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Sunday, April 4th 2021
 9am & 11am
Resurrection Sunday
 Cornerstone Covenant Church
 www.cccbigspring.org | 706 E. 12th St | 432.264.0015

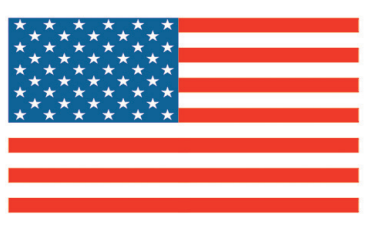
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FRIDAY EDITION,
 MARCH 19, 2021

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 CASA OF WEST TEXAS

VOLUME 116, NUMBER 154 COPYRIGHT 2021 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION



BSPD announces second arrest in ongoing murder investigation

Herald Staff Report

The Big Spring Police Department announced the second arrest in the ongoing investigation into the murder of Casey Brackett, which occurred on March 8.

On March 18, 2021, at approximately 9:30 a.m., the Big Spring Police Department Criminal Investigations Division served an arrest warrant on Hayden Douglas McMurrin, a white male, 31 years of age, charging him with the murder of Casey Brackett, a white male, 29 years of age.

McMurrin was already in the Howard County Jail at the time he was charged with murder due to him previously being arrested on March 12, 2021, and charged with Tampering/Fabricating Physical Evidence, a Felony 3 offense, which was also connected to this murder investigation.

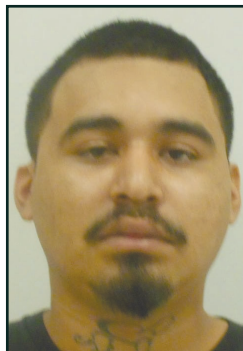
The first arrest in the murder investigation

took place March 16 at approximately 4:40 p.m. The BSPD announced Anselmo Vicente Rangel, a Hispanic male, 24 years of age, was arrested and charged with murder, in the same investigation.

Officers were originally dispatched to the area of 18th and Austin on March 8 around 9:10 p.m. in reference to a gunshot victim. According to the original press release, upon arrival Casey Brackett was found to be in the driver's seat of a white 2007 Ford Focus which was pulled over and stopped on the side of the road. Officers observed Brackett had suffered an apparent gunshot wound. Big Spring Fire/EMS arrived on scene and immediately began treating Brackett. Brackett was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center with life threatening injuries and unfortunately succumbed to his injuries and pronounced deceased.



Hayden Douglas McMurrin



Anselmo Vicente Rangel

This is an ongoing investigation and no further information is available.

The Big Spring Police Department continues to urge anyone with information relating to this incident to call CrimeStoppers at (432) 263-TIPS (8477) or use the P3tips.com software to submit your tip online. Remember no caller ID is ever used and all tips are anonymous.

Governor Greg Abbott addresses unaccompanied immigrant minors in Wednesday press conference

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Governor Greg Abbott held a press conference Wednesday afternoon to address the unaccompanied immigrant minors from the border and detention centers that are starting to show up in Texas communities. The closest holding facility is in Midland currently and is reported to be housing about 700 minors of which 200 first arrived Sunday night. Governor Abbott held the press conference across from the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, where the Biden Administration is preparing to house up to 3,000 unaccompanied minors. According to area media sources, there are more than 250 of those minors who have tested positive for Covid-19.

"The way we see unaccompanied minors crossing the border there is every reason for Americans to expect a number of size and sites to increase in the coming days," Governor Greg Abbott said.

"These sites are a direct result of President Biden's reckless Open Border policies that are causing surge in border crossings and cartel activity."

According to Governor Abbott as of Wednesday, the Biden Administration has yet to reach out to Governor Abbott or other State and Local government officials. At this point, there has not been a time frame provided for the centers usage or country of origin indicated with any of the unaccompanied minors. The Covid-19 protocols have not been discussed with administration and there is no documentation showing

what if any processes are being followed to determine exposure results.

"The Biden Administration must also answer for enticing unaccompanied minors into inhuman conditions that expose these children to traffickers, abuse and to terror," Abbott said.

This year, more than 11,000 minors have been apprehended at borders crossing into Texas. Children crossing the border rose 60% from January to February where there were 9,400 reportedly crossing over. The number of migrants crossing the border is at the highest since March 2019 and is on pace to hit a 20 year high. The Border Patrol reportedly took in 280 child migrants, on Monday, in the Rio Grande Valley sector.

"America needs to know how these children - some young children - how they

are coming across the border and who is helping them come across the border. America needs to know if these children were harmed or abused in any way; they need to know if these children were assisted, coerced or threatened by cartel members or human traffickers ..."

Governor Abbott addressed several missing pieces of information that has yet to be shared with Texas

See **MINOR**, Page 3

Upcoming Events

Food Truck Lunch
 March 21
 Noon - 2 p.m.
 First Baptist Church

Spring Kickoff Cornhole Tourny
 benefitting DAV
 March 27
 821 W. I-20
 Food trucks on site, registration begins at 10 a.m.

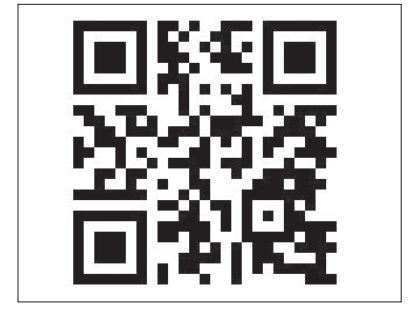
Share your athletic photos with us.
 e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com

Do you have a story to share with the community? Let us know, e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Wash your hands, social distance when possible

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 www.bigspringherald.com

54414 79720 9

United Way of Big Spring and Howard County distributes donation check to local supported agencies



Courtesy photos

The United Way has started to distribute allocation checks to the 14 agencies from the 2021 campaign.

COVID-19 vaccine upcoming clinics dates

Whatley Plaza at SMMC
 Enter MLK Blvd
 1601 W. 11th Place
 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
 March 22
 (Both clinics 1st Dose)

Memorial Stadium
 in conjunction with United Way Grocery Giveaway
 10 a.m. - Noon
 March 20
 (1st Dose)

All clinics are first come first serve basis and while supplies last.
 For more information on vaccines, visit www.scenicmountainmedical.org/vaccine

Howard County has reported as of 03/17:
 • 2989 positive cases
 • 99 Covid-19 fatalities
 • 33 Active cases
 • 4387 recovered
 • 1530 probable cases



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Take Note

• The deadline is drawing near for the PBU-WCD Scholarship Essays. The deadline for those students wanting an opportunity to earn a \$2,000 scholarship must have essays submitted by March 30. For more information, call 432-756-2136 or e-mail education@pbuwcd.com or visit the website at www.pbuwcd.com.

• American Legion Post 506 is hosting a Fish Fry on Saturday, March 20. Delivery will be available from 11-1 p.m. and serving will take place between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Plates are available for pick up and carry out at 3203 W. Hwy 80. For more information call 432-263-2084.

• 2021 Permian Basin Cotton Conference is set for March 30 at the Martin Community Center, located at 301 N. St. Peter Street in Stanton. The conference will take place from 7:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and count for three CEUs. Registration can take place at the door or in advance. Masks and social distancing will be required. For more information contact the Howard County Extension office at 432-264-2236.

• Cornhole Tournament benefitting the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) will be taking place at Star Doge on March 27. Registration is from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Food vendors will be on site.

• Back in Motion and West Texas Injury Prevention is hosting a St. Patrick Day Wounded Warrior fundraiser on March 17. There will be brisket plates for sale between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The meals will be served at 1113 S. Scurry Street.

• AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will offer free income tax preparation every Monday through Monday, April 5, 2021, from 8 a.m. until Noon at the Big Spring Senior Citizen's Center. The Senior Center is located at 100 Whipkey Drive, Big Spring, Texas. The service is available to all taxpayers with moderate to low income. Covid protocols will be observed: masks required, appointments required and no children allowed. Taxpayers need to bring: a photo ID, social security card for every person on tax return; last year's tax return and W-2s and all other proof of income received in 2020. Free electronic e-filing will be available for faster refunds.

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

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

• Howard County Republican Club meets the second Monday of each month in the Cactus Room at Howard College. The next meeting will be held in the newly renovated Cactus Room. Everyone is welcome. The meeting takes place at Noon. For more information call 432-213-7628.

• A new group named Taking Care of Business has started in Howard County. It is made up of people of all ages and genders who want to be better than they are. The focus of the fledgling organization is to engage in meaningful discussions that promote personal growth. Additionally, the organization will plan and execute worthwhile activities within the community. There is no membership fee and attendance is not taken. The only requirements are that you be positive or want to be more positive than you are, consider yourself to be a good person but want to be better than you are, and that you have a desire to help others be better too. Childcare is available during the discussion time if you let us know. Topics to be avoided include Religion and Politics, though we can dance around them.

Taking Care of Business meets in the Masonic Lodge on the court square. It is not necessary that you have any masonic affiliation to participate in this Growth Group. All Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed as defined by local, state, and federal authorities. At this time refreshments will not be served but you are welcome to bring your own and not share. The meetings take place at 219 South Main Big

Spring, Texas. For more information write to Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com or just come to the meeting.

