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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEEKEND EDITION, FEBRUARY 6-7, 2021


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- Upcoming Events**
- Big Spring Symphony Show*
Feb. 6
7:30 p.m.
Big Spring Municipal Auditorium
 - County Commissioners Meeting*
Feb. 8
3:30 p.m.
County Courthouse
 - Big Spring Chamber Banquet and Business Expo*
Feb. 11
1:30 p.m.
Virtual event
 - C. Larson Valentine's canned food drive*
Donations accepted until Feb. 12
- All city offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 15 in observance of President's Day

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Silver Wings Ball raises more than \$20,000 in support of Hangar 25

By AMANDA DUFORAT
 Managing Editor

A night of glitz and glamour, with an ambiance of history preservation ... the Silver Wings Ball 2021 goes down as another successful evening.

As the pandemic continues and “normal” still seems to be on the far horizon, a small sense of normalcy started the year off as the tradition continued with the annual fundraiser in support of Hangar 25 Air Museum

“Amazing ... that’s the only way I can think to describe the evening,” Amber Stokes, Hangar 25 Air Museum Director, said. “It was a night filled with good food, live music and the main reason we were there, lots of support for the Hangar.”

According to Stokes, the fundraiser - which also serves as the main fundraiser for the Hangar each year - netted around \$21,000. While exact numbers weren’t available from the previous years fundraising efforts, the amount was more significant than in previous



HERALD photo/Amanda Duforat
The Silver Wings Ball took place at the Club at Silver Hills and raised more than \$20,000 to benefit the Hangar 25 Air Museum. The evening included dinner, dancing and live and silent auctions.

years. While the pandemic has caused some unexpected hurdles for the Hangar over the past year, in the end, it seems a silver lining has been found.

“I don’t want to say the pandemic helped us; it hurt us as far as us having to close for a bit, but it also showed people that something like a museum is a need,” Stokes said. “If something like a

museum isn’t open then we don’t get visitors, the donations ...”

While many events in the community have been cancelled, revamped to a virtual platform or postponed, the Silver Wings Ball committee decided while it may take a little extra leg work not having the annual fundraiser was not an option. In anticipation and expectancy of being another tough year, the committee members took to making phone calls, sending e-mails and a few face to face visits to help gather sponsorships for the event and other support for the Hangar. The desire to keep the history of the Hangar and World War II history alive was evident in the efforts put forth this year. Keeping history alive is important to the continuing and building of any community; keeping the military history alive is even more important to the foundation and growth of our nation as a whole. The difference can be seen on a different level in each community, and throughout the community of Big

See **BALL**, Page 3A

Howard County Commissioners to revisit bids for 400’ Guy Tower and MOU with Midland Police Dept.

By IRIS RANGEL
 Herald Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners will meet Monday afternoon to discuss agenda full of updates, reports, and new projects. The meeting will be held in the 3rd Floor County Courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse. The meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m.

After taking a moment for pledge, prayer, and Citizens Input, Commissioners will begin discussion with a Howard County Resolution for HAVA Grant Assurances.

Then, County Treasurer Sharon Adams will bring forth an agenda item concerning authorization for depository bids and personnel considerations. Adams will also provide a presentation of TAC 2020 Employer Rewards Program check.

County Auditor Jackie Olson will then provide the approval of invoices, purchase requests, budget amendments to the Court. An update to the notice to bidder’s form and the consideration of awarding a bid for erecting and installing a 400’ Guy Tower per Standard: TIA-222-H will also be given.

Another item that appeared on last meeting’s agenda, that

will now be discussed Monday, is an MOU between Howard County and Midland Police Department for the use of the Howard County Airport – driving track presented by County Sheriff Stan Parker.

Commissioner Craig Bailey will discuss Texas Independence Day Fireworks with a deadline of Feb. 14 during the meeting.

An agenda item regarding the County Assistance District will also be under consideration with discussion being led by Commissioner Jimmie Long.

There will also be discussion over accelerating the letting schedule for the remainder of FY 2021 and a roadway maintenance update by Road Engineer Brian Klinksiek.

Mike Averette with Detention Communications will provide maintenance and hardware upgrades with the Commissioners towards the end of the meeting.

Before adjourning, County Clerk Brent Zitterkopf will review the monthly report with Commissioners.

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

Forsan ISD Board to meet for regular meeting Monday; focus on discussion of Board policy updates

By IRIS RANGEL
 Herald Staff Writer

The Forsan Board of Directors will convene Monday evening at 6 p.m. in the Superintendent’s Office located at 411 W. 6th Street for a regular meeting. After taking a moment for the invocation and pledge, the meeting will be called to order and a quorum will be established in order to conduct business.

Public Comment and the Recognition of Visitors will take place before items up for discussion and action will be held.

The meeting will begin with the Administrator’s Report consisting of up-

dates from Forsan Junior High/High School Principal Hanna Carter and Elementary Principal Andrew Eudy.

A report from Superintendent Randy Johnson will also be provided to the Board. The report will include an Enrollment Report, Facilities Report, Academic Update, and Board Training. Superintendent ... will then provide a preview of future agenda items, Region 18 Board, Place 4 Election and the 2021-2022 Budget Planning.

During the Consent Agenda portion of the meeting, Minutes for Jan. 11, 2021 Training and Regular meeting will

be up for consideration. A Monthly Financial update will be reviewed by the Board concerning the Rev & Exp report, Investment report, Activity Report, and List of Bills.

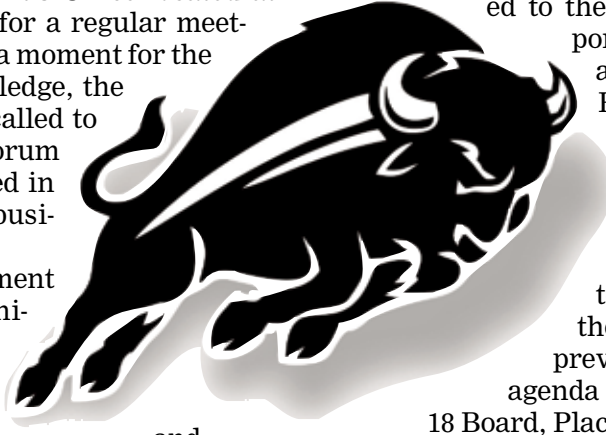
The Approval of Auditors for 2020-2021 will be discussed during the meeting by the Board.

A Board Policy Update 116 will be reviewed that include:

- Technology Resources – Cybersecurity
- Employment Practices – At-will Employment
- Employment Practices – Other types of Contracts
- Wellness and Health Services – Medical Treatment
- Community Relations – Conduct on School Premises

The Board will then discuss the

See **FHS**, Page 3A



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You may have met Expedition Royalty Co. for the first time when we sponsored the Big Spring Rodeo or the Howard County Fair this fall. Our commitment to Howard County runs deep. We have made deals for thousands of acres here, and our people have decades of experience serving Permian Basin mineral rights owners. We’re proud to be part of the community, sponsoring and participating in big events year-round. But we’re even prouder to be your mineral advisor in the Permian every day. Get in touch today for a free evaluation of your property and its mineral rights.

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Rayne Austin: 432-755-7065
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Get your paint on ... offering community activities for all ages

By IRIS RANGEL

Herald Staff Writer

Goode Party Events is hosting a Door Hanger Paint Party on Sunday at 2 p.m. All items for the paint party will be provided including a circular hanger, wooden hello wall art, paint, foliage, ribbon, and hanging wire. The event is open to the public, but there is a limited amount of spots left. RSVP can be found on the Goode Party Events' Facebook page "Event" link. Guests are also allowed to bring snacks and drinks for the event.

"Our Paint Party is an event where the ladies gather and with their friends and just take a break from all the busy things we have going on," Goode Party Events Owner Amanda Goode said.

This event, like others Goode Party has hosted, are all to provide the community with fun activities that bring joy. Goode Party also hosts Moms and

Tots – an event beginning this Friday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. where mothers and their children can come to enjoy spending time with each other while meeting other mothers in the community. Goode also mentioned the hope for the Paint Parties to continue regularly along with their other events.

"What I look forward to the most is the atmosphere and just seeing the joy of others. I want to give the community things to do," Goode said.

Teen Night is also another event Goode Party hosts where teens are invited to play games, relax, and spend time with their friends. Goode mentioned that approximately 30 children from the ages of 11-17 participated in the first go-around of the event making it a success. Future Teen Nights are also on the books to be scheduled at least once a month, according to Goode.

"We had the music going, PlayStation, Xbox, and the pool table was a very popular area," she said.

"The kids really did seem to enjoy each other. They were already asking for us to open Saturday!"

Looking forward, Goode hopes to open their doors after school for a few hours so children can meet after school, finish homework, and hang out together.

"I think we will get to that point quickly as people are starting to find out about our place and the things we offer," Goode said. "I would just like to thank everyone that's been supporting us and telling others about us. We are so thankful to be a part of an amazing community."

Goode Party Events LLC is located at 1907 Birdwell Lane Suite G. For more information, contact Goode Party Event's Facebook page or call

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

Arson suspected in massive fire at Texas courthouse

MASON, Texas (AP) — A suspect has been arrested and taken into custody following a massive fire that destroyed all but the rock outer walls of an 111-year-old Texas courthouse, an official says.

The fire at the Mason County Courthouse in Mason, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northwest of Austin, started Thursday night.

No one was in the building. Mason County Judge Jerry Bearden said the flames could be seen from miles away.

"Right now, it's just a shell," he told television station KXAN. "It just breaks your heart to look at it."

He told The Associated Press on Friday that fire investigators suspect arson in both the courthouse fire and another blaze around the same time at a house about a mile away.

The Texas State Fire Marshal's Office said in a statement that it has joined law enforcement agencies investigating the fire, but a spokesperson would offer no details on the investigation Friday.

The county sheriff has not returned a message from the AP.

The courthouse, made from local sandstone, was being prepared for renovations, so all of the county records had been moved out, Bearden said.

He said only some furnishings

were in the building.

He said the firefighters "did their best" but "there wasn't anything they could really do to hold the flames down."

Bearden said the courthouse's bell tower, which featured a clock, was destroyed.

"It's just a terrible tragedy for the people here in the county," Bearden said. "This is the focal point in our community, our county."

Bearden said officials will have an engineer check the outer walls in hopes of eventually rebuilding the "grand old lady."

Mason County has a population of about 4,300.

State News Briefs

Court halts another Texas execution over disability claims

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Texas appeals court has delayed a second execution this year to review claims that an inmate is intellectually disabled and thus ineligible for the death penalty.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Wednesday granted a request by attorneys for Edward Lee Busby to stay his execution, which had been scheduled for Feb. 10.

Busby's attorneys have argued he has shown "significant limitations in intellectual functioning."

