Women's Basketball Head Coach Rae Boothe. "Not only did he help me become a better coach, he helped me become a better person. I hope I can impact someone the way he has impacted me."

Boothe's program is one of many that has seen improvement every year since Farmer took over at UTPB. Last season the team set a record for LSC wins and came within a game of a conference postseason appearance. Another program that saw

major growth in facilities and quality of the team was football at UTPB. Farmer helped steer the D. Kirk Edwards Family Human Performance Center which keeps the program the facilities to compete on a national level.

"Scott provided hope to the aspirations we all had. He helped bring our greatest dreams to reality," said UTPB Head Football Coach Justin Carigan. "The fruits of his labor will live on for years to come."

Farmer lured established coaches, such as Head Men's Basketball Coach Josh Newman, to build the Falcons into a national powerhouse. In his time at UTPB, Newman has extended the program's postseason streak to four years and has the team primed for a conference championship in the near future.

"Scott was a key factor when we decided to join the Falcon Family," said Newman. "Scott's vision, leadership, work ethic and ability to communicate as an AD and an individual are unmatched. He led by example and without a doubt always had the athletic program and school's best interest in mind. The changes and advancements he made at UTPB will be forever impactful and ultimately will be the groundwork for our foundation. We are thankful to have had Scott as a boss, mentor, and friend."

While Farmer prepares to spend more time with family and enjoy hobbies such as hunting and fishing, he has put the Falcons on the path to success, molding the department in his vision and ideals.

"Scott Farmer set this University's athletics program on a path to success," said UTPB President Dr. Sandra Woodley. "He is a consummate professional; an exceptional leader; and a great human being. Scott cares so much about student-athletes and helping them develop into successful adults. We are lucky that he was part of our team for three years. Now he's passing the baton to Todd (Doolley), and I know we will continue to see great things on the field and in the classroom for all of our athletes."

Success can be measured in more than just championships. It can be measured in the people you've impacted and the lives you've changed for the better. Whether it was one person or a community of people, Farmer was always there to do what he could to make their life a little better.

"The buzzwords in intercollegiate athletics: welfare of student-athletes, community service, trying to make a difference in people's lives through athletics so they can go on and make a difference in the community," said Lotief. "Those buzzwords are always there, but that's who Scott Farmer is. Those aren't buzzwords when it came to him. He was always about personal relationships, making a difference in people's lives, character, integrity. I turned around so many times at practice, and he'd just be sitting there smiling, watching practice, enjoying what was going on. I miss working with him every day, I wish I had taken more time to tell him how much he meant to me and the impact he had on me, the student-athletes, and the community."

## Forsan games over the past week canceled due to weather

Herald Staff Report

The Forsan Buffaloes were slated on take on the Sweetwater Mustangs last Friday afternoon, but the game was canceled because of winter weather. Likewise, the Forsan Lady Buffs scheduled trip to Brownfield on Saturday morning was canceled. Both teams return to the court on Tuesday night against Roscoe.

## Coahoma games over past weekend were canceled

Herald Staff Report

This past Saturday's Coahoma High School basketball games against Garden City were canceled. The Bulldogs and Bulldogettes will return to action at home on Tuesday. The Bulldogs play Kermit and the Bulldogettes begin district play against Compass Academy.

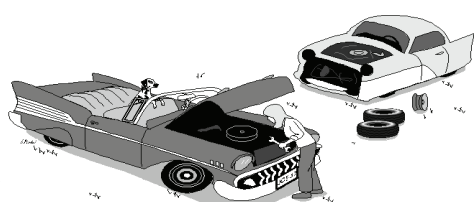
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All questions should be directed to Steven A. Smith, Chief Business Officer / Internal Auditor, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 264.5019. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all responses.

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### Annie's Mailbox

#### Showing Love from Afar

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I are in our early 60s and have been married for eight years. I have four adult children and 11 grandchildren, while he has one son and two grandsons. My children are scattered across the country, while his son lives in the same small town as us.

