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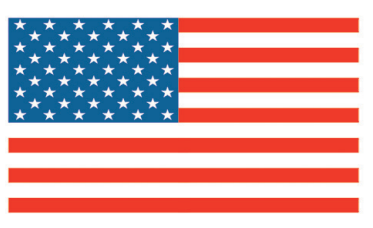
WEDNESDAY EDITION,
 MARCH 31, 2021

The Law Offices Of
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VOLUME 116, NUMBER 164

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75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION



Upcoming Events

Health Info Expo
 Downtown
 April 24
 More details to come

Good Friday
 April 2

Easter
 April 4

Trash Off
 April 10
 9 a.m. - Noon
 Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

Forsan Elementary is currently doing pre-registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and extended registration on Thursday until 7 p.m.

*April 15
 Thank a Veteran Day
 Take a moment and say Thank You for the sacrifices that were made by these brave men and women*

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Find us online at:
 www.bigspringherald.com



Spring Kickoff Cornhole Tournament turns out more than \$2,800 donation to local DAV Chapter



HERALD photos/Amanda Duforat

More than 25 teams joined in the Saturday Spring Kickoff Cornhole Tournament to benefit the local DAV Chapter No. 47. Funds donated will help provide support to veterans in need in the Howard County community.

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Bags were flying Saturday for the Spring Kickoff Cornhole Tournament, held at Star Dodge in Big Spring, in support of the DAV Chapter No. 47. There were 28 teams competing for

the No. 1 spot, but in the end the real winners were the veterans in the community who will be getting more support. Overall there was a total of \$2,860 donated to the DAV.

“This was the first year for Star Dodge to partner with West Texas Baggers in support of our local veterans. We were

able to bring out almost 30 teams and garnered community support. The main focus for this event was to raise awareness and support for our local DAV Chapter and that was accomplished; in the process those who came

See **DAV**, Page 3

United Way of Big Spring and Howard County accepting applications for 2022 campaign season

Approved agencies will be announced at the end of April

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Community support is an important factor when it comes to providing resources and services that will be a betterment for the community. Each of those services, while each valuable in their own essence, need backing to be able to operate at their best. Through the support of the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, local agencies have found an added avenue of support. The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is currently accepting applications for funding from local non-profit agencies.

According to United Way Director Christian Rojas-Fair, entities seeking to become United Way partner agencies for 2022 must apply by April 12.

“I encourage everyone that is eligible to apply,” said Rojas-Fair. “If you aren't voted in this year, keep trying. Each year has different needs.”

The United Way board of directors will carefully and thoughtfully examine each application, she added.

“In some instances, we'll have a face-to-face interview with a representative from the agency,” said Rojas-Fair. “After the board examines each application they will vote and decide. This is a lengthy process and not taken

See **UWAY**, Page 3

Inside Today's Edition: Progress 2021



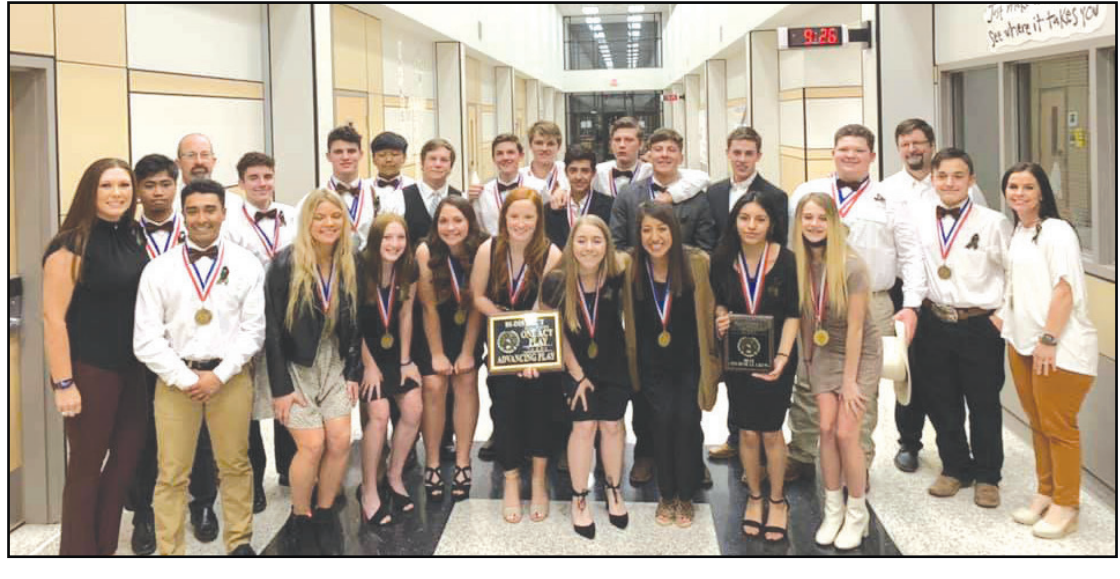
Big Spring and Howard County have many unique stories to tell. Look inside to see the activity that has been taking place over the past year in Howard County. New entertainment avenues have arrived, stories that will renew one's faith, and the growth that is taking place across our community can all be found in the Progress 2021 edition.

Sands One Act Play earns Bi-District Awards

Courtesy photo

The Sands One Act Play students recently competed with their performance at the Bi-District level. From that competition, several students were recognized for their performance and efforts.

Bi-District OAP award winners are: Wylie Gaskins-Best Crew Member; Karina Gonzalez, Wylie Gaskins, Aiden Walker, Kyle Arellano, Karlo Arellano, Alex Martinez-Best Technical Crew; Riley Webb-Honorable Mention All Star Cast; Landon Kelley- All Star Cast; Lakyn Sandlin & Zander Barraza-Best Performers. The students will take their performance to the Regional Competition is set for April 15 and 16 at Post High School. Sands will perform their production at 4 p.m. on April 16. Those wishing to head out and support the students will be able to do so and purchase tickets at the door before the performance begins.

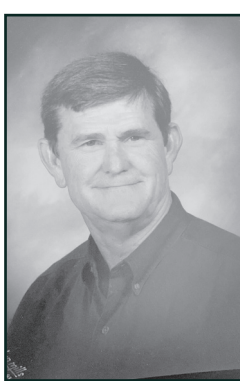


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Diamonds for Every Occasion

Obituaries

Hubert Wayne Bardwell



Hubert Wayne Bardwell passed away Feb. 6, 2021. Hubert was born Feb. 8, 1945, in Big Spring, Texas to Delbert Milton and Audrey Wiggins Bardwell. Hubert is preceded in death by his parents, sister Mary Evelyn and brother Milton Bardwell.

Hubert is survived by his loving wife Diane; children, Dano Bardwell and wife Jill, Mike Bardwell and wife Priscilla and

Diana Bardwell; brother Jerry Bardwell; daughter-in-law Libby Bardwell Scobee and husband Steve;

Seven grandchildren Mackie Bardwell, Brady Bardwell, Katie Bardwell, Gracie Bardwell, Colton Scobee, Sydney Bardwell and Jack Bardwell as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, April 10 at 10 a.m. at Sunecreek United Methodist Church located at 1517 West McDermott Drive in Allen, Texas. Due to COVID-19, local guidelines will be enforced. The service will be recorded and can be sent to you upon request.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Hubert's memory to either: Frisco Police Officers Association www.friscopoa.com/donate or Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, 4707 Bengal Street, Dallas TX 75235 www.rmhdallas.org

Paid Obituary

James Ray Person

James Ray Person, 66, died Thursday, March 25, 2021. Graveside service will be Friday, April 2, 2021 at 10 a.m. at Trinity Memorial Park.

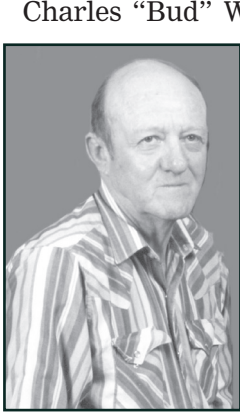
James was born Sept. 18, 1945 in Big Spring.

He is survived by his brother: Glenn Person, Jr. of Dallas; one niece and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Glenn and Essie Person.

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

Charles "Bud" Wright



Charles "Bud" Wright, 83, of Big Spring, Texas, passed away Thursday March 25, 2021, at a Eastland, Texas, Hospital. Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Friday April 2, 2021 at the Coahoma Church of Christ 311 N, 2nd St, Coahoma, Texas, Eddy Pitchford officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring, Texas. Viewing and Visitation will be at Myers & Smith Funeral Home from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday April 1,

2021 with the family receiving friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Charles was born March 16, 1938 in Menard, Texas, to Thomas Wright Sr and Francis Slay Wright. Charles has been a resident of Howard County his entire life and he was a Christian and a member of the Coahoma Church of Christ. His hobbies included bowling, playing cards and dominos with his family and friends, fishing, camping, and working in his yard. He worked for several companies here in the Big Spring area as a crane and heavy equipment operator. His final job before re-

tiring was working for one of his best friends L.G. Nix as the Shop Foreman and Head Mechanic at L.G. Nix Dirt Construction.

Charles is survived by his wife Carol Wright of 44 years, one daughter Laura Mitchell of Goldthwaithe, Texas, two sons Jimmy King and wife (Susan) of Copperas Cove, Texas, and Terry King of Big Spring, TX. He has three grandchildren Colton Mitchell and wife (Taylor) of San Antonio, Texas, Mikayla Drennan and husband (Cole) of Dallas, Texas, and Tyler King of Stafford, TX and one sister Billie Jean Robinson of Big Spring, Texas, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers Luther "Luke" Wright and Thomas Wright Jr and two sister-in-law Lois Wright and Betty Wright.

Pallbearers will be Colton Mitchell, Mark Milliken, Jason Milliken, Jon Cooper, Allen Dunlap, and Adam Dunlap.

Honorary pallbearers and special friends are Roland Fryar, Manuel Martinez Sr, and Eusebio Morales.

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

Paid Obituary

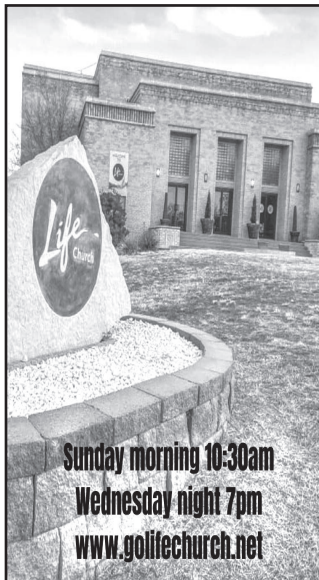
Take Note

• Birdwell Lane Closure: On Monday, March 29, 2021, beginning at 8 a.m., crews will be working in the roadway requiring that both southbound lanes of Birdwell Lane be closed to thru traffic. Travel will be detoured at West 15th Street to Virginia Road for drivers needing to access FM 700. We apologize for any inconvenience and ask for your patience while work is completed. Please direct any questions or concerns to the office of Shane Bowles, Public Works Director, at 432-264-2501.

• Forsan Elementary Pre-K and Kindergarten registration will be taking place March 29 through April 1 from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be evening registration at 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Registration can be done at 500 West Main in Forsan, Texas. Please bring certified birth certificate, social security card, immunization record, proof of residency, parent's driver's license, proof of income for pre-k registration. Students must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2021 for Pre-K and 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 for Kindergarten. For more information call 432-457-0091 ext. 203 or email abuske@forsan.esc18.net.

• The deadline is drawing near for the PBUWCD 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.

Midway Baptist Church



Join us to Celebrate Easter this year!

Easter Sunday Schedule!

8am - Sunrise Service
8:45am - Sunday School
11am - Easter Worship Service
We hope to see you there!

6200 S. Service Rd.

(432) 263-6274

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 83 inmates at the time of this report.

• **RACHEL DIENDA**, 51, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated second offense.

• **BRANDY RENEE GREGORY**, 40, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• **DEXTER JOSEPH NED**, 35, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of controlled substance between one gram and four grams and possession of controlled substance less than one gram.

• **MISTY ANN PARHAM**, 26, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of driving abandonment endangering child (x2), theft of property between \$100 and \$750.

• **BRANDON RASHAD SPARKS**, 34, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of controlled substance less than one gram and possession of controlled substance between one gram and four grams.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 900 block of E. 14th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of Hearn. No transport was required.

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1500 block of Tucson. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of S. Monticello. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. No transport was required.

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

Keep up to date with local news, www.bigspringherald.com

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Good Friday Service
4/2 at 6pm

Easter Worship Services
4/4 at 9am AND 11am

Courtesy photos/Michael Cole

Pictured above are one of the competing teams in the Saturday Cornhole Tournament benefiting the DAV. Pictured far right is Jeremy Clark from Star Dodge presenting DAV representatives Mike Tarpley and Danny Martinez with a donation check.



DAV

Continued from Page 1

out and joined us were able to enjoy a nice Saturday having some fun playing cornhole," Tabitha Clark, event organizer and STAR Dodge Public Relations Director, said.

During the event there were several opportunities including a chance at taking home boxes of ammo which was donated by Tabitha and Jeremy Clark, numerous hand made items donated by Mike Tarpley and an outside chair set donated by Bulldog Steel, and food provided by ALSA Car Club.

"We had some one of kind items that were able to go to new homes on Saturday and the monies raised from those items will be going back into the community to provide support for veterans who are needing a little extra help," Clark said. "Our veterans sacrificed so much for us and this is just one of the many ways, though it may be small to what they have given us, we can help them now that they are home."

Clark added, "This event was made possible through community support.



Without great partnerships this event wouldn't have been able to take place. Of course, we are already looking at how we can make it bigger and better for next year."

For the competition aspect, the First Place winners were Lance Gross and Eric Herrera; 2nd Place winners were Charlie Garcia and Randy Hernandez; 3rd Place winners were Jesse Flores and Roger Fierro. Winners were presented with a custom made trophy donated by Gerald King.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Charles "Bud" Wright, 83, died Wednesday. Viewing and visitation will be at Myers & Smith Funeral Home Thursday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM with family receiving friends from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Funeral service will be Friday at Coahoma Church of Christ at 2:00 PM. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

James Ray Person, 66, died Thursday. Graveside service will be Friday at Trinity Memorial Park at 10:00 AM.

Weather



Tonight:

Clear, with a low around 36. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southeast after midnight.

Thursday:

Sunny, with a high near 63. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday Night:

Partly cloudy, with

a low around 44.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69.

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

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

Submit your Support Group information to be included or updated. Email information to editor@bigspringherald.com

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UWAY

Continued from Page 1

lightly."

Once all applications have been received and reviewed, a decision will be made and the 2022 Partner Agencies will be announced May 24. This past year there were 14 supported agencies which helped support an array of needs in the community.

"If you are voted in to be a 2022 Partner Agency, we take that partnership seriously and will do everything we can to ensure your success, not just in funding but all aspects of support."

Once the 2022 agencies have been announced planning will begin for the Campaign Season which is set to begin this Fall. Supported agencies are encouraged to take part in fundraising and community education efforts throughout the campaign season.

For more information or to apply for consideration as a supported agency, call Christian Fair at 432-267-5201.

Alive in Christ
Lutheran Church - LCMS

Celebrating & sharing God's love & grace in our lives!

April 2nd
Maundy Thursday & Good Friday
7:00pm

April 3rd
Easter Eggstravaganza
10:00am - noon

April 4th
Bible Study: 9:30 Service: 10:30

Worship Services broadcasted live on the Alive in Christ Facebook Page. Log in and join us for Sunday & Wednesday Worship Services!

2805 Lynn Dr. (432) 264-7818

Howard County Junior College District STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION Year Ended August 31, 2020

REVENUES	
Operating revenues	
Tuition and fees (net of discounts of \$5,485,500)	\$ 4,171,010
Federal grants and contracts	2,452,844
State grants and contracts	453,209
Local grants and contracts	83,153
Nongovernmental grants and contracts	1,276,317
Sales and services of educational activities	309,432
Auxiliary enterprises (net of discounts of \$869,228)	19,865
Other operating revenues	714,882
Total operating revenues	9,480,712
EXPENSES	
Operating expenses	
Instruction	10,295,510
Public service	1,404,795
Academic support	2,006,260
Student services	2,973,361
Institutional support	8,830,745
Operation and maintenance of plant	3,954,864
Scholarships and fellowships	3,087,211
Auxiliary enterprises	2,605,359
Depreciation	2,333,924
Total operating expenses	37,492,029
Operating loss	(28,011,317)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	
State appropriations	12,389,762
Property taxes for operations	10,510,027
Property taxes for debt service	1,345,378
Payments in lieu of taxes	100,200
Federal revenue, non operating	5,178,007
Investment income (net of investment expenses)	155,641
Interest on capital related debt	(655,349)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(22,294)
Other non-operating revenues	3,938,470
Net non-operating revenues	32,939,842
Income (loss) before other revenue	4,928,525
Other revenue	
Capital contributions	157,629
Increase (decrease) in net position	5,086,154
Net position - beginning of year	24,428,956
Net position - end of year	\$ 29,515,110



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Howard College takes the victory against Midland College Chaparrals on Tuesday

By DUSTIN POPE
Herald Sports Writer

Howard College Hawks Baseball team ran off with the lead late in the game in an 11-10 victory over Midland College Baseball Chaparrals on Tuesday. The game was tied at nine with the Hawks batting in the top of the eighth when Wilson Galvan was struck by a pitch, driving in a run. The base paths were crowded in this high-scoring game. Howard collected 11 hits, and Midland College had 10. Midland College Chaparrals scored five runs in

the seventh inning. Midland College's big inning was driven by a single by Garrett Williams and a sac fly by Cooper Jauz. Colton Brown took the win for Howard. The pitcher went two innings, allowing two runs on three hits, striking out three, and walking one. Dylan Savino, Trey Nordmann, and Ryan Sandoval all put in relief from the bullpen, steering their team towards the victory. Nordmann recorded the last three outs to earn the save for the Hawks. Gavi Coldiron was on the pitcher's mound for the Chaparrals. The southpaw surrendered zero runs on one hit over two innings, striking out two.

Cade Fontenot started the game for Howard. The southpaw went four and a third innings, allowing three runs on one hit and striking out three. Howard College racked up 11 hits. Kebler Peralta, Josh Bostick, and Weston Peninger each managed multiple hits for Howard college Hawks Varsity. Peralta led the Hawks Varsity with three hits in five at-bats. Midland scattered 10 hits in the game. Luke Bumpus, Caleb Heuertz, and Jarred Gibson all managed multiple hits for Midland College. The Chaparrals were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Carter Pool made the most plays with eight.

Lady Steers defeated Snyder Tigers in District play

By DUSTIN POPE
Herald Sports Writer

The Lady Steer softball team took on the Snyder Tigers last night in a District game. The lady Steers are coming off a 16 to 0 domination of San Angelo Lakeview. The Tigers jumped on the Steers early, but the Steers battled back to take the win. The win pushes their District record to a perfect 3 and 0 and gives them a season record of 6 and 9. Snyder was able to take an early lead on the Steers after jumping out to a 4 to 0 lead after two innings of play. The Tigers remained in control of this game until the Lady Steers came up in the bottom of the fourth inning. The pivotal inning started with Vanessa Viasana earning a walk. That was followed by Kylee Lynch reaching base on an error by the Tiger. Third baseman Viasana was able to score the making it the Lady Steers' first run. Sarah Wood then followed with a single to drive home the second run of the game for the Steers and cutting the lead to 4 to 2. Alex Enriquez kept the Ladies' momentum with a single of her own. That brought up Kalyn Whitehead with two runners on base. The Lady Steers smashed a three-run Homerun to give the Steers their

first lead of the night at 5 to 4. The Steers kept the positive energy going in the bottom of the fifth. Jocelyn Gonzales leads off the inning with a Solo Home Run to widen the lead to 6 to 4. The Laddies went on to add one more run in the inning. They were leading the game with a score of 7 to 4 after five innings of play. The Steers did not allow the Tigers to get anything going in the top of the sixth inning, leaving the Steers with a three-run lead. At the bottom of the sixth, the Lady Steers added one more insurance run, giving them an 8 to 4 lead heading into the play's final inning. The Lady Tigers made some noise in the top of the seventh inning, scoring two runs to make it a 6 to 8 game. The Steers got the final outs of the game, solidifying the victory at the score of 6 to 8. The lady Steers have been on a roll of late; the team is peaking at the right time to make a big push at a District title.