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2002 barred the execution of intellectually disabled people, but it has given states some discretion to decide how to determine such disabilities.

Busby's execution would have been the first in the state this year after the appeals court last month delayed the Jan. 21 lethal injection of Blaine Milam to review his intellectual disability claims.

Busby, 48, was condemned for the 2004 suffocation of a retired 77-year-old college professor abducted in Fort Worth and whose body was later recovered in Oklahoma.

Texas' first execution of 2021 is now set for March 4, with Ramiro Ibarra set to receive a lethal injection for the 1987 sexual assault and strangulation of a 16-year-old girl in Waco.

Not child's play: Chucky doll featured in errant Amber Alert

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Rest assured, "Chucky" is not on the loose.

The Texas Department of Public Safety has apologized after mistakenly issuing an Amber Alert that

said the killer doll featured in the 1988 horror film "Child's Play" was a suspect in the kidnapping of his 5-year-old son, Glen Ray, who was featured in "Seed of Chucky."

The emergency alert described Chucky as a 3-foot, 1-inch-tall (0.9-meter-tall) doll wearing "blue denim overalls with multi-colored striped long sleeve shirt wielding a huge kitchen knife."

The alert was mistakenly sent out three times last week to Amber Alert subscribers.

Houston Rodeo canceled for 2nd year in a row due to pandemic

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors, has been canceled for 2021 because of concerns over the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, event officials announced on Wednesday.

Organizers had previously moved the rodeo from March to May. But after consulting with local and state officials, along with medical experts, organizers concluded canceling the event was in the best interest of the health and well-being of the community, said Chris Boleman, president of Houston Livestock Show.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Thomas Segundo, 38, died Sunday. Services were Saturday at 2:00 PM at Family Faith Center.

Frances Escovedo Ramirez, 50, of Big Spring, died Tuesday. Viewing and visitation will be Sunday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM with a Rosary at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be Monday at 11:00 AM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mount Olive.

Shirley Copeland, 55, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BALL

Continued from Page 1

Spring, the impact that Webb Air Force Base and the sacrifices of those who served our nation can still be seen to this day.

"There are not many WWII Hangars left in the United States that aren't at a base and even then we are one of the very few and to have something like that in Big Spring, we are lucky. The committee members pushed that importance this year as they went out and made connections," Stokes said. "We have to preserve this history because it was so vital to the town."

In addition to a specially hand-crafted meal, live and silent auction items, and the new design and atmosphere of the Club at Silver Hills, the evening included live music from Eddie Austin and the Texas Silhouettes. A new addition to the evening was the

Missing Man table ceremony, which was performed by sponsor of the ball, committee member, and Co-Owner of Inspirations Arick Higginbotham.

"It was a wonderful night. Everything kind of went the way we wanted it to. No event is perfect, but the little bumps we had were worth it," she said. "It's not only preserving our history, but it's about honoring our past veterans, current veterans and maybe inspiring some young person that may enlist one day."

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

FHS

Continued from Page 1A

approval of the 2020-2021 Safety Audit towards the end of the meeting.

Before adjournment, during the Personnel section of the meeting, hiring/resignations will

be reviewed alongside a Closed Session if requested by the Board.

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

GUN & BLADE SHOW MIDLAND GUN SHOW
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Check this out, at the library this week

We still have 2020 tax forms available while supplies last. According to the IRS website this year's deadline for filing 2020 tax returns is April 15. We have the 1040 and 1040-SR instruction booklet and forms with schedules 1-3 and schedule LEP-request for change in language preference. Additional tax information and forms can be found at the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov/>. Come by the circulation desk to request a copy.



This week's reviews include fiction and mystery titles.

Melanie is only going through the motions of living since refusing Jack's marriage proposal in "Return to Tradd Street" (Series BK #4) (F WHI K) by Karen White. She misses him desperately, but

her broken heart is the least of her problems. Despite an insistence that she can raise their child alone, Melanie is completely unprepared for motherhood, and she struggles to complete renovations on her house on Tradd Street before the baby arrives. When Melanie is roused one night by the sound of a ghostly infant crying, she chooses to ignore it. She simply does not have the energy to deal with one more crisis. That is, until the remains of a newborn buried in an old christening gown are found hidden in the foundation of her house. As the hauntings on Tradd Street slowly become more violent, Melanie decides to find out what caused the baby's untimely death, uncovering the love, loss, and betrayal that color the house's history and threaten her claim of ownership. But can she seek Jack's help without risking her heart? For

in revealing the secrets of the past, Melanie also awakens the malevolent presence that has tried to keep the truth hidden for decades.

In the Carnival days leading up Mardi Gras, Detective Caleb Rooney, a Major Crimes detective for the New Orleans Police Department, is accused of murder committed in the line of duty in "The Chef" (M PAT J) by James Patterson and Max DiLallo. While fighting the charges, Rooney makes a pair of unthinkable discoveries: His beloved city is under attack. And these would-be terrorists may be local. As crowds of revelers gather, Rooney follows a fearsome trail of clues, racing from outlying districts into city center. He has no idea what, or who, he'll face in defense of his beloved hometown, only that innocent lives are at stake.

On a remote island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate the wedding of Jules Keegan and Will Slater in "The Guest List" (M FOL L) by Lucy Foley. Will is a rising television star, handsome and charming. Jules is a smart and ambitious magazine publisher. Though the sea is a little choppy and the cell service may be spotty, their wedding is everything you'd expect of a young power couple: designer dress, four-tiered cake, the boutique whiskey, vintage champagne. Every detail has been curated to perfection. All that's left to orchestrate is the happiness. But perfection is for plans, and people are all too human. It's not long after the cake is cut and the champagne popped that resentments and petty jealousies come out. Worse yet, the latest barometer reading shows the weather has shifted from fair to changeable, and dark clouds are looming overhead. Everyone on the island has a secret. Everyone has a motive. And someone won't leave

this wedding alive.

It's February 1976, and Odessa, Texas, stands on the cusp of the next great oil boom in "Valentine" (F WET E) by Elizabeth Wetmore. While the town's men embrace the coming prosperity, its women intimately know and fear the violence that always seems to follow. In the early hours of the morning after Valentine's Day, fourteen-year-old Gloria Ramirez appears on the front porch of Mary Rose Whitehead's ranch house, broken and barely alive. The teenager had been viciously attacked in a nearby oil field an act of brutality that is tried in the churches and barrooms of Odessa before it can reach a court of law. When justice is evasive, the stage is set for a showdown with potentially devastating consequences. Told through the alternating points of view of indelible characters who burrow deep in the reader's heart, this fierce, and unflinching, novel illuminates women's strength and vulnerability, and reminds us that it is the stories we tell ourselves that keep us alive.

"The ability of writers to imagine what is not the self, to familiarize the strange and mystify the familiar, is the test of their power." -Toni Morrison

Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, for Grab & Go access to the library. Customers have 30 minutes to browse the shelves, checkout items, make copies and send a fax, an appointment is still required to use a computer.

Please visit our website at <http://howard-county.ploud.net> and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HowardCoLibrary for more information. You may reach us at 432-264-2260 and our fax number is 432-264-2263.

Preparing for the future: Steer Nation Pride working together

Courtesy photos

Students at Big Spring Intermediate have a new incentive to reach higher in their academics. The new Future Steer Incentive program has launched and motivating students each day.



Pet owners need to be aware that the oral health of their animals is important.

Special to the Herald

Texas A&M University

Celebrated every February, National Pet Dental Health month aims to bring awareness to the importance of oral health care for pets.

In addition to bad breath, poor oral health can contribute to damage to the teeth and gums as well as periodontal disease, which can negatively impact the kidney, liver and heart muscle.

One common type of periodontal disease, known as gingivitis, causes inflammation of the gums around the teeth and can act as a wake-up call for owners to pay attention to their pet's pearly whites before more serious conditions develop.

Dr. Bert Dodd, a clinical professor at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says that gingivitis is very common, and every pet has it to some degree.

Until gingivitis reaches a more advanced stage, it can be difficult for pet owners to detect on their own and their animal may not exhibit any symptoms. As such, it's important

that pets are regularly checked for signs of gingivitis by their veterinarian.

Just like in humans, gingivitis is caused by plaque buildup on the tooth. This plaque is made of food, saliva and bacteria. Through an interaction between these foreign bacteria and the body's immune system, enzymes are released that break down the gum tissue, leading to inflammation.

At more advanced stages, this can lead to chronic pain and gum erosion.

"If left untreated, gingivitis leads to periodontitis, or inflammation and destruction of the hard tissues around the tooth," Dodd said.

In addition to increasing the potential for heart, kidney and liver disease, unchecked gingivitis may result in missing teeth and bone loss, in severe cases.

Luckily, gingivitis can be easily prevented through routine oral care habits. Dodd recommends brushing your pet's teeth daily to remove harmful bacteria and prevent a buildup of plaque.

Although some pets may be resistant to having their teeth brushed

at first, over time a regular routine will acclimate them to the practice, according to Dodd.

Special toothbrushes and toothpastes safe for pets can be purchased from most pet supply stores. When brushing a pet's teeth, owners should never use human toothpaste, as this is toxic to animals.

Pet owners may wish to consult with their veterinarian for tips on brushing a pet's teeth.

Dodd also recommends having your pet's teeth professionally cleaned every year. Many clinics offer special deals on dental care for National Pet Dental Health month, so now is the perfect time to reach out to your veterinarian.

If a pet does develop gingivitis, it can be managed through teeth cleaning and debridement, or the surgical removal of damaged tissue by a veterinarian.

Proper management of your pet's oral health is important for their well-

being. With routine care, owners can prevent the development of serious oral health conditions and ensure the continued well-being of their furry friend.

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be found on the Pet Talk website. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to editor@cvm.tamu.edu.

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News Briefs

A big mis-steak: Runaway cow escapes slaughter, roams RI
PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A 1,600-pound (725-kilogram) steer has been reported roaming the streets of Rhode Island's capital.

Workers with Rhode Island Beef & Veal told WJAR-TV that a wholesaler lost control of the cow while unloading it for slaughter.

The animal was first spotted in Johnston, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) west of Providence, by Tho Xaykosy, an Uber driver.

"It was about 2 a.m. I was on my way to pick up a passenger, and I look to my left, and there was a cow there, just hanging out, waiting for the red light! When it turned green, the cow goes! I was like ..." Xaykosy said, shaking his head.

The steer eventually made it to Providence, where local authorities contacted the Department of Environmental Management and animal control. Neither agency had the resources to capture and transport the animal, according to a police report.

Johnston police say the animal was still on the run as of Thursday night.

Texas woman sentenced to life for death of 4-year-old son

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — A 37-year-old Texas woman has been sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole for the death of her 4-year-old son, whose body was found on a beach in Galveston in 2017.