Yesterday, "Derek" texted my husband to ask about our plans for Christmas so he and his family could decide whether to stop by on Christmas Eve or the afternoon of Christmas.

The problem is that we don't want them to stop by at all. We love them, but they're in total denial about COVID-19. They refuse to wear masks and even brag on social media about "outsmarting" the efforts of store personnel to enforce mask mandates. They have had large family gatherings all year (25+ people in a small house). We haven't attended any of these events, but we haven't criticized them either. Nobody has contracted the virus (so far) from participating in the gatherings, which, sadly, reinforces their assertions that the virus is being taken too seriously.

My husband and I are relatively healthy but I have COPD, which makes me especially vulnerable. My husband is still working full

time, but I'm confident that he's taking every possible precaution. I'm retired and only go out when it's absolutely necessary.

What can we do, Annie? Having them visit is very risky for me, but refusing to see them will probably cause a rift between my husband and his son. I feel like it's a no-win scenario. Any advice would be much appreciated. -- Between a Rock and a Hard Place

**Dear Between a Rock and a Hard Place:** Though Christmas has come and gone, the desire to see family and friends remains. And you are correct that having COPD makes you more vulnerable, and your husband should take every measure to protect you. He is taking precautions at work, but now he has to take it a step further and explain to his son about your condition and vulnerability. You are high risk, and his son must respect that.

The vaccine is here, and, most likely, this will be the only holiday season that you will not be able to see family. But the most important thing is keeping everyone safe and healthy. The rift that saying no will cause is only temporary, and hopefully, with some proper and loving communication, you can all have a good Christmas.

If Derek is adamant about visiting, and your husband thinks it's OK, then maybe they could do a drive-by in the car to say "hi." Best of luck to you.

**Dear Annie:** Thank you for publishing stories about families willing and working to maintain civil relationships after divorce. I was a family law attorney, and then a judge, and then a mediator for over 30 years.

And I am sorry that my husband's ex spends so much energy saying mean things about me, all the while having a "butter wouldn't melt in my mouth" demeanor. Sometimes, even those of us with the most experience are plagued with those who won't change. And she has incalculated her children with like attitudes. -- Family Law Attorney

**Dear Family Law:** Thank you for your letter. Saying mean things about a children's father or mother during a divorce is one of the most destructive things you can do for your children. Learning to take responsibility and be generous will make the difference in the long run. And in the meantime, biting one's tongue might be the best move.

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

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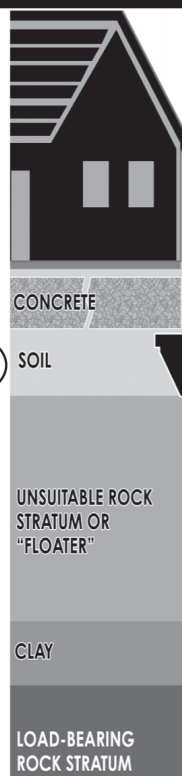
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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Famous Hand

North dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A J 5  
♥ Q 10 9 6  
♦ A 4  
♣ K J 8 7

**WEST**  
♠ 8 2  
♥ J 8 7 5 3  
♦ 10 6 3  
♣ 6 5 2

**EAST**  
♠ K 10 7 6 4  
♥ 4 2  
♦ J 7 5 2  
♣ 4 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q 9 3  
♥ A K  
♦ K Q 9 8  
♣ A Q 10 9

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 4♣ Pass  
4♠ Pass 5 NT Pass  
6♣ Pass 7♣

Opening lead — five of hearts.

Not much is written about "table feel" — the ability to sense where certain missing key cards are located. Nevertheless, it is a fact of bridge life that all players try to draw inferences from the actions of their opponents — and that some players are much better at it than others.

Take this case from the 1996 Spingold Teams. South, Bart Bramley, and his partner, Sidney Lazard, reached seven clubs as shown, and it was up to Bramley to find the way to make it. His only problem was how to avoid a spade loser. With the king of spades offside, it might appear that

Bramley was destined to go down one, but he proved otherwise.

