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# BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY EDITION,  
AUGUST 9, 2021

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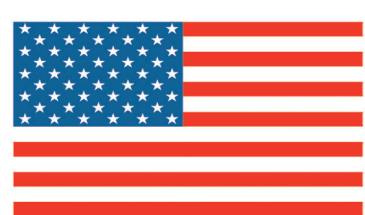
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## City Council to discuss Tax Rate for 2021-2022 at Tuesday meeting

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Managing Editor

The Big Spring City Council will convene on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at City Council Chambers. Those who are unable to attend can watch online at <http://mybigspring.com/224/Chenel-17-Live> or on Channel 17 through Suddenlink.

During the Tuesday meeting, Council will discuss the Tax Rate for 2021-22 Fiscal Year, as well as an emergency reading of a resolution authorizing the submission of an Economic Development Administration Application to the Economic Development Administration; and authorizing the Mayor to act as the City's Executive Officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to the City's participation in the Economic Development Administration Grant Program.

Before moving into the Consent Items, the City Manager's Report will

be delivered to the Council. City Manager todd Darden will provide an update on the Large Item pick up for District 2 which is set to take place Aug. 18 followed by the seal coat project. The Council will be updated on the Big Sandy Landfill Grand Opening and recent updates on the Roy Anderson Sports Complex front entrance. An update will also be provided on the Kids Zone rubber mulch and TDA Grant Waterline Project.

As part of new business, Council will hear the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 3 "Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions" Article 1 Entitled "In General" by amending Section 38-9 entitled "Curfew for Minors" subpar (f) in order to extend the juvenile curfew until September 1, 2024; repealing section 38-9 (E)(2) on referring juveniles to Teen Court.

In addition, the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 2 "Administra-

tion" Article VII "Boards and Commissions" Division 8 "Board of Adjustments and Appeals Section 2-312 "Membership and Terms" by adding a new subsection (D) to provide for members of the Board of Adjustments and appeals to continue their current terms.

Attorney Andrew Hagen will lead discussion and Council will possibly take action authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute an agreement with Oxy USA Inc. for a Wellbore Right-of-Way License on the following lands: Section 3 and Section 10, block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co Survey.

Council will hear new appointments, proposed by District 1 Nick Ornelas, for four boards and committees. The nominations are as follows: Animal Rescue & Adoption Committee - Amanda Williams; Traffic Commission - Cody Williams; Parks & Recreation Board - Patsy

See **CITY**, Page 3

### Upcoming Events

**City Council Meeting**  
5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday  
View online or on Channel 17 on Suddenlink

**Big Spring Steers** will face Pecos in a football scrimmage at Memorial Stadium Aug. 13. Time is TBA.

**Alive in Christ Blood Drive**  
Aug. 15

There will not be a Toasty Tuesday this week, but community members are encouraged to find time to pick up in their own neighborhood.

**United Way Kick-off and Golf Tournament** set for Aug. 28

## Coahoma ISD Board to convene at 6 p.m.

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Managing Editor

The Coahoma ISD Board of Trustees will convene in a regular meeting on Monday at 6 p.m. in the Elementary Board Room.

Once the roll has been called and an establishment of a quorum has taken place, the meeting will be called to order and opening ceremony conducted.

Before the open forum is held, a State Comp Ed Evaluation Public Hearing will take place.

As part of the consent agenda, the Board of Trustees will look to

See **CISD**, Page 3

## BSHS registration begins today

Herald Staff Report

Big Spring High School student registration will be taking place this week. For returning students including incoming 8th graders, registration is open today through Wednesday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

When going to register, parents will need to bring a valid Driver's License or valid government ID, and one of the following dated within the last 30 days - recent mortgage or lease agreement, electric bill, gas bill, or water bill.