Rebecca Suzanne Rivera was sentenced Thursday following her conviction on a charge of injury to a child by omission, according to court records. The records show Rivera, who had pleaded not guilty, has filed notice to appeal both her conviction and sentence.

The body of Rivera's son, Jayden Alexander Lopez, was found in October 2017 and he was initially known only as "Little Jacob" until being identified based on tips and DNA testing, leading to the arrest and the charge against Rivera.

DPS Urges Safety on big Sunday night game

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding the public that while the big game celebrations may look a little different than years past, safety should still be at the forefront of everyone's minds. All Texans are encouraged to enjoy the biggest sporting event of the year responsibly.

DPS Troopers will increase patrols all day Feb. 7 (from 12:01 a.m. until midnight), as part of the nationwide CARE (Crash Awareness and Reduction Effort) initiative. Troopers will be looking for drivers who violate the law, including those who are speeding, failing to wear their seat belt and driving under the influence.

DPS is also offering the following safety tips for the big game on Sunday:

Don't drink and drive. If you plan to have alcohol outside of your home, designate a driver or take alternate transportation.

Move Over or Slow Down for police, fire, EMS, Texas Department of Transportation vehicles and tow trucks stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated. Show the

same courtesy to fellow drivers who are stopped.

Slow down, especially in bad weather, heavy traffic, unfamiliar areas or construction zones.

Buckle up everyone in the vehicle — it's the law.

Eliminate distractions while driving, including the use of mobile devices. Texas law prohibits the use of portable wireless devices to read, write or send an electronic message unless the vehicle is stopped. Also, if you're using a navigation device or app, have a passenger operate it so you can keep your eyes on the road.

If you can Steer It, Clear It. If you are involved in a non-injury crash and your vehicle can be moved, clear the traffic lanes. On some highways, if you don't move your vehicle when it's safe to do so, it's against the law.

Don't drive fatigued — allow plenty of time to reach your destination.

Monitor weather and road conditions wherever you are traveling. For road conditions and closures in Texas, visit [Drive Texas](http://DriveTexas.com).



Your 2021 Wedding Planner

A Guide to a
Stunning Wedding Day

Planning a Wedding Checklist

- Choose a Date
- Set Budget
- Choose a Venue
- Shop for Rings
- Send Invitations
- Find Officiant
- Bridesmaids
- Plan Honeymoon
- Best man
- Wedding Dress
- Reception Dress
- Reserve Tuxedos
- Get Marriage License
- Schedule Rehearsal Dinner
- Photographer
- Choose a Ring Bearer
- Entertainment
- Choose Flower Girls
- Catering
- Register For Gifts
- Florist
- Plan Reception
- Transportation
- Hair and Beauty
- Bridesmaid's attire
- Wedding Cake
- Decorations and favours
- Guest list

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Preparing for the big game; Breaking down the stats as teams get ready to face off

BY DUSTIN POPE
SPORTS REPORTER

The annual battle of the pigskin takes place this Sunday in Tampa Bay, Florida. The game pits Kansas City (14-2) against Tampa Bay (11-5). The game is set to kickoff at 5:30 p.m. Central Time.

This is being hyped as one of the best matchups in the history of the Championship Game. So, let us take a closer look at both teams, shall we.

Let's start with Kansas City; they are looking to be back-to-back champs for the first time since the team from New England accomplished it in the 2002-2003 seasons.

Kansas City is led by the 2018 MVP Patrick Mahomes. The young quarterback is entering his fourth year in the league, and his third as the starter. Mahomes is only 25 years old and one of the most recognized faces of Professional Football. The talented K.C. quarterback was second in the league in passing this year, with 4,740 yards, 38 touchdowns with only 6 interceptions.

Kansas City is not the only star on this team. Kansas City finished first in overall offense this year. This team is loaded with weapons as they have two of the most dangerous pass catchers in the league. Leading off with Travis Kelcie; while he may be listed as a tight end, do not let that fool you. Kelcie was second in the league in receiving yards and set a record for most receiving yards, a tight end in a single season with 105 receptions, 1,416 yards and 11 touchdowns. Now, if that was not enough, Kelcie is not even the most impressive player on his team. That designation goes to Tyrek Hill. If you do not know who Tyrek Hill is, let me tell you his nickname is "The Cheetah." Hill is known for being one of, if not THE fastest men in all of football. He is so dynamic and brings a speed element to the game that is hard to duplicate. Hill finished this season with 87 receptions, 1,276 yards and 15 touchdowns. With this group of remarkable talent at Mahomes discretion, it is no wonder that Kansas

City is back in big game.

Now, let us delve into the team from Tampa Bay. They are led by what many consider to be one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time; the ageless wonder, Tom Brady. Brady is in his twenty-first season of football, in which, he spent his first twenty with New England. This will be Brady's tenth Championship game appearance. He has an amazing 6-3 record in his first nine appearances in football's game of the year. Brady who is in his first season with Tampa is 43, but that did not slow him down as he ended up finishing third in passing this season with 4,633 yards, 40 touchdowns, and 12 interceptions. Like the young Kansas City quarterback, Brady has a ton of weapons of his own. We will begin with Mike Evans, the Texas A&M grad is a dangerous big-time threat. Evans had 70 receptions, 1,006 yards, and 13 touchdowns. Evans, with his big 6'5" 231 pound, is a big-time target in the Red Zone. He is followed by Chris Godwin, another dynamic target for Brady to use. Although, he did have a substandard year, he still had 65 catches, 840 yards with 7 touchdowns. We now come to one of Brady's long-time teammates, who came out of retirement to join Brady in Tampa; the one and only Rob Gronkowski. The duo spent nine seasons playing together in New England. This year, Gronk decided to come back to help Brady make yet another run at the big game, with his new team. Gronkowski had decent year with 45 receptions, 623 yards, and 7 touchdowns. He is always somebody that Brady looks for when he needs a big play. Tampa also has the always controversial, Antonio Brown. He joined Tampa Bay midway through the season after his suspension by the league was over. Even in a shortened season, Brown still had quite an impact with 45 catches, 483 yards, with 4 touchdowns.

Now that you know a little bit about both teams and their offense, let us break this game down as they go head-to-head. This is not the first time these teams have played

this season. Both teams met up in this exact same stadium in week 12 of the season. K.C. came out on top in that matchup 27-24. Mahomes had an amazing day with 462 yards and 3 touchdowns. Tyrek Hill had an astonishing game with 13 catches for 269 yards and 3 touchdowns. Brady had a solid game as well with 342 yards, 3 touchdowns, but had 2 interceptions.

So, let's talk about these defenses before we make a prediction. Tampa had the sixth best defense in football this year, compared to Kansas City coming in at 16. Tampa really shines at stopping the run as they finished as the top team against the run. Now Kansas City has a better pass defense led by the do-it-all Safety Tyrann Mathieu. He will be a player that Brady must identify before every snap. However, K.C. is not the only team that has playmakers. Tampa has an amazing front four led by Jason Pierre-Paul, who had 9.5 sacks, who is joined by Devin White who came in with 9 sacks, Shaq Barrett had 8 sacks, and Ndamukong Suh had 6 sacks, respectively. Why do I mention the pass rush? Well, it turns out that Kansas City will be without there two starting tackles going into this game, so this could be a big factor.

If history has anything to say about this game, it does not bode well for the team from Kansas City since no American Conference team has ever beaten a National Conference team twice in one season.

Now that we have broken this game down from both sides, now it is time for the prediction. Kansas City is favored by three in this game and Vegas gives them an underdog in this one, Tampa Bay 24 to Kansas City 17.

*Stats courtesy of ESPN

Dustin Pope is the Sports Writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact him email sports@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331 ext.237

QB Club: Favre looks at Brady, Manning, Mahomes and Rodgers

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

Brett Favre looks at the quarterbacks on display this weekend with an admiration as strong as the throws he made as a Pro Football Hall of Fame player.

From Tom Brady and Patrick Mahomes in the big game, to the likelihood of Peyton Manning entering the same hall, to former teammate Aaron Rodgers perhaps taking a third MVP award. It's quite a collection.

Favre played against Brady, sees some of himself in Mahomes, has been a long-time friend with the Manning family, and, well, Rodgers is his successor in Green Bay, where Favre won three straight league Most Valuable Player honors. Rodgers will find out during NFL Honors on Saturday night, when The Associated Press hands out its individual awards, if he will get the hat trick.

"No question this is the best year statistically for Aaron." Favre says. "The head scratcher is why they haven't finished. If I were a betting man, I look at it two ways. Before the Packers-Bucs game, if I were a betting man, I would have a hard time betting against Brady. But there is no question in my mind that the hottest team in football, AFC or NFC, didn't matter, was the Packers.

"Obviously Brady can win against anyone, you don't bet against him because he will prove you wrong. But I thought, going into Lambeau — earlier in the year when they played the Bucs — the Packers were not playing as well, not as consistent. But here lately they were consistent, and I was thinking this could even be a blow-out just because Aaron was playing so well. I don't know if a quarterback has ever been on top of his game in the last eight weeks like Aaron had.

"There is no question Aaron played the best. He is consistent every year, don't get me wrong, but statistically speaking he was unbelievable. And

his M.O. is lots of touchdowns and lots of points and very little turnovers, and that has always amazed me. I was always a risk taker, gunslinger, whatever you want to call it. Aaron is not that different from the way I played. The big difference is he doesn't turn the ball over from an interception standpoint."

Favre, who co-hosts a show on SiriusXM NFL Radio, is eager to hear the Hall of Fame results, while recognizing nobody will be surprised to hear Manning's name as a first-time inductee. Favre has a longstanding relationship with the Mannings, from playing against Peyton and Eli to growing up as a fan of their dad, Archie, at Ole Miss, as well as a friendship with the entire first family of quarterbacking. Favre used to have phone conversations with Peyton when he was a Tennessee Vol.

"When you start talking about just playing the quarterback position, the only thing Peyton didn't have as far as quarterback, is the new age of quarterback has, that mobility," Favre explains. "But he had everything else. And savviness. He and I have joked and talked about it.

"I get a kick out of all the mumbo-jumbo stuff he would do at the line — and it worked. Probably the last half of my career I spent more time trying to figure out I spent to trick the other team, how can I get them offside or how can I get them to show what they are going to do blitz-wise? ... And I say all that because all that stuff Peyton did, surely (offensive coordinator) Tom Moore didn't say, 'Hey Peyton, come here, let's do this. I want you to act like you are changing to eight different plays.' Peyton came up with all that and it worked, and statistically I don't know if he could have been any better for such a long time."

Long time certainly applies to Brady, in his 21st pro season and 10th Big game, with six rings.