• The Howard County Library meeting rooms will be opening up – at limited capacity – on Feb. 1. There will only be five people allowed in the small room and 15 in the large room and can only be used by appointment only by community organizations. No parties or social gatherings will be allowed at this time. For more information, call the Howard County Library.

• The Senior Supper Club has come out of hibernation to resume its normal Tuesday evening dinners. The Come-One-Come-All group will be meeting on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and orders will be placed around 5:30 p.m. after much socializing from a distance. The group will be meeting at Dickey's this week; March 23 at Spanish Inn; and March 30 at Cowboys. The Senior Supper Club is an informal group of folks from Howard County who meet at least weekly and sometimes more for Dutch-Treat food at different area restaurants. Sometimes the group also meets for cards, dominoes, or desserts and fellowship. For more information, contact Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com.

• St. Vincent de Paul will be open the following dates beginning November 2020. Food distribution will take place the second Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and other assistance will be suspended at this time, but will resume on Dec. 17. Distributions will take place at 1009 Hearn at SVDP Building. In December 2020, the food distribution will continue the 2nd Thursday as scheduled. SVDP will be closed from December 18 through January 7, 2021.

• Permian Basin Multiple Sclerosis Support Group for information, encouragement and support. The group meets monthly on the Second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express at 5321 John Ben Sheppard Parkway, Odessa. If you or someone you know has been touched by MS, or if you are just interested in more information please feel to contact Gary Tidwell at garylteagle1987@gmail.com.

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

• DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible? There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

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

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **MICHELL DAWN GARCIA**, 53, of 609 S. Aylesford Street, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **LECEDRIAN TREVION-TYREK CHISM**, 22, of 403 S. Main, Franklin, Texas, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **LONNIE GRAY III**, 22, of 128 Pintail of Sanger, Texas, was arrested on a charge of possession of controlled substance greater than or equal to 400g and possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces.
- **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson Road.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80; 700 block of W. FM 700.
- **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the 800 block of E. 3rd Street.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80.
- **UNWANTED SUBJECT** was reported in the 1800 block of S. Gregg Street.
- **HARASSMENT** was reported in the 1500 block of Tucson Street.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Mesa Avenue. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1200 block of Lamar. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of 11th Street and Goliad. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3000 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 400 block of N. Moss Lake Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 6100 block of N. Service Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1100 block of NW 8th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of Pine Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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.

- **LECEDRIAN TREVON TYREK CHISM**, 22, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **MICHELL DAWN GARCIA**, 53, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- **LONNIE RAY GRAY III**, 22, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces and possession of controlled substance greater than or equal to 400g.
- **KENNETH WHINHAM**, 29, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.



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HERALD

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Congressman Crenshaw introduces Bipartisan Bill to protect firearm access, jobs

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Dan Crenshaw (R-TX) and Congressman Henry Cuellar (D-TX) today introduced the ATF Accountability Act, which will create an appeals process for the firearms industry, so they are not subject to unchecked bureaucratic rulings that impact American jobs and attempt to restrict access to firearms.

"Late last year we saw the ATF attempt to make a rule that would have cost the industry more than \$1.25 billion. The fact an unelected bureaucrat could make a rule hurting the American economy and American jobs to that extent with no appeals process cannot continue," said Crenshaw. "This bill will bring ATF in line with most other federal

regulatory agencies and create an appeals process so industry has more options to challenge rulings other than suing the federal government -- which many businesses simply cannot do. This bill will help ensure that the ATF cannot unilaterally impose rulings that impede on Second Amendment liberties and hurt jobs within the firearms industry."

"It is critical that we implement smart federal regulatory procedures for the firearm industry to promote economic and job growth," said Congressman Henry Cuellar. "This bipartisan legislation will allow licensees to obtain compliance through a more transparent process within the ATF, alleviat-

ing some regulatory bureaucracy. I am committed to implementing common-sense laws that create greater fairness and clarity for the industry."

Background

Currently, industry's only recourse to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) rules is to sue the government, which many manufacturers cannot do, as it puts their limited resources up against the full force of the federal government. This bipartisan bill will allow needed recourse through appealing through Regional Directors of Industry Operations and Administrative Law Judges.

Weather



Today: Sunny, with a high near 64. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tonight: Clear, with a low around 39. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 71. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Monday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73.

Monday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 45.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 74.

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

Annual VA Center for Women Veterans campaign highlights trailblazers

WASHINGTON — This year's Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Women Veterans's (CWV) 2021 Trailblazers: Women Veterans Leading the Way campaign celebrates the contributions of 27 women Veterans, representing all military branches, during and after their military service.

The campaign showcases the impact these trailblazers have made on a single event or action or demonstrated over time in the areas of education, employment, entrepreneurship, homelessness, law, mental health and wellness.

"The women Veteran trailblazer initiative highlights the experiences and contributions of women Veterans and shares their stories about how their military service and experiences led to their continued roles as leaders and advocates in the communities where they live and work," said Acting VA Director for the Center for Women Veterans Elizabeth Estabrooks. "Initiatives like this and other CWV campaigns are designed to showcase the unique contributions of women Veterans and help transform the culture of VA and the public by changing

notions around what it means to be a Veteran."

Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing demographics within VA, expected to reach nearly 20% of the Veteran population by 2045. Few better exemplify the courage of American women in the fight for equality than those who have served this country in uniform even as they fought our nation's wars. Women have been defending our freedom in every conflict since the Revolutionary War.

Learn about the 2021 Women Veteran Trailblazers, the Trailblazers Initiative and Center for Women Veterans. Follow CWV on Facebook and Twitter @VAWomenVets.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Theresa Winn, 76, died Friday, February 12, 2021. Family will receive friends at Myers & Smith Funeral Home on Friday, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Funeral service will be at Myers & Smith Chapel on Friday at 2:00 PM.

Robert Keith Toomire, 75, died Thursday. Memorial services will be at 3:00 PM Saturday

Brenda Larson, 66, of Big Spring died Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Visitation will be 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 11:00 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Support Groups

FRIDAY

- Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Fridays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meet-

ing 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

- A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E.

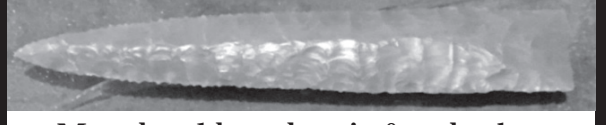
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MINOR

Continued from Page 1

Government Leaders regarding the unaccompanied minors. The answers, according to Abbott, could be a doorway to helping crack down or reduce the crimes related to human traffickers and cartels. In the press release, Abbott outlined steps that should be taking place by the Biden Administration such as interviews with each of the unaccompanied minors upon arrival in order to determine if any of the children have been harmed or victimized.

"This information could help us root out human trafficking as well as other criminal activity. Doing these things is the Federal Government's responsibility, but once again, it is Texas stepping up and doing what the Federal Government should be doing."

A few weeks ago Governor Abbott held a press conference announcing the launch of Operation Lone Star to help secure the border and combat the smuggling of people and drugs into Texas. Since then the Texas Department of Public Safety has deployed 1,000 DPS officers, agents and rangers in support. The scope was expanded on Wednesday to crack down on human trafficking. The DPS will

work with the long standing Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team as well as other organizations experienced in these issues.

"Today I am directly asking the Biden Administration to allow the Texas DPS to access this facility across the street (at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center) as well as the other federally run facilities in Texas to be able to talk to these unaccompanied minors. We must get to the bottom of human trafficking and put an end to it. The thought of any child suffering at the hands of human traffickers is completely unacceptable. We have a duty to crack down on this heinous crime and prevent more children from being trafficked and abused."

Abbott continued, "Whether it's securing the border or fighting human trafficking, the State of Texas will always step up and fill in the gaps left open by Washington."

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

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Praise & Worship Guide

We invite you to visit the featured church this week, or find a new church home in the listings below.