In addition to registration, parents will need to pay

See **BSHS**, Page 3

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Find us online at:  
[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)



## A moment in history

### Settles Hotel Part II.

*Editor's Note: The Heritage Museum offers a piece of history to be shared with the community. This is the second part in a three part series. Last week the first part was ran and this week, the story continues about the tallest building in Big Spring. To find out more about history of Howard County visit the Heritage Museum during normal business hours, Tuesday through Saturday.*

By **TAMMY SCHRECENGOST**

Heritage Museum

When the Settles Hotel opened in 1930, it required 45 employees including two in-house physicians, Drs. Barcus and Bivings. Fred W. Crow served as manager; R.D. Coker, Catering manager; C.M. Scott, Engineer; Bessie Miller, House-keeping; J.S. Davis, Chief Clerk; Tom Grady, Auditor; Leo Smith, Night Auditor; Mary Miller, Pastry Chef; and Leroy Fife, chief bellman. Fife was one of the longest employees at the Settles, he joined the staff in 1931 and stayed until the hotel's closing.

The Grand Opening of the Settles Hotel was so large that the Big Spring Herald printed a special "Settles Hotel Edition" on Sunday, September 28, 1930. Dinner, dancing, and music

See **PART2**, Page 3



Courtesy photo/Heritage Museum

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## Obituaries

### Donald Claude "D.C." Lee

Donald Claude "D.C." Lee passed away Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021. Funeral services will be 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, at the First Baptist Church in Coahoma. Interment will follow at Coahoma Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until service time Tuesday at First Baptist Church in Coahoma.

He was born Feb. 12, 1931, in Maverick, Texas, to Clarence and Marie Lee. He graduated from Norton High School in 1948 and married Shirley Cope Oct. 26, 1950. Donald served in the United States Navy from 1951 to December 1954. Donald and Shirley had three daughters; Sheri, Patti and Jana. His wife, Shirley, passed away March 11, 1972.

He worked at the Cosden Refinery, retiring in 1985 and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Coahoma.

Donald married Myrtie Moore May 5, 1989, and gained two sons, Roger Battle and wife, Debbie, and Richard Battle and wife, Vicki; and two daughters, Karen Halfmann and husband, Tommy, and Darlene Battle.

In addition to his parents and wife Shirley, he

was preceded in death by one son, Richard (Dick) Battle, and one daughter, Karen (Battle) Halfmann.

Donald is survived by his wife, Myrtie Lee; and children, Sheri Lepard and husband, Ron, Patti Meeks and husband, Terry, Jana Lee, Roger Battle and wife, Debbie, and Darlene Battle. He is also survived by a son-in-law, Tommy Halfmann; and a daughter-in-law, Vicki Battle. Donald has 13 grandchildren: Susan Wanner and husband, Denny, Shannon Koston and husband, Dave, Kimberly Glickman and husband, Alex, Todd Moland, Justin Meeks and wife, Beth, Amber Henry and husband, Jason, Hilary Lee, Liam McDonald and wife, Keri, Connor McDonald, Jason Battle and wife, Jill, Krystal Mullins and husband, Andrew, LaNae Battle, and Brandi Crooks and husband, Chris; 19 great-grandchildren, Ellie and Evan Wanner, Asia Lepard, Rex, Cameron and Natalie Glickman, Breanna and Tyler Moland, Charly Meeks, Kiersten Jackson, Adyson, Zaiden and Haizen Hollis, Kali and Layla McDonald, Jenna, Jessa and Jolee Battle and Case Crooks; and special friends, Francisco, Angel and Hana Rodrigues.

The family suggests memorials to a favorite charity.

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

*Paid Obituary*

## Take Note

• West Texas Range and Livestock Conference will be Aug. 17 at the GC Broughton Agriculture Complex, located at 2411 Echols Street in Big Spring. For more information or to register, call 432-264-2236.

• Alive in Christ Lutheran Church will be Aug. 14 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. To register visit donors.vitalant.org to sign up and use the code ALIVE.

• Life Church will be hosting a community youth night at 5 p.m. on Aug. 21. There will be food trucks and games. Innerscourt Worship will begin at 7 p.m.