See LOOK, Page 10A



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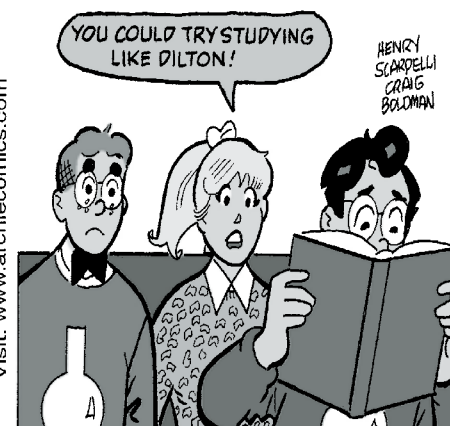
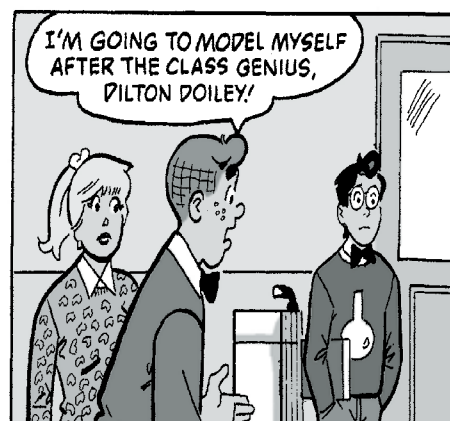
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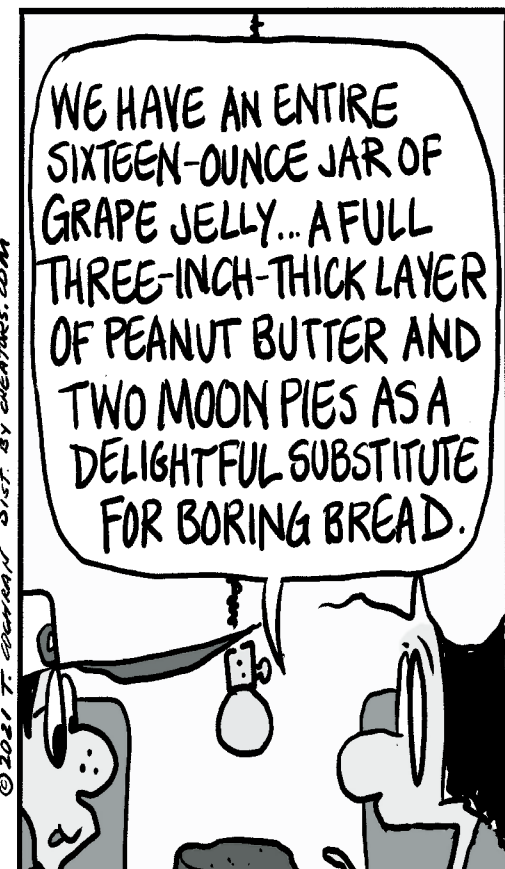
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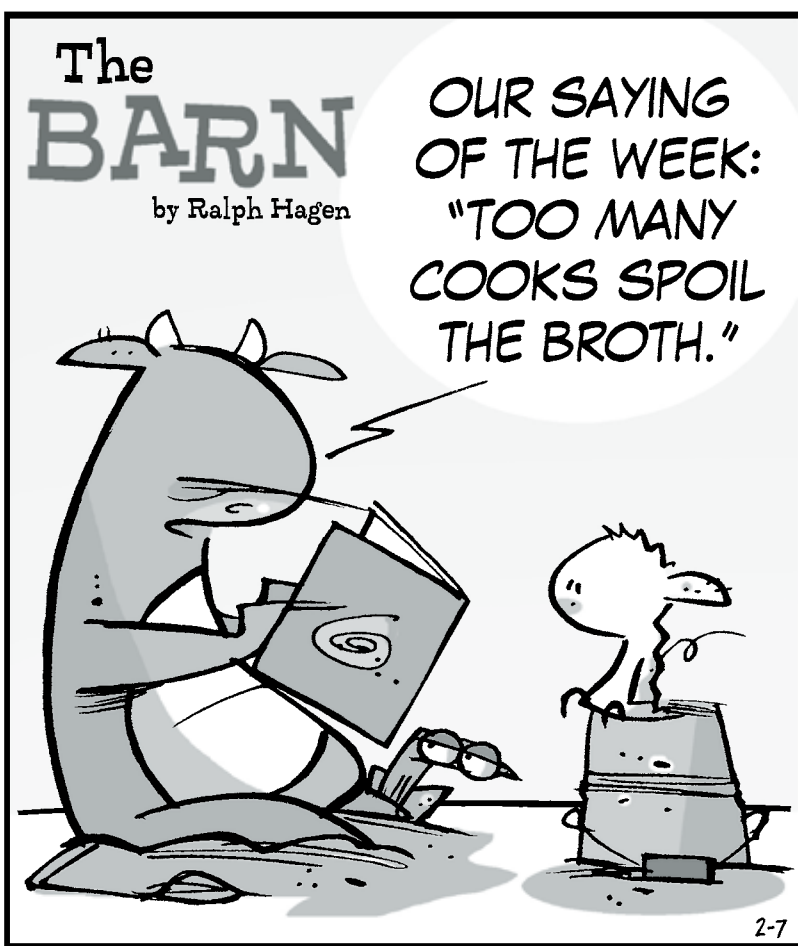
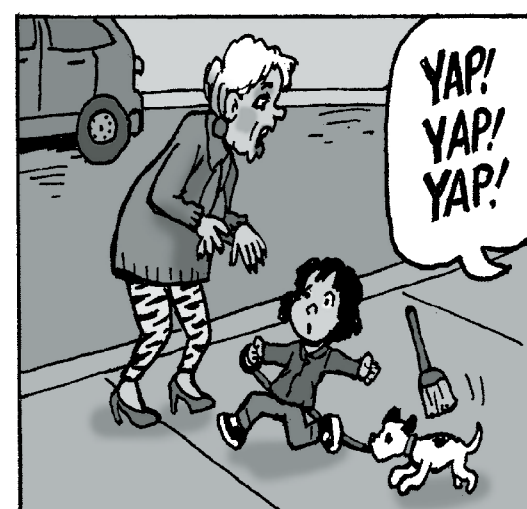
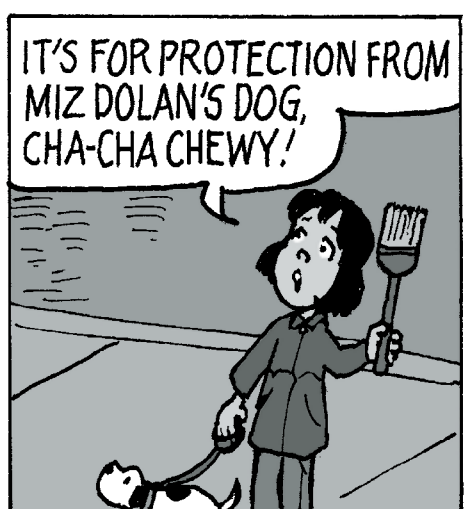
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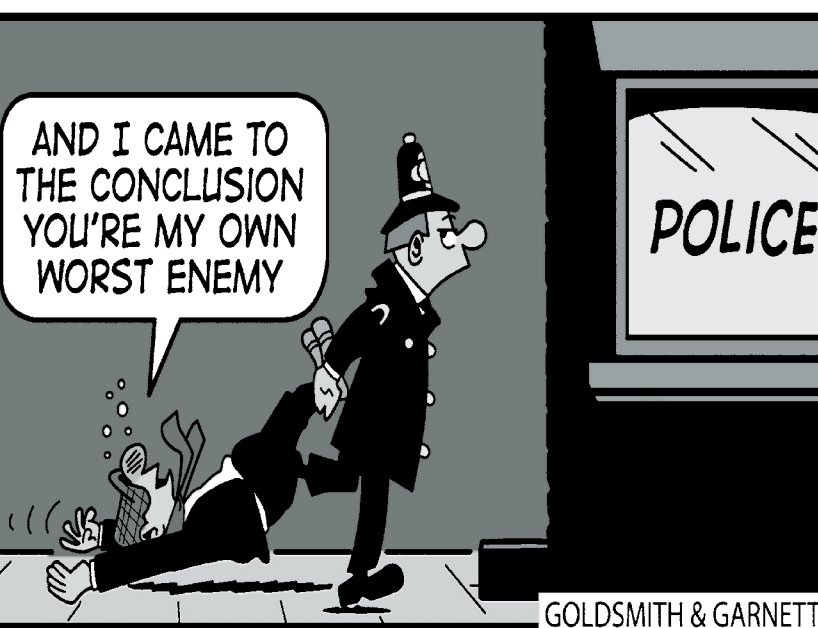
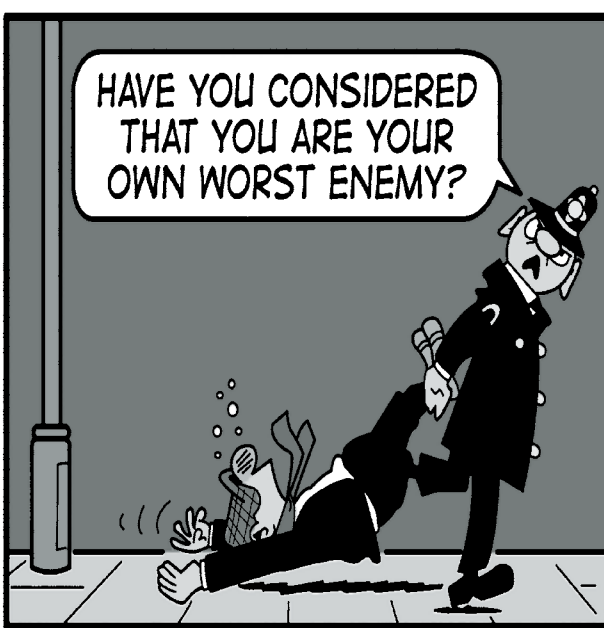
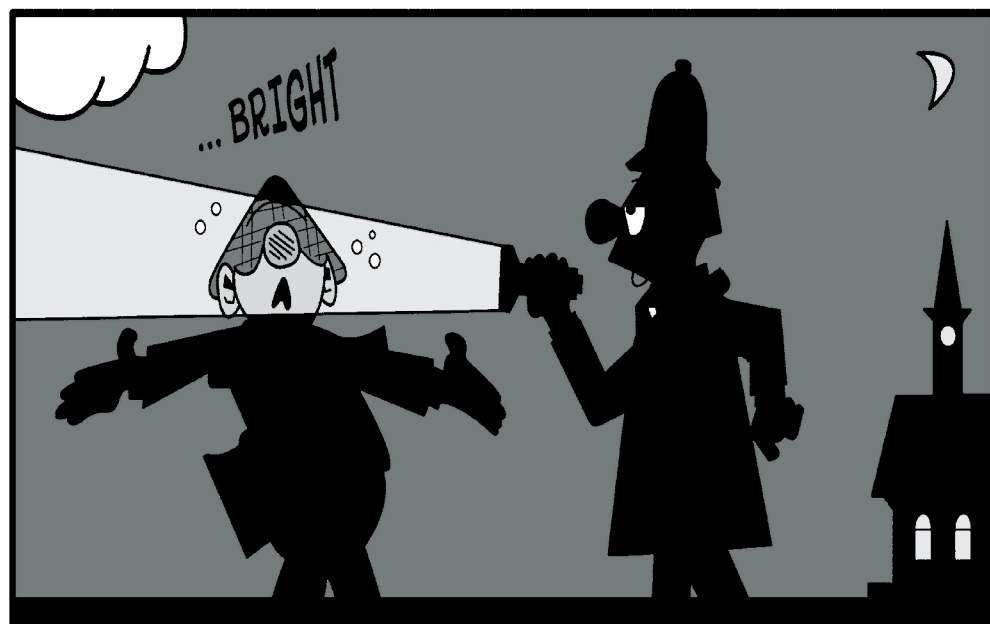
BY MELL LAZARUS





ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



Wells scores 14 to lead No. 7 A&M to 54-41 win over LSU

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

Kayla Wells scored 14 points and No. 7 Texas A&M overcame a slow start with strong defense late to beat LSU 54-41 on Thursday night.