Dustin Pope is the Sports Writer for the Big Spring Herald. To contact him, e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Forsan Golf Teams bring home the win from District



Forsan Girls Golf Team brought home the 1st Place title from District competition. In addition, Lady Golfer Sara Tarbet placed 2nd individually. The Forsan Boys Golf Team placed 2nd overall with Kade Nichols placing 3rd as an individual.

Courtesy photos

Bulldogettes remain undefeated in district at midpoint

STANTON — Coahoma continues to stay undefeated in District 5-3A after rolling to a 15-0 run-rule victory against Stanton on Friday.

Christion Everett pitched the shutout for the Bulldogettes. She allowed three hits and struck out five over five innings. She also helped her cause by going 4-for-4 at bat, scoring four runs, getting four steals, and earning one RBI.

The Coahoma big batters got 15 hits and 11 RBI over 30 at-bats during the evening. MaKynlee Overton led the Bulldogette offense going 2-for-2 with a home run, a double, four RBI, and three runs scored.

Makayla Calvio and Karleigh Burt also hit one deep in the fourth inning. Calvio went 2-for-3 with a double, two runs scored and an RBI along with her home run. Burt was 2-for-2 with a



Courtesy photo

Coahoma's Christian Everett pitches the ball during the Bulldogettes varsity district game with the Stanton Buffaloes, on Friday. Coahoma remains first in District 5-3A standings with a 4-0, 12-5 record.

"Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda..."
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Mike Tarpley at (432) 556-2227
Danny Martinez (706) 662-4226
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You're Invited!
Join us for our Easter Sunrise Service at the Evans/Overton Ranch Sunday, April 4th at 6:30am 11000 Overton Rd. Big Spring, TX
*Please allow time for parking!
Circuit Riders Regular Service Times:
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10:00 a.m. Worship
North Camp Location
@ 6701 I-20 West, Big Spring, TX 79720
*Masks and Social Distancing are at your discretion.
For More Info:
(432) 466-1717 or
(432) 466-1697 (Text)

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Ages 3-6

Name

Age

Phone Number

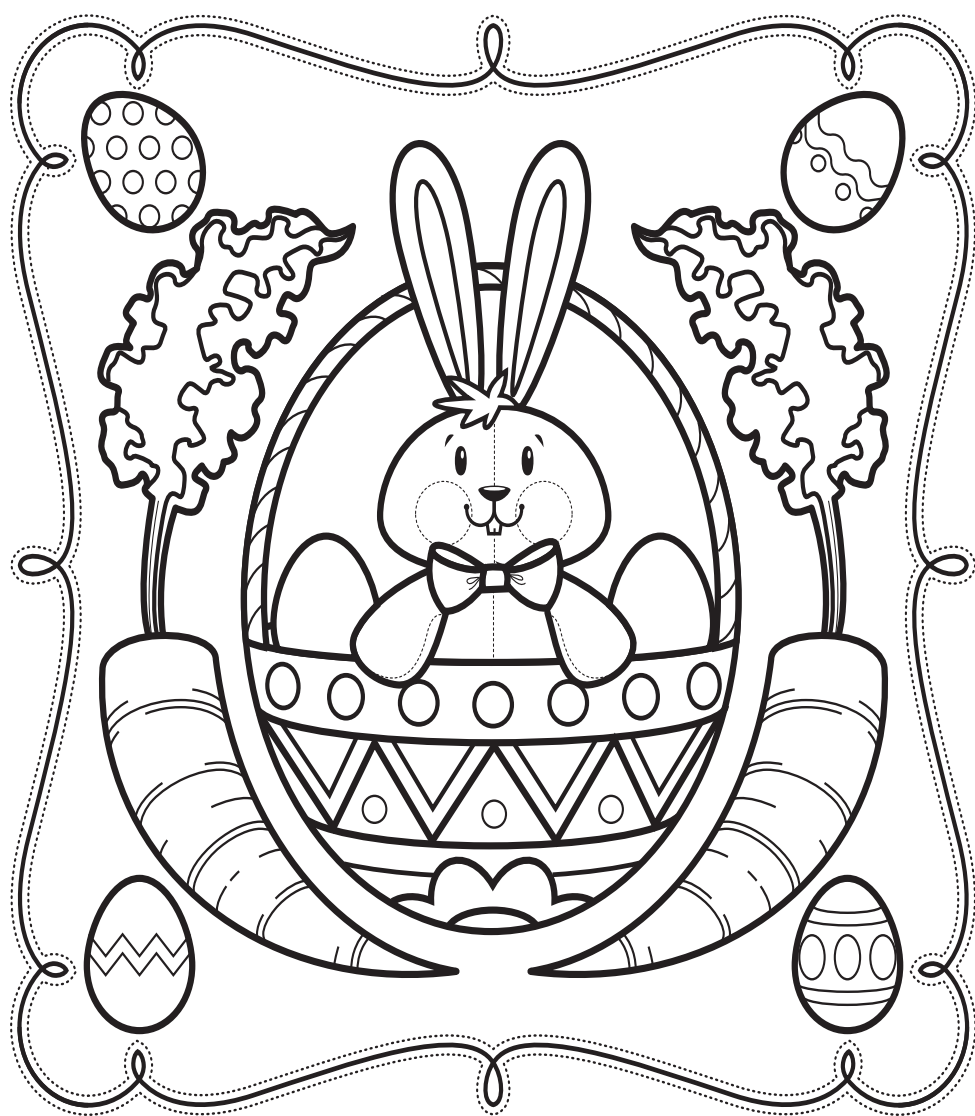
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Ages 7-12

Name

Age

Phone Number



COLORING CONTEST RULES

1. Contest open to children ages 3-12
2. Limit one contest submission per person
3. Contest entries may be completed using markers, crayons, or colored pencils
4. Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but NOT in coloring pictures
5. All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 1pm on Thursday, April 1st, 2021.
6. Winners will be published in the Friday, April 2nd Edition.
7. Decision of judges is final.
8. Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
9. All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

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Legals

NOTICE OF ESTRAY AND IMPOUNDMENT

1 female Heifer, red and white in color, has been found running at large in Glasscock County Texas, in the CR 461 and McDowell Road area.

Pursuant to the stock laws of the State of Texas, Chapter Four, Title 121, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas 1925, said estrays have been impounded.

A diligent search has been conducted to locate the owner, to no avail.

Notice is hereby given that, if the ownership of estray is not determined by the 7th day of April 2021, said estrays will be sold at public auction.

To claim affidavit of ownership, please contact Sheriff Keith Burnett with the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office, 432-354-2361.

#10835

Legals

NOTICE OF SALE Abandoned Vehicle

In compliance with article 683.02 Transportation Code. I will proceed to sell at the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on **Wed April 7, 2021**, at 10:00 a.m. to the highest bidder.

Abandoned Motor Vehicles at the described locations and the times listed below.

Legals

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Legals

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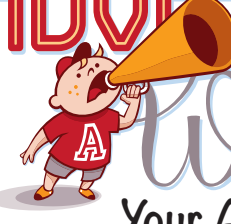
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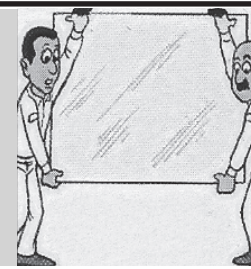
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2008 CHEVROLET HHR VIN#3GNCA13D58S724969
1990 FORD F-250 VIN#1TFEF14Y9LPB00040
2004 FORD EXPEDITION VIN#1FMPU17L34LB66926
2006 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER VIN#3A4FY58B76T284674
2001 CHEVROLET TAHOE VIN#3GNEC16T61G251002

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1998 CHEVROLET 1500 VIN#2GCEC19R6W1157887
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2012 Toyota Corolla VIN#5YFBU4EE8CPOA4537
2003 Chevy Suburban - VIN#1GNFK16Z63J177108
1999 SUBARU FORESTER VIN#JFISF6353XG71184
1991 Mallard Spout RV
1999 Dodge Ram 1500 VIN#1B7HC13J591213
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1994 CHEVY 1500 4X4 WHITE AZ11882 VIN#1GCCL14H2RZ237345
1998 Ford Mustang VIN#1FAPP42XIWF141047
Any questions, please contact the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office.

Legals

The successful bidder upon payment of the money to The Glasscock County Sheriff's Office, is entitled to take possession of the vehicle and apply for a title free and clear of all liens and claims to ownership. Ali vehicles are sold as is, without warranty or guarantee of performance.

#10834



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice of Draft Federal Operating Permit and Acid Rain Permit

Draft Permit No.: O91

Application and Draft Permit. BHER Power Resources, Inc., PO Box 2700, Big Spring, TX 79721-2700, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Federal Operating Permit and Acid Rain Permit (herein referred to as Permit) No. O91, Application No. 31516, to authorize operation of the C R Wing Cogeneration Plant, a Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation facility. The area addressed by the application is located at 500 Refinery Road in Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79720-2729. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to the application. You can find an electronic map of the facility at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=32.272222&lng=-101.422222&zoom=13&type=r>. This application was received by the TCEQ on November 30, 2020.

The purpose of a federal operating permit is to improve overall compliance with the rules governing air pollution control by clearly listing all applicable requirements, as defined in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10). The draft permit, if approved, will codify the conditions under which the area must operate. The permit will not authorize new construction. The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and has made a preliminary decision to prepare a draft permit for public comment and review. The executive director recommends issuance of this draft permit. The permit application, statement of basis, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, First Floor, Austin, Texas 78753; the TCEQ Midland Regional Office, 9900 W Interstate 20 Ste 100, Midland, Texas 79706-2636; and the Howard County Library, 500 S Main St, Big Spring, Texas 79720-2729, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The draft permit and statement of basis are available at the TCEQ Website: www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tvnotice

At the TCEQ central and regional offices, relevant supporting materials for the draft permit, as well as the New Source Review permits which have been incorporated by reference, may be reviewed and copied. Any person with difficulties obtaining these materials due to travel constraints may contact the TCEQ central office file room at (512) 239-2900.

Public Comment/Notice and Comment Hearing. Any person may submit written comments on the draft permit. Comments relating to the accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness of the permit conditions may result in changes to the draft permit.

A person who may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the permitted area may request a notice and comment hearing. The purpose of the notice and comment hearing is to provide an additional opportunity to submit comments on the draft permit. The permit may be changed based on comments pertaining to whether the permit provides for compliance with 30 TAC Chapter 122 (examples may include that the permit does not contain all applicable requirements or the public notice procedures were not satisfied). The TCEQ may grant a notice and comment hearing on the application if a written hearing request is received within 30 days after publication of the newspaper notice. The hearing request must include the basis for the request, including a description of how the person may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the application area. The request should also specify the conditions of the draft permit that are inappropriate or specify how the preliminary decision to issue or deny the permit is inappropriate. All reasonably ascertainable issues must be raised and all reasonably available arguments must be submitted by the end of the public comment period. If a notice and comment hearing is granted, all individuals that submitted written comments or a hearing request will receive written notice of the hearing. This notice will identify the date, time, and location for the hearing.

Written public comments and/or requests for a notice and comment hearing should be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ and be received within 30 days after the date of newspaper publication of this notice. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record.

A notice of proposed final action that includes a response to comments and identification of any changes to the draft permit will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments, a hearing request, or requested to be on the mailing list for this application. This mailing will also provide instructions for public petitions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to request that the EPA object to the issuance of the proposed permit. After receiving a petition, the EPA may only object to the issuance of a permit which is not in compliance with the applicable requirements or the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 122.

Mailing List. In addition to submitting public comments, a person may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Chief Clerk for this application.

Information. For additional information about this permit application or the permitting process, please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Public Education Program, MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained for BHER Power Resources, Inc. by calling Mr. Stephen Seachman at (432) 263-9005.

Notice Issuance Date: March 12, 2021

Tomorrow's Horoscope

By HOLIDAY MATHIS

Sun and Saturn Organize Environmental Summit

thing you once felt powerless over. It's a complex issue that requires solutions along many dimensions, but don't doubt that your contribution plays a role.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Less-than-hospitable circumstances? No problem. Apply more personal fortitude. Remember when you did a lot with a little? You'll do it again. Don't underestimate yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're not clear on what you want because emotions tug you from side to side. Treat these feelings like a laundry pile. Take a breath, turn over the hamper and start sorting.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 31). This solar year shows you new places to shine. You'll become an expert. Go ahead and bite off more than you can chew because your ambition is what will grow your skills and deepen your knowledge. Doors swing open to you. You'll love what you can give to people and what they bring you in exchange. Virgo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 47, 3, 32 and 18.

AQUARIUS SECRET SUPERPOWERS: Every sign has 'em. For AQUARIUS:

The Obvious: Aquarius doesn't have to be asked to change or adjust or think ahead. Aquarius is forward-thinking by nature. The water bearer is the sign of tomorrow.

The Uncanny: Whatever you resist or don't believe about the future, Aquarius has already adopted it, worked out all the kinks and put it to the most positive use possible.

The Weird: Out of a hundred characteristics the Aquarius possesses, 90% will be weird but in the most awesome way possible. As the sign of eccentricity, there's no getting around it. Aquarius has the kind of "weird" that makes you think, laugh, embrace, drop your jaw and realize that a diverse world is a better world.

The Extremely Useful: Aquarius is a giver through and through. Whatever this sign dedicates in the name of humanity it will not take back.

The Quietly Helpful: Aquarius seeks self-revelation and encourages others to accept themselves euphorically.



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Sylvia misapplies a rule

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 5
♥ 8 6 2
♦ 7 4
♣ A 9 8 7 4 3

WEST
♠ Q J 10 8 3
♥ J 3
♦ K 10 5
♣ Q 10 6

EAST
♠ 7 6 2
♥ Q 10 9 5 4
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ 5

SOUTH
♠ A K 4
♥ A K 7
♦ A J 9 3
♣ K J 2

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 2NT Pass 3NT
Opening lead — queen of spades.

There were a handful of members at the club who stoutly maintained that Sylvia was the worst player they had ever seen. Although most of them realized that this harsh judgment was colored by their own bitter experiences as her partner, they nevertheless insisted on referring to Sylvia in this derogatory manner.

Despite her reputation, Sylvia did have her moments of sublime glory.

Consider this deal where she was West and led the queen of spades against three notrump. She was playing with a partner who had beseeched her on many previous occasions — as had so many others — to conserve her high cards during the play.

It was largely for this reason, after declarer had won the spade lead with the king and led the king of clubs followed by the jack, that Sylvia obediently played her ten on the jack! The purpose in doing this was to conserve her highest card in clubs, the queen!

Declarer had planned to follow low from dummy had Sylvia played the queen, or had she shown out of clubs, since he could assure scoring at least 10 tricks by retaining dummy's ace.

But when Sylvia produced the ten, declarer could not conceive that Sylvia would have the Q-10-x and fail to cover the jack. So he went up with the ace, expecting to catch East's queen.

After East showed out on the ace of clubs, declarer, to his utter dismay, finished down two, and Sylvia added still another scalp to her extensive collection.

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

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

ANSWER:

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can roam without moving a muscle and often do; your mind racing, turning and floating to where it needs to be to make sense of what's happening now. Ground that mental journeying with physical exercise and you're golden.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're unsure of the difference you want to make, only that you want to make one. Negative emotions can really steer you right. Turn-offs show you what you don't prefer. They tell you what to do by making it very clear what not to do.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll show up and share your thoughts, represent an underserved group or speak on behalf of someone. Your voice will be welcome and have the desired impact.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What if you countered your successes differently? Put a smile on someone's face -- that counts. Tell the truth about what you're feeling -- count that too. Please yourself, and then count that double.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Where others see a lost cause, you see grand potential. Your belief will make all of the difference. Others rise to meet you in the most interesting places. Later, this will make a fascinating success story.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Do the adventure no matter what. Who else is doing it? How much money will it cost? How long will it take? These are details to work out, not roadblocks to stop you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's wisdom in the long view. You can achieve it by running your mind backward or forward. Think of your ancestors and the different kinds of lives they lived in their time, or think about people after you and the legacy you'll leave.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You honor people by learning about more them, but that's not your purpose. You'd like to know what to anticipate. So you learn what someone is like then set your expectation close to the person's true nature.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll assert a sense of control over some-

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Table with 20 columns: Channel, Program, Time, and various station identifiers. Includes programs like 'Big 2', 'Noticiero', 'FamFeud', 'CBS 7', etc.

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This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 31, the 90th day of 2021. There are 275 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 31, 1931, Notre Dame college football coach Knute Rockne (noot RAHK'-nee), 43, was killed in the crash of a TWA plane in Bazaar, Kan.

On this date:

In 1814, Paris was occupied by a coalition of Russian, Prussian and Austrian forces; the surrender of the French capital forced the abdication of Emperor Napoleon.

In 1917, the United States took formal possession of the Virgin Islands from Denmark.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Conservation Work Act, which created the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1943, "Oklahoma!" the first musical play by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, opened on Broadway.

In 1968, at the conclusion of a nationally broadcast address on Vietnam, President Lyndon B. Johnson stunned listeners by declaring, "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President."

In 1976, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that Karen Ann Quinlan, a young woman in a persistent vegetative state, could be disconnected from her respirator. (Quinlan, who remained unconscious, died in 1985.)

In 1991, the Warsaw Pact military alliance came to an end.

In 1995, Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez, 23, was shot to death in Corpus Christi, Texas, by the founder of her fan club, Yolanda Saldívar, who was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

In 2004, four American civilian contractors were killed in Fallujah, Iraq; frenzied crowds dragged the burned, mutilated bodies and strung two of them from a bridge.

In 2005, Terri Schiavo (SHY'-voh), 41, died at a hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida, 13 days after her feeding tube was

removed in a wrenching right-to-die court fight.

In 2009, Benjamin Netanyahu took office as Israel's new prime minister after the Knesset approved his government.

In 2019, rapper Nipsey Hussle was fatally shot outside the clothing store he had founded to help rebuild his troubled South Los Angeles neighborhood; he was 33. Former Vice President Joe Biden defended his interactions with women; saying he didn't believe he had ever acted inappropriately.

Ten years ago: Moammar Gadhafi struck a defiant stance after two high-profile defections from his regime, saying the Western leaders who had decimated his military with airstrikes should resign immediately — not him. (Gadhafi's message was in the form of a scroll across the bottom of state TV as he remained out of sight.)