• The Big Spring Symphony is celebrating 40 years. Their season will include: Sept. 25 'A Breath of Fresh Air' which will take place at the Big Spring High School Auditorium; Nov. 20 will feature 'The Music of Queen'; Dec. 8 "Holiday Spectacular"; Feb. 19 "Winter Wonderland"; and Spring Pops Concert on April 23. The concerts will take place at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium except for the opening performance. Tickets can be purchased in season passes or per concert.

• Howard County Fair is coming Sept. 17-19. Submissions for the Art and Photo contest will need to be submitted Sept. 14 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. The Special Subcategory this year is Cactus or Birds or combination of both. Submissions can be fine art or photography. For more information, call Sandra Lockhart at 432-263-4155.

• Trinity Baptist Church will host a 13-week Grief Share session, beginning Aug. 26.

• The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is gearing up for the annual kick off event and golf tournament. The golf tournament will be August 28 and 29 at the Comanche Trail Golf Course; the concert will take place at the amphitheater on Aug. 29 with Micky and the Motorcars and Spur 327.

• The Great Courses history video lecture series is taking place each Wednesday in the Theater Room in the First Presbyterian Church, located at 701 Runnels Street. No charge for the lectures.

• Howard County Community Health Center is offering the Moderna – a two dose and Janseen – a single dose, Covid-19 vaccine to those over the age of 18. Businesses, churches, groups or organizations of 10 members or more who would like the vaccine can schedule a time to have a mobile vaccine clinic. The staff will to the business, church, or organization to administer the vaccine. For ore information, call 806-894-7842 ext 178 or 124 or e-mail [Covid19@sprhs.org](mailto:Covid19@sprhs.org)

• Maranatha Baptist Academy is now enrolling for 2021-2022 School year. We offer summer session of 4 weeks in the middle of summer. We begin August 2, 2021, and are a year round school. We service home school as well as in-house school for Kindergarten through High School graduation. In operation for 40 years, we understand the spectrum of curriculum necessary for a good foundation for careers and college education. Please contact Dr.

Lillian Bohanan at 432-213-1046 for further information about tuition, hours, and anything else you might want to know about our education successes, or come by and see us at 903 Johnson Street, Big Spring, Texas.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for new members. If you have a heart for serving people, have at least four hours a week to spare, SMMC Auxiliary might be the fit for you.

Duties include working in the gift shop, delivering newspapers to inpatients, hospitality services, popcorn and more. To find out more about opportunities available with the SMMC Auxiliary, contact Amy Miramontes at 268-4809 or April Arms at 268-4907.

• St. Vincent de Paul food distribution will take place the second Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and other assistance will take place the third Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Both distributions will take place at 1009 Hearn at SVDP Building.

• Interim HealthCare is looking for volunteers. Those who would like to find out more about becoming a volunteer can cal 432-263-5999.

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

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



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## Support Groups

### MONDAY

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

### TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

### 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 or call 432-263-7331.*



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## national IMMUNIZATION awareness month

**August is National Immunization Month**, a time to highlight the importance of vaccinations for people of all ages. With school quickly approaching, it's time to check immunizations records to see if your kids are up to date.

In Texas, before a child can attend kindergarten, seventh grade, childcare, or enroll in a new school district, parents or guardians are required to produce documentation that confirms their child has received the school-required immunizations.

For more information on **Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students Grades K-12**, visit - <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/school-requirements.aspx>

Vaccines protect us from dangerous preventable diseases like Chickenpox, Flu, Hepatitis, Measles, Mumps, Meningococcal, Pneumonia, Shingles, Pertussis (whooping cough), Polio and more. Vaccines not only help protect us and those we love from getting these diseases, they also help prevent spreading diseases to those that are unvaccinated.

If your child is needing immunizations to enroll in school, please call the **Martin County Family Clinic at (432) 607-3243**, to set an appointment. Same day appointments are available.

**MCHD**  
MARTIN COUNTY  
FAMILY CLINIC



CITY

Continued from Page 1

Garza; and Planning & Zoning Commission - Dale Avant.

