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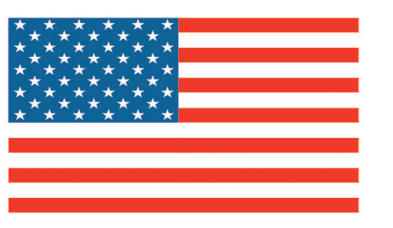
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Upcoming Events

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

SMMC Virtual Hiring Event
 Jan. 19-20

Howard County Area Honor Rolls will be featured Jan. 14

Benefit for Sheri Bailey
 Jan. 9
Eagles Lodge
 Funds raised will help with medical and funeral expenses

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

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

Road updates, Toshiba electronic discovery topped County Commissioner agenda Monday



HERALD photo/Iris Rangel

Howard County Commissioners met for the first meeting of 2021 on Monday morning, in the Third Floor Courtroom at the Howard County Courthouse. Howard County Judge Kathryn Wiseman was not present for the meeting.

By **IRIS RANGEL**
 Herald Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners met Monday morning for a regular meeting at 10. The meeting began with a presentation from District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, and drew discussion about Radio Communication Tower updates, and a roadway maintenance update concerning the recent large snowfall last week.

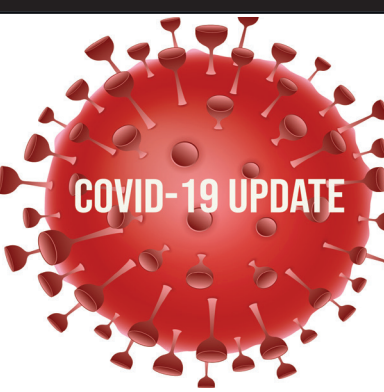
The meeting began with District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson presenting a consideration of proposal for electronic discovery from Toshiba. According to Wilkerson, prosecutors are required to send case files to the defense council for attorneys to analyze. This process included making multiple copies for review to later be filed away.

Wilkerson noted that the younger attorneys on the bar, peaked interest in a program Toshiba holds where files could be sent and copied virtually to be held in an online cloud system.

“There are several advantages this electronic discovery could be utilized for. There’s easier access to files and documents from anywhere, where attorneys can view case files from home; accountability can even become a factor as we can see if they’ve actually reviewed the material; it’s a less bulky and more secure way of doing what we are required to do and it would be unique to Howard County,” Wilkerson said.

The proposed contract would equate to \$28,000 over a two-year contract.

See **COUNTY**, Page 3



COVID-19 UPDATE
 Scenic Mountain Medical Center has reported 1/04/2021:
 • 17 Covid-19 positive patients
 • 3 in ICU & no vents

SMMG & SMMC Testing through Jan. 3:
 • 2626 tests
 • 700 positives for 26.7% positivity rate
 • 3 pending

From Dec. 2020 - Jan. 3, 690 patients have tested of which 190 were positive for a rate of 27.7% positivity. 3 tests are pending.

Howard County has reported as of 01/04:
 • 2518 positive cases
 • 67 Covid-19 fatalities
 • 262 Active cases
 • 3616 recovered
 • 1427 probable cases

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

Law Enforcement Agencies honor fallen Trooper Troy Hogue



Courtesy photo

On the 26th anniversary of the loss of Trooper Troy Hogue, law enforcement agencies once again placed a wreath in his honor at the Joint Law Enforcement Center on Dec. 30, 2020.

Community Report Attack of the Tumbleweed



Courtesy photo/James and Jamie Boudreau

Before the winter snow blew into Howard County, James and Jamie Boudreau’s son took a photo with a giant tumbleweed that had blown through town at 2nd and Johnson.

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Find us online at:
 www.bigspringherald.com

Divorce Care & GriefShare begins for 2021

By **NATALIE PERMENTER**
 Herald Contributing Writer

After a year filled with chaos and loss, Trinity Baptist Church is ready to help with two support seminars that will start up this week. DivorceCare and GriefShare are both open to anyone in the community and meet weekly at Trinity Baptist Church in The College Classroom (Door #3 is the entrance and is at the back of the church.)

Everything seems to be in chaos right now. Maybe your marriage is too. DivorceCare meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. starting this evening for 13 weeks. It is a Christ-centered program that includes three main parts: video, group discussion and personal study.

“These times are putting strains on families that they probably were not ready for”, said Brad Daniels, TBC Associate Pastor and Program Coordinator. “Prolonged stresses like this expose critical weaknesses. DivorceCare helps those who are on the brink of divorce and those who have experienced a divorce. We are here to help with



Courtesy photo

A new session of GriefShare and Divorce Care is beginning for 2021. The classes will run for 13 weeks.

sound biblical principles to fix broken relationships.”
 DivorceCare videos feature teaching from over 50 leading Christian Counselors, teachers and pastors who speak on topics important to people in separation or divorce. The videos have real-life testimonies of people who have been through a marital breakup, as they share their pain, challenges and path to healing. You will gain insights on how to handle tough emotions such as anger,

depression and loneliness. For more information on DivorceCare, please call the TBC Office at 432-267-6344.

COVID has brought loss to so many in our community and TBC is there to help with the grief. GriefShare is beginning Thursday, January 7th at 6 PM and is also a 13 week seminar. “It seems in many instances those touched by death during the COVID-19 pandemic have often suffered isolation and a lack of closure,”said Vivian Gordon, Program Coordinator. Community members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend are invited to attend. This program features Christ-centered, Biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion.

Many grieving people find that they are only starting the work of healing as they return to their daily routines and work after such a profound loss. Past attendees have expressed how helpful the information and follow up discussions were to them. For more information on GriefShare, please call 432-466-3583. For more information, visit tccbigspring.com.



Obituaries

Jimmy O. Johnson Sr.