Five years ago: An overpass collapsed onto a crowded Kolkata, India, neighborhood, killing 26 people. A man who was convicted of fatally beating another man to death after a night of drinking and drug use in 1994 was put to death in Georgia. A 34-year-old Illinois man fatally shot a Virginia state trooper at a busy bus terminal in Richmond before being killed by other troopers. A Maryland man accused of fatally beating his girlfriend's 9-year-old son over a missing piece of birthday cake pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

One year ago: The White House released new projections that the number of coronavirus deaths in the U.S. could range from 100,000 to 240,000 even if current social distancing guidelines were maintained. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said President Donald Trump's impeachment trial had distracted the federal government from the coronavirus as it reached the United States in January. CNN's Chris Cuomo anchored his CNN show from the basement of his home after testing positive for the coronavirus. A temporary hospital in a New York City convention center began accepting patients. Britain's Prince

Harry and his wife Meghan officially stepped down from duties as members of the royal family. Stocks finished the first quarter of 2020 with a decline of 20%, the market's worst quarter since the 2008 financial crisis. NFL owners voted to expand the number of playoff teams by one in each conference in the 2020 season.

Today's Birthdays: Actor

William Daniels is 94. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 87. Actor Shirley Jones is 87. Musician Herb Alpert is 86. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is 81. Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., is 81. Actor Christopher Walken is 81. Comedian Gabe Kaplan is 77. Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, is 77. Rock musician Mick Ralphs (Bad Company; Mott the Hoople) is 77. Former Vice President Al Gore is

74. Author David Eisenhower is 73. Actor Rhea Perlman is 73. Actor Robbie Coltrane is 71. Actor Ed Marinaro is 71. Rock musician Angus Young (AC/DC) is 66. Actor Marc McClure is 64. Actor William McNamara is 56. Alt-country musician Bob Crawford (The Avett (AY'-veht) Brothers) is 50. Actor Ewan McGregor is 50. Actor Erica Tazel is 46. Actor Judi

Shekoni is 43. Rapper Tony Yoona is 43. Actor Kate Micucci is 41. Actor Brian Tyree Henry (TV "Atlanta" Stage: "Book of Mormon") is 39. Actor Melissa Ordway is 38. Jazz musician Christian Scott is 38. Pop musician Jack Antonoff (fun.) is 37. Actor Jessica Szohr is 36.

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Newsday Crossword

YOUR DEAL by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Not nervous
- 5 Depicts unfairly
- 10 Lengthy tale
- 14 Waikiki feast
- 15 Madame Curie
- 16 Where Eve lived
- 17 Cut and paste, say
- 18 Stand up
- 19 Lendl of tennis
- 20 Hearth implement
- 23 Elevation: Abbr.
- 24 Director — Howard
- 25 Dropped-pie sounds
- 29 Star Wars series guru
- 32 Touch on the shoulder
- 35 Solid precipitation
- 36 Breakfast pastry
- 37 Most important "numero"
- 38 Marinated centers for salads
- 42 Canary or kitty
- 43 Reduces to rubble
- 44 Be introduced to
- 45 "Slippery" fish
- 46 Keeps one's — on (watches)
- 47 Greetings sent online
- 49 Wrap things up
- 51 Devilish kid
- 52 Venerable Big Apple span
- 60 Chimney buildup
- 61 Off the leash
- 62 Marine mammal
- 63 Rate of walking
- 64 Pushed for
- 65 Camera glass

- 66 Seeks an answer
 - 67 Butcher shop wares
 - 68 Barely defeat
- DOWN
- 1 Music-staff symbol
 - 2 German auto
 - 3 Wild animal's home
 - 4 Remote's sound-stopping button
 - 5 Mini-collectibles, to collectors
 - 6 Gold purity measure
 - 7 Guitarist Clapton
 - 8 Full of good sense
 - 9 Leak through the cracks

- 10 Timex competitor
- 11 Soldier of fortune
- 12 Transmission setting
- 13 Raggedy doll
- 21 Portion of butter
- 22 Give a speech
- 25 Mold, as clay
- 26 French capital, slangily
- 27 Capital of Arkansas
- 28 — Baba
- 29 Oxen harnesses
- 30 Bills going into change machines
- 31 "I should've known that!"
- 33 Paid for a five-card hand
- 34 Facebook messages

- 36 Sleep lightly
- 39 Belief, in brief
- 40 Farm bale
- 41 Physicians' org.
- 47 Plants deeply
- 48 EMT's expertise
- 50 Brief letters
- 51 Closeup map in an atlas
- 52 Constricting snakes
- 53 Supermodel Heidi
- 54 Handed-down tales
- 55 Hindu exercise system
- 56 Bit of land in the sea
- 57 Heroic act
- 58 Group of outlaws
- 59 "If all ___ fails . . ."
- 60 Relaxing retreat

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 1 through 68 indicating starting positions for across and down clues.

Answer to previous puzzle
SLATE AMITE CBS
TUBER MEDIA ARE
ARENA INLET PIE
BELTS ANDERS RED
HER RECTIFY
FLU SILO DRE
EASE SOFA OCTET
MIDDLEOFNOWHERE
ADDDGE MENU SAIL
ABC RATS MEL
FERRARI DYE
AXE NAVELORANGE
CPA EVITA USURY
TED SEETO PEKOE
SLY ESSSES SLEWS

Big Spring Intermediate students qualify for TMSCA



Courtesy photo

These students qualified for state in TMSCA (Texas Math Science Coaches Association). This year was different due to Covid. The students had to compete virtually instead of traveling to actual meets. The students and coaches spent 6 Saturdays hosting meets. Pictured are: Mrs. Adlesperger sponsor, Robert Armstrong, Bree Rios, Julie Smith, Keila Reyes, Misha Hira, Genesis Olivares, Mrs. Garcia and Mr. Davis sponsors, kneeling: Zane McCoy, Jade Valenzuela, Monserrath Holguin, and Raiden Paredes. The students competed against other schools in math and science concepts.

State Bound



Courtesy photo

Monserrath Holguin (left) and Jade Valenzuela (right) are state bound for this year's science fair. Jade placed 3rd in the Junior Microbiology category and Monserrath placed 2nd in the Junior Environmental Engineering category at Regionals. This year was harder than other years since everything had to be submitted virtually due to Covid. The girls dedicated a lot of time submitting their research and making videos. BSI Science Fair coordinator is Ms. Garcia and Mrs. Hillian helped with the technology aspect in order to help get the girl's prepared. Looks like we have 2 future female engineers in the making!

CHS

Continued from Page 4

double, one run scored, and two RBI. Madison Rodgers went 2-for-4 with a double, three runs scored, and a steal.

With the win, Coahoma stands 4-0 in District 5-3A at the midpoint of the season.

Next: Coahoma (4-0, 12-5) travels to Crane on Friday to take on the Lady Birds. Game time is 12 p.m. with the JV game to follow.

COAHOMA 15, STANTON 0

Coahoma: 410 64 -- 15 15 1
Stanton: 000 00 -- 0 3 6

W — Christian Everett. L — M. Kargl. 2B: Coahoma — MaKynlee Overton, Madison Rodgers, Makayla Calvio, Karleigh Burt. 3B: Stanton — M. Lozano. HR: Coahoma — Overton, Calvio, Burt. SB: Coahoma — Everett 4, Kenzi Canales 2, Overton, Rodgers, Burt. Pitches-Strikes: Coahoma — Everett 61-37. Stanton — Kargl 99-63, T. Johnson 37-21.

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Business & Industry



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE BIG SPRING HERALD
MARCH 31, 2021

Howard County businesses striving to survive in the midst of a pandemic

By JENNIFER MOORE

Herald Contributing Writer

Local business owners faced unprecedented circumstances in 2020. Social distancing, mask mandates, increased sanitizing, and fewer customers made for a battle many lost. Others, however, made it through by innovating, adjusting, and providing a port in the storm for themselves and their employees. Now that mandates have been lifted, business owners are looking forward to a brighter future.

Perhaps the hardest industry hit in 2020 was Bars. Extended closures, limited capacities, and finding workarounds to stay in business were the status quo last year. Bars like The Train Car served food in order to receive restaurant status and used available outdoor space to abide by mandates.

"We've got a large patio area," Brent Strande, owner, said. "We spread out tables, removed some seating, and added a kitchen."

Even though revenue for the bar was cut in half, Strande still tried to help the staff through the pandemic

as much as possible.

"Their income has been affected negatively," he said. "Besides already paying more than server minimum wage, we paid them additionally to supplement for lost tips. They went without pay most of July and August as we were unable to operate due to Governors orders."

Strande is hopeful now that restrictions have been lifted. He will not require patrons to wear a mask.

"However, I respect one's personal choice to continue to do so," he said.

The restaurant industry faced its own challenges as well.

Big John's Feed Lot by Brenda and Cowboy's Steakhouse and Restaurant are two long-standing eateries in the community. When the pandemic hit, both establishments saw a decline in business, but since, there has been some recovery.

"We've seen as much as a 45% decrease at the beginning to a 15-20% decrease now," Kimberly Hobbs Pierce, owner of Cowboy's, said.

Mildred Rodriguez, owner Big John's, said they had to enact many

new procedures due to COVID-19 with table arrangement, an increase in to-go orders, and increased sanitization procedures.

"We just adjusted to the new normal," she said.

Rodriguez said that COVID did not effect her staff during the pandemic. Though Pierce has had some employees quarantined, she has not had to enact layoffs.

"I have not had to lay off any of my employees due to the pandemic, which has been a huge blessing," Pierce said.

Both businesses are optimistic about Texas' re-opening.

"I'm for it; I want us to all be open and be able to have jobs," Rodriguez said.

Pierce also expressed similar sentiment, "I believe the state should open up and that people should be in control of their own health through choice."

Neither business will be requiring customers to wear masks to enter the business.

Dana Johnson, owner of Splurge

Boutique, attributes online sales via social media, and their website, found at splurgeboutiquetexas.com, to their success in 2020.

"We've had to be very innovative about getting our products out," she said.

Johnson bought the boutique in 2020 shortly before the pandemic began. The timing made an immediate strong online presence necessary.

"Our website has kept us comfortable, but it definitely is quite a drop," she said.

Johnson said they have been seeing an increase in customers.

"We're really hopeful and excited about the increase in customers coming in and looking," she said.

The store will continue with increased day-to-day sanitization, but will leave the choice to wear a mask up to individual customers.

"We feel our customers are intelligent adults and are leaving it up to them to decide," she said. "We want our customers to come in and feel comfortable shopping how they feel comfortable."

Art is blooming across the community; opening up to a new perspective

By JENNIFER MOORE

Herald Contributing Writer

"Art is and has always been important in the reflection and elevation of human consciousness," said Big Spring artist Renee Thomas, AKA Renrobot. Thomas' work can be seen throughout the community, from murals she has worked on to paintings, to tattoos permanently etched on the skin of her fans.

Thomas is one of many local artists who bring beauty to the city. Some, like Artistic Adventures owners Michael and Gina DeAnda, hope to see Big Spring turn into a creative oasis in the desert.

"I want us to be more visually appealing," Michael said. "There's a lot of blank walls. It's not very attractive."

The DeAndas have art projects planned across the city. At the time of the article they were working on painting walls at Mezcal Bar.

"On the front of Mezcal there will be a Las Vegas style sign with an arrow and we'll do it in iridescent paint," Michael said.

They also plan on adding a Route 66 sign on the side of the building and a Texas-themed painting inside.

The DeAndas have put in a bid to paint baseball-themed art on the yellow building on Comanche Trail by the ball park, are planning to start more painting projects Downtown, and hope to beautify the town they call home.

"I want them to be surprised to find this little beauty spot out in the middle of nowhere," Gina said.

The art community in general encompasses a variety of mediums, and Big Spring is no exception. Local Artist Morgan Lee tried many mediums before finding an unusual favorite.

"I've been an artist for as long as I could hold a pencil," Lee said. "I've tried as many mediums as I can get my hands on. I started with sketching, realized I had talent and explored painting, sculpting, metal art, interior design, etc, and now my main medium: leatherwork."

Artist Meghan Fernandez Bias, who works in multiple mediums, loves art so much she made it her major in college.

"I work mostly in acrylics, but I really enjoy pastels and found object art as well," she said. "I love art so much that I went to college to study it more. I have BFA in Studio Art and Art History from Sul Ross State University and a MA in Museum Science and Art History from Texas Tech."

Thomas and Bias see Big Spring as a place receptive to the arts.

"The community loves to participate in art projects when presented the

"The community isn't very involved in art projects because there isn't a lot of artists who want to take the time to get anything going," she said. "I really hope to soon be in a position where I can create more opportunities to bring more art to the town."

Bias believes that persistence is key to growing the local art scene.

"There is a small part of the community who are very involved and as more projects develop it attracts more and different people," she said. "I believe the arts are so important for our community and our youth; I think that mindset is beginning to spread. Just like anything, it takes time, good communication and hard work to make changes that are nontraditional in our community. Things don't change until someone changes them."

During COVID-19, Lee said art has been especially important.

"I see a lot of people turning to art as an outlet, a way to cope, grow, challenge, express themselves in this weird world we're living in," she said. "That's beautiful. Look at history, we are not using art any differently today than we have throughout our existence ... It's human nature and one of the most beautiful things about us, that even in times

of hardship, pandemic, disaster, we create something beautiful because and despite of it."

Bias said art helps with the human connection.

"We all live different lives and walk our own path and so often we forget how important that human connection is," she said. "Expression through art is one of the oldest means of storytelling, it allows for visual timelines of our history to be seen from different perspectives. Regardless of where you stand we all

suffer, we all feel pain, we all feel love and loss. Being able to express this through the arts provides the opportunity to have conversations without words that cross the labels that divide us. Art is the space where the pain in me can recognize the pain

See ART, Page 3



Courtesy photos

Local artists are making their mark across Big Spring. More art shows, additional art projects are taking shape and murals are popping up from the north to the south and east and west of the community.

opportunity," Thomas said.

"The art scene is on the rise," Bias said. "I've lived in Big Spring since I was 11 and I'm so proud to see the community embracing the arts more and more. I think we have a ways to go, but it is definitely moving in the right direction."

Lee said that more offerings from artists on public projects would increase interest in the community.



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West Texas Community Mediation Center opens office to serve Big Spring community

Building a conflict-free community, one family at a time

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
Managing Editor

The City of Big Spring has one less vacant building as the West Texas Community Mediation Center recently took over the Poly Mays Municipal Annex Building. The building was a donation from the City of Big Spring. Not only is one less building vacant, but the community is one step closer to a conflict-free environment. The request was originally brought to the Council during a July 2020 City Council meeting and was approved a couple meetings after. The deed was signed and filed for completion on Oct. 23, 2020. An official ribbon cutting was held last month.

"Once the renovations and volunteers are in place, by Spring or Summer, a grand opening event will be scheduled," Danette Watson, Executive Director of WTXCMC, said.

The local non-profit was formed in Howard County with the mission of working toward a conflict-free community. The WTXCMC is focused on turning conflict into opportunities for change starting with individuals and family units.

"The use of mediation strategies and techniques will be the primary service offered since mediation's goal is to assist individuals with working through conflict by finding their own solutions and outcomes," Watson said.

The WTXCMC is an idea that was original created by Mrs. Danette Ross Watson and her husband Phillip Watson. Mrs. Watson has been working in the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) field as a conflict resolution/mediation practitioner for over 25 years through her business, Solomon's Way ADR Services, LLC working primarily with family and workplace issues. She continues to maintain her federal work as an EEO mediator for various agencies, and as a FEMA ADR Advisor-Reservist. She has always incorporated her services as a socially necessary services (SNS) provider by working with teens, families and individuals in crisis and conflict due to trauma, domestic or family violence. She has lived in Big Spring for over five years. After working with GEO Corrections and their Hostage Negotiation Team, she worked as a

contractor for the Department of Family Protective Services as a Home Assessment Specialist for their kinship placement services. She worked to identify suitable placement for children of abuse and neglect for a year before striking out on her own.

Mrs. Watson serves as the Founder and Execu-

meeting things changed. Unfortunately, Covid-19 struck our country and shut down our county," Ross Watson said. "Progress was delayed, but not dismissed. With a lot of prayer, phone calls, knocking on doors and doors opening, we were able to secure funding for a building or renovations to assist with our efforts from Delek US."

While the plan may have taken a detour, the planing did not stop. Through a series of events, the Poly Mays Annex building became a possibility. Of course, as with any good business or organizational leader, a walk through was conducted to properly assess if the building would meet the needs of the organization.

"After the initial walk-through of the building with Assistant Manager, John Medina, Building Official, Nick Reyna and several WTXCMC board members, a formal acceptance of the donation was made," Watson said.

While the building had been located, that was only one hurdle needing to be jumped. The next step, funding. As any non-profit organization knows, the funding is vital when it comes to successful impact and outreach in a community. While a good idea and service opportunity may be presented, the ability to put the idea to work requires a good funding foundation. Through the community support in Howard County, the WTXCMC was able to obtain the needed funding to get the organization funded and kicked off.

"WTXCMC's would like to give special appreciation to its primary donor, Delek US and several local entities and corporations that have already partnered with this community effort, financially, through services, and office furnishing donations," she said. "Along with Delek Fund for Hope of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee (Jessica Rivera and the Big Spring Grant Committee), such as: G/A Environmental (Asbestos testing), Walmart Giving Foundation, Home Depot, Lowe's;

See **CENTER**, Page 4



Courtesy photo

The board of directors for the West Texas Community Mediation Center is looking forward to serving the community of Big Spring. The volunteers are hard at working getting the office set up and connections made in order to better serve the residents of Big Spring and Howard County.

tive Director of the organization. The idea began to take shape in March 2020, right before the pandemic began to sweep across Howard County. The first informational meeting. The first meeting, which helped lay the initial groundwork and led to the organization obtaining the current office space was with former City Planner and Zoning Department staff member, Roxanne Johnson. Shortly after, the informational meeting with stakeholders, advisors and volunteers took place with 12 attendees. These 12 people would form the first Board of Advisors: Pastor Christina Segundo, Board President; Howard County Judge, Kathryn Wiseman; Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Brenda Tubman; Howard County Director of Adult Probation, Kent Minchew; Justice of the Peace, Angela Griffin and Connie Shaw (retired); Malinda Belez, Board Secretary; CPS Investigator, Vicki Green; Former District Parole Officer Esther Pirtle; and Former BSISD Registrar, Dana Rodriguez. The Board for 2021 is being restructured, and the newest members of the Board of Advisors, includes Certified Public Accountant, Audra Kirby and Jared Kirby. "Almost immediately after the informational

ART

Continued from Page 1

in you, and I think that is so powerful."

When asked where she would like to see the Big Spring art scene in five years, Gina DeAnda would like to see artists coming together for big projects.

"I want all the artists here, which there are several, all of them to come together for a big group project."

When asked for advice to anyone wanting to be an artist, the answer is straightforward - do it.

"You want to be an artist," Lee said. "You don't know where to start? Start anyway. Put a line on a piece of paper and build off that. Practice. Trace. Do it over and over and over again until you're good, and don't stop at good. Don't do yourself an injustice by settling for good. You keep going until you're great."

"Dive in head first," said Bias. "The beautiful thing about art is that there is no wrong answers and so many different mediums to express yourself. Pick up a pencil, paintbrush, crayon, camera, anything really."

Bias' art is currently on exhibit at the Heritage Museum until April 23. Her work can also be found on her Instagram page @mfb_inside_out. Thomas' work can be seen on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok under @renrobot. Artistic Adventures can be found on Facebook @ArtisticAdventures432. As a leatherworker, Lee said people usually find out about her through word of mouth and that her art is visible all over town.

"Usually you can find it on the street, in someone's bag, in a man's pocket, around someone's waist," she said. "That's the cool thing about leatherwork, is that my art is functional and can be used daily."