ADVENTIST

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
4319 Parkway
267-5381

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

LIVING WATERS
4th & Lancaster
267-7971

TEMPLO BELEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD

2205 Goliad 267-2111

BAPTIST

AIRPORT BAPTIST
1208 Frazier St.
263-7451

BAPTIST TEMPLE
400 11th Place
267-8287

BEREA BAPTIST
4204 Wasson Rd.
267-8438

BIRDWELL LANE BAPTIST
1512 Birdwell Lane
267-7157

CALVARY BAPTIST
1200 W. 4th.
263-4242

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
5108 Nichols Rd.,
432-398-5469
(Elbow Community)

COAHOMA FIRST BAPTIST
201 South Ave.,
Coahoma
394-4990

COLLEGE BAPTIST
1105 Birdwell Ln.
267-7429

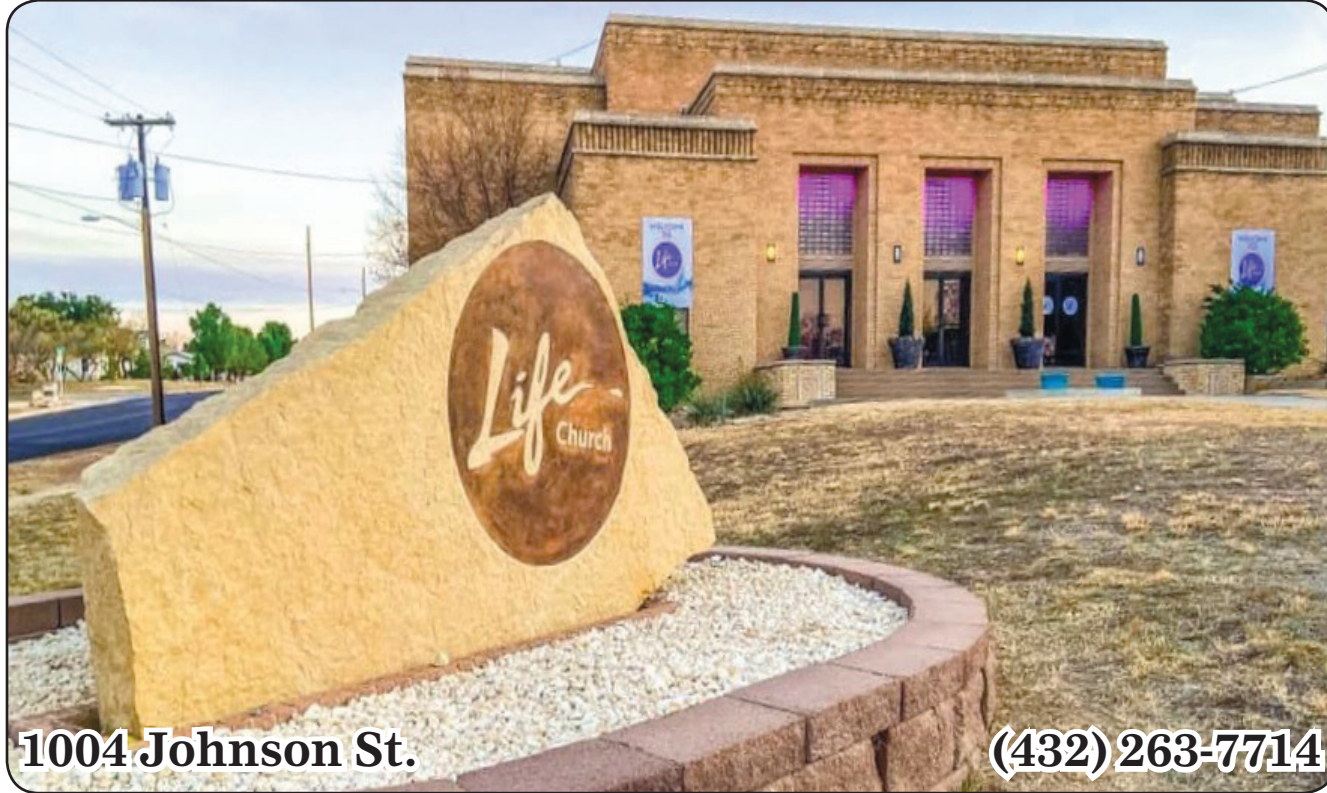
CRESTVIEW BAPTIST
Gatesville St. 213-4177

EAST SIDE BAPTIST
1108 E. 6th
267-1915

FIRST BAPTIST
705 W. FM 700
267-8223

FIRST BAPTIST OF KNOTT
Knott

FORSAN BAPTIST CHURCH
201 W. Main
457-2342
Forsan, TX



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Church News

College Baptist Church

Just praising God and celebrating the Saviour, Jesus, at College Baptist Church, as we welcome new members through salvation and baptism! Come see what God is doing at the corner of 11th and Birdwell Lane.

We are open on Sunday morning at 9:15 for Bible Study for all ages. Worship time is at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday with our praying Youth groups start at 6 p.m. and meal between 6-6:45. Bible Study and Prayer Meeting is at 7 p.m. with children meeting for King's Kids and Krafts. Nursery is as needed. Girl's Missions meet on Sunday at 5 p.m. Come join in the fun as we are celebrating this year serving our Lord.

Services for March 21, 2021, are in the building. We are live streaming and on our Face Book page as well. Catch up on God's perfect plan! We have face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer available. Visitors, it was a such a joy to welcome you on Sunday. Come join us again—it will be exciting to welcome new faces and old alike. Our services are lively and worshipful. College Baptist Church continues on mission for our Lord. We have so many things we do it's difficult to list them all. Come help us serve our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We definitely enjoy the worship time as our ministry team leads us in songs of praise, and where our pastor, Bro. Ken McMeans, inspires us as we delve into God's Word, leading us as Jesus lives through us.

Come study what it takes to really 'Know the Lord our God in Resurrection Power,' knowing He cares for us so much He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to save us. Focus on the Resurrected Jesus as we continue into the Year, as our pastor reminds us every Sunday, Jesus is coming soon! Take a part in these joyful activities, and exciting worship, praising the Mighty God we serve.

Please call: 432-267-7429, for more information concerning Men's, Ladies' and youth meetings at this great and friendly church.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's Episcopal Church welcomes all to participate in our services. We are located North of the High School on Goliad Street (1001 S. Goliad), and would love to have you visit. Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by social gathering outside the church in the Courtyard & Bennett Garden.

On Wednesday's we have Bible study and coffee in the morning at 10:30 a.m. and evening we have Evening prayer and book study starting at 5:30 p.m. What a great opportunity to have meaningful fellowship and develop relationships with people who have a common interest, following the steps of Christ. Please come and join us for a time of worship and fellowship in a place that welcomes all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Facebook – Live Streaming

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's will be Live Streaming their service on Facebook, website – www.facebook.com/StMarysBigSpring/. What a great way to listen OR participate in the service at the comforts of your home or wherever you may be at that time of day.

NazFamily Church

Healing & Revival Weekend

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness." (Matthew 9:35) We believe that He still heals today. Pastor Paul Baskin will lead a special healing and revival weekend at NazFamily Church on March 19-21. Services will be at 6:30pm on Friday & Saturday, and 10:00am on Sunday.

Bridge Celebration Service - The Bridge Church is graduating! Our District Superintendent will be here on March 21 for a special organization service at 2 p.m., with a reception following the service. Everyone is invited to celebrate with us!

NazLadies Craft Night - Our NazLadies are hosting a craft night fundraiser on March 26 from 6 – 8 p.m. They are asking for a \$35 donation to participate in the craft night. All the funds will be used to restock our new kitchen.

Good Friday - "Amazing love, how can it be, that You, My King, would die for me!" We will have a special Good Friday service on April 2 at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to join us for this meaningful time of reflection, worship, and prayer.

Easter Egg-travaganza Outreach - NazFamily's Annual Community Wide Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 3rd on the church property. We will have an all church breakfast at 8am and registration will begin @ 9:00am. There will be food, games, bounce house, coloring contests, door prizes, and of course, thousands and thousands of eggs. The Easter Bunny may even make an appearance. Come on out and enjoy a time that is fun for the whole family.

Resurrection Sunday - We are planning a powerful worship gathering on Easter as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We will begin with a sunrise prayer time at 7 a.m. (which will be LiveStreamed), followed by all church breakfast at 9 a.m. in the gym. Our Worship Gathering at 10 a.m. This is a great time to invite friends, family and neighbors to come worship with us. You won't want to miss out on this meaningful time together. He is risen indeed!

Food Boxes - Every Tuesday & Thursday we make food boxes available in our church office from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for anyone in need. If you know someone who needs an extra blessing they can come by the office at that time or contact us at 432-267-7015.

Connect - If you would like to begin a vibrant

relationship with God as a follower of Jesus, or if you would like to learn more about how you can get involved at NazFamily Church, one of our pastors would love to talk to you. Please contact us at church@nazfamily.org.

Crestview Baptist Church

At Crestview Baptist Church, we believe the most fulfilling pursuit for a body of believers is not entertainment, gimmicks, or programs. The most fulfilling pursuit for a follower of Christ is to know Christ and His Word, so that we may live for Him.

If you believe that, please come and worship the King with us! Sunday School starts at 10 a.m., Worship begins at 11 a.m., and our Sunday and Wednesday night meetings are at 6:30 p.m. We are studying Biblical Doctrine. Come and be with us at 2305 Gatesville Rd., Big Spring.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church

LCMS

"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love and Grace in our lives".

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood Neighborhood in Big Spring. If you would like to reach Pastor Kohl or the church office, please call 432-264-7818, or e-mail us at aliveinchristtx@gmail.com. Bible Study and Sunday School begin at 9:30 a.m. and we are having class each Sunday morning. Our Sunday Service begins at 10:30 a.m. You can catch us on Facebook Live on our Facebook page. If you are new to the area or haven't been to church before or in a while, please accept this as an invitation to join us this Sunday.

The readings for this Sunday are Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:1-10, and Mark 10: (32-34)35-45. The psalm is Psalm 119:9-16.