The Aggies (17-1, 8-1 Southeastern Conference) have won five in a row since LSU (8-8, 6-4) handed them their only loss, in overtime on Jan. 14.

Khayla Pointer scored 12 points to lead LSU, which scored its fewest points of the season.

Texas A&M led by two after three quarters and scored the first 10 points of the fourth to push its lead to 49-37 with about six minutes left. Aaliyah Wilson and Destiny Pitts got things going in that stretch, making back-to-back 3s.

"I think those 3s gave us a lot of momentum to propel the run we went on in the fourth quarter," Pitts said.

The Tigers finally got on the board in the fourth when Faustine Aifuwa made a free throw with 4 1/2 minutes to go. LSU had six turnovers and missed 10 shots before Pointer made the team's only field goal of the period, a 3 with 29 seconds left.

Texas A&M coach Gary Blair raved about his team's defense in the fourth quarter.

"It was wonderful," he said. "They were missing some shots that they normally hit, but they also weren't getting the post touches they wanted."

Blair said his team didn't get discouraged after falling behind by double digits early.

"We never give up," he said. "We just keep finding a way. With the defense, sometimes it takes a while to kick in."

The Tigers were up by as many as 10 in the first half and had a nine-point lead early in the third quarter after a layup by Awa Trasi. The Aggies then used a 10-4 run, with six points from Wells, to get

within 33-31 with about four minutes left in the quarter.

The Tigers were without coach Nikki Fargas for the second straight game because of COVID-19 contact tracing issues related to an external media obligation. Assistant coach Charlene Thomas-Swinson filled in for her.

"Our inability to score the basketball in the third and fourth quarters weighed on us and limited what we were able to do on defense," Thomas-Swinson said.

She added that Texas A&M's second-half defense on LSU's post players made things difficult.

"They started packing it in on our bigs ... and they forced our guards to have to score the ball," she said. "Then we really got into a scoring drought and it allowed them to have conversions on the other end."

BIG PICTURE

The Aggies will need to play a lot better on Sunday if they expect to beat No. 16 Arkansas.

WELL-WISHES FOR FARGAS

Blair couldn't imagine how difficult it must be for Fargas to not be with her team.

"Nikki not being here, I feel for her," he said. "That's tough. If I had to sit at home and do it by Zoom, I would go bananas. I've never missed a game in my life. Hopefully Nikki gets back right away."

UP NEXT

LSU: The Tigers host Florida next Thursday night.

Texas A&M: The Aggies had their Feb. 14 game against Arkansas moved up to Sunday after their scheduled game against No. 18 Tennessee was postponed because of the Volunteers' coronavirus issues.

No. 2 Baylor on pause again because of COVID-19 protocols

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

No. 2 Baylor has had its season interrupted again because of COVID-19 protocols, with the Big 12 Conference postponing the Bears' next two scheduled games.

The Big 12 announced the postponements on Thursday. The Bears, who at 17-0 have matched the best start in school history, were supposed to host TCU on Saturday and play at No. 9 Oklahoma next Wednesday.

Neither the conference or Baylor provided specifics, saying only that the postponements were in accordance with the league's interruption guidelines for men's basketball.

That would indicate that the Bears wouldn't have the required six scholarship players for the games, either because of positive tests or contact tracing. Their next scheduled game is now at home Feb. 13 against No. 13 Texas Tech.

Baylor is coming off an 83-69 win at No. 6 Texas on Tuesday night, the first meeting this season between the Top 10 teams because their expected Dec. 13 game in Waco, which hasn't yet been rescheduled, was postponed because the Bears were in a program pause then because of COVID-19 protocols.

Coach Scott Drew missed the first two games of Baylor's reshuffled schedule after testing positive for COVID-19 in November. The Bears started their season three days later than scheduled, with an unplanned trip to Las Vegas, and played only one of the first seven games listed on their original schedule.

Those scrapped games included a highly anticipated showdown against No. 1 Gonzaga in Indianapolis, which was called off about 90 minutes before tipoff on Dec. 5. A Bulldogs player was among two people in their traveling party who tested positive for COVID-19.

LOOK

Continued from Page 7A

Favre was in a similar position to what Mahomes is now — back in January 1998, when he was the youngster coming off a Bowl victory and facing

the "old-timer" in John Elway.

"My style of play when I was up and coming was very similar to John Elway: arm strength, mobility, leadership and all that stuff was very similar," Favre recalls. "I took a lot of pride in that and he and I talked about that. "It's obviously different, the pan-

dem and the attention and all this stuff. I am sure Patrick has heard a bunch until he is blue in the face: 'What's it like playing against Tom Brady in the Super Bowl. ... How would you feel if he won his whatever number of Super Bowls?' I am sure Patrick has handled it gracefully.

"Much like myself: 'John has come close many years, this may be his last opportunity, how would you feel Brett?'

"Don't get me wrong, I wanted to win the game. I felt like crap when we lost, to be honest with you."

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100 DAYS OF SCHOOL



Courtesy photos



Courtesy photos

Forsan Elementary students celebrated 100 days of school by dressing up as 100-year-olds. The teachers even took part in the fun and shared their creativity.



Courtesy photos

Students and teachers at Forsan Elementary celebrated 100 days of school with dress up days, 100 day counting activities and other celebratory festivities. The 100 day celebration was a long awaited one after the struggles faced by schools across the nation last year as the pandemic swept in and altered the normal way of school activities.




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Coahoma ISD

K-12
Breakfast:
Monday: Sausage kolache with yogurt or breakfast cookie with yogurt, 100% fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Tuesday: Cheese omelet with toast or breakfast taquito, 100% fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Wednesday: Waffles with sausage, 100% fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Thursday: Breakfast pizza, 100% fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Friday: No school

Lunch K-12th:

Monday: Enchiladas or taquito or fajita salad, beans, corn, salsa, fresh fruit, dessert, milk.
Tuesday: Meatball subs with tater tots or chili cheese combo or tuna salad, fresh veggie cup, strawberries, milk.
Wednesday: Chicken nuggets with mac and cheese or Asian Bowl with egg roll or Asian salad, garden salad, grapes, milk.
Thursday: Pizza or ham cheese melts with chips or popcorn chicken salad, tomato cup, corn, fruity gelatin, milk.
Friday: No school.

Big Spring ISD

Anderson Accelerated

Monday: Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, cereal with string cheese, assorted fruits, assorted milk. Lunch: Cheeseburger, egg chef salad with flatbread, assorted vegetables, juice, assorted fruits.
Tuesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon roll bites, yogurt with string cheese, assorted fruits, assorted milk. Lunch: Corn dog, popcorn chicken salad with flatbread, assorted vegetables, juice, assorted fruits, assorted milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon sugar donut, cereal with string cheese, assorted fruits, assorted milk. Lunch: Chicken nuggets, taco salad, assorted vegetables, juice, assorted fruits, assorted milk.
Thursday: Breakfast: Coco Puff Pastry, yogurt with string cheese, assorted fruits, assorted milk. Lunch: Chicken fried steak with roll, American Chef salad, assorted vegetables, juice, assorted fruits, assorted milk.
Friday: Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, cereal with string cheese, assorted fruit, assorted milk. Lunch: Teacher training/student holiday.

Elementary

Monday: Breakfast: Cereal bar with crackers, assorted fruit, 100% juice box, assorted milk. Lunch: Chicken patty sandwich, sunbutter and jelly sandwich, fruit and vegetable, milk.
Tuesday: Breakfast: Cherry frudel, assorted fruit, 100% juice box, assorted milk. Lunch: Ham and mac casserole with roll, yogurt, cheese and crackers, fruit and vegetable, milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon sugar donut, assorted fruit, 100% juice box, assorted milk. Lunch: Corn dog on a stick, turkey sandwich, fruit and vegetable, milk.
Thursday: Breakfast: Yogurt with crackers, assorted fruit, 100% juice box, assorted milk. Lunch: Chicken nuggets with roll, ham and cheese sandwich, fruit and vegetable, milk, carnival cookie.
Friday: No school/Teacher Professional Day.

High School

Monday: Breakfast: Bagel with jelly, waffle bites with fruit, egg/sausage/cheese burrito, refried beans, Trix cereal bowl, assorted fruits and juice, assorted milk. Lunch: Egg roll with rice, bacon-

burger, chicken/spicy chicken sandwich or nuggets, cheese/pepperoni pizza, assorted vegetables, assorted fruits and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, pancake bites with fruit, egg/sausage/cheese burrito, refried beans, Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, assorted fruits and juice, assorted milk. Lunch: Burrito, hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken sandwich or nuggets, cheese/pepperoni pizza, assorted vegetables.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Apple frudel, waffle bites with fruit, egg/sausage/cheese burrito, refried beans, Trix cereal bowl, assorted fruits and juice, assorted milk. Lunch: Fish sandwich, hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken sandwich or nuggets, cheese/pepperoni pizza, assorted vegetables.

Thursday: Breakfast: Banana muffin, pancake bites with fruit, egg/sausage/cheese burrito, refried beans, Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, assorted fruits and juice, assorted milk.

Friday: No school.

Intermediate

Monday: Breakfast: Cherry frudel, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or corn dog, assorted juice and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Coco Puff pastry, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or walking taco, assorted juice and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Breakfast bar with crackers, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or loaded tater bowl with bacon and cheese.

Thursday: Breakfast: Cinnamon sugar donut, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or pizza sub melt, pudding cup.