Jimmy O. Johnson, Sr., 82, of Big Spring, Texas passed away Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, at his home in Merkel, Texas. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of The Hamil Family Funeral Home, 6449 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, Texas.

Jimmy was born Feb. 9, 1938 in Blackwell, Texas to M.L. and Marie Johnson. He graduated from Colorado High School in 1956 and University of Texas, El Paso in 1960. Jimmy was married to Barbara Dixon from June 21, 1964, in Big Spring, Texas until she preceded him in death Nov. 29, 1995.

Jimmy's lifelong career was spent working for Fina in Big Spring, Texas in the polystyrene department. Jimmy loved watching football, boating & fishing, as well as watching old western movies on TV.

Jimmy was an Elder in the Salt Branch Cowboy

Terry Lynn Coates

Terry Lynn Coates, 61, of Big Spring, passed away in his home from a sudden illness on Dec. 31, 2020.

Terry was born July 31, 1959 to Earl and Mona Coates. Terry is survived by his wife Cheryl; son Terry (Bubba) Coates, Jr. of El Puerto de Santa Maria, Spain. He is also survived by four sisters, Sondra Littlepage of Silsbee, TX; Judy Bedell of Kermit, Texas; Brenda Grissom of Conroe, Texas and Mona Phillips of Big Spring, Texas; two brothers Jerry of Odessa, Texas; Roy Moore of Odessa, Texas as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

He is preceded in death by his parents Earl and Mona Coates and one brother.

Celebration of life will be at a later date

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to a Go Fund Me that has been arranged by Myers & Smith Funeral Home

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

Rosalinda "Chakie" DeLeon

Rosalinda "Chakie" DeLeon, 78, of Big Spring, Texas passed away peacefully at home Dec. 31, 2020.

Viewing and visitation will be Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a vigil at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel.

Funeral services will be Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born on Oct. 16, 1942, to Jesus and Ida Flores. She lived in Big Spring all her life. She married Jimmy DeLeon on June 28, 1957. She worked several years as a beautician and later retired from Coahoma ISD as the Special Ed Bus Driver. She was a devoted housewife, mother and grandmother. Homemade tortillas and beans were an everyday ritual in her home. She enjoyed cooking and watching her Spanish soap operas and traveling.

Betty Jean Cooper

Betty Jean Cooper, 90, of Big Spring passed away on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 in a local nursing home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral and Crematory.

Church in Merkel, Texas. He and Barbara Lankford were married at their home in Merkel, Texas on Oct. 16, 2010, where they resided until Jimmy's death. His beloved wife preceded him in death Dec. 20, 2020.

He was also preceded in death by two sons, Michael Allen Johnson (Mouse), Jimmy O. Johnson, Jr. (Jimbo), one son-in-law, Tom K. Buvinghausen, and his sister Ann Murphy.

Jimmy is survived by two sons, Douglas Bradley Johnson, Robert Charles Johnson, both of Big Spring, Texas, and one daughter, Suzanne Johnson Buvinghausen of Argyle, Texas. Jimmy also had three surviving stepchildren, Darryl Adamson and wife, Brenda, Teresa Ferguson and husband, Brian and Richie and wife Liz. Jimmy was blessed with numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Our family suggests in lieu of flowers, please donate to Salt Branch Cowboy Church, Merkel, Texas.

We would also like to extend our sincerest thanks to Kinder Heart Home Health and Hospice in Abilene, Texas as well as The Hamil Family Funeral Home.

Paid Obituary

Rueleen Freez

Rueleen Freeze, 90 of Big Spring, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **RODRIGO SOLIS RODRIGUEZ**, 21, of 811 Sgt. Paradez, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **SIMON ALPHONSO MACIAS**, 24, of 3406 North County Road, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated BAC greater than or equal to 0.15.

• **RODRIGO SOLIS RODRIGUEZ**, 21, of 811 Sgt. Paradez, was arrested on a charge of assault EMS Personnel providing service.

• **TERESA LORENE LANG**, 38, of 2912 Cherokee Street, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass – property/building/aircraft/vehicle and possession of dangerous drug.

• **REBECCA LYNN COMSTOCK**, 37, of 509 S. Johnson Street, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass – property/building/aircraft/vehicle.

• **MANUEL SOSA IV**, 28, of 1609 Donley Street, was arrested on a charge of possession of controlled substance less than 28 grams and possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces.

• **UNWANTED SUBJECT** was reported in the 900 block of Willia Street.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1600 block of S. Lancaster Street; 500 block of Westover Road; 5100 block of E. Midway Road; 2900 block of E. I-20.

• **FOUND PROPERTY** was reported in the 700 block of S. Gregg Street.

• **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the area of NW 2nd and Dundee; Midway Exit and SSRD.

• **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.; 900 block of E. 13th Street; 3700 block of Calvin.

• **WELFARE CONCERN** was reported in the 800 block of Sgt. Paradez.

• **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson Street.

• **TELEPHONE HARASSMENT** was reported in the 1000 block of S. Gregg Street.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1000 block of S. Goliad Street.

• **FORGERY** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 inmates at the time of this report.

• **GABRIEL R GARCIA RIOS**, 60, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• **SIMON ALPHONSO MACIAS**, 24, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated BAC greater than or equal to 0.1.

• **NICOLE L MIERS**, 36, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

• **RODRIGO SOLIS RODRIGUEZ**, 21, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication and assault EMS personnel providing service.

• **LAURA LEE SMITH**, 58, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• **JACQUELINE TORRES**, 38, was arrested by DPS on a charge of smuggling persons.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of Westover. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 6400 block of S. Service Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3800

block of Conally. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 600 block Elgin. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of E. 24th Street. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of Denton Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of Davis Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

tact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

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

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinson's Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's Disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, con-

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MEMBER 2020

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Don't mess with Texas scholarship contest opens to high school seniors

AUSTIN – Applications are now available for the 2021 Don't mess with Texas Scholarship Contest. This contest recognizes Texas high school seniors who are taking an active role in litter prevention in their school or community.