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A daily dose of laughter does a community good

West Texas, Howard County, and surrounding areas see a life with comedic entertainment shows and the impact they can make

By **JENNIFER MOORE**

Herald Contributing Writer

Stand-up comedy is not the first thing people think of when they think of the Permian Basin, or the second, or possibly at all, for that matter. But for some Big Spring residents, comedy is a gift that not only brings laughter to audiences, but an outlet for their creativity.

Adrienne Green and Sergio Cervantes, both Big Spring residents, started doing stand-up comedy at the Desert Flower Art Bar's weekly open mic. For Cervantes, now at nearly five years as a comic, his first time on stage resonated with him.

"I knew the first time I did it this is what I wanted to keep doing it," he said. "I've been a fan of stand up since I was a little kid and wanted to try it at least once, but never thought to make a career out of it. I just wanted to say I did it."

For Green, who secretly wanted to do stand-up since high school, the realization that comedy could be something for her to pursue came after making it to the semi-finals of the 2018 West Texas Talent Search in Odessa.

"I knew it was something I wanted to continue," she said. "I had performed in front of a group of at least 50 people and saw the audience laughing in what looked like waves. It was an amazing feeling to know that I did that with my own original material."

Even before the pandemic, the comedy scene in Big Spring had its ups and downs.

"The comedy scene has fluctuated over the years," Cervantes said. "It started off strong with shows at least twice a month with comedians all over West

Texas and even from other parts of the state performing there. It brought more local talent to come out and it was pretty sweet to see the town create a small piece of comedy because of an open mic. A lot of that began to fade out and currently the scene is pretty lonely. But the mic is still there and who knows what will come out of it next."

When Green started performing, the scene was extremely limited.

"It was just me and Sergio at open mic nights at DF (Desert Flower)," Green said. "The



rest of the people would be musicians or people doing karaoke. It felt like no one was ever aware that it was open mic night, so no one would really pay attention. My personal goal became to make people pay attention by the end of my set, even if it was for just a minute. Sometimes, we'd see comics from Midland/Odessa come through to perform and it was cool because we got to know them and learned how to network. Comedy shows in Big Spring were rare."

Prior to COVID-19, Green felt the local comedy scene was coming into its own.

"It felt like the scene was growing," she said. "There were definitely more shows. Local shows ran by local comics and out of town shows that gave local talent an opportunity to perform alongside with big names like Kevin Farley, Flo Hernandez, and Ku Egenti. There were a few more local comics like Redd Giles, Nano That Funny Guy, and we even saw a few others who would try out

their material at open mic."

But comedy is a much-needed escape for some people, a fact that is not lost on Cervantes.

"When you laugh, really laugh, you're 100% in that moment and things that have been bothering you almost go away," he said. "It's a drug that you keep chasing whether you're getting a laugh or having one, and the best part is no one is getting hurt. Comedy is essential."

Both comics shared their proudest moments while performing. "Probably being able to pay my phone bill with money I made from a show," Cervantes said. "I was definitely overpaid, but I wasn't going to tell them that."

"Organizing a comedy show at Hotel Settles and seeing the awesome turnout for it," Green said. "The support from friends and peers is always amazing to see."

Green said her favorite memory is performing in front of her family in Snyder.

"It was a very intimate crowd, but it was a memorable show," she said. "My mom and aunt had always talked about trying to catch one of my shows, but transportation was always an issue. So I was thrilled to have the opportunity to perform locally. My aunt passed away last month and I'm thankful that she was able to see me to perform before she passed."



Pictured are the founders of the West Texas Community Mediation Center, Mrs. Danette Ross Watson and her husband Phillip

CENTER

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and local Big Spring entities: Coffman's Roofing, Family Faith Center and Ms. Lori Ontiveros of the Social Security Office."

The evidence of what good working partnerships can do is evident in the start up of this organization. One of the contributions came through the partnership and involvement with the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Ms. Ontiveros contacted WTXCMC through a membership referral from Debbye Valverde of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce to donate their office furnishings. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of their partners and numerous individual donors, there is still much more to do."

The foundation for services offered through WTXCMC will be focused on the following: to provide community relation services such as, but not limited to; mediation, facilitated group or individualized classes for: anger management, parenting, family and domestic violence issues for the Howard County Juvenile and Adult Probation and Parole Offices, Child Protective Services and

the Courts; as well as private clients are the motivator for forming WTXCMC. Additionally, after a meeting with the administrators of the Big Spring ISD, she has identified a need to provide mediation services for attendance and school-related issues to BSISD and surrounding area school districts.

According to Watson, other programs will include: Youth Empowerment Services (YES), mentoring and tutoring for our youth utilizing the greatly anticipated computer lab; Family Friend will offer support

to parents and families in conflict due to issues involving school, CPS or Court proceedings; as well as programs promoting collaborative interactions with law enforcement to bring awareness to conflict prevention and other topics of interest to progress community relations, strengthen our families' resiliency, and provide support as needed.

"WTXCMC will also allow other professionals to utilize office space and meeting rooms to provide socially necessary services to our commu-



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nities to further meet the needs of our families," Watson said. "This Center will truly be a community resource that we hope will be here for generations to come."

Fundraising initiatives are ongoing and tax-deductible contributions can be sent to: WTXCMC, P.O. Box 484, Big Spring, TX 79721 or to donate online go to: Those who would like to donate time or resources are encouraged to visit the website at wtxcmc.org/volunteers; call 432-517-4200 or send an e-mail to info@wtxcmc.org for additional information. Other options to provide support include: Go Fund Me: [charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/wtxcmc](https://www.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/wtxcmc) and PayPal Giving: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/3936632>.



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Changing paths, changing lives

Sometimes a career path change leads you to where you were meant to be

By **ROGER CLINE**

Herald Contributing Writer

Big Spring High School teacher Stephany Poffenberger made a change this year, and she's changing students' lives by encouraging them to think for themselves.

"I've always taught special ed, for 17 years, but this year I needed a change, so I took a CTE position, which is Career Technical Education, for Fashion Design," she said. "So I teach Fashion Design 1 and Fashion Design 2."

"Poff," as her students call her, also changed districts, moving to Big Spring from the Forsan ISD.

"Last year was a very trying year for me," Poffenberger said. "I was teaching eight different preps, I was doing all junior high and high school stuff by myself and I was getting to the point where my passion was killing me. I love what I do, but it was too much work and I wasn't getting

to spend much time as a mom or as a wife. So I had to make a decision. I couldn't burn my candle at both ends so I just decided I was going to step out in a different direction."

Two CTE positions were open in Big Spring: Culinary Arts and Fashion Design.

"I had applied for the culinary arts position, and then my friend who had taught with me at Forsan, we both decided we were going to leave, and we started talking and I was like, 'Hey, what about Culinary Arts? Would you like culinary arts?'" Poffenberger said. "And she said, 'Yeah!' So when I went to my interview, I asked, 'What position would be harder for you to fill?' And they said, 'Oh, the sewing teacher, because not many people can sew anymore.' And I said, 'Hey, I can sew. How about I take the sewing position and Erica can take the culinary arts?' So that's how that happened."

Poffenberger said she's taken a dif-



Courtesy photo

Poffenberger focuses on teaching her students many skills through Fashion Design, but one of the basic fundamentals is sewing and the many different ways the skill may come in handy throughout life.

ferent approach from the usual in teaching the class this year.

"I've done some different things, just because I didn't know any bet-

ter," she said. "I really am passionate about community service and

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Arctic blast hits Howard County, State of Texas hard

By **JENNIFER MOORE**

Herald Contributing Writer

Winter storm Uri wreaked havoc on the entire country for four days, hitting Texas with record-setting snowfall and statewide utility interruption. At the local level, Big Spring joined the rest of the state in dealing with a storm no one could have prepared for. Millions of power outages in Texas alone sent the City scrambling to keep Big Spring's water

ing froze up or burst. However, one of my brothers lost power for two days, and his water froze. Him and a friend came over and stayed with me until their lights were on."

Despite a full house and electricity, the weather still kept the inside temperature low.

"It was very cold in here," Winters said. "My heat pump couldn't really keep up. Electric blankets are the bomb in these situations. I'll never be without one in my lifetime."

All said and done, unity and cooperation got Big Spring through the storm on the city and citizen level.

"I believe that all of the city departments handled themselves in an exemplary manner," Thomason said. "Much like the city's residents, during a crisis, all city departments tend to pull together to help out where help is needed."

Thomason said the storm served as a lesson for steps to take to prevent damage in similar circumstances in the future.

"The one big thing that we will be looking at going forward is additional winterizing and backup systems at the water treatment plant," he said. "Everyone involved went above and beyond in responding to this crisis. Our D & C crews were working around the clock, taking short rest breaks."

City management played an important role in handling a water system that was, according to Thomason, a "Frankenstein's Monster" of new additions made as the city grew. He believes two city employees in particular were crucial in dealing with repairs.

"Management was directly involved in the field as well, with Director of Public Works Shane Bowles taking the lead on recovery efforts," Thomason said. "One action by the City Council back in November, though, probably cut our recovery time in half: The reinstatement of Todd Darden as City Manager. Mr. Darden's decades of institutional knowledge of the city's infrastructure was invaluable in responding to the line breaks and water

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HERALD file photo

Before the temperatures dropped below freezing, residents were able to capture a few beautiful pictures of the ice and snow. Eventually though the roadways would become impassible, temperatures went below zero and rolling blackouts turned to extended power outages. City and State resources began working together to ensure support could be provided to residents across Texas.

system functioning.

Big Spring Mayor Shannon Thomason was at the forefront of the battle with the help of city staff and crews working tirelessly to repair the damage. Thomason even did some of the emergency shut-offs to help overworked utilities workers.

"As things started to thaw out, our water and sewer Delivery & Collection department was working around the clock to repair damaged water lines," Thomason said. "The city pulled in personnel from several departments to help out and brought in contractors to assist as well. All of the city water crews went well above and beyond during the repairs."

Even with the nonstop repair work, it still took time for the city to function at full capacity. The city had a total of five major transmission main breaks or leaks and about 60 minor breaks.

"I think that Big Spring, despite the issues we did face, actually fared better than a lot of Texas cities during the storm and its aftermath," Thomason said.

Big Spring resident Becky Winters said she was fortunate during what she called the city's "ice age."

"I lost power, but for less than two hours," she said. "I had all my water pipes winterized and noth-



HERALD file photo

As temperatures began to drop across the county, ice began to form on trees. As the Arctic Blast blew through frigid temperatures eventually took the beautiful site to unbearable temperatures and knocked out electricity and water for many residents.



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The voice of Howard County sports

By **DIUSTIN POPE**

Herald Sports Writer

You may know him as the Sports voice of local Radio Station KBYG, his name is Sam Young.

I had a chance to sit down with the young sports broadcaster to get to know what drives his passion for sports and broadcasting.

Anyone who has heard a sports broadcast will recognize the voice, but will also tell you they can hear the passion that stirs inside as each game is broadcast. The love of sports takes on a whole new meaning; and if you listen, even if you can't be in attendance, the broadcast will make you feel as if you are.

Born in Rhinebeck, New York, located in upstate New York, Sam has always had a love of all sports. He started out playing Hockey, Soccer, and Lacrosse and immediately fell in love with the athletic competition and team sports. As a young man, Sam moved around a lot; he was lucky enough to be in North Carolina when the Carolina Panthers were being established.

Sam has always loved all sports, but he was drawn to Hockey at an early age. Living in North Carolina, he was there when the Hartford Whalers moved to Carolina and became the Carolina Hurricanes. This was his first introduction to an NHL franchise. Even though he was born in New York, the broadcaster has Carolina ties with the Panthers and Hurricanes.

Sam's first big sports memory would be when his favorite player, John Elway, faced off against the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl 33. He would witness his favorite player win the Superbowl, but he also saw his idols last game of his career. It was

there that he just dove headlong into sports, following whatever sport was on at the time.

The Sports Broadcaster has always been competitive; when he was younger, he played many sports

the Maple Leafs again. He took control of both teams; he pulled the goalie for the Maple Leafs, put on 20 minute periods, and scored 10,067 goals in the game. All because the computer had beat him earlier.

If that's not a competitive spirit, I'm not sure what is.

He moved to Galveston, Texas, in 2003-2004. He was able to be close when his Carolina Panthers played the New England Patriots in Houston for Super Bowl 38. He attended all the pre-game festivities and even got himself an autographed Jake Delhomme jersey. His team would lose to the budding Franchise New England Patriots 29 to 32 on a game-winning field goal by Adam Vinatieri. That experience did it once again, and solidified his love of sports even deeper.

His love of sports lead him to enroll at the University of North Texas in Denton. He chose that school because he knew he wanted to major in Journalism, specifically Sports Journalism.

By going to North Texas, he knew the school had ties to the Metroplex. Sam also knew that North Texas had one of the best Journalism courses that could be offered. He would graduate in 2014, which actually tied into when the Final Four was held in Dallas at Cowboys Stadium. It was then that he had the opportunity to cover the entire Final Four. He was able to run stats for the radio guys that were broadcasting, and he got to cover the press conferences for all the teams. He

Courtesy photo



Sam Young can be heard on KBYG broadcasting local sports - from Forsan, Big Spring, Coahoma, to Howard College and even UTPB and more. You can even catch Sam doing his thing during the Wild West Wingz show where coaches come together and discuss what is coming up in the world of sports.

video games; one of his favorites was NHL 98. A young Sam Young was in the middle of playing a season as his Carolina Panthers in the game, and the Toronto Maple Leafs beat him. The complete fire leads him to simulate the games until he faced

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SEW

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community involvement. My Fashion 2 kids are more advanced. They've already taken Fashion 1 and they've already had the construction skills. They've already learned how to sew. So they're doing some community-based projects."

The teacher started her kids off with a special project related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The first thing we did was we made see-through masks for the ASL teacher, Mr. (Curt) Lang," she said. "He is hearing impaired. He lost his hearing when he was younger. He can't hear them, but he can read lips. But you can't read lips when your students have masks over their faces. So we figured out a way to fabricate masks with see-through plastic windows."

The Herald previously reported on another of Poffenberger's classes' projects, in which they made stuffed animals from drawings submitted by Marcy Elementary School students.

"(Students) had to come up with their own shopping list. They had to come up with their own pattern," she said. "The reason I did this project

was, after doing masks with them, I was like, I've got to figure out a way to get them to be more independent, because they wanted step-by-step instructions. They weren't very confident and they weren't very independent. This forced them to do all of it by themselves. Oh, I was there to help them anytime they came to a place where they needed help, but they created it all by themselves. They reconstructed that 2-D drawing to a 3-D stuffed animal."

Currently, Poffenberger's students are making a project designed to help people with Alzheimer's, dementia and autism.

"It's fidget quilts," she said. "They're like, 18- or 22-inches, squares, and they have different little elements that they can tinker with, like zippers and buttons and different textures."

Again, Poffenberger had the students design the project themselves.

"The kids had to make a quilt of their own design, without any instructions," she said. "Again, I think there's a rhyme to my reason, I'm trying to get them to branch out and be more independent. They had to have eight fidget elements on the quilt, and then once their quilts are done, they'll

be judged. And the kids get to decide where their quilts go. They can send their quilts to any local nursing facility, or to the Big Spring ISD Special Ed department, or to an autism after-care facility in Midland."

Some of the ideas kids have come up with are quite creative, Poffenberger said.

"One of the kids put a glove down, and only stitched the bottom, so you could put your hand in," she said. "And another kid filled a glove with heavy beads so that you could shake the hand. I thought that was really cool. You just have to see them. They're so cool. Lacing that they came up with, so people could still practice tying. Color combinations. It's just been really cool to watch these kids. Back when I got them, they were just so used to following a piece of paper that said, 'First you do this, second you do this, third you do this.'"

ICE

Continued from Page 5

restoration efforts."

Thomason added his praise of Big Spring residents during the crisis.

"I can't say enough about the response from the citizens during the storm and subsequent outages," he said. "While lots of folks were understandably unhappy about not having electricity and/or water, the bulk of the responses that I heard were supportive of the city's efforts. Several folks and businesses brought out food or coffee and snacks for the workers."

Winters was glad to do her part in helping others weather the storm.

"I was very thankful that I could give my brother a warmer place to stay with lights," she said. "He was sick. God is good. My heart goes out to all who suffered. My youngest daughter lives down by Austin. She had nearly two days with no electricity. This momma was praying for her and everyone in this state. Everyone is someone's child."

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Business then and now; times change

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Managing Editor

After serving his country, Robert (Bob) Noyes Jr., stepped into an opportunity of serving a community he had come to call home. As his career in the military ended, his adventures with Bob's Custom Woodwork and The Company Store would begin.

Originally from Springfield, Massachusetts, Noyes stepped into the service to serve his country right out of high school. During his time in the military he was stationed at several bases across the United States including San Antonio – basic training, Northern Detroit, Michigan, Wyoming and Wichita Falls. He ended his career in the military stationed at Webb Air Force Base where he was stationed until they closed.

"I was sent to Bermuda for my first assignment ... I ended up taking a break from service and went to the base in Wichita Falls to learn aircraft maintenance; training continued in Arizona where I learned about all systems all airplane," Noyes said.

After Webb Air Base closed, Noyes made the decision to stay in Big Spring and use his crafting abilities to pursue a passion. Woodworking was a talent he had been embracing in his off hours at Webb, and in the process joined with a few other soldiers who also had talent to share. According to Noyes, one of the first major projects in the community was building of two nurses stations for the hospital.

"It all started with a few projects that kept growing bigger and bigger," he said. "Malone and Hogan Hospital was built, but at the time, they forgot the nurses work stations. I had opened up the shop on West 80 and I ended up building those work stations for the hospital."

Bob's Custom Woodwork has grown from humble beginnings. What once started out as a small carpentry shop on the base operating out of an old parachute hangar has turned into a piece of Big Spring history. The carpentry shop was located on the base for the first 19 years until the building became to be in such disrepair that a new location had to be sought out. The opportunity arose for the shop to move locations to the current location,

right on the Bankhead Highway.

As the projects continued to grow, new opportunities began to form. One day about 20 years ago as Noyes was looking for hardwood plywood and was unable to find any in town. In an effort to avoid the unavailability of materials in the future, he be-

the shelves they installed, cabinets they built, to the pieces of trim that were repaired. The integrity behind the name was stamped in each project. Of course, nobody is perfect and while there may have been a dissatisfied customer here or there, one thing was certain, there was an open door and

a solution.

"They could come in and talk about it. If they had a problem they could come in the door and we discussed it. We were available when you called," he said. "We did what we said we would do. Big Spring had been good to me for many many years and I liked to give back to it."

In addition to meeting the carpentry and woodworking needs of the community, Noyes understood the importance in investing back into the community that was supporting him and helping him progress. Over the years, he has been involved with numerous organizations including the Lion's Club

As time passed regular customers began to age, move into nursing homes, and pass away; local businesses began to shut their doors and society's information access began to evolve. More and more customers began to turn to the internet for orders and the convenience of having items delivered directly to their homes. Big name services began to be the draw for home renovations, repair projects and other services provided by Bob's Custom Woodwork and businesses

like his. As the customers began to fade away, the business dwindled and the struggle became harder to stay afloat for small town businesses.

The old ways have since passed away and small town community has changed. Noyes has made many memories in this community and over the past 50 years has had the privilege of leaving his handiwork all across the county. However, as times changes and business fades, the end of an era has seemed to arrive. The For Sale sign has been placed on that historic building and the final pages of Bob's Custom Woodwork and The Company Store are drawing near the end.