Friday: No school

Junior High

Monday: Breakfast: Cherry frudel, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or corn dog, assorted juice and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Coco Puff pastry, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or walking taco, assorted juice and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Breakfast bar with crackers, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or loaded tater bowl with bacon and cheese.

Thursday: Breakfast: Cinnamon sugar donut, yogurt and elf grahams. Lunch: Hamburger/cheeseburger, chicken/spicy chicken, pizza or pizza sub melt, pudding cup.

Friday: No school

Kentwood

Monday: Breakfast: Chocolate cup, muffin, fruit, 1% white milk. Lunch: Pizza sticks, fruit and vegetable, 1% milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Vanilla glazed donut, fruit, 1% milk. Lunch: Waffle bites with smile fries, fruit, 1% milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon poppart, fruit, 1% milk. Lunch: Chicken nuggets, fruit and vegetable, 1% milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Danimals, strawberry crush cup yogurt, string

cheese, fruit, 1% milk. Lunch: Cheeseburger on a bun, fruit and vegetable, 1% milk.

Friday: No school

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast: Cereal cup, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk (elementary); sausage kolache with cheese stick or cereal, apple slices, fruit juice, and milk. Lunch: Spaghetti bowl or garlic french bread pizza or PB&J sandwich, steamed broccoli, Bush's baked beans, strawberries, fresh fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: French toast sticks, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk (elementary); french toast sticks with sausage or cereal, apple slices, fruit juice and milk. Lunch: Steak fingers or steak and cheese tornados or turkey and cheese sub, mashed potatoes, savory green beans, strawberry and bananas, fresh fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Honey buns, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk (elementary); sausage, egg, cheese tornado or cereal, mandarin oranges, fruit juice and milk. Lunch: Pizza or turkey chef salad or PB&J sandwich, fresh veggie cup, garden salad, apple-sauce cup, fresh fruit and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fresh fruit, fruit juice, milk (elementary); breakfast pizza or cereal, strawberry cup, fruit juice and milk. Lunch: Chicken sandwich or mandarin chicken Asian bowl or turkey and cheese sub, baby carrots, corn, grapes, fresh fruit and milk.

Friday: No school

Sands CISD

Monday: Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Cheesy bread sticks, marinara sauce, Tuscan vegetables, garden salad, diced peaches, cookie, milk variety.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon pull a parts, cheese stick, fruit, fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Xtreme burrito, seasoned corn, tomato cup, diced pears, milk variety.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Sunbutter and jelly, fruit, fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Breaded pork chop, brown gravy, roasted potatoes, green beans, roll, pineapples, milk variety.

Thursday: Breakfast: Pancake wrap, yogurt, fruit, fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Tex-Mex stack, refried beans, baby carrots, salsa, apple slices, sherbet, milk variety.

Friday: Breakfast: Muffin, yogurt, fruit, fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Hamburger, oven fries, cucumbers, garnish, strawberries, milk variety.

Senior Center

Monday: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, apple slices, bread, milk.

Tuesday: Baked chicken, broccoli rice casserole, cucumbers in ranch dressing, lemon pie, biscuits, milk.

Wednesday: Hamburger on a bun, sweet potato fries, lettuce tomato onion pickle, pineapple tidbits, milk.

Thursday: Spaghetti noodles with meat sauce, green peas, salad with ranch, jell-o, garlic bread, milk.

Friday: Frito chili pie, shredded cheese, fiesta corn, banana, milk.



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Chamber of Commerce happenings ...

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
Managing Editor

The countdown is on ... The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce annual Banquet and Business Expo is going virtual and will be taking place this coming Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Over the past few weeks the activity has already started taking place on the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, in preparation for the event.

For those who have not yet followed the Chamber Facebook page, but are interested in more details about the upcoming Chamber Banquet and Expo, there is still time to follow.

The networking event which is hosted on an annual basis, due to the pandemic, is taking on a different platform this year, but will be offering the same opportunity for recognition in the community and focus on highlighting the accomplishments in the Big Spring and Howard County communities.

“Although our format may look different for the annual Chamber Banquet our purpose still remains; promote and celebrate our members; Man-

ny Negron, Banquet Committee Co-Chair, said.

The 2021 Chamber Banquet and Business Expo will still include normal business such as the passing of the gavel from the outgoing Chamber Board President Mark Richardson to the incoming Chamber Board President Kristy Tyra; an opportunity to recognize the Man and Woman of the Year, Russ McEwen Community Service recipient and those 5 Under 55 individuals.

Last week the Man and Woman of the Year were announced on the Chamber of Commerce Facebook as well. A small personal ceremony for each was held at the Chamber Offices with each honoree surrounded by a few family members. The presentations will be included in this Wednesday’s event.

The announcement for this year’s 5 Under 55 - which will be the second round of recipients - began on Thursday. Over the course of five days the 5 Under 55 recipients for this year will be announced.

Local businesses and community members are encouraged to join the virtual expo, which is expected to take about an hour. The link for those wanting to attend has been posted under the Events Section on the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Highlighting Howard Co. Business *A new twist on snack trays - Salty Palate Charcuterie Co.*

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
Managing Editor

A new take on food has arrived in Big Spring, Texas – A Salty Palate Charcuterie Co. – has officially launched.

Big Spring resident, Allison Fox, recently stepped out in a new adventure, using her love of design and creativity to bring a new level of catering and host options to the community. Fox officially launched the business in November 2020, just a few months after the coronavirus made its way to the United States and cases began to appear in Howard County.

A Charcuterie Board usually consists of a variety of meats and cheeses along with fruits and nuts. The variations depend on the personalized order, but includes an array of cheeses, meats and a variety of crackers. The concept, which has been gaining traction recently, dates back to the time when refrigeration was nonexistent and there was a large need to preserve meats. Through the use of smoke, salt and aging a texture was added to the products, but also an extended stable shelf life. The word charcuterie is derived from the French words for flesh (chair) and cooked (cuit). The word was used to describe shops in 15th century France, who sold products made from pork.

“My husband and I have always enjoyed traveling and trying traditional charcuterie boards wherever we went, and we would do our own wine and cheese nights at home,” Fox said. “When the food boards became mainstream over the past couple of years it just struck a chord with me and engaged my creative side ... my hobby became my passion.”

While Fox has been accepting orders for the past few months, her first big community ap-



Courtesy photo

Local resident Allison Fox is pursuing her passion and sharing her creativity with the community. In the midst of a pandemic, Fox stepped out on this new journey and started the Salty Palate Charcuterie Co.

pearance was recently at the Silver Wings Ball. The grazing table, which included an array of cheeses, meats, crackers, fruits and nuts, was the centerpiece of the cocktail hour.

“I have such a respect for our military and the Hangar does an amazing job of keeping that legacy alive in Big Spring,” she said.

Starting a business has not been easy, but it’s an avenue that allows Fox to embrace her passion while sharing it with the community. As we head into 2021, Fox is looking to expand her presence in the community and add new and exciting food options to local events and special events for businesses and families. The different creations offered by Salty Palate Charcuterie Co. are good for date nights, girls night, large gatherings or individual treats for a gift idea.

As the launch of her business followed the growing pandemic, Fox used the lessons and oppor-

tunities from other business owners as a way of preparing for what could happen in hopes of preventing any steps back.

“The pandemic began eight months before I started my business ... and I was able to see what other businesses were doing and learn from the changes they were having to make, but my business is ideal for those wanting to distance themselves.”

She continued, “The best piece of advice I have learned is take your time when starting a business and learn from your mistakes,” she said.

For those wanting to purchase or find out more information visit saltypalatefoods.com or follow the Facebook Page Salty Palate Charcuterie Co.

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

Keep Foodborne Illness Away from Your Big Game End Zone this weekend

Special to the Herald

Score a touchdown this year with your Super Bowl LV snacks by keeping bacteria out of the end zone. While your Super Bowl traditions may look different this year given COVID-19 and the need to maintain social distancing, your plans probably still involve food. Whether you are cooking your favorite munchies from scratch or ordering from a nearby restaurant, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) wants you to remember to follow safe food handling rules.

“As Americans prepare their Super Bowl food, protecting loved ones from foodborne illnesses is essential,” said USDA Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety Paul Kiecker. “Millions of people get sick from food poisoning each year. Following guidance on proper handwashing and avoiding cross-contamination can keep your family safe.”

Check out USDA’s game plan to avoid these personal fouls.

Agree to a Clean Game: Do wash your hands. Washing your hands protects you from harm-

ful bacteria that can cause foodborne illness and make you sick. In a recent USDA study, participants failed to wash their hands correctly 99 percent of the time. Make sure you wet your hands with warm running water and lather them with soap for a full 20 seconds. Time yourself by singing the Happy Birthday song twice. Then rinse and dry with a clean towel or paper towel.

Don’t wash chicken wings, other poultry products or meats. Many people who wash or rinse meat and poultry do so out of habit or because it’s how they learned to cook. USDA research found that washing or rinsing these items greatly increases the spread of germs by splashing bacteria onto kitchen surfaces and other food items.

Keep Opposing Teams Apart: Don’t cross contaminate. When you’re shopping at the grocery store, keep raw meat, poultry, eggs, and seafood in separate plastic bags to prevent their juices from dripping onto other foods. Always remember to use separate cutting boards – one for fresh fruits