The contest is open to any Texas high school senior currently attending public, private or home school and planning to attend an accredited college or university in the Fall 2021 semester. The contest will award a total of \$9,000 in scholarships to three

winners in May 2021.

"We're looking for students who are developing exciting and creative solutions to keep Texas litter-free," said Becky Ozuna, program administrator for the Don't mess with Texas program. "We aim to shine a spotlight on their innovations in the hope of inspiring other Texans to do their part to keep our state beautiful."

To enter the Don't mess with Texas Scholarship Contest, visit dontmesswithtexas.org. Applica-

tions must be received via online submission by 5:00 p.m. (CST) March 31, 2021. Sponsors for the Don't mess with Texas Scholarship include Buc-ee's and iHeart Media.

Don't mess with Texas has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. The program includes a grassroots partnership with the Keep Texas Beautiful organization, annual "Trash-Off" community outreach events and the Adopt-a-Highway volunteer program.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center hosting virtual hiring event

Special to the Herald
SMMC

Scenic Mountain Medical Center – a Steward Family Hospital, will host a virtual hiring event for healthcare workers seeking new career opportunities on Tuesday, January 19th and Wednesday, January 20th. In lieu of

in-person interviews, recruiters will utilize video conferencing and phone interviews to meet with candidates who are interested in furthering their career with Steward Health Care, the largest private, healthcare system in the United States.

Candidates may apply by online and

schedule a time slot for an interview here or by visiting www.scenicmountainmedicalcenter.org/careers and clicking the "Virtual Job Fair" tab.

Scenic Mountain's virtual hiring event is searching for candidates for multiple positions including:

- RN Behavioral Health Unit

- RN ER
 - RN ICU
 - RN MS
 - RN OR
 - RN House Supervisor
 - Respiratory Therapist
- For more information on the virtual hiring event, call 432-582-8241.

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 or call 432-517-7675.

• 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 announce-

ment 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 (Big Springsymphony.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.

• 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 JH/High School

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

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.

Irma Chapa, 56, died Monday. 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. Viewing and visitation will be Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM with a vigil at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Services will be Thursday at 2:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Terry Coates, 61, died Friday. A Celebration of life will be at a later date. 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.

Rueleen Freeze, 90 of Big Spring, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

Commissioners then proceeded to discuss the proposal and final decisions will be made at a later date.

County Treasurer Sharon Adams then moved into conversation with concerns for the FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) that ended Dec. 31. The FFCRA was made to require certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reason related to COVID-19. The FFCR Act ended Dec. 31, 2020, however, Adams put forth consideration to extend the act until March 22, 2021.

Commissioner John Cline moved to approve the extension and was seconded by Commissioner Ed-dilisa Ray. The motion passed unanimously.

The Court then reviewed the warranty deed for Pocket Park purchase. Upon confirmation from the tax office for the lot and block number of the park, and the description of the lot, Commissioners moved to approve the deed. The motion was passed through a unanimous vote.

Commissioners than moved into conversation regarding bids for the Radio Communications Tower. Originally, there was only one informal bid made by Custom Tower that was discussed in previous meetings. Commissioner Bailey then discussed the need to publish the bid publicly for the construction of the South Mountain Tower in order to receive more bid options. Commissioner Bailey moved to approve permission to go out for bids and was seconded by Commissioner Ray. The motion

was approved 4 to 0.

Other topics discussed during the meeting included:

- Approval of the County Treasurer's personnel considerations, monthly payroll report, and HealthYOU vending machine
- Approval of the County Auditor's invoices, purchase requests, budget amendments, and removal of disposed fixed assets
- Approval of bonds of elected officials
- Acceptance of low bid and proceed with contract for RFB 2020009 GRH CR 48 and change order for RFB 2020010 GRH CR 15
- Acceptance of an inter-local agreement with the City of Coahoma and Coahoma ISD
- Approval of permission to get a load of emulsion
- Presentation of Grant Bill #1

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

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Stocks fall as trading starts for year of great expectations

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks are falling from their record highs Monday, as trading gets underway in a year where the dominant expectation is for a powerful economic rebound to eventually sweep the world.

The S&P 500 was 2.1% lower in afternoon trading, after earlier flipping from small gains to losses. The Dow Jones Industrial Average also fell from its record set last week and was down 621 points, or 2%, at 29,985. The Nasdaq composite was 2.2% lower, as of 12:27 p.m. Eastern time.

Coronavirus cases keep climbing at frightening rates around the world, threatening to bring more lockdown orders that would punish the economy. The worsening numbers also raise the possibility that Wall Street has been overly optimistic about a big economic recovery given COVID-19 vaccines' slow roll out.

Elsewhere in the world, stocks fell in Japan as officials there mull a state of emergency due to surging virus cases. But optimism was more prevalent in other markets. Most European and Asian stock indexes were higher, while Treasury yields climbed in a signal of rising expectations for economic growth and inflation.

The United Kingdom has been hit particularly hard by a new variant of the coronavirus that appears to be more contagious. On Monday, the United Kingdom became the first nation to start using the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Oxford University and drugmaker AstraZeneca.

In the United States, regulators have already approved two other vaccines. China last week gave the greenlight for its first domestically developed vaccine. Others are also being tested.

The hope in markets had been that vaccines will allow daily life around the world to slowly return to normal. That's helped spark a recent recovery for stocks of travel-related businesses, smaller companies and other industries left

behind for much of the pandemic.

Even though infection rates and hospitalizations are at frightening levels, many investors have been betting that ultralow interest rates provided by the Federal Reserve and financial support for the economy recently approved by Congress can help tide the economy over until vaccinations become more widespread.

Governments might throw less stimulus at their economies than last year, but policy is "still at a very loose setting," which supports stock prices and lending, said Kerry Craig of JP Morgan Asset Management in a report.