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



HERALD photo/Amanda Duforat

Bob's Custom Woodwork has served Howard County for 50 years. Over the years, business took different avenues and over the past few years, with the addition of the pandemic and the internet, the negative impacts became too much.

gan looking for distributors who would deliver the product to him. The search for his own materials ended up turning the key to a new branch in the business which resulted in "The Company Store". Over the years the business continued to grow and eventually would once again expand to include repair and installation of garage doors – residential and commercial.

"There's a lot of skill in the military people that were here and some of those who were military and then did civil service had a lot of skills; that's how we could do a lot of things. People worked together... different world from today," he said.

With every job, no matter how big or how small, Noyes put 110 percent of his effort and the effort of his staff into it. There was a sense of pride that was exhibited through each piece of work, from



SAM

Continued from Page 6

was actually on the court when UCONN won the National Championship. That was the moment - as any journalist knows all too well - that he realized this was the path he wanted to follow.

The decision then became, did he want to do Sports Writing or Sports Broadcasting; he chose to broadcast.

After he graduated, he moved to the Big Spring area and found himself engulfed in all that is West Texas sports.

Upon his arrival, he found out about an opening for a sports radio broadcaster at KBYG. This was an opportunity to put his love of sports, his desire to be in broadcasting and gain experience in a path he was looking to travel.

Sam would obviously get the job. He describes his first little bit in the industry as a learning experience. Eventually, the Broadcaster would find his footing and has been on a roll ever since.

He has gone on to flourish in his role at KBYG, calling all sports. His knowledge of sports makes him so good; anyone can talk about sports, but it's how he can describe the game that makes his radio calls different. He is the UTPB falcons' voice; he calls all the Howard Hawks Basketball games, High School sports; the man does it all and does his job well.

It's no wonder he is so sought after to be a play-by-play man.

Sam is not only a good sports broadcaster, but more importantly, he is a good man and friend.

He has been great to me in beginning my sports writing career in this area, and his knowledge of vast local and national information is something to behold. Make sure to check out all of Sam Young's work on the radio and listen to his greatness.

Courtesy photos

Sam Young has been broadcasting in Howard County for more than five years and over that time has become the voice of local sports.

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DAZZLING DECOR

Big Spring Economic Development: Vision of growth



Herald Staff Report

Among the investments the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation leaders have made, many focus on enhancing the McMahon Wrinkle Airport and Industrial Park. Over the past 12 plus years the Big Spring EDC has made major infrastructure investments in the Industrial Park at the McMahon Wrinkle Airport and Industrial Park. The vision of growth began many years ago, but under the leadership of former Executive Director Terry Wegman along with past and present forward-thinking Board of Directors members this vision of growth is coming to fruition. Upon the retirement of Mr. Wegman, the Board of Directors was determined to find an Executive Director who had the same vision of growth along with the experience and the expertise to continue to guide the EDC in this venture. In August 2020, the Board of Directors hired Mr. Mark Willis who has over 25

years of experience in business recruitment, facilitation, retention, and expansion, continuing the vision of growth of the Board of Directors.

In 2008 the EDC found it economically beneficial to assist the City of Big Spring, McMahon Wrinkle Airport by investing \$850,000 to upgrade to the main runway to make it capable of accommodating a 737 aircraft. This upgrade was important because many manufacturing, warehousing and distribution companies require the ability to ship via air.

Knowing that business and industry do not locate and/or relocate in communities unless the infrastructure is in place to support their projects, the EDC spent several years upgrading the rail infrastructure at the City of Big Spring McMahon Wrinkle Airport and Industrial Park. From 2011-2019 the EDC spent roughly \$10,000,000 on 5.5 miles of new rail and upgrading the mainline rail. With the

fluctuation in fuel prices, many companies look to rail as a more fiscally stable mode of shipping.

In 2014 the EDC help fund the City's Master Plan in the amount of \$284,203.00 and worked closely with the City of Big Spring to create the 30-year Master Plan, providing direction for the growth of Big Spring. The larger plan also included the Airport and Industrial Park master plan. This Master Plan has given clear direction to the EDC and led to many of the organization's investment strategies. Once the Master Plan was in place the EDC continued working with the City of Big Spring to build up the Industrial Park to be prepared for the economic growth. Building up the Airport and Industrial Park will create jobs and more opportunities for Big Spring and Howard County.

Once the William B Crooker Hwy- Hwy 87 Southern Reliever Route was complete, the next step the EDC took, guided by the long-term plan, was to create roads into the Airport and Industrial Park. In December 2019, through a number of agreements with the City and other stakeholders, this effort began. In July 2020, the funding was in place and construction began on Martha May and Frazier Roads. The EDC found it imperative for the economic viability of Big Spring to fund the roads in the amount of \$6,000,000.

The EDC Board of Directors, with the approval of expenditures by the Big Spring City Council, has invested over \$17M in the growth of the City of Big Spring McMahon Wrinkle Airport and Industrial Park to be prepared to market the airport and industrial park for various development ventures.

The EDC Board of Directors and staff continue to strive to assist, stimulate, and enhance economic development in Big Spring and Howard County.

For more information about the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, please contact us at 432-264-6032.



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A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE BIG SPRING HERALD
MARCH 31, 2021

21 years in service, how a Navy Veteran found joy in recruiting

By: WILLIAM HATTON

Public Affairs Specialist, and U.S. Army Veteran

Looking back at his time in the Navy, Andrew Ellis says he developed a love for serving his country. Over 21 years in service, much of which he spent as a Navy recruiter, Ellis says he wouldn't trade it for anything.

"I believe it was the most honorable moments that I would have in my life," said Ellis, who now works for West Texas VA Health Care System (WTVAHCS) as a personnel security specialist.

Shortly after immigrating to the United States from Jamaica, Andrew faced a decision that would ultimately lead him to the Navy.

"I was young and a little bit rebellious when I got to America," said Ellis. "My father told me I needed to grow up or go back to Jamaica. That's what led to me to join the Navy."

After completing boot camp, Ellis found himself aboard the USS Nashville, an Austin-class amphibious transport dock. He would work in aviation and in engineering.

One of the biggest challenges he faced was communicating with his fellow sailors due to a significant accent. It was his first supervisor who helped overcome this obstacle.

"I had a strong accent when I first joined the Navy," said Ellis. "Fortunately, my first supervisor, who was also from Jamaica, took me under his wings and helped mentor me."

During the early part of his Navy career, Ellis deployed to the Middle East, the Adriatic and to Kosovo. He says one of his most memorable moments came when he helped rescue seven people stranded in the middle of the Pacific after their ship capsized.

After five years of service, Ellis transitioned into Navy recruiting. While working at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Springfield, Mass., Ellis wasn't sure if he wanted to stay in the Navy. It was attacks of September 11 that motivated

him to commit to a career in the Navy.

"It was a stark realization for me, growing through this attack," said Ellis. "I grew up with a sense of serving God, your family, your community, and your country. It was at that point that I felt I needed to continue serving my country and to make a career of the United States Navy."

With a renewed dedication to the Navy, Ellis would find a passion in recruiting. He developed an ability to empathize with each person he worked with. It became important to communicate well with both the recruits he worked with, as well as their families.

"I took my time with each recruit personally," said Ellis. "Preparing a recruit to make a life change was not something I took lightly."

Ellis focused on two aspects when it came to recruiting - the needs of the Navy and the needs of the recruit. He used the guidance of his first recruiting supervisor to guide how he interacted with recruits.

"You should treat everyone that you recruit as if they are going to be your next commanding officer," said Ellis. "You're going to treat that person with dignity and respect."

With each recruit about to go through such a significant life change, Ellis knew the importance of being completely open and honest with them, especially when it came to the challenges of serving in the Navy.

"I would tell them yes - you will get seasick. Yes, you will deploy," said Ellis. "But the truth is I've deployed, and I've gotten seasick. I have been to war, and I'm still here."



Courtesy photos

Andrew Ellis served in the U.S. Navy for 21 years. He first started in aviation and engineering, but later transitioned into recruiting. Ellis said he found honor in serving his country and wouldn't trade his experiences for anything. Ellis now works for West Texas VA Health Care System as a personnel security specialist. U.S. Navy Veteran Andrew Ellis says his time as a recruiter helped make who he is today. His first assignment was aboard the U.S.S. Nashville. Over his 21 years in service, Ellis would deploy to the Middle East, the Adriatic and to Kosovo. He says one of his most memorable moments came when he helped rescue seven people stranded in the middle of the Pacific after their ship capsized

When it was time to retire, Ellis himself was recruited to work for West Texas VA Health Care System. He says it was a way for him to continue serving his brothers and sisters.

As a personnel service specialist, Ellis plays a role in vetting employees and ensuring that they're prepared to serve the Veterans of West Texas.

"It's important to me to ensure that we have the highest quality people with the right temperance to service these Veterans," said Ellis.

West Texas VA Health Care System proudly serves Veterans in 33 counties across 55,000 square miles of rural geography in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico. The George H.

O'Brien, Jr. VA Medical Center is located in Big Spring, Texas and serves as the headquarters for the Wilson & Young Medal of Honor VA Outpatient Clinic located in Midland/Odessa, Texas, and four other CBOCs located in Abilene, TX, San Angelo, TX and Hobbs, NM. Additionally, WTVAHCS operates two outreach clinics in Stamford, TX, and Fort Stockton, TX. Two Vet Centers also provide services and are located in Abilene, TX and Midland, TX. More than 56,000 Veterans reside within the service area, of which approximately 17,000 receive care at WTVAHCS. On average, the health care system supports more than 170,000 outpatient visits annually.

One goal: To serve a community

Isaiah 58 is focusing on reducing the issue of hunger in Big Spring

By: JENNIFER MOORE

Herald Contributing Writer

Isaiah 58 Food Pantry began with a simple goal - feed the hungry and bring hope to the community. During the pandemic, their vision has become even more of a lifeline for those they serve.

The food pantry, located at 809 Scurry St., allows residents to come by once a month on any Tuesday from 9-11a.m.

"They get a full basket worth of groceries," said Isaiah 58 CEO Nancy Stinson, "We give them what we can, and that's a lot of food."

Due to COVID-19, the service is only available via drive through at this point, but residents only have a one-page form to fill out. Income level is not being recorded until August, so virtually all Big Spring residents are currently eligible. This means the 10-person volunteer staff,

mostly comprising seniors, stays very busy.

"My seniors that work here are very lively," said Stinson. "It's hard work."

During her six years working with the organization, Stinson has seen multiple examples of the impact the food pantry has on the community.

"The ones that get to me are when they come and they're not expecting a whole lot," she said. "When you see their faces, especially our men-folk, but they'll come in and just have a look of defeat and I tell them we're gonna set them up. It's gonna be different...by the time they get out of the door they have a different look on their face."

Isaiah 58 was founded in 1984 by Paul Smith and a group of fellow churchgoers who saw a need for

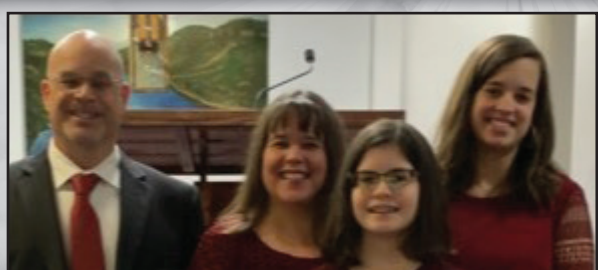
See **FOOD**, Page 3



Courtesy photo/John Loveless

Isaiah 58 Food Pantry is striving - for more than 20 years - to help minimize the hunger issue that exists in Howard County. Through support from the community, Isaiah 58 is able to continue its mission after all these years.

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A Veteran's Service is never completed, but sometimes takes a new avenue



Courtesy photo

Veteran Dan Martinez, Supervisor of Durable Equipment, found a way to continue to serve veterans and his country, straight out of the military. Since then, he has made Big Spring his home.

By **ROGER CLINE**

Herald Contributing Writer

Howard County loves to honor its military veterans, and one veteran our community can be proud of is Dan Martinez.

Local residents know Martinez in his current role as a supervisor at the West Texas VA Health Care Center, but before that he served in the U.S. Army Special Forces as an engineer.

Martinez said he grew up in Riviera, Texas, located just south of Kingsville, and entered the Army at the age of 18.

"I was in combat arms. My first 12 years I was in infantry, my last 11 years I was a Green Beret – I was in Special Operations," he said. "I was a Special Forces engineer."

During a tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2009, Martinez was injured by an improvised explosive device. Although he's fully physically recovered, Martinez was presented the Purple Heart for the injury. Other than time spent overseas, he spent most of his military career in the Eastern U.S., Martinez said.

"I spent my whole career on the East Coast, the 23 years in the Army, other than Afghanistan for nine months and Germany for a three-year tour," he said. "Everything else was on the East Coast. I tell people the furthest west I went was Kentucky."

Martinez went to work at Big Spring's VA hospital straight out of the military.

"Since I retired from the military – I retired in March 2016, I started working here at the VA hospital in Big Spring," he said. "I'm one of the supervisors of logistics. I manage life cycles of all our durable equipment here at the hospital and all our surrounding clinics. I started off as a supply tech and worked my way up to supervisor. In April it'll be five years."

How does he like the job?

"Man, it's awesome!" Martinez said. "My bosses are the greatest. I love my job. I love the staff, the whole logistics crew in particular. I have two bosses above me – my assistant chief and my chief – and they're wonderful to work with. That's what keeps me grounded here in Big Spring. And I love getting to help veterans every day."

Martinez said he enjoys the variety of challenges presented by his job at the VA.

"Every day is a new challenge. Every day is something different," he said. "It's not monotonous. It's not 'Groundhog Day' type deal. Every day poses a new challenge, and I'm a workaholic by nature so I love it. I love my peers and I love my bosses."

What exactly does a logistics supervisor do?

Martinez said providing supplies and equipment for the facility's operations – including the recent addition of residential cottages on the hospital grounds – is his job.

"Logistics is always involved with everything. From the cradle to the grave, we deal with everything in logistics," he said. "The new buildings – we have small cottages. We're going to have four total. Logistics will always have a part, ordering the equipment to furnish the new buildings, and then once the building is up and running, before we put patients in them we stock them up with expendable stuff – gloves, bandages, etc. So logistics is always involved."

Martinez said he's the first supervisor designated solely for durable equipment the Big Spring VA has had, so he's working it out as he goes along.

"For me personally, my biggest challenge is... I'm the first one to sit in this position here, Supervisor of Durable Equipment," he said. "It's not new to the VA, it's just new to this VA. So, I'm the first one to take that seat. I've got great mentors, my bosses, but for me that's been my biggest challenge. There was no one before me to say, 'Hey, this is what I did, just continue rolling with this and make adjustments.' It was a new position altogether."

One big perk of the job is getting to return to his childhood stomping grounds more often than he did while he was in the Army.

"I miss home. I've spent my whole adult life away from south Texas," he said. "When I was in the military, those 23 years, (trips to Riviera) averaged out to about every three or four years, I'd go home for a week or two. Here, I'll shoot down... at least every four to six months I'll try to drop down and spend time with my family."

What's next for Martinez?

"I think just to continue to grow and learn my position," he said. "Continue to grow our program here and try to get our equipment locked tight. So, I'm going to take that and run with it."

FOOD

Continued from Page 2

supplemental food sources for Big Spring residents.

"They saw the need was getting further and further out of hand for people being hungry," said Stinson. "They just wanted to have something that opened up once a month and [residents could] come get food without it affecting their food stamps."

That tradition continues today as residents face unprecedented times of uncertainty.

"We're not here to judge you, we're just here to feed you," said Stinson.

One volunteer, John Loveless, has seen first-hand how the organization helps the community as a whole. He said his favorite times in his two years volunteering are "seeing the actual help that spreads through the community. Just seeing the people that need the help, and when you send them out the door, they have a whole different expression that they're going to make it."

Loveless said the food pantry is working hard to serve the community. "Not many people are out there trying to help as much as I've seen Isaiah 58 go out of their way to do," said Loveless. "It establishes we should help each other no matter what."

Although the drive through is only open Tuesdays, Stinson said hundreds of Big Spring residents can stop by on Mondays and Fridays as well when volunteers are on site in order to receive help.

"If a homeless person comes to our door, we go and we find them some things that they can eat anywhere," she said.

Stinson said they have been fortunate as far as COVID cases and has not had a single volunteer contract the disease, but they have had some close calls with some volunteers having to quarantine due to exposure. She asks those visiting the food pantry to understand the importance of wearing a mask at all times while interacting with volunteers.

"My main goal is to keep them safe," said Stinson.

With the majority of volunteers being senior citizens, she adds that wearing a mask helps prevent spread of other illnesses like the common cold, which can severely impact at-risk groups.

The organization currently serves an average of 66 residents per week. Stinson hopes the food pantry can open up as a grocery store once restrictions are lifted and capacity is back up to 100%.

As a charitable organization, Isaiah 58 runs on a limited budget and staff. Those wishing to volunteer are encouraged to stop by to sign up. Though they do receive donations through Walmart and Porter's, donations from individuals are always welcome as well.

"The donations that we run on are strictly through grants or our people here," said Stinson.

Isaiah 58 is always looking for fundraiser ideas as well and encourages people to reach out with their proposed events.

"I'm up for suggestions," said Stinson.

Food donations can be made on-location at the food pantry. Those wanting to make monetary donations are encouraged to do so by mailing them in at P.O. Box 1103, Big Spring, TX 79721-1103.



Courtesy photo

Isaiah 58 is a volunteer run organization who is looking to meet the hunger needs of those in the community. Their mission is made possible by donations, grants and volunteer support.

14TH AND MAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST



The one word Jon Smith, the preaching minister of the **14th and Main Church of Christ** uses to sum up the rich and unique history of the congregation is "excited." The church first began to meet in Big Spring in 1912 and the members continue to share their excitement about the marvelous ways God has worked and is working in the church family today. People, are important to us as they are to God – first, last and always.

The family of God that meets at 14th and Main is rich in relationships and Clark invites you to join with them in **the ultimate adventure of following Jesus**. Growing together he says, "We worship, we laugh, we learn, we serve, and we reach out to encourage everyone with the good news of Jesus. We strive to be known in this community and the surrounding areas as a church that unquestionably loves God and that love is evidenced in our daily interaction with people."

The church at 14th Main is a non-denominational, independent congregation that desires to be known as a church that loves God, His Word, people and strives earnestly to be faithful to their calling as Christians. The church family believes Jesus abiding in the heart of a person can make a positive difference in life at home, work, and in the neighborhood.

The church calendar hosts many enjoyable and enriching activities for children of all ages. The youth are encouraged to do various service projects and outreach ministries as they share their lives by attending retreats, camps, devotionals, and assisting those in need. Mr. Smith says, "We do not think of our teens and preteens in the family as the church of tomorrow, but as the church of today."

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A lesson from the heart

The Godwin's share their journey and the story of what faith can do

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Managing Editor

February arrived and the images of hearts were flowing through the aisles at the stores, thoughts of love flooded the commercials on the airwaves. While many were thinking about love as the holiday approached, February took on a new meaning for the Godwin Family, as February as they came off a recent journey they couldn't imagine being on. February is American Heart Month and more specifically Feb. 7 is National Wear Red Day to raise awareness for cardiovascular disease. In addition to National Wear Red Day, Feb. 7 kicked off Congenital Heart Defects (CHD) Awareness Week, wrapping up on Valentine's Day. While CHD Awareness is not a hot topic, it is a focus of one local family this year, as the past year has brought challenges they never imagined.

"Raising awareness for CHD is important ... 1 in 100 babies are born with a heart defect," Charlsie Godwin, Salvation Army Lieutenant said. "However, there are many like our family who have no idea until it's possibly too late."