He won the heart lead with the ace, drew three rounds of trump, East discarding a spade, and cashed the heart king. This was followed by a diamond to the ace and the queen of hearts, East and declarer each discarding a spade. Bramley then ruffed the ten of hearts, East discarding a third spade, and led the queen of spades, on which West followed low.

At this point, Bramley stopped to review all the accumulated information — including what his "table feel" told him. From the standpoint of pure probabilities, East was far more likely to hold the spade king, since he had started with only two clubs and two hearts. This left him with nine cards in spades and diamonds as opposed to only five cards in those suits for West. Also, West might have covered the queen of spades with the king if he had it.

But on top of this, East had shown increasing signs of distress in choosing his three discards, and this made Bramley even more certain that East had the spade king.

So Bramley put up the ace of spades and cashed dummy's last trump, discarding his remaining spade. East, who at this point had the J-7-5 of diamonds and lone king of spades guarding against dummy's jack, elected to let go of a diamond, and declarer's K-Q-9 of diamonds took the last three tricks.

Tomorrow: A bitter pill to swallow.  
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# SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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

Level: Beginner

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

ANSWER:

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

### Rules Cosmically Challenged

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Everywhere you go people are asking for feedback - robots, too. Corporations, social media posts, people around you, it's like your opinion is a precious commodity. Yes, and your attention and time are even more so.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Everything adds to your momentum, even the things that seem to thwart it. Whatever comes up, you'll handle it like a boss, take the necessary recovery time, and then get into the action of accelerating your intentions.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The risk worth taking won't involve the lottery or any other kind of game. The gamble to double down on is an investment in you -- your education, your dreams or even your whims.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Look for the answer to the trick. The flash pot is redirecting your attention, so what is it they don't want you to look at? What matters is the intention behind the magic. Can you see that, too?

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your goal is to create a pleasant social flow and an environment of comfort and familiarity. You deliver better work from that sort of atmosphere and so will the others.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** When what

you do serves a purpose, that's a viable contribution. When what you do changes someone, that's an art. You're happy with the former, though you'll strive for the latter until it's done.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You're adhering to a pattern set long ago because it's what has always been expected. But this sequence isn't as fulfilling as you want it to be. You'll dare to set different expectations, and the others' will change soon after.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You've a charming way of letting the other person know that you're engaged in their sharing. For this reason, people will seek your company. They want your reaction and will ask for it time and again.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Don't let the jittery rhythm of the day stop you from forward movement. You'll find yourself doing a highly original dance -- a dance you couldn't have found without this unusual beat.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You'll adjust your



### BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

thinking in regard to a hobby. It's becoming more like work. You approach it like a professional. Whether you're getting paid for it is beside the point. Your attitude changes your game.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Your attraction to someone is based in an attraction to the "you" that emerges when you're around this person. Seize this shiny opportunity to play a different role, one that's focused on your common interests.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You embrace the process of creation in service to improvement. Creativity thrives in the same sort of environment that nurtures children -- acceptance, support and a set of lovingly, consistently enforced rules.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 4).** From where you currently sit on this whimsical path, you couldn't possibly guess the wonders ahead. Moneymaking opportunities come in new forms. February and June sparkle with social excitement and new relationships. Summer swirls around a singular goal and the dream team to make it happen. Virgo and

Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 33, 12, 4, 18 and 39.

**COSMIC QUESTION:** "I'm a Pisces, and my last few relationships have had a familiar pattern. I dated a Leo who became infatuated with me after our first meeting, and after our first date, he asked me to commit. I later found out he was still pining for his ex-girlfriend, so I broke it off, but he continued to pursue me for two years. I then dated a Taurus who became very attracted to me after our first conversation and was very persistent in asking me out. After a year and a half of dating, I learned that his wife is in the process of divorcing him and that he has a child. Both these men are older, attractive and very well-educated. Will this pattern ever stop? Or am I destined to have relationships like this forever?"