"Investors should look through the bumpier start to the new economic cycle and focus on the improved earnings outlook," Craig said.

Of course, many risks remain for the market, even beyond the threat of economic lockdowns coming in the near term because of the raging pandemic. Prices have climbed enough that critics say stocks may be too expensive, particularly if the big rebound in corporate profits that investors expect to occur later this year doesn't materialize.

Politics is also still a wild card. Two runoff races in Georgia on Tuesday will determine which party controls the Senate.

Roughly 90% of stocks in the S&P 500 were falling Monday. On the losing end of the market were several Big Tech stocks. Apple slipped 3.4%, Microsoft fell 3% and Amazon lost 3%. Because they're so massive in size, the movements of Big Tech stocks have much more sway over the S&P 500 than other companies. Those three were the biggest drags on the index.

Momentum has slowed for Big Tech stocks, which soared earlier in the pandemic as shop-and-work-from-home trends that benefit them accelerated. Many analysts expect the stock market's gains to broaden this year as the economy recovers, with Big Tech no longer pulling so far away from the rest of the market.

Medicine for the Soul

Person of the year

I saw a magazine the other day that gave the person of the year. It showed people that had no idea what it was like to hold someone's mother, father, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, friend, spouse's hand for the last time as they begin to cry out that they cannot breathe. They do not know what it is like to hold someone's hand as they know it is their patient's time to go as the virus has made it too soon. They do not know the feeling victory as someone comes off the ventilator and is extubated and the feeling of defeat as they again succumb to the virus as their lungs again fill with fluid and are re-intu-



Joseph Chavez

bated. They do not know what it is like to teach another human to fight for their life as their mind and lungs are made to rest. To all of you Doctors, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Respiratory Therapists, Pharmacists, CNA's, RMA's, PCT's, Phlebotomists, Radiology and CT Technicians and health care administrators and any other health care and essential workers I have missed. I salute you every day. As I walk through the hospital on my rounds, I want to look into their frightened eyes and tell them to keep fighting. I want to hold them in my arms and tell them that everything will be ok and to stop crying. I know that every night I will fall on my knees and pray for every single one of you to give you strength and power to do what you are meant to do. I pray for the lives barely hanging on and I pray for the families who will mourn those that will be lost tonight and every night until this crisis ends. I will pray that every essential and health care worker on this struggling Earth will realize that he or she made a difference today and will make a difference tomorrow in someone's life. You make a difference in someone's life because you were there today to hold their hand for the last time. You were there to make the call when another soul was lost. You are and were there to make the call when the battle was won. You may ask yourself how can I fight today when we are losing this war. Well we will not lose because these people have you.

The sad, crazy, struggling, tired, burnt out, but strong and courageous health care worker. The real person of the year.

Sheriff: Pastor dead, 2 hurt in shooting at Texas church

WINONA, Texas (AP) — A 21-year-old man who hid from police in an East Texas church was charged with first-degree murder and felony assault in a shooting that left the pastor dead and two other people injured Sunday, a local sheriff said.

Authorities had been using dogs and drones to search for the man late Saturday in woods near Winona following a car chase, and the pastor of the nearby Starrville Methodist Church discovered him hiding in a church bathroom Sunday morning, Smith County Sheriff Larry Smith said at a news conference.

Smith said police were initially pursuing the man because he was suspected of brandishing a shotgun through the sunroof of a Volkswagen Jetta he was driving Tuesday. Authorities believe the suspect, identified as 21-year-old Mytrez Deunte Woolen of Marshall, Texas, broke into the church after police had left the area around 2 a.m. Sunday.

Pastor Mark Allen McWilliams, 62, drew a gun and ordered Woolen to stop, Smith said, but Woolen grabbed the weapon and began shooting with it. McWilliams was killed, a second person was injured by gunfire and another was hurt in a fall.

Woolen then stole the pastor's vehicle and fled east before being arrested by deputies in nearby Harrison County, Smith said. He said Woolen was hospitalized Sunday afternoon with gunshot wounds to his hand, but that it's unclear when he was shot.

Woolen was charged with felony assault and capital murder. He's being held at Smith County

Jail, and bond is set at \$3.5 million.

The shooting was reported around 9:20 a.m., and there were no services going on at that time, said Sgt. Larry Christian, of the sheriff's office. Smith said the pastor, his wife and two other people were in the church at the time.

Woolen appears to have taken shelter in the church out of convenience and there's nothing to indicate the shooting was motivated by religious animus, the sheriff said.

"This is not a church-related, religion-related offense," said Smith.

Gov. Greg Abbott sent his condolences.

"Our hearts are with the victims and the families of those killed or injured in this terrible tragedy," he said in a statement.

It's unclear exactly when Woolen entered the church in Starrville, near Winona, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of Dallas.

Representatives of Starrville Methodist could not be immediately reached for comment. Starrville Methodist was built in 1853, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

The shooting came a little more

than a year after a gunman opened fire at a church near Fort Worth, killing two people before he was fatally shot by a congregant.

Texas officials hailed the congregant's quick action, saying it prevented further killing and showed the effectiveness of the state's permissive gun laws, including a 2019 measure that affirmed the right of licensed handgun holders to carry a weapon in places of worship.

That law was passed in response to the 2017 massacre at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, where a man fatally shot more than two dozen people at a Sunday service before taking his own life.

Since then, a cottage industry has sprung up in Texas and other states to train and arm civilians to protect their churches using the techniques and equipment of law enforcement.

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Powerlifting season set to begin next weekend for Howard County schools

By SHAWN MORAN
Herald Sportswriter

It is the beginning of a new year and that means a new season of high school sports is setting up to begin. It also means the beginning of a new era in Big Spring Powerlifting.