See **FOOD**, Page 4B

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

- Jasmine Ahrnkeil, 1301 Princeton, Big Spring
- Sherri Monique Aldridge, 1507 E. Sixth St., Big Spring
- Anthony Anderson, 3401 Camellia Dr. #707, Temple
- Steve Antoine, 1425 E. 6th St., Big Spring
- Katie Cole L. Baker, P.O. Box 3372, Big Spring
- Letitia Baucham, 1202 Stanford, Big Spring
- Linda Beck, 1713 Worley Rd., Banner Elk, N.C.
- Joshua Bell, 1962 Tuscola, Snyder
- John Bochnicka, 538 Westover Rd. #260
- Chad Wayne Brown, 3901 Ave. O, P.O. Box 391, Snyder
- Douglas “Doug” Lee Brown, 205 W. 14th St. P.O. Box 275, Monahans
- James Bullard, 202 Fourth St., Palestine
- Melinda Burns, 2218 Carlton Way, San Angelo
- Wayne Richard Buyce, 4042 Morningside Way, Canyon Lake
- Gloria Cerna, P.O Box 55, Lamesa
- Matilda Cortez, 302 N St. Teresa
- Roy E. DeBlanc, 1066 Cutrer Rd., Osyka, Miss.
- Laura W. Dennis, 1511 Scurry, Big Spring
- Humberto Diaz Jr., 3417 N. Midland Dr, Midland
- Nelba DeLosRios Diaz, 10600 McMillian Dr., Austin
- Krista A. Dickson, 6917 Todd, Sachse
- Jimmy Dodson, 405 31st St., Snyder
- Ben Doherty, 5019 McKinney St. No. 105, Dallas
- Angela Doty, 1401 E. Rundberg, Austin
- Clayton W. Durbin, 6508 Centerpoint, Big Spring
- Tina Marie Ellis, 4002 Austin Ave., Snyder
- Selena Bethani Enriquez-King, 100 E Parker, Midland
- Joanna Esparza, 501 S.Tackitt Seymour, Texas
- Carol W. Evans, 809 E 33rd, Plainview, Texas
- Chris M. Fagan, 3508 W. Eighth St., Amarillo
- Kristen Falcon, 2606 Fairchild Dr., Big Spring
- Leza Faulkner, 1102 South Water, Burnet
- Mumduh Felemban, 9338 Perrin Beitel Apt. 701, San Antonio
- Alexander Fernandez, 404 Cypress, Colorado City
- Juana Fierro, 406 N. W. 5th St., Big Spring
- Tracy D. Flores, 2401 Russell Ave., Abilene
- Ellen French, P.O. Box 942, Poteau, Okla.
- Sharlamarr Frink, 3723 Monclair, Odessa
- Johnnie Fuller, 3801 23rd St., Snyder
- Juan E. Garcia, 3355 River Road North Keizer, Ok
- Mary Jo Garner, 11802 Silver Barring Cove, San Antonio
- William Gene Garner, 704 Rosemont, Big Spring
- Rosa M. George, 509 W. Second St., Stanton, Texas
- Perry Gholar, 1510 Nolan, Big Spring
- Elizabeth Gomez, 509 Raleigh St., Plainview
- Guillermo Gomez, 2107 Morrison, Big Spring
- Jennifer Gonzales, 2616 Hunter Dr., Big Spring
- James E. Gonzalez, 604 Neff St., Sweetwater
- Jeremy Goodman, 3471 Green Meadow #24, San Angelo
- Kay Grant, 4405 N. Garfield #1005, Midland
- Isaiah Green, 4801 State St., Abilene
- John Grima, 914 E. Sixth St., Big Spring
- Thomas E. Gross, 4100 S. Highway 87 #37, Big Spring
- Lynn Guerrero, 203 W. Ave #3, Clayton, N.M.
- Melissa Gutierrez, 3310 SF Austin, No. 58, Brownwood
- Sandra Ann Gutierrez, 1501 N. Fourth Place, 1312 S. Ave. L, Lamesa
- Mike Haddix, 401 Humble St. Apt. E, Midland
- Dylan Hammons, 4401 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
- William J. Harman, HC 76, Box 147K-1, Big Spring
- Nicholas D. Hasenbalg, 207 W. Williams St. #9, Breckenridge
- Ann Hashem, 120 Airbase Rd. 15-5, Big Spring
- Christine Henderson, 420 N. El Paso
- Juanita Hernandez, 1502 Bluebird, Big Spring
- Scott Herrera, 4608 Ash St, Big Spring
- Billy Dean Hill, 7117 Alissa, Rowlett, Texas
- Johnny R. Hill, 704 San Antonio, Big Spring
- Kaleb Hill, 910 Baylor, Big Spring
- Shatiya Lasha Jenkins, 4590 N Texas #198 Odessa
- David Kelley, P.O Box 724, Salado
- Joni D. Kelly, 3050 Co. Rd 139, Colorado
- Renola S. Kelly, 4503 LA Salle Circle, Colorado City
- Kimberly Jo Kennemur, 120 Hooser Rd., Big Spring
- Cynthea Lee Kent, Moved to Newport News, Virginia
- Kayle R. Lane, P.O Box 83965, Waco
- Rafael Lemus, 1804 Mittel, Big Spring
- Jesse Paul Lopez, 101 Scurry St., Big Spring
- Ruben Lopez Jr., 107 Milburn St., Snyder, Texas
- Clifford G. Lowe, 501 Circle, Big Spring
- Patricia D. Lyons, 7502 Interstate 27 number A, Lubbock
- Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham Ave., Odessa
- Bruce Edward Mallard, P.O Box 3265 504 Westover, Big Spring
- Barbara A. Marshall, P.O. Box 1065, Deming, New Mexico
- James Martinez, P.O. Box 269, Ft. Davis
- Rene N. Martinez, 8618 Serene Ridge, Big Spring, Texas
- Victoria Josephine Martinez, 323 S. Main St., Loraine
- Karen McCalister, 5925 Raton Ln. number 154, Ft. Worth
- O’Neal McClain, 911 17th St., Snyder
- Diana McCool, 504 Donley, Big Spring
- Ethel Laverne McVae, 4202 Parkway Rd., Big Spring, Texas
- Heriberto Palafox Mora, 1311 Mobile St., Big Spring
- Felicia Ornelas, 538 Westover Rd.
- Dana Kay Peach, 1806 N 13th, Lamesa
- Nicole Preston, 1605 E 11th place, Big Spring
- Jacquelin Dannon Ramey, 1404 E 6th St. Big Spring

See **RECORDS**, Page 4B

A look at West Texas gas prices over this past week from GasBuddy

Special to the Herald

GasBuddy
Texas gas prices have risen 2.2 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.11/g today, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 stations in Texas. Gas prices in Texas are 18.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 2.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas is priced at \$0.99/g today while the most expensive is \$2.83/g, a difference of \$1.84/g. The lowest price in the state today is \$0.99/g while the highest is \$2.83/g, a difference of \$1.84/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.42/g today.

The national average is up 17.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 5.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

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

- February 1, 2020: \$2.14/g (U.S. Average: \$2.47/g)
- February 1, 2019: \$1.96/g (U.S. Average: \$2.27/g)
- February 1, 2018: \$2.37/g (U.S. Average: \$2.60/g)
- February 1, 2017: \$2.07/g (U.S. Average: \$2.27/g)
- February 1, 2016: \$1.58/g (U.S. Average: \$1.79/g)
- February 1, 2015: \$1.85/g (U.S. Average: \$2.05/g)
- February 1, 2014: \$3.07/g (U.S. Average: \$3.27/g)
- February 1, 2013: \$3.28/g (U.S. Average: \$3.47/g)
- February 1, 2012: \$3.38/g (U.S. Average: \$3.45/g)
- February 1, 2011: \$2.92/g (U.S. Average: \$3.09/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:
Midland Odessa- \$2.26/g, up 1.8 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.24/g.
San Antonio- \$2.06/g, up 10.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$1.96/g.
Austin- \$2.10/g, up 7.0 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.03/g.

"Gas price increases continue to slow down as oil prices fail to continue moving upward, even as gasoline demand continues to show new signs of improving recovery," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"According to Pay with GasBuddy data, Friday gasoline demand was the highest since November, while Saturday gasoline demand was the strongest of any Saturday since the pandemic began. The rise in gasoline demand has certainly been behind oil's rally in the last few months, as COVID restrictions continue to ease and the economy slowly continues recovery. While the next few weeks may see gas prices rising slightly, the real pinch could come in March and lasting through summer, should demand continue on this path."



Courtesy image/Metro

Texas gas prices rose over the past week. On average a 2.2 cent per gallon was seen across the state.

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

FOOD

Continued from Page 3B

and vegetables, and another for raw meats. Keep raw meats away from ready-to-eat foods.

Cook the Opponent: The only way to kill bacteria is to cook raw meat, poultry, seafood, and egg products to a safe minimum internal temperature. Use a food thermometer to ensure food has reached the recommended temperatures, which will kill any harmful bacteria that may be present. Ground meats should reach 160 F, whole cuts of meat should reach 145 F with a three-minute rest time, and chicken wings should reach at least 165 F. Take the temperature of multiple wings in the thickest part of the wing, being careful to avoid touching the bone, which can skew the reading.

Throughout the game, keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. Keep hot foods above 140 F in a slow cooker or chafing dish or keep half of the food in a warm oven. Keep cold foods at 40 F or below by placing salads, dips and salsa in a tray of ice. If serving food throughout the game, keep two separate portions on hand for easy swapping. Serve one portion as the game starts and keep another portion in the refrigerator or oven to set out after half time to prevent dangerous bacteria from growing.

Chill Out: Most bacteria grow rapidly at temperatures between 40 F and 140 F, also known as the Danger Zone. Don't leave food sitting out at room temperature for more than two hours. Before those two hours are up, place small portions of leftovers in shallow containers and refrigerate them promptly. When reheating leftovers, make sure they reach 165 F.

If you have questions, contact the USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) to talk to a food safety expert or chat live at ask.usda.gov from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

RECORDS

Continued from Page 3B

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

Marriage Licenses:

Alex Sanchez, 35 and Ashlie Marie Seals, 34, both of Big Spring.
Tyler Lewis Stapp, 30, and Evelyn Storm Jewell, 19, both of Big Spring.

County Court Rulings

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

Defendant: Kyle Vanpelt
Offense: Driving while license suspended/invalid with previous conviction
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$270 court costs, \$60 reimbursement fee; time served.

Defendant: Steven Hildebrand
Offense: Resist Arrest
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$270 court costs, \$60 reimbursement fee; time served.

District Court Filings

Plaintiff: Trinity N. Beck
Defendant: Mary E. Beck
Type of Case: All other family law matters
Date: January 21, 2021

Plaintiff: Avalanche Equipment LLC
Defendant: JSPAZ Guardian Energy Services LLC and Jackson Thompson
Type of Case: Contract – Consumer/Commercial/Debt
Date: January 21, 2021

Plaintiff: Avalanche Equipment LLC
Defendant: JSPAZ Guardian Energy Services LLC, Jackson Thompson
Type of Case: Injury/Damage – other injury or damage
Date: January 21, 2021

Plaintiff: Shawn Jones
Defendant: Rebecca Jones

Type of Case: Divorce – no children
Date: January 21, 2021

Plaintiff: Janel Ortiz
Defendant: David Ortiz
Type of Case: Divorce – no children
Date: January 22, 2021

Plaintiff: LaDonna McNutt
Defendant: Roy McNutt
Type of Case: Divorce – no children
Date: January 25, 2021

Plaintiff: Kyle Simmons
Defendant: State of Texas
Type of Case: Writ of Habeas Corpus
Date: January 26, 2021

Plaintiff: US Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the NRZ Pass-through trust XIV
Defendant: James W. Sanders, Michele Terry Sanders, occupant
Type of Case: Contract – Consumer/Commercial/Debt
Date: January 26, 2021

Plaintiff: Jose Angel Hernandez, Natalie Marie Reyes, and Norma Bejarano as n/f/o Julian Herman Sanchez, a minor
Defendant: Wallace Walton Stone
Type of Case: Injury/Damage-motor vehicles
Date: January 28, 2021

Plaintiff: Wells Fargo Bank, NA
Defendant: Daniel S. Riley
Type of Case: Contract – consumer/commercial/debt
Date: January 28, 2021