What a cruel enemy destiny would have to be to condemn us to repeat the same patterns forever! Now that you realize the pattern, dear Pisces, it's up to you to seek a different kind of partner. Anyone who meets a Pisces and, within a few hours, wants a commitment possibly doesn't have the capacity or intention of learning the deeply nuanced landscape of her beautiful soul. Next time, let a "rush to commitment" be an alarm bell.

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

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# WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to puzzles.

**S R W D O**

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Words



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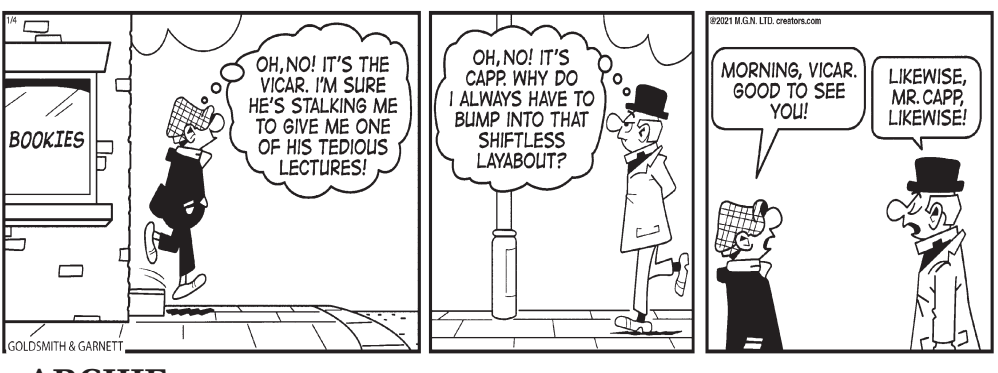
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AGNES



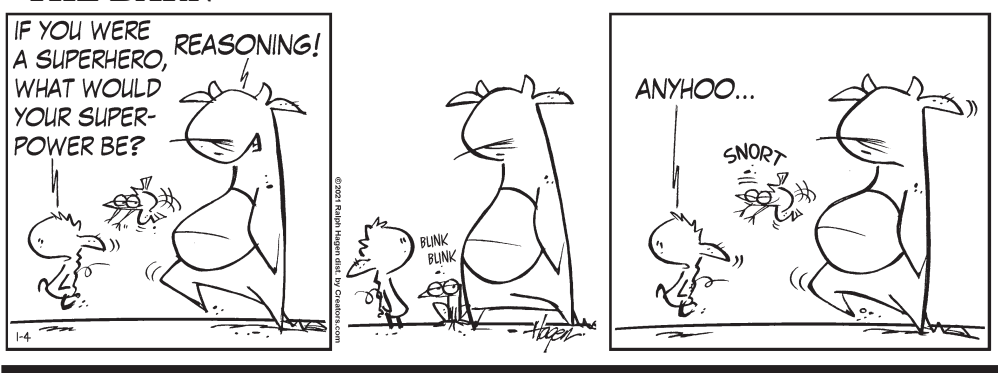
ARCHIE



ONE BIG HAPPY



THE BARN



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2021. There are 361 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 4, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society."

On this date:

In 1821, the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

In 1904, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Gonzalez v. Williams, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them citizens.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the handicapped.

In 1944, Ralph Bunche became the first African-American officer at the State Department as he was appointed to a post in the Near East and African Section.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI began a visit to the Holy Land, the first papal pilgrimage of its kind.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington, D.C., to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Maryland.

In 1999, Europe's new currency, the euro, got off to a strong start on its first trading day, rising against the dollar on world currency markets.

In 2002, Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Ross Chapman, a U.S. Army

Special Forces soldier, was killed by small-arms fire during an ambush in eastern Afghanistan; he was the first American military death from enemy fire in the war against terrorism.

In 2006, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a significant stroke; his official powers were transferred to his deputy, Ehud Olmert (EH'hood OHL-murt). (Sharon remained in a coma until his death in January 2014.)

In 2007, Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the House as Democrats took control of Congress.