After an extremely successful and record-breaking performance last year, the Big Spring Powerlifting team has a new coach and will be beginning their 2021 season this weekend inside the Big Spring Junior High Gym.

"I'm just looking forward to keep improving as a team," Head Coach Sawyer Roberts said. "The last couple years we've won a lot of meets and I just want to continue that. I also want to continue to take a lot more kids to Regionals. Last year we broke a record and I just want to continue breaking those records."

Roberts will be taking over the head coaching duties and has two new assistant coaches in Danelle Baughman and Walker Hargrove that have been a great addition to the coaching staff. Following a year where they had just shy of 20 Regional Qualifiers, Roberts is looking to maintain the standard that has been set in the past and will not be changing the training regiment too much.

"Just trying to take the standard that we had last year and raising the bar. From an organizational level, we'll be more organized and have things more well thought out. I've just been preaching to the kids that every day is an opportunity that they need to grasp. There is a standard. Something I preach is that the standard is the standard and bring the juice every day."

Last spring, Big Spring's powerlifting team had a large portion of the team that qualified for Regionals and they all put together strong performances at Regionals.

Here are the results from the boys' performance:



HERALD File Photo
A group of Big Spring powerlifters pose with their medals following a meet last season.

- Mattox Evans was 5th in the 114 lb. class
- Cruz Martinez was 4th in the 123 lb. class
- Kenny Richardson was 6th in the 132 lb. class
- Leroy Johnson was 9th in the 132 lb. class
- Connor Andrae was 10th in the 132 lb. class
- Josh Lopez was 4th in the 148 lb. class
- Shawn Mendoza was 7th in the 148 lb. class
- Rogelio Cervantes was 8th in the 181 lb. class
- Isaiah Rodriguez was 8th in the 220 lb. class
- Andrew Roberts was 4th in the 275 lb. class
- Daniel Roberts was 6th in the Superheavyweight class

The Steer coaching staff knows that the hard work that those athletes put in during their team training sessions translated to a very strong collective showing at the biggest meet of the season. Because of the coronavirus and the

rules that it has set on athletics, the Steers practice early in the mornings before school so that Roberts has a chance to see his whole team. Many lifters play other sports, and with basketball season in full swing and baseball/softball season coming up it has made scheduling tough on the first-year coach.

"We practice Monday through Thursday at 6:00 a.m. in the ATC," Roberts said. "We've been hitting it hard and it's the only time I can get all of my athletes together at the same time."

Out of the five regular season meets that the Steers attended last season, the boys won three of the meets and finished second in the other two meets. The Big Spring boys' team tied the school record of 11 lifters qualifying for the Regional Meet.

The Big Spring girl's also put together a string of consistent strong performances at the meets throughout the season and added a school-record 11 more Regional qualifiers to the ranks.

Jocelyn Gonzales came extremely close to first-place in the Region and she finished higher than any other Steer lifter.

See **STEERS**, Page 10

Toyota ShareLunker Program Launches 35th Season this Weekend

Special to the Herald

AUSTIN – The turning of the calendar to January signals the beginning of the 35th season of the Toyota Sharelunker program. The year-round Toyota Sharelunker program offers four levels of participation for catching bass over eight pounds or 24 inches in Texas.

"We are excited to kick off another ShareLunker season," said Toyota Sharelunker Program Coordinator Kyle Brookshear.

"Not only for the selective spawning and stocking of these world-class offspring, but also to help gather vital catch and genetic data to help our fisheries biologists better manage trophy bass populations throughout the great fisheries of Texas."

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13+ pound bass can loan it to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 until April 1, 2021.

Anglers who catch and donate one of these 13+ lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13lb+ Legacy Decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event and a high-quality replica of their lunker fish. These anglers will also receive entries into two separate drawings; a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater than 8 lbs. or 24 inches during the calendar year 2021 also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license. ShareLunker entry classes include the Lunker Class (8lb+), Elite Class (10lb+), and Legend Class (13lb+).

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app – available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play – or on the Toyota ShareLunker online app at TexasSharelunker.com. In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers can also provide a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

Prize donors Bass Pro Shops, Lake Fork Taxidermy, American Fishing Tackle Co. and Stanley Jigs also provide additional support for this program.

For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/ or TexasSharelunker.com

Final 2020 NFL Standings

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE (AFC)

EAST	W	L	T	PCT	HOME	AWAY	DIV	CONF	PF	PA
z - Buffalo Bills	13	3	0	.813	7-1	6-2	6-0	10-2	501	375
e - Miami Dolphins	10	6	0	.625	5-3	5-3	3-3	7-5	404	338
e - New England Patriots	7	9	0	.438	5-3	2-6	3-3	6-6	326	353
e - New York Jets	2	14	0	.125	1-7	1-7	0-6	1-11	243	457

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	HOME	AWAY	DIV	CONF	PF	PA
z - Pittsburgh Steelers	12	4	0	.750	7-1	5-3	4-2	9-3	416	312
y - Baltimore Ravens	11	5	0	.688	5-3	6-2	4-2	7-5	468	303
y - Cleveland Browns	11	5	0	.688	6-2	5-3	3-3	7-5	408	419
e - Cincinnati Bengals	4	11	1	.281	3-5	1-6-1	1-5	4-8	311	424

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	HOME	AWAY	DIV	CONF	PF	PA
z - Tennessee Titans	11	5	0	.688	5-3	6-2	5-1	8-4	491	439
y - Indianapolis Colts	11	5	0	.688	6-2	5-3	4-2	7-5	451	362
e - Houston Texans	4	12	0	.250	2-6	2-6	2-4	3-9	384	464
e - Jacksonville Jaguars	1	15	0	.063	1-7	0-8	1-5	1-11	306	492