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study is back. A meal is served at 5:30 and our bible study begins at 6:00. We are studying Lutheranism 101. Please come and join us. Our Lenten Services began on Wednesday, February 17 and will be every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. until March 24. Please join us each Wednesday evening.

Bobby Roeber will present the scripture readings this week.

Tune in to KBYG every morning for a devotional sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for these wonderful devotions: "Morning Meditation Thoughts".

Also tune in every Sunday morning at 8:30 to listen to the Lutheran Hour.

First Christian Church

First Christian Church is located at 911 Goliad To contact the church office or Pastor Brian Michaelz call 432-517-4821.

This coming Sunday... Pastor Michaelz sermon will be: "God Leads" Psalm 32:8

We are an authentic faithful compassionate family that meets people where they are in their life and helps them move closer to Jesus.

First Christian church is people of all ages, styles, backgrounds and a church with a long, rich history in Big Spring. We are a church made up of people who believe that Jesus is for all people. Whether you are looking for a new church to try, answers to your questions about life, hope during difficult times or are new to our town we are here to help.

Join us at First Christian Church or To find out more information about First Christian Church or to see the online service join Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/group/fccbigspring

If you or someone you know would like to be placed on the FCC prayer list, please contact the church office or tell one of the members.

We invite you to come as you are to give thanks for everything in a fresh way. If that sounds good to you, we would enjoy meeting you.

Sunday morning Social Time - pre-Worship Service - starts approximately 9:30 a.m. in the Sitting Room by the office. Donuts, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Hot Tea and Bottled Water.

Worship Service starts at 10:50 a.m. Hope to see you there!!

Life Church

We are excited to welcome our Life Church friends to the campus this Sunday.

Join us in the Life Church Sanctuary at 10:30am for an experience in the Word and in Worship This Sunday, March 21 is Baptism Sunday. If you would like to get baptized please e-mail manny@golifechurch.net.

Life Alive is our Wednesday night ministry and all the fun starts at 7 p.m. There will be something for every member of the family. Join our Revelation Bible Class as Pastor Kevin continues to take us through the book of Revelation. Free Indeed is taking place in the Life Church sanctuary. Youth, Life Kids and Nursery are also available.

Ladies, you are invited to join us every Wednesday at noon for our Seek Prayer Group. The Zoom meeting information for Seek can be found on our One Sisterhood Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/onesisterhoodbigspringtx/>

Champion Culture Youth will meet on Wednesdays from 7 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. on the Life Church Campus. For more information about Champion Culture and their plans for the summer visit and follow the Champion Culture Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ChampionCultureLifeChurch/>

Life Kids will have their classes this Sunday. Our Nursery is available for those ages newborn to 2. Our Toddlers class serve those ages 3 & 4. Our Elementary class serves those ages 5-10

Visit and follow the Life Kids Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Life-Kids-Life->

Church-Big-Spring-TX-1654730487977488/ for more information.

For more information about our events or groups please visit our website www.golifechurch.net or <https://www.facebook.com/bigspringlife>

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

Wednesday Lectionary Bible Study, which has been meeting at 6:00 p.m., begins this week meeting at 5:00, in the church library or by Zoom. The Zoom link is available in Faith Notes or from the church office.

Order forms for Easter tulips are in the church office. Anyone who did not get the form and wishes to participate may come by the church or call the church office.

During Lent, the daily prayer meditation will highlight a particular word, then a scripture passage with that word will be read, followed by a prayer – a linked three-part meditation.

Also during Lent, the video devotionals will speak directly to Lenten themes and will be following along with ideas from the chapters of Augustine's Confessions, his autobiographical work that discussed his life before and after transformation under God.

The Session met Thursday, March 25, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The Thursday Lunch Bunch meets in Fellowship Hall at 11:30.

The Discovery Class begins a new study, Susan Robb's Seven Words – Listening to Christ from the Cross, which will be led by Helen Glass. The first session is "Father, forgive them."

The Youth Bible Study, which is meeting in the Tent Room, has begun a study "Faith Questions: Being Presbyterian" led by Tom Koger.

The Children's Class, led by Nancy Koger, begins lessons about Christian practices during Lent. They are learning the Lord's Prayer.

The Sunday morning Take Ten fellowship is in the parlor between Sunday School and worship. Ellen Austin is host for this week.

Lectionary passages for the Fifth Sunday in Lent are: Psalm 51:1-12; Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33. Rev. Allen Cross will lead the worship service. The sermon topic is "Thunder or God?" Organist/music director Gabe Martinez leads the music on the organ and piano and provides the Introit and Offertory.

First Presbyterian Church now has a two iTunes podcasts: The Daily Prayer Podcast and The Sermon Podcast. The sermon from last week may be found at www.fpcbigspring.com/Sermons.

For anyone wishing to join in a daily prayer, go to www.fpcbigspring.com and select Daily Prayers. Rev. Allen Cross also posts a Weekly Devotional each Wednesday at that website. Anyone who is not attending worship physically may hear the service on KBST 1490 AM at 11:00 a.m. as usual or online at www.fpcbigspring.com by selecting the SERMONS tab and the correct date. A copy of the liturgy for the service may be downloaded from the website or by receiving a copy by calling the church office

Please call the church office at 263-4211 for other information. We would be pleased for you to Like us on Facebook. Although the physical address of First Presbyterian Church is 701 Runnels, the mailing address is P. O. Box 2222, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church (aka - CCC) is a unified, spirit-led, purpose-driven church, which cultivates an atmosphere of faith so that lives can be transformed by Jesus Christ. We would love the opportunity to Connect with YOU! You can expect biblical teaching & preaching, genuine loving fellowship and live spirit filled praise & worship.

Please join us this week at one of the following events: Sunday, March 21 – Join us this Sunday at our 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. for our onsite worship service. Our 11 a.m. service will be onsite and online. You can find our CCC Live Worship Experience online at [facebook.com/CCCBigSpring](https://www.facebook.com/CCCBigSpring) or at Cornerstone Covenant Church Live on YouTube (look for the CCC logo).

Monday, March 22- Join us for our Women's (FAR) Far Above Rubies women's night from 6-8 p.m. in the ARC. Our desire is to foster an environment of opportunity for women to grow in their relationship with Christ Jesus and to connect with one another. This is a potluck style fellowship so bring a dish to share, also bring your bible and a friend.

Saturday, April 3, Join Men's 41 Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. in the ARC. We strive towards building a community of faithful men who are equipped to lead themselves and their families on a closer walk with God. On our journey, we will learn what it means to be godly servant-leaders and challenge each other to pursue that life.

3 DAY Extravaganza April 2nd, April 3 and April 4 -Mark your calendars and join us as we gather: Day 1: For our Good Friday Communion Worship Service Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary. Day 2: Come on out on Saturday, April 3 for CCC's Spring Fellowship. We will have our Sweets & Meats Cook-Off at Big Spring Comanche Trail Park in the Old Settlers Pavilion from 11 -3 p.m. We will also have Family fun games and sports competition everyone can participate in. Day3: Closing out this amazing weekend with our Resurrection Sunday Worship Service. On Sunday, April 4 We will have a 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. service.

Transportation Ministry – You need a ride to

Something to think about...

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God!" ~ 2 Corinthians 5:2

As I reflected this morning about what it means for us to be "sent" by God as His ambassadors, a story by Max Lucado came to mind. He once shared about a loving mother in Brazil named Maria. This mother had a beautiful daughter named Christina who desperately wanted to leave their poor little village to enjoy the bright lights of Rio de Janeiro. Knowing her mother would never give her permission to leave; Christina packed a few things and left home one morning before dawn, leaving just a note behind. Of course, Maria was devastated.

She quickly packed some things to go in search of her daughter. She stopped at a drugstore on the

way to the bus station and spent most of her money having pictures of herself printed. Maria knew Christina had no way of earning money, and she also knew that her daughter was too stubborn to ever give up. So Maria searched in the worst parts of Rio de Janeiro, her heart breaking knowing that her daughter would have to do unthinkable things just to survive. At each place Maria stopped - street corners, lobbies of seedy hotels, dirty bathroom mirrors - she would write a note on the back of a picture of herself and tape it up for everybody to see.

It didn't take long for the money and the pictures to run out, so eventually Maria had to return to her village without Christina, heartsick that her daughter was lost in that urban jungle of Rio. A month or so later, Christina descended the hotel stairs of one of those seedy hotels, her young face tired, her bright eyes faded into dull, her countenance fallen, and now full of fear and pain.

A thousand times she had longed to trade these countless beds for her secure little mat back home

in her village, but now that life seemed so far away in so many ways. As Christina reached the bottom of the stairs, she noticed something familiar. There on the lobby bulletin board was a picture of her mother. Christina's eyes burned and her throat tightened. She removed the picture and written on the back of the photo was this message from her mother, Maria: "Christina, whatever you've done, wherever you've been, it doesn't matter. Please come home. I love you." And she did!

Jesus told a similar story about a lost son that revealed the Father's broken heart for his lost children.