In 2010, Dubai opened the world's tallest skyscraper, and in a surprise move renamed the 2,717-foot gleaming glass-and-metal tower Burj Khalifa in a nod to the leader of neighboring Abu Dhabi, the oil-rich sheikhdom that had come to its financial rescue.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama signed a \$1.4 billion overhaul of the nation's food safety system. The Navy fired the commander of the USS Enterprise, Capt. Owen Honors, more than three years after he'd made lewd videos to boost morale for his crew. (Honors was later reprimanded but allowed to remain in the Navy; he retired in 2012.) The Mega Millions lottery drew two winning tickets for a jackpot totaling \$380 million. (In a strange coincidence, four of the six winning numbers matched those used by a lottery-winning character on the TV show "Lost.")

Five years ago: Workers returned to their offices at the San Bernardino, California campus where 14 people were killed the previous month in a terror attack carried out by a county restaurant inspector and his wife. The Justice Department sued Volkswagen over emissions-cheating software found in nearly 600,000 vehicles sold in the United States.

One year ago: Thousands of militiamen and other supporters marched across Iraq's capital in a funeral procession for Iran's top

general, Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. airstrike. President Donald Trump threatened to hit dozens of targets in Iran "very fast and very hard," including sites "important to Iran & the Iranian culture," if Iran retaliated for the killing. Australia's prime minister said the death toll in the worst wildfire season in Australian history had climbed to 23, including a father and son

who had been battling flames for two days.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Barbara Rush is 94. Opera singer Grace Bumbry is 84. Actor Dyan Cannon is 82. Author-historian Doris Kearns Goodwin is 78. Country singer Kathy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 66. Actor Ann Magnuson is 65. Rock musician Bernard Sumner (New Order, Joy Division) is 65. Country sing-

er Patty Loveless is 64. Actor Julian Sands is 63. Rock singer Michael Stipe is 61. Actor Patrick Cassidy is 59. Actor Dave Foley is 58. Actor Dot Jones is 57. Actor Rick Hearst is 56. Singer-musician Cait O'Riordan is 56. Actor Julia Ormond is 56. Former tennis player Guy Forget (ghee fohr-ZHAY') is 56. Country singer Deana Carter is 55. Rock musician Benjamin Darvill (Crash Test

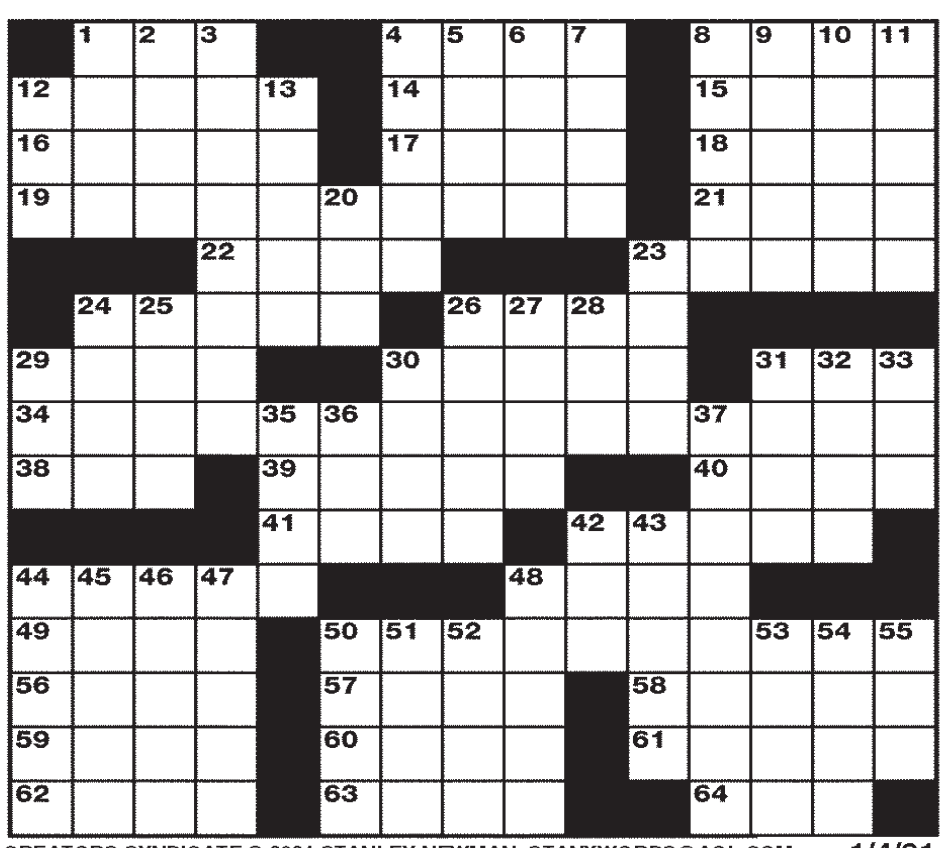
Dummies) is 54. Actor Josh Stamberg is 51. Actor Damon Gupton is 48. Actor-singer Jill Marie Jones is 46. Actor D'Arcy Carden is 41. Christian rock singer Spencer Chamberlain (Underoath) is 38. Actor Lenora Crichlow is 36. Comedian-actor Charlyne Yi is 35. MLB All-Star Kris Bryant is 29. Actor-singer Coco Jones is 23.