WEST	W	L	T	PCT	HOME	AWAY	DIV	CONF	PF	PA
* - Kansas City Chiefs	14	2	0	.875	6-2	8-0	4-2	10-2	473	362
e - Las Vegas Raiders	8	8	0	.500	2-6	6-2	4-2	6-6	434	478
e - Los Angeles Chargers	7	9	0	.438	4-4	3-5	3-3	6-6	384	426
e - Denver Broncos	5	11	0	.313	2-6	3-5	1-5	4-8	323	446

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE (NFC)

EAST	W	L	T	PCT	HOME	AWAY	DIV	CONF	PF	PA
z - Washington	7	9	0	.438	3-5	4-4	4-2	5-7	335	329
e - New York Giants	6	10	0	.375	3-5	3-5	4-2	5-7	280	357
e - Dallas Cowboys	6	10	0	.375	4-4	2-6	2-4	5-7	395	473
e - Philadelphia Eagles	4	11	1	.281	3-4-1	1-7	2-4	4-8	334	418

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	HOME	AWAY	DIV	CONF	PF	PA
* - Green Bay Packers	13	3	0	.813	7-1	6-2	5-1	10-2	509	369
y - Chicago Bears	8	8	0	.500	3-5	5-3	2-4	6-6	372	370
e - Minnesota Vikings	7	9	0	.438	3-5	4-4	4-2	5-7	430	475
e - Detroit Lions	5	11	0	.313	1-7	4-4	1-5	4-8	377	519

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	HOME	AWAY	DIV	CONF	PF	PA
z - New Orleans Saints	12	4	0	.750	6-2	6-2	6-0	10-2	482	337
y - Tampa Bay Bucs	11	5	0	.688	5-3	6-2	4-2	8-4	492	355
e - Carolina Panthers	5	11	0	.313	2-6	3-5	1-5	4-8	350	402
e - Atlanta Falcons	4	12	0	.250	2-6	2-6	1-5	2-10	396	414

WEST	W	L	T	PCT	HOME	AWAY	DIV	CONF	PF	PA
z - Seattle Seahawks	12	4	0	.750	7-1	5-3	4-2	9-3	459	371
y - Los Angeles Rams	10	6	0	.625	6-2	4-4	3-3	9-3	372	296
e - Arizona Cardinals	8	8	0	.500	4-4	4-4	2-4	6-6	410	367
e - San Francisco 49ers	6	10	0	.375	1-7	5-3	3-3	4-8	376	390

* = Clinched Division & Bye
z = Clinched Division
y = Clinched Wild Card
e = Eliminated

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Clue: Form of play

B. 24 7 21 21 3 19
Clue: Designed to test ingenuity

C. 19 6 18 19 22 18 17 15 6
Clue: Amuse or keep busy

D. 16 18 22 17 18 19 4 13
Clue: Plan of action

Answers: A. game B. puzzle C. entertain D. strategy

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Annie's Mailbox

A Toxic Home

Dear Annie: I have been with my husband for almost nine years. We have been married for three years. His family was nice to me before the wedding, but after, they became aloof. His daughter is horrible. She has NO respect, not even for my husband.

My husband has a lot of money -- a few million dollars. He has never told me this, but his friends did. I also found paperwork showing that he has about \$2.5 million. We live in a rat hole, to say the least, and with the COVID-19, I lost my job

of 46 years. Before we married, I had my own house, car and life. Now I rent my house; my car is in the garage; and my husband is a recluse. I have no money, and the unemployment agency keeps saying I owe them money for the past 10 months. I thought they were supposed to pay me money!

My husband is a Scrooge. He's 68 years old and acts like he's 98. He does not want to do anything or go anywhere and complains about money all the time. Asking him for grocery money is like pulling teeth. He knows he has me in a rut, as

I'm not working.

My daughter-in-law has never given us a card, a gift or a kind word in the nine years that we have been together. My husband thinks she's a goddess and treats her like a queen. My husband's ex-wife went with his brother and divorced him and took him for a pretty penny.

I now know that his family is upset because they think I will get some of his money and they won't get a dime. I'm pretty sad, as I can't even get grocery money. He always said he was leaving his daughter everything. I made

a huge mistake, and with COVID-19 and no money, I will lose everything.

My daughter-in-law comes over. She has two horrible little kids who won't sit still in a restaurant or at home. When the kids were diaper age, she would leave dirty diapers around, leave dirty towels on the floor and never bring us anything, not even at Christmas or on birthdays. My daughter-in-law only thinks about herself and only buys clothes, haircuts, cars and houses for herself. Her mother lives near us, and she came for her mom's birthday, yet

she has never given a card for my husband's birthday. She tells us what she buys her mom. It's heartbreaking. He never sees his friends and my friends. I have many friends who think he's weird and that I should go.

I'm going crazy. I need help but have no medical coverage at the moment. I'm dying inside. Please tell me what I can do. -- Living With Scrooge in Las Vegas

Dear Living With Scrooge: I'm sorry that you are living in what sounds like a very toxic house. Focusing on your daughter-in-law's

and her children's faults and how horrible they are does very little to dissipate the toxicity. It sounds like there is a lot of blame and anger to go around, including on your end. It is time to consult a professional marriage counselor. That is the best way to figure out whether this marriage is worth saving. You should feel more alive with your partner, not like you are dying inside.

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Agreeable Libra Lunar Phase

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Like a traveler in the fog, you may only be able to see a few inches in front of you at a time, but that can be enough to get where you're going, especially if you have guidance from a better vantage point on the outside.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To perform at your highest capacity, it helps to feel good inside and out. Sleep, water and nutrition in the proper amounts are the cornerstone of your most excellent work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You become what you focus on, so focus on what you love. It's not that your adoration in and of itself will bring a circumstance into being, but the concentration of energy will tip off a string of actions that eventually land you there.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The brain isn't technically a muscle. Nonetheless, you can train this complex cellular structure in much the same way as you would your arms, legs or core. Design a plan for strength, flexibility, agility and endurance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Reading isn't everyone's favorite way to get information, and for some people it doesn't even make the short list. But today, it's going to be your amazingly convenient route to a successful outcome.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-

Sept. 22).