Home can sometimes feel a million miles away. But, we get to be the image, the sign, the message from God for the lost and broken that says: "Wherever you have been, whatever you have done, God can forgive you! Please come home. He loves you!"

How will you let God's love and light shine through you this week? How will you participate in the Kingdom revolution today?



RICHARD
SCHNEGERGER

The Power Of Christ's Power

"And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:9

Our definition of power is not very strong because we measure power by the rule of that which we can do in our own might. We think that if it cannot be done by the strongest of humans, then, it probably cannot be done. But there is a power which exceeds all of our definitions,

expectations, limitations and understanding. That power is the grace of Christ. His grace is powerful because His strength is made perfect in our weakness. The only thing we see in weakness is weakness. But maybe we need to take another look at Christ's grace because He sees strength and power in our weakness. This weakness of ours is not - oh, today I only prayed 30 minutes instead of 3 hours. No, Jesus is talking about real, bonafide weakness. Jesus is not talking about "white", small, meniscal, microscopic weaknesses; He is talking about those weaknesses that trouble and torment us. Jesus is talk-

ing about those weaknesses which threaten to separate us from the love of God. Jesus is not talking about a rash on our elbows which are easily covered and hidden, He is talking about a big, red birthmark that covers the side of our faces; something which cannot possibly be ignored. When Jesus talks about our weaknesses, He is talking about that which must be covered by His grace. And this is where the power of Christ's power can be best appreciated.

Christ's power is a power unto its own, an autonomous island which does not succumb to the whims of religious zealots, refusing to be crammed into the theological boxes of those who would do their best to exile it to the catacombs of pious forgetfulness. This is not a weak power, awaiting the approval of the "strong", but a powerful power to be enjoyed by all those who are truly weak, and know it.

This power cannot be explained, outlined or theologized, but it can be embraced and enjoyed by the foolish, the weak, the base, the despised and those who are as nothing.

You wanna talk about power? Well, let's talk about it. Let's talk about something which is impossible for us, but easy for Christ. But let's not just talk about it, lets live it, walk in it and enjoy it to its fullest.

Let's speak it in the light and preach it upon the housetops.



TOM
SLOAN

No Change?

When I was a young adult, my grandmother was 85, and had an appendix burst. She was in the hospital in San Diego, California. My heart almost broke when Mother called and said Grandmother wasn't expected to live through the week. I told her I'd meet her at the hospital.

A couple of days later I had opportunity to see Grandmother, and as I was standing in her ICU room, I heard in my heart, the Lord speaking to me. "Lay your hand on her and pray for her healing." I had been taught that we didn't do that in our doctrine.

So I said, "Not me, Lord!"

And again I heard His still small voice speaking to my heart, "Lay your hand on her and pray for her healing." So I thought, "Okay?" And I looked around to

make sure I was alone, touched her hand, and said, "Lord, heal her." And just as quickly as

I touched her hand, I jerked it back and again looked around to make sure no one had seen me.

I told my mother what I had done and said I thought she would get well. My mother got furious with me and told me she

was going to die, that gangrene had already set in and there was no way she could live. I didn't argue with my godly mother and soon went back to my home in a nearby city.

A month later, Mother called me and told me Grandmother was getting out of the hospital that day. It was all I could do not to say, "I told you so." But for once I was nice and didn't say it. Grandmother lived to be 89 years old. I was so ex-

cited that I serve a God Who never changes.

Some people think the Old Testament of God's Word is not for us today. If that's true, then neither is the New Testament.

It's all God's Word.

He said things in the Old Testament to get us ready for the New. He doesn't change His mind. He doesn't have an opinion, or better idea.

See **CHANGE**, Page 8



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*Don't Miss The Blessing God Has In Store
For You This Sunday!*

710 days later, NCAA Tournament is back with 'First Four.' As the tournament sets to kick off

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Writer

Who are we kidding? "First Four" still sounds more like an educational toy than the prelude to three of the best weeks in sport.

But because of the pandemic, it's been 710 days since last we saw the NCAA Tournament — who's counting? — so let's not quibble over names and go straight to the opening-night review:

Pretty, pretty good.

In the finale pitting two of college hoops' marquee programs, UCLA outlasted Michigan State 86-80 in overtime. Two other games were decided by a single point: Drake beat Wichita State 53-52, and Norfolk State squeezed Appalachian State 54-53. In Thursday's opener, Texas Southern pulled steadily away from Mount St. Mary's and won 60-52.

The first four games were grafted onto the 64-team main bracket in 2011, naturally, to pad the NCAA coffers. They were originally dubbed "play-in" games, and then briefly the "First Round," which the NCAA quickly squashed to avoid any confusion with the 16 games that begin the tournament in earnest Friday.

Only one First Four team has also made it all the way to the Final Four — Virginia Commonwealth in 2011 — but survivors tend to punch above their weight. Four teams have made it to the Sweet 16 and 2019 marked the only year at least one of the first four survivors failed to win a game in the big-boy bracket.

Michigan State's brief appearance in the tournament was coach Tom Izzo's 23rd straight, but it was

small consolation. He got into a heated exchange with one of his own players — and not for the first time — after what appeared to be a defensive miscommunication on the final play of the first half. When Gabe Brown turned away, Izzo grabbed his arm and then the back of his jersey.

"It was a normal nothing. But in this day and age, everything's got to be something," Izzo groaned, then added. "It was over a missed switch that we talked about."

The Spartans promptly went on to hand back the double-digit lead they held at intermission, yet still led by six points with four minutes left. Then the house fell in. The Bruins Jaime Jaquez Jr., who finished with 27 points, banged in a layup and added the game-tying free throw in regulation. Johnny Juzang hit back-to-back baskets to begin the extra period and UCLA kept its nose in front the rest of the way.

The reward for winning the clash of No. 11 seeds is a short drive to Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, where the Bruins will face No. 6 Brigham Young.

Drake's win was a long time coming — 50 years to be exact — and didn't go into the books until a last-second 3-point try by Wichita State's Alterique Gilbert clanged off the front rim. An early dunk by the Bulldogs 6-foot guard Joseph Yesufu over the Shockers 6-7 Clarence Jackson produced the tournament's first sure-fire poster. But Drake had to erase a double-digit, second-half deficit in a battle of No. 11 seeds and then hold its breath until the final buzzer.

"It's been a long time coming and our guys knew that," said Bulldogs coach Darian DeVries, whose

eight-year contract extension, signed just a day earlier, is already paying dividends. Good thing, too, because he'll draw No. 6 USC in the main bracket.

Texas Southern simply had too much pace for a deliberate Mount St. Mary's squad in a match of No. 16 seeds. TSU coach Johnny Jones took advantage of the sport's more equitable transfer rules to quickly build an up-tempo attack. He sweet-talked eight talented kids from other programs onto campus, including John Walker III, who had a season-high 19 points and nine rebounds. The win was the Tigers' 10th straight.

"I feel like I'm on top of the world," Walker, who was previously at Texas A&M, shouted afterward.

But maybe not for long. Texas Southern faces East Region top seed Michigan on Saturday. Jones won't have long to prepare a game plan, but he planned to savor the win, which his players celebrated by emptying a water cooler over his head.

"They drenched me," Jones laughed, "but I'll tell you what: It's one of the best feelings I've had in cold water in a long time."

Norfolk State won the other battle of No. 16s, but did so drenched in sweat. The Spartans built a big first-half lead, squandered it and then some in the second and had to close with a 9-2 run — capped by Devante Carter's free throws with 8.6 seconds left — to prevail.

"We knew what was on the line. Nobody wants to go home. They told me that the flight was leaving tomorrow at 9:30 (am)," Norfolk State coach Robert Jones said. "I told them I'm not packing."

NCAA basketball players use biggest stage to deliver message

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP
College Sports Writer

A social media effort to raise awareness about inequities in college sports by some prominent basketball players came with calls for rules changes and requests for meetings with the NCAA president and lawmakers.

The players who got #NotNCAAProperty trending on social media made no threats of protests at tournament games, which start Thursday night and will have millions of viewers all weekend.

Following a year of activism in sports that included NBA players shutting down the playoffs after a police shooting, it seems fitting that college athletes would use March Madness to get a message across.

NCAA Vice President of Basketball Dan Gavitt, who communicates frequently with coaches, said Thursday he was not aware of any plans for players protests that could interfere with tournament games being played.

"Am I concerned? I would be concerned about any potential disruption, I guess, of games," Gavitt said. "I'm certainly not at all concerned and, and quite frankly, supportive

of student-athletes using their voices for advocacy in issues that they are very passionate about. We have certainly seen that throughout 2020 in particular."

Using the #NotNCAAProperty hashtag on Twitter, players pushed for the NCAA to change its rules banning college athletes from earning money for things like endorsements, sponsorship deals and personal appearances, all encompassing revenue tied to their name, image or likeness (NIL).

Three prominent Big Ten players — Isaiah Livers of Michigan, Geo Baker of Iowa — led the way, and players from at least 15 tournament teams jumped on board with tweets of support.