According to information from the American Heart Association, CHD is the world's most common birth defect and affects 1.35 million infants worldwide on an annual basis. As February rolls in the opportunity arises to raise awareness through personal testimony.

"Congenital Heart Disease takes the lives of more children than any other defect or illness combined each year. Many infants require life saving surgery within the first year of life," Godwin said.

While the defect may not have made its way to the main spotlight just yet, the impact it has on millions of families each year is very real. The Godwin's recently traveled down this road and now have a new desire to help raise awareness and let other families know they are not alone.

The Godwin's journey began, as most journeys have, in an unexpected way. What was meant to be a routine well-check for their 2 1/2 year old, Oliver, in July 2020 ended up being day one of a lifetime journey.

"The pediatrician asked if any doctor had ever mentioned a heart murmur before, to which our answer was, 'No'. He asked if we wanted to have his heart looked at, and we did," Godwin said.

While the question is not one any parent wants to hear, it was a question the Godwin's faced head on with faith as they battled through their fear. An appointment just so happened to be open at a pediatric cardiologist office. The family headed to the appointment, on July 20, unsure of what the results would reveal, but soon enough would receive an answer.

"To our surprise, the doctor found that our son had a hole in his heart along with a valve that wasn't functioning properly. He was diagnosed with an ASD or atrial septal defect, one of the more common heart defects," she said.

The process moved very quickly – as many things do once God's hands are placed upon in – and open heart surgery was scheduled for Aug. 20. In less than a month from the initial diagnosis, Oliver would undergo surgery and repairs would be made to his heart.

"As parents, this was terrifying. There were and still are so many sleepless nights wondering if our baby was going to be okay," she said.

While no mother or father thinks they will be sitting and waiting as their 2-year-old son undergoes open heart surgery, but it was the reality the Godwins were faced with. The surgery was successful and the needed repairs were made. The surgery was able to repair the hole in his heart and the leaky valve. While the surgery was a success, as many know, the recovery process was another hurdle for the family to overcome.

"Recovery was extremely difficult, and he will take medication most likely for the rest of his life,



Courtesy photos

The Godwin's share their journey as their young son fought the battle of Congenital Heart Disease, and how their faith carried them through. Little Oliver is pictured along his journey displaying a smile like no other. His strong spirit and happy heart was one of the many things that helped carry the family through.

but he is functioning just as normal as ever and will hopefully, not need surgery again."

The Godwins knew the road before them would bring hurdles and lead them into the unknown, they know who would see them through. Their faith in the Lord was a sustaining force and brought an overwhelm-

because heart murmurs are common, but it's better to be safe rather than sorry later."

As CHD Awareness Week approaches, the Godwin's encourage others to do the research, help raise awareness and extend a prayer for those traveling the same journey they have recently been on. For those looking for ways to help consider a donation to the Children's Heart Foundation or a children's hospital.

In an effort to help raise awareness, the Godwin's shared parts of their story on social media during the week of Valentine's Day and are willing to share their story with those who are willing to listen.



ing peace as the stumbling blocks would come.

"The biggest lesson for our family has been trusting the Lord and allowing others to be a part of this journey so they can pray for us," Godwin said. "Our lives have been forever changed. I'm so thankful for the prayer warriors who surrounded our family and for an amazing God who still does miracles!"

In addition to the recovery process of their 2-year-old's surgery, the family was also preparing to welcome a new addition to the family. Shortly after Oliver's open heart surgery, the Godwin's welcomed home Oliver's baby sister ... the missing piece to the healing process.

While the journey may not be over, their faith and God's hand has brought them to a place of sustaining. As the family continues to move forward they continue to reflect on the journey they traveled and have started to reach out, speak out and stretch out in hopes that other parents who are hearing the same words they heard almost a year ago will know they are not alone ... there are those who understand, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and there is community to embrace you.

"Many times a heart defect can go unnoticed like our case. I would encourage parents to have their little ones checked out early on, especially if a pediatrician mentions anything about a heart murmur," Godwin said. "It can be easily overlooked



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Health & Fitness



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE BIG SPRING HERALD
MARCH 31, 2021

Following the journey where it leads

Sometimes our plans lead us where we are meant to be, unexpectedly

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Managing Editor

Many of us start out our journey headed in one direction and along the way find our true calling. One local activity director, Laurie Martinez, found her calling, nine years ago, and never looked back.

Martinez originally started her career as a med aide at Parkview, and before that she was a travel



Courtesy photos

Laurie Martinez is constantly thinking of new activities to keep the residents engaged and active. The bond she has created with all of them adds to the joy of her job.

agent. During her rounds she would take the time to visit with the residents and over time began to form a connection with those residents. While she wasn't looking for a change, the connection she made with her residents began to stir a passion inside of her she didn't realize was there. As a position became available for an activity director, Martinez felt she had to apply.

"I wasn't looking for a new position, but when I heard about the opening I knew I had to apply; I knew it would be something I would enjoy," she

said.

The joy in the resident's face serve as the driving force behind Martinez's day to day spunk. Her creativity keeps the ideas flowing and serves an outlet for the residents to stay active and engaged with other residents. From daily game time to creative projects, Martinez fills the calendar each month, day by day, with hopes that the residents will find joy in each day and make memories no matter what the circumstances may be.

"I truly believe keeping them involved helps maintain a positive mood, keeps them physically and mentally active and being physically active makes for a better appetite," she said.

The enjoyment doesn't stop with the residents. While Martinez heads into each activity hoping to raise the spirits of her residents, over the years she has noticed her residents aren't the only ones who are receiving a positive impact each day through the activities.

"I love party planning and hosting game nights, and those things flow over really well into my job. I'm always looking at games, crafts, and other fun ideas online that I can pull in, modify or incorporate into the calendar," she said. "Sometimes I just get a crazy idea and run with it; I even take ideas from residents, staff members and family mem-



bers. Creating a fun calendar really is made possible by a group effort."

Making an impact in the lives of the residents is the goal every day, but knowing that the positivity that is brought into their lives is seen by their families as well, is an added bonus.

"When you run into a family member of someone who is a resident, or one who has passed, while you are in town and they take the time to stop you to tell you how much you mean to their loved one," Martinez said. "... or when you are cleaning up at a party or activity, and the residents tell you how much fun they've had."

Just as with every other industry across the nation Martinez's job was impacted by the pandemic; in essence, created an even deeper need for her job and strengthened the reasoning behind doing what she loves to do.

"They (the residents) make me want to get up and come to work each and every day. They have taught me patience, taught me to slow down and listen, and they have given me some of the best advice I've received in my life," she said.

For months, residents in nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and assisted living facilities were shut off from the world. The connection that was once available with the community was shut off overnight, visits with family ceased instantly and in a sense the outside world was completely closed off. In a time where being involved, staying engaged was more important than ever the challenges faced were growing by the day.

"Thankfully our community within the walls at Parkview is a strong one, just as is our community of Big Spring. This pandemic was hard on everyone, the staff, the residents, and the families, but through our connections and support of one another, we are getting through it," Martinez said. "We had to get creative, but as they say, 'Where there is a will there is a way' and that is exactly how we have handled this pandemic."

The use of technology was a lifeline for residents and staff as they did their best to keep the families connected as the nation practiced and pushed social distancing. Lots of prayer contributed to the positivity that remained floating inside the facility.

"We consider each other family here at Parkview, and in all honestly, it's that feeling that has helped our residents to stay connected. We banded together to ensure our residents didn't feel 'locked up'; we kept the entertainment going with the hallways games, individual food activities and of course, we started each day off with a prayer. This pandemic brought us closer together honestly; staff enjoyed a lot more dressing up and themed events, including line dances, outdoor

See **EVENT**, Page 3



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Experiencing a miracle in a small town

Coahoma residents remind us how nobody fights alone

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Managing Editor

It's a journey no one ever thinks they will take; one many have fought a good battle, but sadly lost in the end, and then there are those who are blessed to not only take the journey, but share the story. One local family knows the journey all too well. The journey that begins the same for all who travel it, as the doctor says "It's Cancer." Howard County resident Katy Manning was one of those who heard those awful words, as she was diagnosed last October with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

"Our journey began with what I thought was just an infected lymph node - but it wasn't. Within three weeks... Katy found a lump in a lymph node. It was scanned, removed, and biopsied, and we heard the words "Hodgkin's Lymphoma" for the first time," Brandy Manning, Katy's mother, said. "Childhood cancer is something that happens to 'other' people - until it isn't. Telling Katy she had cancer was the hardest conversation of my life."

The journey turned into a whirlwind once those words were spoken. By the beginning of November the family had made the trip and arrived at Cook Children's Hospital for more scans and appointments in order to better form a treatment plan. The scans revealed worse news and led to the second hardest conversation with the knowledge that the lymph node was not the only site infected, but instead included the liver and lungs. The diagnosis became Stage 4A Hodgkin's Lymphoma; the four-month journey for treatment began.

"When Katy first got the cancer diagnosis, naturally my heart was broken. My faith told me 'God has got this', but there were lots of 'Why's?' I dreaded what she was facing, and what I knew she would have to endure. Even through all my questions, there was sense of peace," Judy West, grandmother to Katy, said.

As the journey began, the Mannings found themselves having to relocate to Fort Worth. As treatments began Katy's blood count dropped causing her to get sick really fast and brought her to the emergency room numerous times. Along the way relationships were formed, lessons were learned and fears were overcome.

"We had to learn and manage more than a dozen medications, and the worst for a needle-phobe like me - I had to give her shots. But, we learned to depend on each other to get through each situation day by day, and we did. I saw a strength in Katy that will serve her well the rest of her life," Brandy said.

Katy's dad, Jimmy, added, "No parent wants to see their child receive a cancer diagnosis, but unfortunately, it is a common occurrence in our world today. The good news is current medical treatments can be very effective in curing many childhood cancers. The better news, in my daughter's case, is her faith and reliance in God helped her through her ordeal. Watching her fight this disease over a four month treatment plan was nothing short of amazing!"

While the journey came in suddenly and turned the Manning's world upside down, their faith carried them through, along with their love for one another. In addition, the strength displayed within the family was an important factor as they knew this was not a journey they had to walk alone. While the days may have been tough, the heart of Howard County shone through and let the family



Courtesy photo

The community went through the journey with Katy Manning and her friends were there to celebrate as she experienced her last chemo treatment.

know they were not alone, and the battle was being fought by a large group as they walked through this with them.

"I will always remember two things about this journey; first, overwhelming gratitude for the people in our lives. You know you have friends, but an experience like this shows you how big your circle is and how deeply they care for you," Brandy said.

Financial support came from numerous avenues including the junior high students who took part in 'Free Dress Days' at school, to friends designing and selling bracelets, to the Athletic Department organizing a gift card fundraiser. Area churches stepped up and contributed through love offerings, donations came in from many different families, and that is only the tip of the iceberg. Through the outpouring of support, the family was able to go through this fight without the added stress of financial burden.

"Most importantly, people everywhere prayed for her and for us - we felt that support throughout the whole ordeal, and I can't imagine going through something like this without faith in God and the constant prayers of God's people. When Katy rang the bell signaling the end of chemo on Feb. 11, our circle celebrated with us," Brandy said.

Katy received the cancer free diagnosis on Tuesday, March 2 and the faith that had carried the family through grew even stronger that day.

"It was really hard to watch Katy go through it all, but it was amazing to see all the support we received from the community and it was even more amazing to see her positive outlook and her knowing that God has got this. It is something I will never forget and I will never forget seeing how much people can come together and give that much love and support," Sarah Manning, Katy's little sister, said.

West added, "I watched my Katy step up to the plate and face cancer head on. I watched proudly as she reached out to others in similar situations

and found ways to be an encouragement to them. I watched as she continued to make plans for her future and to search for God's plan in all this. Katy Girl, I could not be prouder of you! I love you big!"

As the family was faced with adjusting to the diagnosis of cancer, the nation was dealing with the onset of COVID-19. The world continued to change, but through the support of friends and community, a balance was able to be found along with the strength to continue to fight hard.

"The day I found out Katy had cancer, at the beginning of November, Mom told me about it and I had a feeling that we might lose her. I just couldn't believe this happened to our family. As months went by, one of the things I missed about Katy is the way she used to look," TJ Manning, Katy's little brother, said. "I missed seeing her at high school in the halls and at lunch, and at the start of all of this, it felt different almost every day, and I thought about it a lot. 2020 was a struggle for me, Katy, and all of us. We've learned a lot about COVID and other challenges we have to face in life, like Katy's cancer. But we were never alone; like someone said, "BFND - No one fights alone!"

Amongst the challenges, along with faith, the second thing the Manning family will always remember is that gratitude will take hold in the most

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EVENT

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activities and lots of Facetime calls."

Many have heard that if you find your passion and are lucky enough to pursue it it will feel like you don't work a day in your life; Martinez has found the passion that was buried inside her for so many years and continues to be thankful - through the pandemic - that she is able to embrace that passion and share her laughter and joy with others.

"This is really a rewarding job. I have always had a love for elderly and truly enjoy getting to know the residents, what their likes and dislikes are and using that information to help form activities that will not only allow them to find joy in their day, but inspire them to stir that passion that exists in each one of them," Martinez said.

She continued, "I never planned to step into the medical field, but here I am, 20 years in health-care, and I can honestly say I am right where God planted me, and I'm loving every single day."

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	Board Room 9:15AM	Chair Exercise w/Patty Schuelke	Chair Exercise w/Patty Schuelke	Chair Exercise w/ Patty Schuelke	Boot Camp w/Kellie Wash
Begins April 13th	WE Pool 10:00AM		Water Aerobics w/Ruth Ann Harrison		Water Aerobics w/Ruth Ann Harrison
	Spin Room 10:00AM		Sr. Strength & Cond. w/Kellie Wash	Strength & Cond. w/Kellie Wash	Sr. Strength & Cond. w/Kellie Wash
	Board Room 11:00AM	Chair Exercise w/Patty Schuelke	Chair Exercise w/Patty Schuelke		Chair Exercise w/ Patty Schuelke
Begins April 13th	Spin Room 11:15AM		Gentle Yoga w/Ruth Ann Harrison		Gentle Yoga w/ Ruth Ann Harrison
	WE Pool 5:30 PM	Water Aerobics w/Annie McKinnon		Water Aerobics w/Annie McKinnon	Water Aerobics w/Annie McKinnon
	Spin Room 5:30 PM		Yoga w/ Rett Hutto		Yoga w/Rett Hutto

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KATY

Continued from Page 3

unexpected situations.

“Cook is an amazing place, but it’s still a children’s hospital, and no one wants to have to be there with a sick child, but Katy and I found things to be thankful for,” Brandy said. “At 18, Katy understood what was happening and why. I can’t imagine having to go through those procedures with a small child who would only know that it hurt and made her sick. We were also thankful that her’s was a months-long journey—a differ-

ent kind of cancer could have taken years to treat and resolve. Finally, as of March 2, she is cancer-free, home, and ready to get on with her life. Not all parents get to say that about their children. I will always be grateful!”

The faith and the fight displayed by Katy is one that can’t be denied or easily ignored. Her family and friends will tell you, it is her faith and her strong spirit that helped carry them as they carried her.

“I think my most favorite and most memorable thing about my sister is the passion she has for life. I think throughout this process she was



Courtesy photo

Katy is pictured at her last chemo treatment. She smiled through her journey as she let her faith carry her through. After four months of treatment she was able to hear the words “cancer free”.



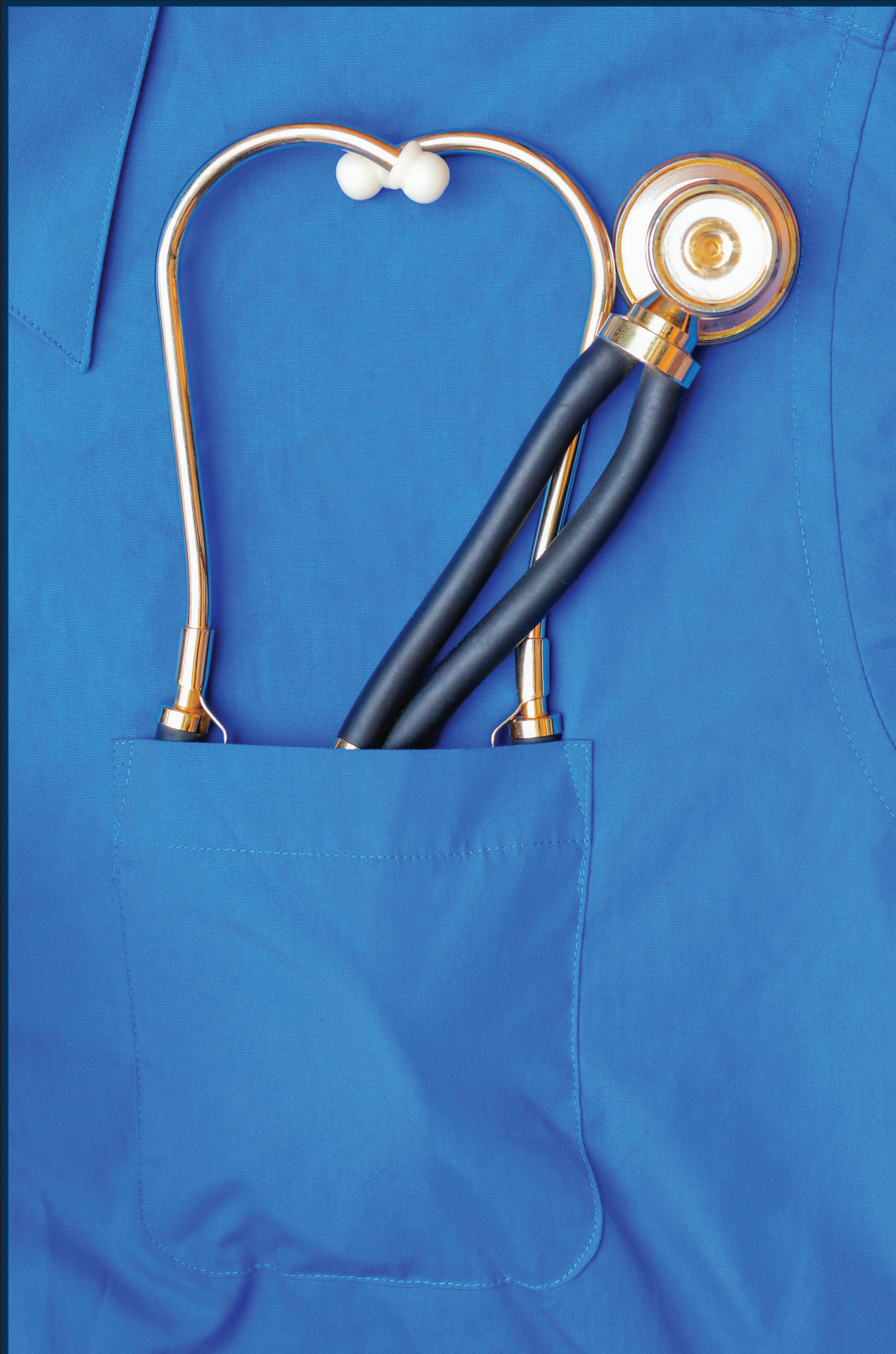
Courtesy photo

Katy is pictured above as part of the Homecoming Court at Coahoma High School. Despite the struggles and battle she faced she was able to continue a normal teenage life through the support of her family, community and friends.

faced with a lot of questions and trials regarding faith, health and her future. But never once were there questions about how or if, but when and where. She had the utmost faith in herself, her family, and most importantly, in her God. She chose to cling to the good things instead of seeking out all that was ‘wrong.’ My sister is a fighter, and a darn good one,” Joe Manning, Katy’s older brother, said. “I don’t think I ever once questioned whether or not she was going to be okay, I just knew that with the faith she has and the Lord she praises that everything was going to be alright!”