Wishing and waiting has its purpose in a life, but you've already been there and you're too busy now to return.

It's no mystery why opportunity keeps coming your way. It's because you make things happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you bring to the table is a very unique offering, born of your place in the world -- a place no one else occupies. It follows that your point of view offers angles no one else could know. Bank on it today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As for your messes -- you can hide them, clean them up or work with them. Just don't curse them. Evolutionary history has proven the enormous potential in even the grossest blob of slime.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's not so hard to have the socially correct response to a situation once you get out of yourself, step back and view it objectively. What is the primary emotion being shared? Respond in kind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Today's snag will present itself

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



like a one-off, but be careful how you handle it. Do it in a way that you'd be happy to repeat a few times, because

you just might have to.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). For what you're working on today, the practice is not a means to a result. The practice is the result. It's all you can control, and therefore it is all that matters and is worthy of the best of your attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Everywhere you go today you create comfort. You don't have to be talking to do this. Either consciously or subconsciously, you'll mirror back the emotions of others and help them feel like they are not in it alone.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 5) Relationships are your treasure, and you'll put in effort to make them special. Everything you put into socializing will pay you back. Family celebrates and invests in you. The spring scene you fall into is a natural fit for your talent. As a result, you'll accomplish heaps of work and sock away an impressive amount of money. Aries and Libra

adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 1, 15, 23 and 27.

COSMIC QUESTION: "In my 20s, I felt like I was invincible and thought I knew everything I needed to know to make something of myself. I'm not sure what happened. I thought that by 33, I'd have a great job, relationship and home. Nope. It's like I'm not even a real adult yet. What advice do you have for a Sagittarius?"

In your 20s, you made goals without knowing yourself very well. Now that you know yourself better, you're likely to commit to endeavors that will speak to who you really are and give you the chance to shine and feel fulfilled. Instead of focusing on what you haven't done, focus on what's next. Set one goal at a time.

On the bright side, being the adventurer of the zodiac, you've probably have seen a lot more of the world than many people your age. You've explored relationships and different kinds of study. You have a well-rounded view. So stop being so hard on yourself and give yourself time to assimilate what you've learned. Sagittarians are like toddlers who grow up in a bilingual household. These children may take longer to express themselves verbally but once they begin talking, they do so in two languages fluently.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A bitter pill to swallow

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	Q 7		
♥	K 9 5 2		
♦	K 6 4		
♣	A 7 5 3		
WEST		EAST	
♠	10 3	♠	K J 9 6 4 2
♥	4	♥	7 6 3
♦	Q 10 5	♦	J 9 8 7
♣	K Q J 9 8 4 2	♣	—
SOUTH			
♠	A 8 5		
♥	A Q J 10 8		
♦	A 3 2		
♣	10 6		

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥		

Opening lead — king of clubs. "What can defeat me?" is a question every declarer should ask himself as he embarks on the play of any hand. Here is a striking example that illustrates the wisdom of asking this question before starting to play. South reached four hearts on the sequence shown, and West led the king of clubs. Declarer played the ace, ruffed by East, who then returned a diamond.

Declarer won with the ace, drew trump and led a low spade toward the queen. He was hoping West had the king, in which case he could later discard a diamond loser from dummy

on his ace of spades. But after the queen lost to East's king, South had to go down one, losing a spade, a diamond, a club, and East's ruff on the opening lead.

However, declarer could and should have made the contract. He neglected to apply the principle espoused above. The fatal misstep occurred at trick one, when South should have ducked West's king, knowing from the bidding that there was an excellent chance the club ace might be ruffed. If West then continued with the queen, dummy would again play low, and if West played still another club, declarer would duck once more and ruff in his hand. These three plays would enable South to maintain the 10 tricks he had started with — five trumps, a spade, two diamonds, a club and a spade ruff in dummy. He would lose only two clubs and a spade, eventually discarding his diamond loser on the club ace.

Before making a play from dummy at trick one, South should ask himself: "What can possibly go wrong?" In the present instance, given West's three-club bid, the danger of playing the club ace should be apparent.

The next step in the process follows almost automatically — 10 tricks can be maintained by the simple expedient of letting West win the first two club tricks.

Tomorrow: Defensive card-reading.

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SUDOKU

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

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

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Defense figures to be focus as Cowboys miss playoffs again

By SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Pro Football Writer

The answers on offense for the Dallas Cowboys going into coach Mike McCarthy's second season are in place, simply waiting to return from injury, most notably quarterback Dak Prescott.

The defense is another story. The future of defensive coordinator Mike Nolan is the starting point after the Cowboys gave up a franchise-record 473 points (just shy of 30 per game) and finished 31st in the NFL in run defense, allowing 159 yards per game.

McCarthy didn't exactly endorse his most important hire after a 23-19 loss to the New York Giants eliminated Dallas (6-10) from the playoffs a few hours before Washington made that defeat moot by beating Philadelphia 20-14 to win the NFC East.

"Well, I think that all those things, myself included, those evaluations will all start next week," McCarthy said when asked if Nolan would return. "We will sit down with every player and have exit interviews, every coach and have exit interviews. Just so you know, I answer this question the same every year."

When they hired McCarthy, the Cowboys had the same Super Bowl aspirations that cost Jason Garrett his job when Dallas missed the playoffs in 2019. Although injuries were a factor, the Cowboys have now missed the postseason in consecutive years for the first time since losing three straight win-and-you're-in finales in Garrett's first three full seasons, from 2011-13. Dallas kept its slim hopes alive with three straight wins after

falling to 3-9. "Everything we faced this year seems like not really anything went our way, but somehow, we kept grinding," running back Ezekiel Elliott said. "We kept going and we kept fighting. And I am proud of this group of men for that."