The National College Players Association, a college athlete advocacy group, released a statement late Wednesday that detailed the players' goals. They included meetings with NCAA President Mark Emmert and the opportunity to meet with state and local lawmakers who are working on passing laws that could set parameters for the association's NIL rules.

The NCAA has been working to-

ward changing its rules governing NIL compensation to pull back most restrictions. But those efforts have bogged down under scrutiny from the U.S. Department of Justice and with an antitrust case involving the NCAA heading to the Supreme Court later this month.

The players were back to Twitter on Thursday, circulating the hashtag and what they hoped to accomplish.

There were no hints about what was next or whether they would take their messages to the courts when they start playing.

"The players are driving this so I'm not going to speak on their behalf," said NCPA executive director Ramogi Huma, a former UCLA football player.

The real madness starts Friday, with 16 games going from noon to midnight, and then another 16 on Saturday to wrap up the first round.

Because of the pandemic, the entire tournament is being staged in Indiana. All 68 teams are being hosted in what the NCAA is calling a "controlled environment" in Indianapolis, just blocks away from the association's home office.

Last year, college football players

from the Pac-12 threatened boycotts over concerns about COVID-19 protocols, social justice issues and economic rights for college athletes. The Big Ten had its own #WeAreUnited movement related to health and safety protocols.

Players also led the push to play after the Big Ten and Pac-12 conferences canceled the fall football seasons, only to reverse course and play. College athletes across the country were not only notable participants in "Black Lives Matter" demonstrations, but in some cases organized and led marches.

Attorney Tim Nevius, a former NCAA investigator, said college athletes are increasingly aware of their power to effect change. Especially when they organize.

"No matter how big or small something like this is, it gets the NCAA's attention," Nevius said.

Whether the latest social media campaign could lead to something bigger like a strike or walkout by players during one of the biggest events on the American sports calendar, Nevius did not know.

"These are warning shots," he said, "until they're not."

3 women sue Texans QB Deshaun Watson for alleged sex assault

By JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson is being sued by three masseuses who accuse the star player of sexual assault in a "disturbing pattern" of behavior toward women.

In lawsuits filed this week, two of the women claim that Watson touched them with his penis during massages last year, and the third alleges he forced her to perform oral sex.

Watson, 25, has broadly denied that he acted inappropriately and said he looks forward to clearing his name.

"I have never treated any woman with anything other than the utmost respect," the quarterback said in a statement posted to Twitter Tuesday. His attorney and agent did not immediately respond to requests for comment Thursday.

Houston police spokeswoman Jodi Silva declined to comment on whether any of the alleged sexual assaults were reported to police, saying the department does not identify people who have not been charged with a crime.

The women, who are not named in the lawsuits, are represented by Houston lawyer Tony Buzbee. He did not immediately respond to requests for comment Thursday, but wrote in one of the lawsuits that "Watson's behavior is part of a disturbing pattern of preying on vulnerable woman."

According to the suits, the women live in Texas, Oregon and Georgia and work giving massages. Two claimed that during massages in March and August of last year Watson was sexually suggestive, exposed his genitals and moved toward them in ways that caused his penis to touch their hands. The lawsuit toward the third woman describes similar behavior and alleges that during a massage in December, Watson "coerced" her into giving him oral sex. The

woman did not consent and then "blacked out for a few minutes from fear," the lawsuit states.

The alleged assaults took place at one of the women's homes, a Houston hotel and an office building in the city, according to the suits. They state that Watson connected with the women over social media, where they advertised their businesses, and flew one of them from Atlanta to Houston for a massage.

Each woman is suing for compensatory and punitive damages, as well as court costs.

Texans spokesman Omar Majzoub said that the team first learned about the allegations against Watson through a social media post Tuesday.

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Jesuits in US pledge \$100M for racial reconciliation

By DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

The U.S.-based branch of the Jesuits has unveiled ambitious plans for a "truth and reconciliation" initiative in partnership with descendants of people once enslaved by the Roman Catholic order. The Jesuits pledge to raise \$100 million within five years with a broader goal of reaching \$1 billion from an array of donors in pursuit of racial justice and racial healing.

Even the smaller amount represents the largest financial pledge thus far from a U.S. religious institution, as a variety of them nationwide seek to make amends for their past involvement in slavery and racial oppression.

Partnering with the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States in the initiative is the GU272 Descendants Association, which represents the descendants of 272 enslaved men, women and children sold by the Jesuit owners of Georgetown University to plantation owners in Louisiana in 1838.

Together, the two parties have formed the Descendants Truth & Reconciliation Foundation to oversee fundraising and allocate grants. Already, the Jesuits have placed \$15 million in a trust that will finance the effort.

The foundation's acting president is Joe Stewart, one of more than 1,000 descendants of Isaac Hawkins, an enslaved man who was among those sold in 1838.

Stewart said many Americans un-

derstand the wrongs of slavery and segregation yet are divided over approaches to reconciliation and reparations.

"We hope what we've created here is an offer to join us in a peaceful and loving approach to removing your shame," Stewart said Tuesday. "There are a lot of people who want to be a part of change — we hope we're providing the answer to, 'What do I do?'"

The foundation's plan calls for the Jesuits to raise \$100 million through their own fundraising network, and the \$1 billion figure would be attained with support from corporations, foundations and the general public, Stewart said.

Atoning for its slaveholding past has been a recurring issue at Georgetown. The Washington, D.C., university's administration and student body both took steps in 2019 to extend financial support to descendants of the people sent to Louisiana.

Three years earlier, the president of the Jesuits' conference, the Rev. Tim Kesicki, had an initial meeting with Stewart to discuss a possible reconciliation project.

"Hearing what it felt like, that the church that baptized him had held his ancestors as slaves — it's a life-changing feeling," Kesicki said. "You can walk away, which is what we've done as a country, or you can embrace it."

That reckoning requires organizations and institutions examine their histories pertaining to slavery and acknowledge how their current status is built on that history.

Details on how the funds will be spent remain to be worked out. But Stewart said roughly half of the grant money would go to organizations and initiatives seeking to promote racial justice and reconciliation. Some other funds would provide scholarships and other educational support for descendants of the 272.

"We will have programs in three to five years," Stewart said. "But that will never be as important as what we do over the long run, the next 50 to 100 years."

"We're talking about dismantling the continuing legacy of slavery," he said. "The way to get there is bring the whole nation along and face the truth about that history."

Stewart said he and other leaders of the initiative do not consider it to be a form of reparations — a topic that has created conflict.

"We're taking a positive approach not based on individual stipends," he said. "It's transformative rather than payback."

Several other religious organizations in the U.S. have launched similar initiatives in the past two years, notably on the part of long-established Protestant churches that were active in the era of slavery.

The Episcopal Church has been the most active major denomination, and others, including the United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, are urging congregations to consider similar steps.

The Minnesota Council of Churches cited a host of injustices, from mid-

19th century atrocities against Native Americans to police killings of Black people, in launching a "truth and reparations" initiative last year engaging its 25 member denominations.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has not embraced the term "reparations" in its official policies. The word never appears in a 2018 pastoral letter condemning "the ugly cancer" of racism, though the document encourages support for programs "that help repair the damages caused by racial discrimination."

Shannen Dee Williams, a history professor at Villanova University, is among several Black Catholics who have been urging the U.S. church to participate in reparations rather than leaving decisions on such actions up to individual Catholic institutions.

"I pray other religious orders of men and women, the U.S. bishops, and the Vatican will be moved to follow the U.S. Jesuits' example," she said via email. "The Church must formally acknowledge and apologize for its histories of slavery, segregation, and racial exclusion, and institutionalize the teaching of Black and Black Catholic history in all areas of church life."

Nkechi Taifa, a human rights attorney who serves on the National African American Reparations Commission, welcomed the Jesuits' announcement, but characterized it as a partial step.

"No amount of material resources will ever compensate for the horror that was done of ripping people from their families and literally selling them down the river to Louisiana."

Reflections: How Big Is God

In 2009 I bought a 1977 VW Bug. Every fender was dented and it had no bumpers. Peeling paint fluttered in the wind. It was on its last legs. Its next stop, if not with me, would probably be the junk yard. It might have been melted down for scrap metal and recycled as a Porsche.



BILL
TINSLEY

Who knows? But when I drove it, it appealed to me. It was kind of like the Love Bug, Herby, begging for another chance. So, I bought it on a nostalgic impulse and towed it home. When I hooked it to my truck and pulled away from the house where I found it, the wife of its previous owner stood on the porch and applauded. She was happy to see it go, an eyesore removed from her driveway. When I showed it to one of my friends, he asked if I found it at the bottom of a lake. My wife is

understanding and allows me these little follies, but made it clear I had to clean it up.

I took it to a body shop where they took one look at it and said, "We don't do that kind of work." But they pointed me to someone who did body work in his backyard. He walked around my bug, examined it carefully and announced, "I'm not afraid of it." That sealed the deal. We painted it silver and named it Bullet. I drove Bullet for 8 years, until we

moved to Colorado and it refused to pass the emissions test. Old VW bugs are hard to kill.