The miracles are evident and did not go ignored. The silver lining, along with the cancer free diagnosis, is that the Manning’s experienced first hand what it truly means to be part of a community that gives their all.

“The second part of this miracle took place here at home; the outpouring of love through support and prayers for our family and Katy’s recovery. We will be forever grateful for the kindness that has been shown to us from so many in the community as well as family and friends beyond Howard County – constant prayer and well wishes, meals delivered for over a month, donations from so many to help us with interim living and medical bills, and Katy’s dance company in Midland who dedicated an entire Christmas show as well as a T-shirt fundraiser for her,” Jimmy said. “Finally, special thanks to a Coahoma High School student and friend, Christian Everett, who made hundreds of special bracelets to honor and support Katy. Stated perfectly on the bracelet, no one fights alone. Romans 8:28. And BFND, Bulldog Fight Never Dies.





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Coaching up - on and off the field

By **DUSTIN POPE**

Herald Sports Writer

We all love going to a baseball game; It's something you can take the whole family to; you can eat a hot dog, maybe some popcorn, all while getting to watch one of the greatest sports ever to be played. When we go to a game, we see the players hitting, pitching, and fielding to all play a complete game, but what we don't get to see is how all of these players we watch get good at the game and how they learn to play together as a team. That's where the coaches come in, and all the practices and time are put into everything to produce a good team on the field.

For the Big Spring Steers Baseball team, this is no different. The team is lead by Daniel Carrillo, Joe Bogle, and Michael Felton. All three coaches have played the game they love for most of their life.

Coach Bogle is entering his fifth year coaching, his fourth with the Steers; he is primarily in charge of the Steers' pitching staff. He Pitched throughout his baseball career and really enjoyed helping these young athletes get better at what they love. He can connect with his players because of the relationships he has made with them, they trust his word and direction, and for High School kids, that's a huge hurdle. I've been around this team for a while now, and I see how this team responds to the coaches, and it's something amazing to see. Coach Bogle helps the pitchers with the game mechanics, but he makes them believe what he is coaching them, which is huge. Once the kids start buying into what he is coaching, then results are soon to follow.

Coach Felton is also in his fifth year of coaching. The Louisiana native moved to Big Spring in 2005. So he has been around this area for a while now. He has played baseball his whole life as well. He played all through little league, High School and found his way to a college team. His time at Wayland Baptist University opened his eyes to a whole nother life,



HERALD photo/Dustin Pope

The Big Spring Steer coaches are pictured above - Daniel Carrillo, Joe Bogle and Michael Felton. The Steer Stadium is the iconic field where baseball season comes to life for Steer Nation.

his mom and eventually landed a job with the Steers. The game's knowledge is an essential part of what he brings to the team. Still, his ability to listen to the young men and give them advice when they ask him is what makes him even more valuable to the team.

That brings us to Daniel Carrillo, who is in his fifth year as the Steers head baseball coach. The young Coach played baseball his entire life. He shinned on the high school level. While he was at Junior College, he was asked by a friend to help coach a baseball team for the first time, and he fell in love with it. Baseball has always been Carrillo's passion. He is a baseball guy through and through. Even though his choice in professional teams may not be that good.... He is a Dodgers fan... he still knows this

game inside and out. His High School coaching career began as just an assistant for Midland Lee; The coach was still going to UTPB. After he would get through with his classes for the day, he then drove to Lee to help out with the Baseball and Football team, doing all of this just for the experience. He was not getting paid at the time. A year later, he was able to get his first Varsity coaching job for the Midland Lee Rebels. He eventually found his way to Big Spring in 2016 and has brought his knowledge of the game to turn this program around. His vision was not to play baseball but to have a baseball program for the Steers. He has been very instrumental in getting all the new equipment the boys use to train, having new training facilities, and, most importantly, getting a last-period Baseball class. This allows the players who play baseball to do this year-round. Coach Carrillo talks a



HERALD photo/Dustin Pope

The Big Spring Steer Baseball Team is pictured during the opening ceremony at one of the season openers.

being the first of his family to get the opportunity to go to college to play sports, but more importantly, for the coach was getting his education. He contributes a lot of his success to his time there. At Wayland, he decided to be a coach; he knew he could be a leader of young men. After his time at College, Coach Felton moved back to Big Spring to help out

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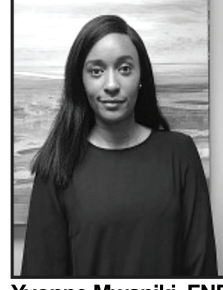
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Hitting back when life knocks you down

Local MMA fighter built upon a troubled foundation to help community youth gain a confidence and drive in life

By **DUSTIN POPE**

Herald Sports Writer

For Nathan Torres, MMA isn't just a hobby. It's his lifestyle; it's his livelihood. The owner of Warlord MMA and Black Belt Jiu-Jitsu Practitioner took the time to share how important learning self-defense can be. Still, first, this reporter wanted to get to know the man and what lead down this path of fitness self defense, and fighting.

It all started for Nathan when he was a young man and saw the movie Bloodsport with Jean-Claud-VanDamme. This was one of his first introductions to the Martial Arts world; he was instantly hooked. Not long after that, he started playing the game Street Fighter; he loved playing using the character Ryu. A young Nathan was enthralled with learning all that he could about Martial Arts. He knew he wanted to do Martial Arts and not just learn, but be one of the best.

As Nathan grew up, his parents, like so many these days, separated; Torres would rebel and started to get into trouble as a child, he got into frequent fights as well. He credits his Dad for standing by him while he felt like nobody else cared for him. His dad always reassured the fact that he loved him and he would take care of him, no matter what.

When he was 19 years old, he had his real first introduction to learning Martial Arts. The world of UFC was starting to boom, MMA was starting to grow, and Nathan wanted to learn. Torres then found out from his brother that a guy from Hawaii was in Big Spring teaching mixed martial arts. So Nathan decided to take a chance. As soon as he started training, it became obvious to his trainers that he had a natural talent and potential. After only training for one week, Torres had his first fight when his trainer needed someone to step into a fight that had fallen through. Being a natural fighter, Nathan thought that since he had been in some street fights, he would take up the challenge. Nathan put up a good showing, but was defeated in the second round. Taking an MMA fight after



HERALD photos/Dustin Pope

Warlord MMA offers an array of classes and training sessions for all ages. From self defense, to MMA training, to boot camps there is a class for everyone who is looking to get out, get active and get started. The dream Nathan Torres had has continued to grow for more than 10 years and has no sign of stopping now.

only seven days of training showed the heart that this man had. He took this as a learning experience that led him to understand he needed to know how to fight like a professional and not a street fighter. So that's what he did he trained non stop getting better by leaps and bounds at the sport he had fallen in love with.

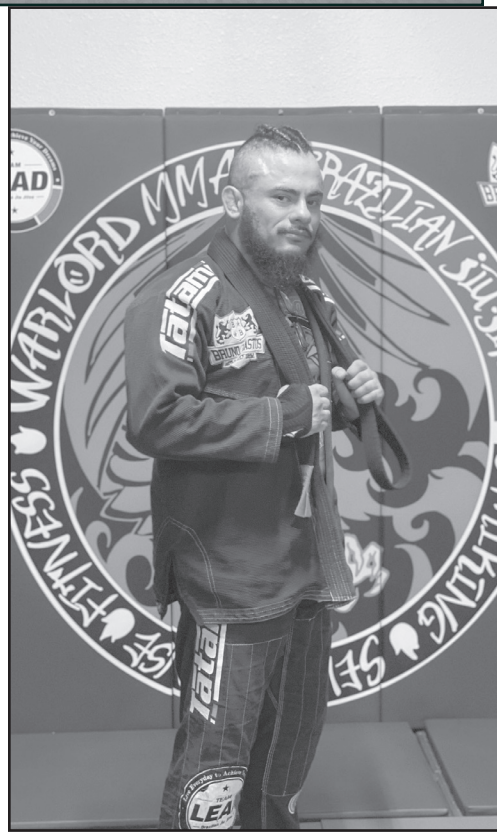
After a full year of training, Torres decided it was time to step back in the fight game, and the man had improved; he won his first three amateur MMA fights. After his strong start, his trainer had to leave the Big Spring area because he wasn't reaching the benchmarks he needed to keep a business open. So Torres, who is now 3 and 0 in amateur competition, was left on his own. For most people, this would have been the end of the dream, but for him, it was just another obstacle that he would have to overcome in order to become the best for Nathan. With no training partners and still pursuing his

dream, Torres pushed himself too hard and had multiple injuries he was trying to battle through.

In 2012 Torres had started working as a maintenance man for a local hotel in Big Spring to help make ends meet. He was outside working one day when he saw a young man who reminds him of himself walking down the road. The kid picked up a rock and threw it through a window just because he was bored. That got Nathan thinking, and he thought, what if that boy had something to do with his time. So he went home that night and decided that he wanted to start training kids. Torres had been training for about six years at that point, knew what he wanted to do, but wasn't sure how to do it. His cousin had a building behind Auto Zone, and he agreed to let Nathan use it. So Nathan posted on Facebook he was starting up kids MMA classes at this building; he had no idea if anyone would even respond when he made the post. His post was met with a flood of messages wanting to have their kids trained. Torres decided that for him to be able to promote his students, he still needs to train as well, so he trained with Bruno Bastos, who had

opened a gym in Midland. He has since progressed to be a Black Belt.

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Discs are flying across Big Spring and Howard County with Big Sky Disc Golf Association

BY DUSTIN POPE

Herald Sports Writer

If you are looking to get more active this spring and summer, look no further than a free outdoor activity called Disc Golf. If you're looking to get started into Disc Golf in the Big Spring area, Chanz Reed is one of the main guys in the area to talk to. He is one of the heads of the Big Sky Disc Golf Association.

Chanz has been playing this sport for about 20 years now, and he got started his Freshman year in High school. He loved the feeling of being outside and staying active all while having fun and competing. So he has been playing ever since.

He started the Big Sky Disc Golf Association when he got invested in the sport and tried to grow it in the local area. The Association has a five-person group whose sole goal is to help develop Disc Golf to be a bigger deal in the Big Spring area. Big Spring has three courses to play, so the board's goal is to grow that number and be able to put on bigger tournaments; these are tournaments that help the community because the competitors will stay in Hotels and dine at the local restaurants. The biggest tournament that Big Springs puts on is the West Texas Disc Golf Champions Tournament in October. They have a tournament coming up in April, which is a fundraiser for the Westside Daycare. The West, Texas Champions Tournament, brings in players from all over the area from New Mexico, Louisiana, Houston, Austin; it brings some of the best local disk golfers around to compete.

Disc Golf isn't as easy as it may sound; it takes technique to throw the disk far and accurately. It's a sport even Reed hasn't mastered after all of his time. He says all it takes is one good shot at getting you hooked. Chanz has hit multiple holes in one, he can't remember them all, but his first one stands out to him for sure. He was playing with a group at hole five of the Parkview course. Not only did he have the joy of his first hole and one, but Reed also won a 500 pot for the hole in one.

The sport is relatively easy to start. It is somewhat inexpensive to play. You can find a starter pack of three disks, including a Driver, midrange, and a Putter at Wall-Mart for about \$20. There is also a Jewelry store located in the mall that also sells Discs for all levels. Obviously, as you start



HERALD photo/Dustin Pope

Birdwell Park is one of the disc golf courses in Big Spring. The course is located behind the YMCA. There is also a course in the Comanche Trail Park.

are made to go shorter. That's why Reed carries so many discs in competition, so he has access to and shot he may need on the course.

Due to the ongoing Pandemic, Disc Golf has risen in popularity. It's an easy way to get out and about. While most things were shut down, most of the parks remained open. People who have never tried the sport found themselves at the park to get out of the house and remain active. The rise in popularity is something that Chanz and his Board members hope to capitalize on. The more people are interested in playing, the easier it is to grow the game.

With Springtime beginning and temps on the rise, Disc Golf could be a good way for you to get back to nature. Enjoy the fresh air all while staying active and having fun. With three different courses to choose from, each offering its own set of challenges, it is not hard to get started. Who knows, once you get started, you could be like Chanz and fall in love with the sport and play every day. Please go to Facebook and ask the Big Spring Disc Golf any questions you may have for more information. Get outdoors, throw some disks with your friends and stay active this summer.

progressing in the sport, you may want to get better disks. Chanz carries around about 20 discs when he competes. Each disc is unique and has its own purpose on the course. Some will float to the right, some will turn left, and some will go straight. Some discs are made to go further than others, and some

MMA

Continued from Page 6

Since that day, the dream has continued to grow and his outreach has expanded beyond what he originally planned. Torres now has moved to 602

S. Main St. here in Big Spring. He offers any class you could ask for. One of the most popular in his Boot Camp. He also offers children's classes for both Brazilian Ju-Jitsu and MMA. Torres also offers self-defense classes, something he stresses is vital in this day and age. They also have a full gym to work out in.

Nathan is a leader, and he is a teacher of the discipline he loves. You can see the passion just speaking to him. I would recommend his teaching for anyone just wanting to get back in shape or learn how to defend themselves properly. You can check out all Nathan has to offer on Facebook at Warlord MMA.



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Information for Medicare beneficiaries



Medical professionals carrying a community through the Covid-19 pandemic

By JENNIFER MOORE

Herald Contributing Writer

COVID-19 changed things for the country. At the time of this article, more than 29 million cases of the virus have been reported in the U.S. At the local level, medical professionals have been doing their part to fight the pandemic. While the West Texas VA Health Care System is not a COVID-19 treatment facility, it has still worked diligently to protect staff, see to veterans' health needs, and help contain spread of the virus.

Jason Cave, Director of WTVAHCS, said protecting their staff and the veterans they serve was their primary goal.

"The concerns really fall into 3 categories – fear of getting sick, fear of the unknown, and fear of infecting family members/loved ones," said Cave. "WTVAHCS targeted specific interventions to address each of these while keeping the mission front and center. We remained here for our Veterans throughout the pandemic and will continue to be, no matter what comes next. Balancing safety with access was challenging, but with the support of VA leadership, our community partners, and our Veterans, I think we did fairly well."

Though the hospital saw a workload increase in the early days of the pandemic, new procedures were quickly streamlined by the staff.

"All in all, our team met the challenges head-on and minimized disruptions," said Cave. "And now, as we work through our Moving Forward plan and welcome our Veterans back in full force, our team will welcome whatever work load we may be facing. Our total appointments numbers continue to grow as more Veterans choose to live across our catchment area. We have some fast-growing markets and we are excited to flex to match the growing demand."

When cases in Big Spring rise and fall, the hospital sees similar numbers. The biggest increase came late in 2020.

"We had our largest case numbers just before thanksgiving and have seen steady decline since that time," said Cave.

The director said that coming together as a staff played a big part in containing and preventing cases.

"It truly was a full team effort," said Cave. "From our screeners, to our nursing staff, to all of the administrative support – the entire team stepped up to face the challenges presented by COVID-19. There is not a single staff member who did not see life and work change dramatically through this time. Organizing our vaccination events have been a critical part of planning, and we've had a great team involved in that."

Cave said the community also played a vital role in the effort.

"I would be greatly remiss if I also did not acknowledge the major role our entire community has played in dealing with COVID-19," he said. "We have stayed connected with city, community healthcare, and first responders. This has been critical in navigating the pandemic and we cannot thank our community partners enough."

Part of the hospital's efforts involved encouraging staff members to stay home if they are sick.

"We have been very fortunate to be in a position to support staff members with paid leave, telework, and numerous other flexibilities to ensure that nobody is pressured to disregard the precautions,"



Courtesy photos/Michael Cole, Public Affairs Officer, WTVAHCS

Pictured left: U.S. Army Veteran Randy Ferguson is among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccination at West Texas VA Health Care System's first drive-thru vaccination clinic held Jan. 9, 2021 at the George H. O'Brien Jr, VA Medical Center in Big Spring, TX. Ferguson, a U.S. Army retiree, made the nearly 100-mile trek from San Angelo, TX to Big Spring, TX to receive the vaccination. Veterans can schedule their vaccination by calling the WTVAHCS COVID-19 Vaccination Hot Line at 432-268-2564. Pictured above: Veterans with scheduled appointments began lining up for the West Texas VA Health Care System's first drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination clinic shortly after 6 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021. Veterans can schedule their vaccination by calling the WTVAHCS COVID-19 Vaccination Hot

as important as ever."

Staying the course and continuing to be cautious is Cave's advice for continuing to contain the spread of the virus.

"As much as we all want this to be over for good, it may still bounce back at us," he said. "We encourage everyone to get the facts and information on the vaccination safety and effectiveness, and make an informed decision. Take good care of yourself and family members, recognizing this has been a physical and emotional strain on all of us. Make sure folks are supported and stay connected even if we cannot do that face to face."

Above all, Cave said it is important to stay up-to-date on doctor's visits.

"Please don't just wait to get back with your doctor when the pandemic is completely over," he said.

Though Cave is glad to see a vaccine now, he warns that it does not mean the pandemic is over.

"It certainly has been great to have a tangible, physical tool to help move us all past the pandemic," he said. "All that said, we are aware that the pandemic is by no means over just yet. We cannot let the current low case numbers lull us into a belief that it's all over. We could well have additional surges including different variants, and so the vaccination is



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Learning & Leisure

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE BIG SPRING HERALD
MARCH 31, 2021

Freshman handbook: Students gain insight into the next step in education



Courtesy photos

Several students joined with the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club to hear advice to be included in the Freshman Resource Handbook, as they prepared to create a guide that will serve new freshman and give them a hand up in their next part of their education career.

By **ROGER CLINE**

Herald Contributing Writer

In Fall 2019, Salvador Juarez, then a freshman at Big Spring High School, asked his teacher Mr. Allen Morris to help him find some reading material on how to succeed in high school. That request led to an unusual class project and, through the support of local Rotary Clubs, a resource for future freshmen throughout the nation.

"Two years ago, I had a freshman come to me and said, 'Is there a book on how to be a good freshman or a good high school student?' I said 'Well, you know, nothing comes to mind, but let's look,'" Morris said, impressed by the request. "The fact that the guy would ask that question was phenomenal. So we looked and we couldn't find anything."

Sensing an opportunity, Morris suggested a class project.

"I said, 'Well, you want it...if you want it, other people want it...we can't find it, so that means we need to research and write it,'" said Morris. "He said, 'I don't know how to write a book,' so I said, 'Well, let's make that part of the grade.' So we turned it into a class project."

Throughout the school year, Morris and the students put out the call through social media.

"We got hundreds of responses to the question 'What do you think a freshman needs to know?'" Morris said. "We took all of the responses and printed them on note cards, and we sat around and discussed them and we rewrote them so that a freshman would understand them, because if a 90-year-old sends us something it might not be written in a way that a freshman would understand it."

As a member of one of Big Spring's two Rotary Clubs, Morris figured the service organization could help with the class project and teach the students a bit about networking in the process.

"The students took the note cards and went over

and had lunch with the Rotarians," Morris said. "That was a big deal for the students. We would go over and have lunch at the Hotel Settles and eat with big people, and then talk with them afterwards. So they did that, and then the book got published as an ebook. The Rotary Clubs said, 'No, this needs to be in print,' and so it's been printed and I'm delivering the books now."

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic put a

engage with their high school career rather than simply trying to get by, to be friendly and thoughtful, and to let small failures be lessons rather than disasters.