Prescott's season-ending ankle injury in Week 5 was the biggest blow for an offense that also lost tight end Blake Jarwin in the opener and got just two games from seven-time Pro Bowl left tackle Tyron Smith because of a neck issue.

Right tackle La'el Collins didn't play at all before season-ending hip surgery, and four-time All-Pro right guard Zack Martin missed the last five games with a calf injury sustained after he had moved to right tackle to bolster the injury-plagued line.

With all those players rejoining the promising receiving trio of Amari Cooper, Michael Gallup and CeeDee Lamb — and with play caller Kellen Moore returning on a three-year contract — the offense is rolling compared to a defense that improved after a poor start but still faces many questions.

The core of defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence and linebackers Leighton Vander Esch and Jaylon Smith isn't likely to change, with Vander Esch needing to prove he can stay healthy after again struggling with injuries. Beyond promising rookie Trevon Diggs, the secondary could be looking at an overhaul — with or without Nolan in charge.

"We got to pop it off sooner — can't wait till the end of the season," Smith said. "We grew a lot. But we're not satisfied because we're not where we want to be."

Texans set with QB Watson; most everything else in question

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans know Deshaun Watson is the quarterback they need to lead them next year and beyond.

After that, things are a lot murkier for the franchise, which finished this season at 4-12 after winning the AFC South the previous two years.

First on the list of priorities for the Texans is to hire a coach and general manager. Houston fired Bill O'Brien, who manned both roles, after an 0-4 start and Romeo Crennel finished out the season as interim coach.

The Texans have already interviewed former Detroit coach Jim Caldwell and former Bengals coach Marvin Lewis, and are said to be interested in Kansas City offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy and Indianapolis defensive coordinator Matt Eberflus, among other candidates.

Houston's next general manager will have the tall task of improving the team without a pick in the first or second round of this year's draft. Miami has both of those picks as part of the deal that brought left tackle Laremy Tunsil and receiver Kenny Stills (who was released in November) to Houston.

Watson didn't mention any contenders for the lead roles by name, but he had strong words for what he'd like to see from his next coach.

"We just need a whole culture shift," Watson said. "We just need new energy. We just need discipline. We need structure. We need a ... leader so we can follow that leader as players."

Watson continued to play at a high level even as the Texans lost their last five games. He led the NFL in yards passing with a franchise-re-

cord 4,823 yards, moving ahead of Patrick Mahomes (4,740) when the Chiefs QB didn't play in the final game of the season.

Watson also set a franchise mark by throwing 33 touchdown passes and ran for 444 yards to become the first quarterback in NFL history with at least 4,800 yards passing and 400 yards rushing.

He remains confident he can lead Houston to its first championship.

"I don't want to sit here and dwell on the bad things," he said. "It's all the good things that I want to continue to take into the offseason and build that momentum for the new staff and the new direction we want to go with this organization."

WATT'S FUTURE
This season could mark the end of an era in Houston. Star defensive end J.J. Watt is under contract for one more season but has said he doesn't want to be part of a rebuilding team, leading to speculation that he could be traded this offseason.

"There's a whole lot of unknowns, so we'll see what happens," the three-time Defensive Player of the Year said. "I don't have any guarantees left in my contract, so something's got to happen one way or another."

If Watt moves on, it would leave a huge hole on a defense that already needs plenty of improvement. The Texans ranked last in the NFL by allowing 160.3 yards rushing a game.

Watt was asked to evaluate the team's defensive performance this season on Sunday after the Texans allowed Derrick Henry to rush for 250 yards.

"Terrible," he said. "We played horrendous. That's pretty obvious."

STEERS

Continued from Page 5

Take a look at the rest of the Big Spring finishes here:

- Olivia Bancroft was 5th in the 105 lb. class
- April Caldwell was 12th in the 148 lb. class
- Alani Torres was 7th in the 165 lb. class
- Xilanae Walker was 7th in the 181 lb. class
- Kayen Johnson was 12th in the 181 lb. class
- Jocelyn Gonzales was 2nd in the 220 lb. class
- Jhaniah Johnson was 4th in the 220 lb. class
- Stephanie Young was 7th in the 220 lb. class

The 2020 Lady Steers won their second team title in school history with an early-season win at the Andrews Meet and continued the hot streak the entire season.

Jocelyn Gonzales qualified for the State Powerlifting Meet in Waco that would have taken place last May if it was not canceled. Gonzales squatted 400 pounds, benched 185 pounds, and deadlifted 375 pounds for a total of 960 pounds.

Gonzales will be back this year in an attempt to be even stronger and advance even farther than last year. If she can compete at the State Meet, she will join a tradition of Lady Steer lifters that have gone to State.

Roberts is excited about several lifters coming back and knows that the majority of those Regional qualifiers will be back lifting in the black and gold this season.

"Josh Lopez is probably the best dead-lifter in West Texas right now. Him and Sean Mendoza are in the same weight class and they do a great job of pushing each other. Isaiah Rodriguez is probably one of the best squatters in all of West Texas. I also have Mattox Evans who has qualified for Regionals three times. On the girls' side, Jocelyn Gonzales is a superstar at every sport she touches. She came within a deadlift of winning the Regional meet last year. Ashlin Calvio is another great lifter. She may be small, but she's fiery. I've got a really strong team coming back and I've also got a few freshman that I'm extremely excited to see how they do over the course of the season."

There are some new rules that will need to be followed in order to stay in line with covid protocols. There will only be 24 lifters brought to each meet, teams will need to bring their own chalk and spotters, and masks must be worn at all times except for when lifting.

Big Spring is begin-

ning to make a name for themselves in the powerlifting community and will look to build on that reputation even more this season. Having over 20 lifters qualify for Regionals is a tremendous feat. With Roberts now at the helm, the sky is the limit for the Steers and they should continue to improve.

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

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