The same year my VW bug was manufactured, NASA launched Voyagers 1 and 2 to explore the solar system and interstellar space. Traveling at 39,000 mph it took 34 years for Voyager 1 to reach the edge of our solar system. Although they have reached speeds fifty times faster than the fastest fighter jet, it will take them 70,000 years to reach the closest star.

When we look into the sky it is filled with stars, seemingly close together. But, in fact they are very, very far away. There are four hundred billion stars in our galaxy alone and billions of galaxies in the universe. If the cosmic universe is this big, how big is God?

Shortly before Jesus was crucified, he prayed, "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." (John 17:24). The word for "world" in this statement is not the Greek word, "ges" from which we derive our words "geology, geography and geothermal." It is the word "cosmos" indicating the "cosmic universe." When we think about the expanse of the cosmic universe, we get a small glimpse of His glory, and quickly

realize that our finite minds are far too small to comprehend His majestic greatness.

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. His books are available at tinsleycenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com.



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CHANGE

Continued from Page 6

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Are you ready for the change He can make in your life? He can do it, but you have to ask.



From left: Marlon & Chanda Neighbors, Jodi Rodriguez, Jordan, Garen & Wyatt Floyd

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Immigration bills near House passage; Senate prospects bleak

By ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic bills opening a gateway to citizenship for over 3 million young "Dreamers" and farm worker immigrants headed toward House passage Thursday, but Republican opposition means any legislation on the issue faces a steep climb before it can reach President Joe Biden's desk.

The bills represent Democrats' initial steps this year toward Biden's goal of sweeping legislation making citizenship possible for all 11 million immigrants estimated to be in the U.S. illegally. But they ran into a wall of opposition by Republicans, who have been singularly focused on a rising wave of migrants trying to cross the border from Mexico, a surge they've blamed on Biden.

GOP resistance signaled that the issue, which has stymied major progress in Congress for years, has bleak prospects this year as well, especially in the evenly divided Senate. That means immigration could well become a battlefield in next year's elections, when Republicans hope to regain House and Senate control.

"Unfortunately, what we are hearing is as much fearmongering as possible by our Republican colleagues about immigrants," said Rep. Veronica Escobar, D-Texas.

Although neither bill debated Thursday would affect those trying to cross the border in recent weeks, Republicans criticized both measures for lacking provisions that would strengthen border security.

"The tidal wave is here," said Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio. "And the Democrats' answer is amnesty."

One measure would help roughly 2 million "Dreamers" — immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children — and migrants who have fled armed conflicts or natural disasters from a dozen countries stay in the U.S. and give them a chance

for citizenship. The other would do the same for around 1 million farm workers in the U.S. illegally, a group that represents about half the country's agricultural laborers.

Biden strongly supports both measures. White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters that the bills were "critical milestones toward much needed relief for the millions of individuals who call the United States home."

Work on the legislation comes as the number of migrants attempting to cross the border has been growing since April, with the 100,441 reported last month the highest level since March 2019. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Tuesday that figure is on track to reach a 20-year high.

Scores of groups supporting the bills include the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Among those arrayed in opposition is the conservative Heritage Action for America.

The House approved similar versions of both bills in 2019. Seven Republicans voted for the "Dreamers" bill and 34 backed the farm workers measure that year, but GOP support was expected to plummet this time as the party rallies behind demands for stiffer border restrictions.

Both 2019 measures died in what was a Republican-run Senate and never would have received the signature of Donald Trump, who spent his four years as president constricting legal and illegal immigration.

In contrast, Biden has suspended work on Trump's wall along the Mexican border, ended his separation of young children from their migrant families and allowed apprehended minors to stay in the U.S. as officials decide if they can legally remain. He has also turned away most single adults and families.

No. 2 Senate Democrat Dick Durbin of Illinois said this week that he saw no pathway for an immigration overhaul this year, citing GOP demands for

tough border enforcement provisions. Democrats would likely need at least 10 GOP votes in the 50-50 chamber to pass immigration legislation.

The "Dreamer" bill would grant conditional legal status for 10 years to many immigrants up to age 18 who were brought into the U.S. illegally before this year. They'd have to graduate from high school or have equivalent educational credentials, not have serious criminal records and meet other conditions.

To attain legal permanent residence, often called a green card, they'd have to obtain a higher education degree, serve in the military or be employed for at least three years. Like all others with green cards, they could then apply for citizenship after five years.

The measure would also grant green cards to an estimated 400,000 immigrants with temporary protected status, which allows temporary residence to people who have fled violence or natural disasters in a dozen countries.

The other bill would let immigrant farm workers who've worked in the country illegally over the past two years — along their spouses and children — get certified agriculture worker status. That would let them remain in the U.S. for renewable 5 1/2-year periods.

To earn green cards, they would have to pay a \$1,000 fine and work for up to an additional eight years, depending on how long they've already held farm jobs.

The legislation would also cap wage increases, streamline the process for employers to get H-2A visas that let immigrants work legally on farm jobs and phase in a mandatory system for electronically verifying that agriculture workers are in the U.S. legally.

Nearly half the nation's 2.4 million farm workers are in the U.S. illegally, according to Labor Department data from 2016.

Forecast for spring: Nasty drought worsens for much of US

BY SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

With nearly two-thirds of the United States abnormally dry or worse, the government's spring forecast offers little hope for relief, especially in the West where a devastating megadrought has taken root and worsened.

Weather service and agriculture officials warned of possible water use cutbacks in California and the Southwest, increased wildfires, low levels in key reservoirs such as Lake Mead and Lake Powell and damage to wheat crops.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's official spring outlook Thursday sees an expanding drought with a drier than normal April, May and June for a large swath of the country from Louisiana to Oregon, including some areas hardest hit by the most severe drought. And nearly all of the continental United States is looking at warmer than normal spring, except for tiny parts of the Pacific Northwest and southeast Alaska, which makes drought worse.

"We are predicting prolonged and widespread drought," National Weather Service Deputy Director Mary Erickson said. "It's definitely something we're watching and very concerned about."

NOAA expects the spring drought to hit 74 million people.

Several factors go into worsening drought, the agency said. A La Nina cooling of parts of the central Pacific continues to bring dry weather for much of the country, while in the Southwest heavy summer monsoon rains failed to materialize. Meteorologists also say the California megadrought is associated with long-term climate change.

Thursday's national Drought Monitor shows almost 66% of the nation is in an abnormally dry condition, the highest mid-March level since 2002. And forecasters predict that will worsen, expanding in parts of Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota, with small islands of relief in parts of the Great Lakes and New England.

More than 44% of the nation is in moderate or worse drought, and nearly 18% is in extreme or exceptional drought — all of it west of the Mississippi River. Climate scientists are calling what's happening in the West a "megadrought" that started in 1999.

"The nearly West-wide drought is already quite severe in its breadth and intensity, and unfortunately it doesn't appear likely that there will be much relief this spring," said UCLA climate scientist Daniel Swain, who writes the Weather West

blog and isn't part of the NOAA outlook. "Winter precipitation has been much below average across much of California, and summer precipitation reached record low levels in 2020 across the desert Southwest."

With the Sierra Nevada snowpack only 60% of normal levels, U.S. Department of Agriculture meteorologist Brad Rippey said "there will be some water cutbacks and allocation cutbacks in California and perhaps other areas of the Southwest" for agriculture and other uses. It will probably hit nut crops in the Golden State.

Winter and spring wheat crops also have been hit hard by the western drought with 78% of the spring wheat production area in drought conditions, Rippey said.

The dry, warm conditions the upcoming months likely will bring "an enhanced wildfire season," said Jon Gottschalck, chief of NOAA's prediction branch.

Swain of UCLA said the wildfires probably will not be as bad as 2020 because so much vegetation burned last year and drought conditions retarded regrowth.

Stone tablet marking First Amendment freedoms finds new home

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A four-story, 50-ton marble tablet engraved with the text of the First Amendment, previously displayed on the facade of the now-shuttered Newseum in Washington, will find a new home in Philadelphia across from Independence Hall.

The National Constitution Center, which sits in an area of the city billed as America's most historic square mile, will erect the tablet in an atrium overlooking Independence Hall, the UNESCO World Heritage Site where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were adopted.

The district is also home to the Liberty Bell and the First Bank of the United States.

The tablet is engraved with the First Amendment, which protects freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly and the right to petition the government.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

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Annie's Mailbox

Trust Your Gut

Dear Annie: My
whole life, I've been
a worrywart, and my
worries always seem
to make their way into
my stomach. While I've
always experienced
stressed-out "digestive
issues" like that from
time to time, over the
past few months, it's
gotten out of control. I
find myself running to
the bathroom way too
many times a day. It's
hard for me to get all
my work done, and I've
had to work late a few
times to play catch up
because I'd spent too
much time away from
my desk during the day.