Plaintiff: Tonya Wombell
Defendant: Gary Miller
Type of Case: Divorce – no children
Date: January 29, 2021

Plaintiff: Guadalupe Castellano
Defendant: Tony Castellano
Type of Case: Divorce – no children
Date: January 29, 2021

Warranty Deeds

Grantor: Eula Bell Fowler
Grantee: Jeremy Tye Baker and K'Leigh Marae Baker
Property: Being a 0.286 acre tract out of a 7.86 tract out of the NE/4 of Section 47, block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey Howard County, Texas and more particularly described by metes and bounds.
Date: January 15, 2021

Grantor: Juan L. Galvan
Grantee: Maria I Manzanares
Property: Being Lot 6, block 7, Boydston Addition, an addition to the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas according to the map or plat thereof filed for record in the office of the Clerk of Howard County, Texas
Date: January 20, 2021

Grantor: Gary Cunningham and Ester

Cunningham
Grantee: Donovan Kole Barber and Caril Rose Barber
Property: Being all of Lot No. 2, Alien Subdivision out of the NE/4 of Section 47, block 31
Date: January 11, 2021

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien

Grantor: Lynn A. Keifter-Ogburn, individually and as independent Executrix of the Estate of Robert E. Ogburn, deceased
Grantee: WCR Construction LLC
Property: Being Lot No. 29 and the

East 30.0' of Lot No. 30 Bates Addition to the City of Coahoma, Howard County Texas according to the proper map or plat of record in Envelope 6/B, Plat Records of Howard County, Texas
Date: January 12, 2021

Grantor: Tall Wall LLC
Grantee: Kenneth Orsburn and Cassandra Orsburn
Property: Being all of Lot No. 12, in block No. 5, Central Park Addition to the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas according to the proper map or plat of record in Envelope 17/B, Plat Records of Howard County, Texas

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Should Big Spring City, Howard County and the school systems consider adopting the Freeport Exemption

By **MARK WILLIS**

Big Spring EDC Executive Director

In 1989 the Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment to exempt "Freeport goods" from property taxes, if the individual taxing entities wished to do so. These entities included cities, counties, and school districts. Many are familiar with the term "triple freeport," meaning that a city, county and school system in a particular location have all adopted the exemption. To date no entity in Howard County has chosen to do so, but it may be time to review that situation.

An entity that adopts the freeport exemption does not collect business personal property taxes on inventory located in its jurisdiction, held for less than 175 days and then transported out of the state. Having these exemptions has made a difference to many manufacturers who assemble products in Texas and transport them nationwide. The exemption has been a "tie breaker" in a number of cases where a manufacturer or warehousing operations were deciding where to locate in Texas over the years.

For example, the booming Austin MSA, which consists of 20 cities, numerous school districts and counties has the triple freeport exemption throughout. However, it took years to get to this point because existing businesses

that could take advantage of the exemption had to be negotiated with to work out arrangements where they paid money in lieu of the taxes they had been paying on this type of inventory for a period of time, usually at a declining rate over several years until those payments reached zero. These agreements ensured there was no major financial shock to participating government's budgets. If the taxing entities in Howard County were to consider adopting the exemption, identifying the existing businesses who might benefit from the exemption and discussing such an arrangement represent one of the first steps that would need to be taken.

The initial question however is, why would the City, Howard County and the school districts want to adopt the exemption? Honestly, in today's economic environment would seem hard to justify and there are few local companies that would see a substantial benefit today.

Having said that, with the economy expected to recover as the Covid pandemic subsides and the long-term potential of the Ports-To-Plains corridor developing, it is time to at least begin the discussion. If Big Spring and Howard County are seriously intent on further diversity in the local economy, it would be wise to consider whatever tools are available to address the task. The freeport exemption is only one of those tools, but with business competition getting ever more fierce it should be discussed.



Courtesy image

The Big Spring EDC is located at 215 W. Third.

USDA temporarily suspends debt collections, foreclosures and other activities on Farm Loans for several thousand distressed borrowers due to coronavirus

COLLEGE STATION – Due to the national public health emergency caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the temporary suspension of past-due debt collections and foreclosures for distressed borrowers under the Farm Storage Facility Loan and the Direct Farm Loan programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). USDA will temporarily suspend non-judicial foreclosures, debt offsets or wage garnishments, and referring foreclosures to the Department of Justice. USDA will work with the U.S. Attorney's Office to stop judicial foreclosures and evictions on accounts that were previously referred to the Department of Justice. Additionally, USDA has extended deadlines for producers to respond to loan servicing actions, including loan deferral consideration for financially distressed and delinquent borrowers. In addition, for the Guaranteed Loan program, flexibilities have been made available to lenders to assist in servicing their customers.

The recent announcement by USDA expands previous actions undertaken by the Department to lessen financial hardship. According to USDA data, more than 12,000 borrowers—approximately 10% of all borrowers—are eligible for the relief announced today. Overall, FSA lends to more than 129,000 farmers, ranchers and producers.

"USDA and the Biden Administration are committed to bringing relief and support to farmers, ranchers and producers of all backgrounds and financial status, including by ensuring producers have access to temporary debt relief," said Robert Bonnie, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary. "Not only is USDA suspending the pipeline of adverse actions that can lead to foreclosure and debt collection, we are also working with the Departments of Justice and Treasury to suspend any actions already referred to the applicable Agency. Additionally, we are evaluating ways to improve and address farm related debt with the intent to keep farmers on their farms earning living expenses, providing for emergency needs, and maintaining cash flow."

The temporary suspension is in place until further notice and is expected to continue while the national COVID-19 disaster declaration is in place.

USDA's Farm Service Agency provides several different loans for producers, which fall under two main categories:

Guaranteed loans are made and serviced by commercial lenders, such as banks, the Farm Credit System, credit unions and other non-traditional lenders. FSA guarantees the lender's loan against loss, up to 95%.

Direct loans are made and serviced by FSA using

funds from the federal government.

The most common loan types are Farm Ownership, Farm Operating and Farm Storage Facility Loans, with Microloans for each:

Farm Ownership: Helps producers purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, construct a new or improve an existing farm or ranch building, pay closing costs and pay for soil and water conservation and protection.

Farm Operating: Helps producers purchase livestock and equipment and pay for minor real estate repairs and annual operating expenses.

Farm Storage Facility Loans are made directly to producers for the construction of cold or dry storage and includes handling equipment and mobile storage such as refrigerated trucks.

Microloans: Direct Farm Ownership, Operating Loans and Farm Storage Facility Loans have a shortened application process and reduced paperwork designed to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional and niche-type operations.

Contact FSA - FSA encourages producers to contact their county office to discuss these programs and temporary changes to farm loan deadlines and the loan servicing options available. For Service Center contact information, visit farmers.gov/coronavirus. For servicing information, access farmers.gov.

DINING GUIDE



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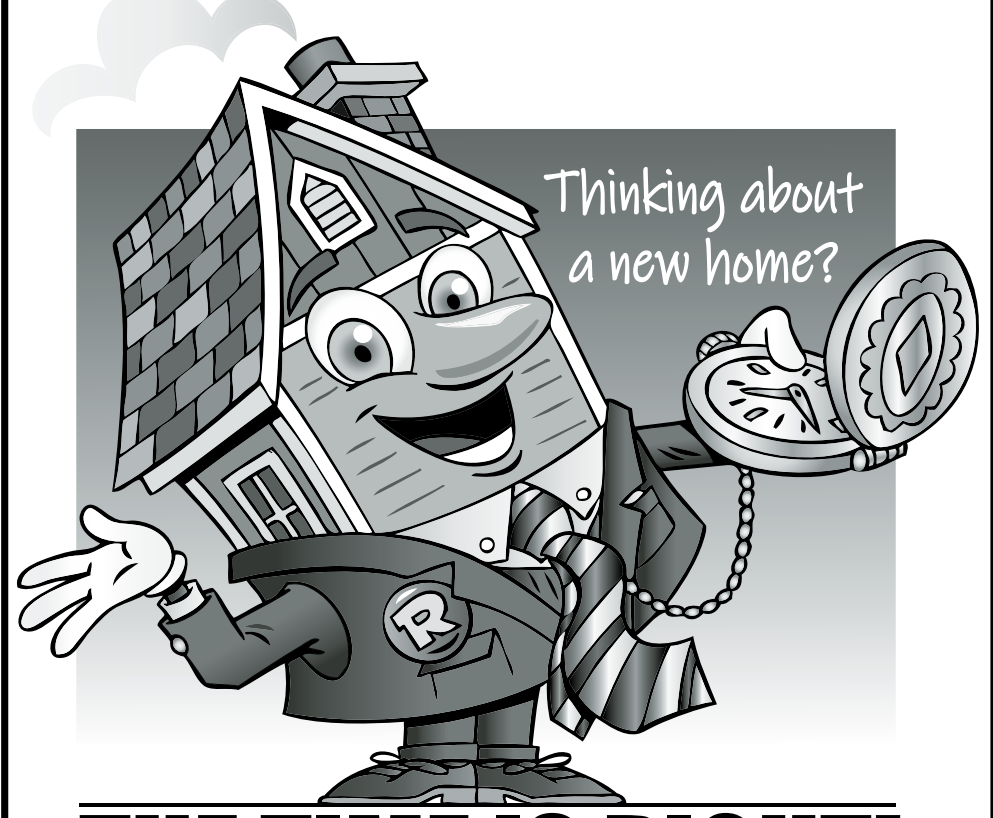
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Cookies have arrived!



Courtesy photo

The Girl Scout troops are hitting the streets, knocking on doors and setting up tables across the community in an effort to sell the long anticipated Girl Scout Cookies for this year. Girl Scout Troop 33918 is ready to deliver cookies upon request and will be visiting Big Spring neighborhoods from now until March. There will also be drive through booths set up around town as a way to distribute the cookies as well.

Permian Basin UWCD 2021 Scholarship Contest

Special to the Herald

STANTON – The Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District (PBUWCD) is proud to be sponsoring a scholarship essay contest for graduating seniors who are planning to attend college.

Those who are eligible to apply for the scholarship must attend one of the four schools in the PBUWCD's District; this includes: Forsan, Grady, Sands, and Stanton high schools. There will be a scholarship offered to each of the four schools in the District and the winners of the contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship to the college of their choice.

The essays are due no later than March 30, 2021 by 5 pm. They may be submitted to the student's school counselor or the Permian Basin UWCD office at 708 W Saint Peter St., Stanton, TX.

The topic for the essay will be: "With increasing demands on our groundwater, what conservation and management practices could enhance the protection of this resource for all water users? What can you do in your community to learn, encourage, and teach others to conserve and protect our water?"

For further criteria and information, please contact your High School Counselor or the PBUWCD office at (432)756-2136 or email education@pbuwcd.com.

You may also find information on our website: www.pbuwcd.com.

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