And through the assistance of Rotary Clubs, the work of the Big Spring students is spreading around Texas and beyond.

"I'm friends with Rotarians around the state, so I thought, 'Well, if one Rotary Club wants to do this, would other Rotary Clubs want to do this?'" Morris said. "And it turns out, there are other Rotary Clubs around the state that are doing this for their local eighth graders."

Morris said Rotary Clubs in Greenville, Longview and Lumberton, among others, are sponsoring the books, as are clubs in the Bluegrass State.

"I'm from Kentucky, and I've got people in Kentucky that are doing the same thing," Morris said.

According to Morris, the paper versions of the book published by Rotary Clubs have the name of the local Rotary Club that published it, as well as the Club's Four-Way Test, printed on the back cover.

What they ask is that the Four-Way Test be put on the back. So on the back of the book there's the Four-Way Test and there's a space where any Ro-



Courtesy photo

BSISD's George Bancroft visits with students during a Greater Big Spring Rotary meeting, as part of a collaboration project that allowed students to gain advice tidbits to be included in their Freshman Guidebook.

crimp in the works.

"We were meeting with the Rotary Clubs every Friday for lunch, and we said 'Okay, we'll continue this after Spring Break,' and then we never came back from Spring Break," Morris said. "It was like, 'Oh no! What are we going to do with this?' And I said 'You know what? I can finish this.' They had done the real work. That was getting it together and getting it organized. All I did was just put it together in a book."

The book, titled From New to Knew: Hints, Tips, Suggestions, and Just Good Things To Know Before Becoming a Freshman, contains 215 snippets of advice, ranging in length from a few words to a few paragraphs. Topics include approaches to studying, teachers, socializing, morality and life in general. Many urge new students to actively

tary Club can add their name.

Big Spring students originally involved with the creation of the book include, in addition to Juarez: Joe Loya, Lexie Rodriguez, Ananya Limaye, Teresa Rios, David Summers, Harper Duran, Itzel Garcia Marquez, Eric Landin, Natalie Rodriguez, Mya Rocha, Evelyn Sanchez, Viviana Martinez, Iyanla Daniels, Aiden Chaney, Annabell Laplante, Rachael Reagan, Kaegan Baker, Gabriella Carter, Olivia Davidson, Isaiah Diaz, Leila Franco, Tyler Grove, Adryen Guerra, Hailey Harrington, Donavyn Hilario, Tatianna Johnson-Ball, Jayden Overton, Breelynn Copeland, Falcicy Calderon and Keyshaun Woodruff.

Information about obtaining a copy of the book can be obtained by emailing Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@gmail.com.

Steer Nation - Building the future through connections

By **AMANDA DUEORAT**

Managing Editor

Building for the future is something Steer Nation has been focusing on for as far back as one can imagine. Finding new and creative ways to inspire and encourage students is the focus behind each lesson, each activity and every interaction. One Big Spring Intermediate Coach recently found one more way to connect with students and provide an added incentive to strive for greater. The Future Steer Incentive Program - aimed at the 6th Grade students - was started by Coach Cody earlier this school year. The program is now in the third cycle of incentive rewards and students are starting to take notice.

"We started this because we have students who work hard everyday, not just in P.E., but in other classes as well," Coach Cody said. "We see these students conduct themselves in a respectable manner; we see their drive and their potential. We felt that it was time to start recognizing these students."

The program is focused on those students who demonstrate outstanding behavior and give it their 100%. These students have the opportunity to earn a trip to the Big Spring High School ATC building to work out with the Big Spring



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A piece of art ... a window to the soul

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Managing Editor
Be Brave!

A simple goal, but yet such a big step. In an effort to take a bold step and do something she has never done before – Meghan Bias, local resident – has set up, in partnership, with the Heritage Museum to host “Expectations & Illusions” which began March 2. The exhibit will be featured in the main gallery and run through April 23. The exhibit is a bold move for Bias and one she is happy to have stepped into.

Bias is a born and raised Big Spring resident who, like many, pursued furthering her education and other journeys away from Big Spring, but eventually returned in 2016. She is a graduate of Big Spring High School, former United Way Executive Director and mother of two boys.

“I’ve always wanted to have an exhibit here. It’s super significant for me to be able to share my work with this community,” she said. “This is where I went to school, where I’m raising my family, this is my home.”

She continued, “If I never get to show my work anywhere else for the rest of my life I will still feel super accomplished that I was able to do it here.”

While art has always been a part of her life, it is an area that she has kept private and not shared with many before now. As part of her new year resolution, Bias decided that being brave and taking steps she had never taken before would be her main focus in the year to come. In an effort to kick off 2021 following in line with her resolution, she took a bold step and asked the question.

“I’m decided I’m going to be brave. I’m just going to try. I’m going to text Tammy and just ask her,” Bias said. “I did. I simply said, ‘If you ever have a two week opening in your gallery that you need to fill, I would love to be able to do a show.’ and she texted me back ‘Yes.’”

A connection between Bias and the museum was formed a couple years ago as Bias put one of her many skills to use in an effort to help the Heri-

tage Museum apply for grants. While the connection was there and a foundation had been previously laid, the response came as a surprise to Bias.

While the Heritage Museum largely focuses on displays that highlight history of Big Spring and Howard County, the addition of highlighting local artists is an avenue the museum has been looking to embrace. Bias’ exhibit will be the first of local artist features in a new series for the museum. While there have been other art exhibits featuring local artists such as Kay Smith, Belle Schooler and other members of the Big Spring Art Association, this will be the first to feature an exhibit with the kind of material Bias creates.

“This is an idea that came along before the pandemic hit. In our discussions we had decided that this Spring would be the best time,” she said. “Hopefully things will have become more of a regular normal or we would at least know how to better adapt to the situation we are in.”

Until now, Bias’s art has never been on display for others to view. Her work has been displayed in her home, but this is the first time her work will be on display for the community to take part in.

“I’ve loved art since I was a little kid,” she said. “I remember the first time I went into a museum. We lived in Kentucky - I was probably 5 or 6 - and I remember thinking what is this place? It completely changed my entire life. Since that moment it’s been all I’ve ever wanted to do.”

She continued, “The fact that art is my release, my safe place, is one of the reasons I don’t share it with people. It’s really hard to put that out there.”

Many have said that art can be the



HERALD photo/Amanda Duforat

While Meghan Bias has been painting for years, she has never placed her work on display for others to see - until now. For the first time, Bias is sharing her work with the Big Spring community. Numerous pieces can be seen at the Heritage Museum through April; her exhibit is called Expectations & Illusions.

window to the artist’s soul, and Bias firmly believes in that statement; her work serves as a testament to that thought. The passion that was sparked by that first visit to the museum is one that has not only lasted to this day, but that has grown as the years have passed. Through her parents and teachers along the way, her passion became an outlet for her feelings and a major part of her journey.

“In high school Mrs. T had to make an Art 4 just for me. Nobody had wanted to be in an Art 4, but she made one just for me,” Bias said.

While Bias had teachers who supported her desire to embrace art, at the time - in the early 90s - Big Spring and Howard County were not yet at the level of embracing art as they are today. As Bias described, there were many times she felt like a round peg trying to squeeze into a square hole.

“My art has always been a safe place for me. It’s been tied to my mental health and overall well-being. It’s my outlet; the only way I know how to process stuff I couldn’t process otherwise. I always joke with people that

they won’t see me cry or have feelings because I don’t know what to do with them. So that’s where they go ... that’s how I deal with trauma, loss, with anything I can’t really deal with. I’m really thankful to have that as my outlet because it has definitely saved my life more times than I can count.”

There are some, as teenagers and even as adults, who often find it difficult to cope with the waves life tends to throw. Bias is one of the lucky ones who has found not only a passion, but an outlet that can give her emotions a voice, and her mind a sense of peace. That feeling that she felt in the museum is one that drove her to pursue a college career.

“One of the things I love about art is that it’s this wonderful opportunity to talk to people without saying anything at all. It crosses time, language, gender... you can walk into a museum not knowing the artist you are looking at and still feel a connection.”

While her parents expressed their concerns, as many artist’s parents

See ART, Page 4

STEER

Continued from Page 2

High School Steers. According to Coach Cody, for students to qualify for this program they must demonstrate respect succeed in their classes, be a hard worker and show that they are dedicated.

“These students must want to be apart and be willing to put in the effort to be a future Steer,” Coach Cody said. “This is meant to help students understand that nothing in life is given to you; you have to work hard and put your all into everything you may do.”

The first group of students who was recognized by the Future Steer Incentive Program had the opportunity to work out with the Big Spring High School athletes in early February. The second round went toward the latter part of the month and another group is headed for their turn.

The program offers an opportunity for the 6th graders to see what life as a high school student is like, and helps to bridge the relationship and mentorship between the high school students and the upcoming students. While there are those who may have older siblings and are allowed a sneak peak into the life of high school, not all students have that opportunity, but through this program each student has access to the possibilities.

“I was proud to be part of the program because my brother is now a Steer at the Junior High,” Landon, BSI student said. “My parents were proud of me.”

Another BSI Student Porter added, “I was happy because it’s the next move towards doing athletics next year.”

The excitement experienced goes beyond that of the BSI staff and students; the parents were even able to take part in the experience.

“My parents were excited. My dad is a sports fan, and he thought it was a neat idea and wants me to do it again,” Porter said.

As 6th Graders these select students have received a glimpse of what pride feels like as a



Courtesy photos

Since the inception of the Future Steer Incentive Program several groups have made the trip to the ATC to train with Steer Athletes. The program was started as a way to build a bridge between the upcoming students in Steer Nation and give them a preview of what high schools holds.

Steer as you step out onto the field, and the encouragement it has built inside each one is a seed that will continue to grow as the years pass.

“We felt like we were taken under the wings of the high school coaches and players,” Landon said.

Porter added, “It made me feel like this is what high school is like. It’s going to be a privilege to wear the black and gold.”

For those students who may already hold the dream of being a future Steer athletic, this program adds encouragement and a new sense of possibility as they grow over the next few years.

“It’s going to feel good to wear the black and gold. I want to be like my brother who did good in foot-



ball. I really want to do track and Coach Cody has been helping me do that,” Sooter said. “Getting to wear the black and gold will encourage me to do well in my grades; I can’t wait to wear the colors black and gold. I want to make Coach Cody and the other coaches proud.”

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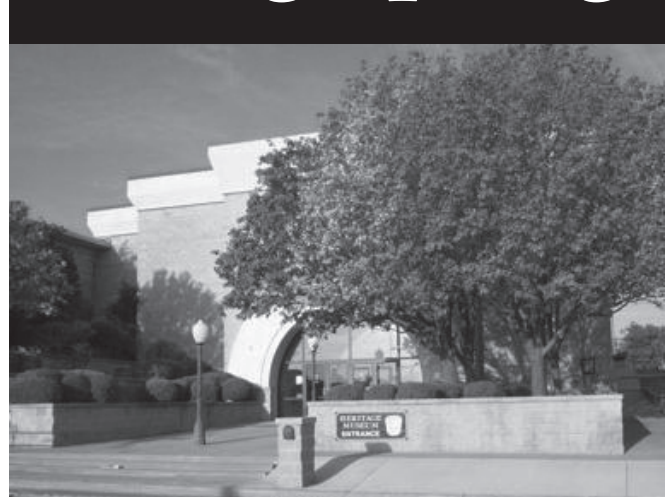
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Two signs of hope ... spreading love

By JENNIFER MOORE

Herald Contributing Writer

In 2020, two murals were painted in Big Spring with similar messages, but two different reactions from the community.

In one part of town, it was a message meant to unify a community torn apart by a world in chaos – “You Can’t Defeat Love.” Those words were prominently displayed on Benton Street Bridge and, though the message was one of peace, it led to controversy and defacement within a few days of its painting.

In another part of town, across from the SM Energy Pavilion at Comanche Trail Park, another mural was painted just a few days after the defacement. It had a similar message – four hands making the word “love” in sign language in front of a multicolored background and surrounded by colorfully painted flowers. It was well received by a community that helped fund it.

Although the two murals met very different fates, both became signs of hope during trying times.

For Benton Street Bridge, that hope came from AJ Cortez.

Cortez moved back to Big Spring right after the mural was painted. He saw it originally on social media and remembers waking up to the news about its defacement shortly after. He said he felt the need to fix it.

“There wasn’t any propaganda behind it and I feel like they did it out of malice,” said Cortez.

Cortez feels the actions of those responsible are not representative of the town in general.

“For some reason there’s a small group of people who don’t like [the] message.”

Having no experience with spray painting structures, also known as “tagging”, and a fear of heights, Cortez still decided to climb the bridge to repair the damage. His only help came from his younger brother, Ian.

“When I moved back I wanted to mentor my little brother,” said Cortez.

At one point, Cortez said he almost



Courtesy photo

A community came together to display love for all to see.

backed out, but the lesson he wanted to teach Ian strengthened his resolve.

“If you believe in something stand up for it and do the right thing,” he said.

The lesson, combined with Ian shouting encouragement from the ground, helped Cortez get through the experience.

“He was there to push me even if he didn’t know it,” he said.

Ultimately, Cortez said he wanted to help the person who had the vision to bring the mural to life.

“They support you when you’re crawling, walking and running, but the minute you start to fly is when people shoot you down,” he said.

Cortez is one of many who support the message of the mural, a fact that Big Spring Mayor Shannon Thomason confirmed.

“At the time, I thought the message of “You Can’t Defeat Love” was a great message of unity,” said Thomason. “I still do. With regards to the defacement of the mural, it was a criminal act. A person actually encouraged its defacement on social media. A poll I conducted on Facebook indicated that there was a lot of public support for the mural at the time.”

While Benton Street Bridge was a project done by one artist, the Pavilion Love Mural is a different story. It begins with Morgan Lee and Monica Gutierrez, two women in Big Spring who wanted to make a difference.

“I was speaking to Morgan on

Facebook and we both were in agreement with one another that someone should do something good that sends a positive message, like we’re all going through this but we’re going through it together,” said Gutierrez.

Morgan wanted to bring people together, but was unsure of the next steps.

“I’m not a native, so I’ve never really been sure how to go about something like that here, though I’d been wanting to for a while” said Lee

The two women were soon joined by Renee Thomas and Naomi Villa, and Texans Helping Texans International was formed.

“The purpose of THTI was to bring unity,” said Gutierrez. “At the time the tensions were pretty high. It wasn’t just here in town, it was, if you remember, global because of the George Floyd incident.”

To encourage unity, the four decided to find funding for and paint their mural. Thomas, the last to be brought on board the project. Said the message is a positive one.

“The mural is self explanatory, I would say,” said Thomas. “Some people were very supportive.”

The group decided on a design that was also a nod to the community.

“The letters are in sign language, a tip of the hat to the deaf institute in town that often goes unrecognized,” said Lee.

Gutierrez, who is not an artist herself, said Lee and Thomas were inte-

gral to the design.

“We had two artists, Renee and Morgan, that could kind of lead the way,” she said. “Especially Renee. She’s so smart, she broke it down to a science and she’s like ‘we can do this’. And I guess the rest is history.”

The project received massive support from the community.

“We had an outstanding amount of support,” said Lee. “It was really just unbelievable. We had dozens of walls offered, sufficient donations, and more people come out to work than we could have dreamed of having.”

When asked about whether or not they were concerned about the mural being defaced, the THTI members said they did not let the Benton Street Bridge incident impact their project.

“[Benton Street Bridge] incident or not, we knew vandalism was a possibility,” said Lee. “We did it anyway because we felt it was important, and I’m glad we did. Had it been vandalized, I would have been happy to just paint over it.”

On the city level, Thomason said there was no cause for concern with the THTI mural.

“I wasn’t overly concerned about it being defaced because at the time it was being publicly supported by the same person who encouraged the defacement of the Benton St. bridge mural,” he said.

Thomason went on to add that he feels both murals had positive messages behind them.

“Personally, I think the messages of both murals are positive and timeless,” he said. “Going forward, I look forward to bringing a public art project to the Council, which will depend on citizen input to direct the projects.”

What advice do these messengers of hope give to others wanting to do the same? Keep going.

“I would say to persevere,” said Lee. “Doing the right thing is not easy. Make waves. Move mountains. Do what your heart tells you to do, and do it with pure intentions.”

“Use your creativity in tough times, even when its hard to be positive, try to be productive,” said Thomas.

ART

Continued from Page 3

have done, Bias new it was something she needed to pursue. She obtained her Bachelor’s of Fine Arts at Sul Ross in Studio Art and Art History.

“It was the best experience, up to that point, going to school there and to study art there,” Bias said. “It’s like this little artist mecca; they embrace artists, from Cowboy poetry, to visual arts to theatre. It’s a small little amazing place that welcomes you as you are. I’ve always found that in the artist community.”

She continued, “I’ve always found that in the artist community. It’s the come as you are, we will take you weird and out of place and awkward. ... Coming from here (Big Spring) to there (Sul Ross) and finding that kind of community ... it doesn’t matter how big or how small, it’s about the mindset and what you are willing to be open to.”

With one degree under her belt and her passion being pursued, reality set in and Bias knew she was going to have to add another skill to her resume in order to survive. She went back to school and earned her Master’s Degree in Art History and Museum Science.

“I never thought I would be a working artist; I just love it and I knew I needed it to be part of my life,” she said. “I love that I got that degree because through that I learned how to work non-profits, write grants, and other important skills.”

Her art degree and skills associated would end up bringing Bias full circle as she returned to Big Spring in 2016 and took on the role of Executive Director at the local United Way. In addition she formed her partnerships with the Heritage Museum in order to offer her support through knowledge of grant writing and art to help preserve the history contained in the local museum. However, before arriving back in her hometown, Bias found herself in Colorado where she had a rare opportu-

nity to work with Cristo and John Claude while they were working on a project.

“That experience in Colorado was one of the highlights of my life that I got to meet living, world renowned artists and they were super french and super quirky. Her hair was extra red and I loved it,” Bias said. “It was so inspiring to be around people who just did what they did because they loved it. The whole experience of their work was that they wanted the community to be involved; that exchange, that human connection.”

As Bias’s journey has seemed to come full circle, she is once again embracing the community that helped form her foundation. Big Spring has always been accepting and welcoming.

“I don’t really feel like a round peg in a square hole anymore. I’m okay to be me. This being able to share my work and have this exhibit is the cherry on top,” Bias said. “I’m very nervous about it, but I’m prepared for whatever people have to say; I actually welcome it.”

Bias continued, “Art should evoke some kind of emotion, even if it’s disgust or agitation. If they don’t like it; they totally hate it. That’s fine, it won’t hurt my feelings. It used to, but it doesn’t now. Everyone should be able to have their own opinion and interaction without having to say something.”

While Bias admits her pieces are not traditional and may turn some people away from the exhibit, it is surely to evoke emotion in those who do choose to view it.

“My husband will tell me, I don’t like it

because it makes me feel stuff, and I just tell him that’s what it’s supposed to do. We are supposed to feel stuff,” she said. “I think a lot of people don’t like to feel stuff. People don’t want to talk about those deep, dark feelings in themselves and those are important parts. Those parts are just as important as the light and the happiness; we have to embrace all that dark stuff.”

While Bias embraces honest opinion on her art, one thing she is thankful for, is the support and honest feedback provided by her husband and her family.

“My husband has always been so supportive of me in my pursuit of art,” she said. “One thing he has always done is make sure I took the time to paint and had the space to work because he knows the importance art holds for me.”

Through the support of her husband she has been able to embrace her passion and through that support she has been able to make this bold move possible and host her first Art Exhibit.

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