At least for now, I
don't have to worry
about my co-workers
knowing what I'm up to
because I'm working
from home. But even-
tually, I'll have to go
back to the office. Just
thinking about how em-
barrassing that will be
is enough to give me
a stomachache. Does
anyone else have tips
for calming their nerves
and stomachs? -- Gut
Feelings

Dear Gut Feelings:
The gut-brain axis has
gotten a lot of hype in
recent years, deserved-
ly so. A growing body of
research suggests that
mental health and gas-
trointestinal health are
two sides of the same
coin. Anxiety doesn't
just irritate your bow-
els but irritated bowels
cause anxiety, creating
a sort of feedback loop.
I would recommend ap-
proaching your problem

from both sides. Your
doctor can refer you to
a gastroenterologist as
well as a therapist.

Dear Annie: I love
my job as a resident
program assistant in a
senior living community.
The problem I have is
that residents and man-
agers often tell my boss
half-truths about things
I say or do, making me
look bad. My boss turns
around and yells at me.
I have tried to explain,
but she doesn't care to
listen. Most of the time I
listen and just say "OK"
when she is scolding
me for someone's
half-truth. What can I
do differently? -- Usual
Suspect

**Dear Usual Sus-
pect:** First, start doc-
umenting everything
that you can, saving
relevant emails and text
messages and jotting
down details of any no-
table interactions with
co-workers. They might
come in handy the next
time a co-worker or
client complains to your
manager.

Next, it's interesting
that you refer to their
claims as half-truths
(not lies), and you
seem to be a common
denominator in frequent
conflicts. It's worth con-
sidering what role you
play in these recurrent
issues and how you
can right the ship. Ask
your manager if you
two can meet to dis-
cuss your performance
and how she thinks you
could improve.

Dear Annie: I was
involved with a man for
a little over four years.
We had a disagreement
over the phone, and
he didn't call me back.
After about two months
later, we made contact
again. He apologized.
We never mentioned
the possibility of get-
ting back together but
still talked almost daily.
After a couple months,
he told me that he was
seeing someone. I said,
"You sure didn't waste
any time." He said, "I'm
lonely and I want some-
one to go home to." He
doesn't even go home;
he drives a semi and is
gone weeks at a time.
Anyway, he said that he
loves her and is going
to marry her.

Yet, three weeks ago,
he came into town and
got a room. I spent the
night with him. Annie,
it's like I have this
magnet and can't let
go. What do you think
is going on with him? --
Lost and Lonely

Dear Lost: If he
can't decide between
you and another wom-
an, then he deserves
neither of you. That's
assuming that this "oth-
er woman" even exists.
I'm not convinced that
wasn't a ploy to stoke
jealousy and get you
back into bed. Either
way, my advice is the
same: Tell him to hit
the road so that you
can begin your journey
toward healing.

Send your questions for
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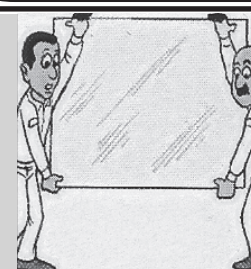
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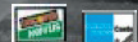
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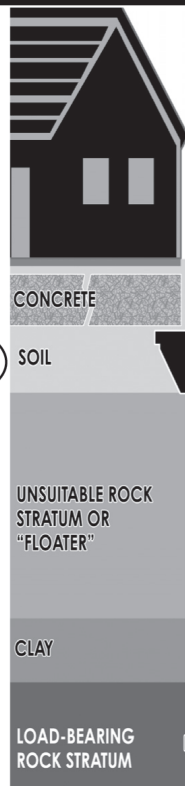
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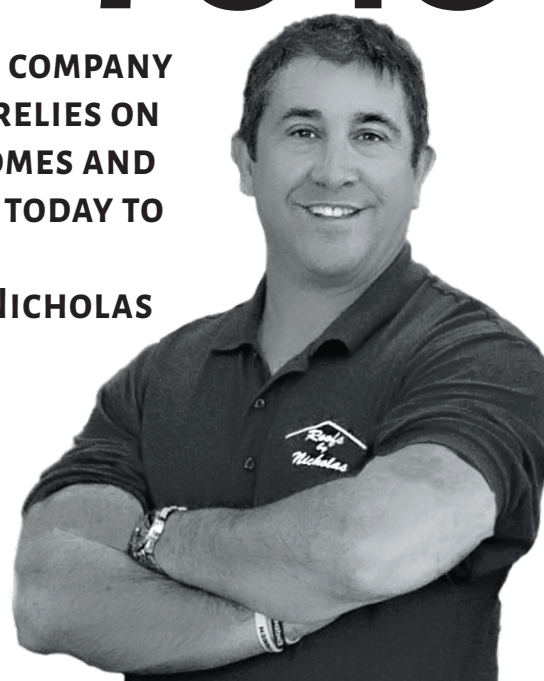
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Forsan Buffalo Tennis Team shines on court



Above Left: Angel McCafferty placed second in the Girls Singles tournament. Top Right: Rylee Evans and Reagan Phillips finished in Second Place in the Girls Doubles Tournament. All the Forsan Buffaloes performed well in the Irion County Tournament. The Buffaloes look to continue their dominance on the court as this season progresses.

By DUSTIN POPE

Herald Sports Writer

The Forsan Buffalos Tennis team traveled to Irion County to compete in the Irion County Tournament this past weekend, March 13-14. The Buffs would have a solid performance both for the JV and Varsity teams.

Trevor Cole of the Junior Varsity Buffalo team got the ball rolling as he won the Boys Singles Championship. Joanna Gato and Hannah Hillger shined on the court to bring home the Girls Double Championship first-place. Jackson Hopper and Oscar lin continued the Buffalos dominance by getting a first-place win in the Boys Doubles. Blake Barclay

only motivate the Buffs to continue the strong play moving forward. Congratulations to all the athletes that competed.

Dustin is the Sports the Sports Writer for the Big Spring Herald. To contact him e-mail sports@big-springherald.com or call 432-263-7331 ext. 237

Courtesy Photos

rounded out the finishers with a second place in the Boys Singles.

On the Varsity level, it was more of the same as the Buffaloes showed that they came to play some Tennis. Thomas Gabe-hart lead things off when he won the Boys singles Championship. Hunter Cevallos finished in a close second in the Boys Singles. Rylee Yanez would round out the Buffalo tennis team's sweep as he finished in third, giving the Buffaloes all three top spots. On the Girl's side of things, Angel McCafferty had a strong second-place finish in the Girls singles. Rylee Evans and Reagan Phillips had an excellent showing placing second in the Girls Doubles. JB Wright and Ella Hoff placed third in the Mixed doubles.

The team effort from the Buffaloes was off the charts, as they played hard in every aspect of the game. This performance should

Boise State edges SMU 85-84 in NIT opener

FRISCO, Texas (AP)

Devonaire Doutrive scored on a putback with 10.1 seconds to play and Boise State defeated SMU 85-84 in a first-round game of NIT on Thursday night.

Mladen Armus, who made the play to keep the ball alive for Doutrive, also made the defensive play on the other end that forced a turnover.

Boise State will play the winner of Saturday's Memphis-Dayton game in the quarterfinals next Thursday.

Armus scored 18 points on 5-of-8 shooting and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Broncos (19-8), who hit a season-high 14 3-pointers with 21 assists, their second best. Emmanuel Akot hit a career-high five 3-pointers and scored 17 points to go with a career-high nine assists. Marcus Shaver Jr. and Derrick Alston both added 13 points and Doutrive had 10 with eight assists.

Kendirck Davis scored 23 points with 12 assists and seven rebounds for SMU (11-6). Tyson Jolly added 17 points and Emmanuel Bandoumel 16. All three went 3 of 4 from 3-point range.

Boise State, in its seventh NIT, was 14 of 29 behind the arc and shot 50.8% overall while SMU, in its fourth NIT, made 10 of 17 3-pointer and shot 55.4%.

Boise State led 48-42 after a wild first half.

The Broncos scored the first 14 points of the game and led 30-9 after a Doutrive 3-pointer. At that

point, the 11:04 mark, BSU was 11 of 15 and SMU, whose conference tournament loss six days earlier was its first game since Feb. 8, was 3 of 11. However, the Mustangs went on 20-5 run, at one point making six-straight shots, and after back-to-back 3s by Davis and Jolly, only trailed 42-40.

The tournament, limited to 16 teams instead of 32 this season, is taking place in the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area at the University of North Texas Coliseum in Denton and at the Comerica Center in Frisco.

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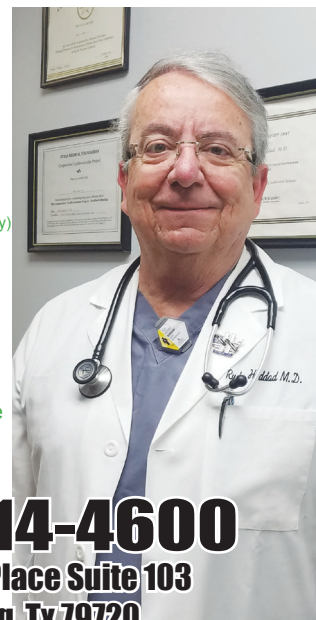
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