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Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Butter container 4 Any stage-play accessory 8 Clothing labels with prices 12 Of the moon 14 Volcano outflow 15 Norse explorer the Red 16 Being chilled, as champagne 17 By mouth, as a vaccine 18 Scotia (Canadian province) 19 Post-shower drying cloths 21 Sign of the future 22 Historical periods 23 Lawn greenery 24 Courage in battle 26 Tra (song syllables) 29 Totally change, as a kitchen 30 Jazz band horns, for short 31 School's bake-sale sponsor: Abbr. 34 Fluffy footwear worn with robes 38 Tax collecting agcy. 39 Composed some prose 40 Change for a \$5 bill 41 Long parts of pants 42 Atmospheric layer of oxygen 44 Wild guesses 48 Leave the pier in a ship 49 Secret message 50 Fluffy bits of blizzards 56 "Once a time..." 57 Cover with asphalt

- 58 Brief statement or belief 59 Sparrow or crow 60 Found a purpose for 61 Follows, as advice 62 Cards that beat kings 63 Take a bold chance 64 day now (very soon) DOWN 1 "Chunk light" sandwich fish 2 of measure (quart or mile) 3 Unmarried guy 4 Prepares fields for planting 5 Very uncommon 6 Egg-shaped 7 Buddies 8 Singing voice above baritone 9 Scent 10 Makes a donation 11 Electronic readings 12 Soft toss 13 Fashionable once again 20 Rowboat implement 23 Inhale quickly in surprise 24 Swerve 25 Tacks on 26 Endures 27 Rod between car wheels 28 Hawaiian garland 29 Baseball slugger's stat: Abbr. 30 Urban air pollution 31 Philly's state, for short 32 Oak or maple 33 Donkey 35 Birds that hoot 36 Metallic rock 37 Where a hotel's lifeguard is stationed 42 Clumsy person 43 Zero, informally 44 Deep-sea diver's gear 45 Subject being discussed 46 Like very much 47 Flexes, as a muscle 48 Person from Stockholm 50 Potato, slangily 51 Outer-space agency 52 and done with (finished) 53 Sharp, as eyesight 54 Oceanic swirl 55 Ship's distress signal



Answer to previous puzzle HOOT TASTES FDR ANNE ERICA ERA DEAR REVERB REG ATHENS RUBSRAW GOOSEEGGS ANIME ONPATROL STOGIE AUCTIONED CHARACTERACTORS RENERUSSO ESTATE OPTIMIST SPECS ENSHRINEE SECTORS RATTAN IRE NASSAU TOGO DUD GREATS ETON ASE SEXTIET NOTS 1/4/21