The Council will adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Once discussion has concluded the Council will reconvene in Open Session and take any necessary action from the Executive Session, before adjourning for the evening.

Other items on the agenda include:

- Council Input
- Acknowledge receipt of Planning & Zoning commission minutes for regular meeting of July 20, 2021
- Consideration regarding the Howard County 9-1-1 Communications Dis-

trict's Proposed Budget for 2020-2021.

- Consideration and possible action on Investment Report for the Quarter ending June 30, 2021
- Discussion and possible auction authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with ST Plaza LLC
- Vouchers for 07/29/2021 and 08/05/2021
- Approval of City Council Minutes of July 27, 2021
- Final reading of an ordinance amending ordinance Number 029-2020 which adopted the annual budget for the City of Big Spring, Texas for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2020 and ending Sept. 30, 2021, to increase the general fund budget for the purpose of adding rubber mulch to kid zone.

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

Part 2

Continued from Page 1

was advertised for a ticket price of \$2.50. It was announced that Wednesday's grand opening celebration was filled to capacity (300) and that reservations would be accepted for the following day.

Michael Cool and his 11-piece stage band from Lake Worth Casino would stay and continue to play the following night. Visitors from Dallas, El Paso, St. Louis, Chicago, Kansas City and Louisville Kentucky came to see the hotel in a city of 14,000.

Trouble was quickly brewing for the Settles. Before the grand opening of the hotel, Milano Furniture Company had already filed a lien against the hotel for failure to pay. By 1931 oil prices had dropped from \$3 to \$4 per barrel to an astounding ten cents a barrel. By the spring of 1932, Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Settles were forced to declare bankruptcy.

The court ordered the sale of the Hotel and on March 30, 1932, American National Insurance Co., Galveston, bid \$175,000 on the \$500,000 building and \$50,000 for the furnishings and equipment. The company was awarded the sale and Mr. and Mrs. Settles lost nine sections of land, 193 acres, and all their oil and gas interests in Howard and Glasscock counties.

The \$125,000 deed and trust provided all oil and gas royalties, payable to the plaintive would go to pay off the debt. Funds collected from oil and gas production on their land exceeded the amount credited towards this debt. Plaintiffs W.R. and Lillie Settles. Group No. 1 had said \$118,047 was due in December 1931.

The Settles alleged less than this amount was due. Group No 1 (Continental Oil Company) bought rural properties, which the Settles said were worth one million, for an astounding \$75,000 in the ensuing trustee's sale.

Mr. and Mrs. Settles said they did not contest the Trustee's sale at that time, because they were promised they could later repurchase this property by paying the amount of the original debt plus interest. But this re-sale to the Settles did not happen. The downtown real property was said to be worth \$600,000 and personal property in the hotel, \$175,000. By the conduct of Group, No 1 and the loss of land by said plaintiffs, plaintiffs were rendered incapable of meeting their obligations on the Settles Hotel property resulting in each Settles Hotel corporation forced into bankruptcy. The petition continues: such property was sold at great sacrifice and the plaintiffs thereby lost their equity in said property when it was sold.

Just as quickly as the couple had become rich, they became poor. Never financially recovering, W.R. Settles passed away on December 5, 1947. According to the probate, the couple's community

property was worth \$72,433.

Mrs. (Lilly) Settles passed away February 4, 1956. The National Hotel Company Inc. was in possession of the Settles and in 1936 named a new manager, Joe D. Farr

By 1941, rooms were scarce at the Settles. Willard Sullivan once was quoted as saying "it was just about impossible to find a room during WWII." Hotels were stuck with low ceiling prices due to the war efforts. The price freeze kept the Settles from profiting although it was packed with temporary and permanent customers.

The Depression seemed to lift after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, on December 7, 1941.

The desperate need for soldiers, pilots, and workers to make ammunition, weaponry, and air-sea craft all contributed to the improved economy of America. On September 25, 1942, the Big Spring Army Air Force Advanced Flying School (The Bombardier School) accepted the first cadet's arrival. The new class of bombardiers arrived in Big Spring from 30 states. Over 3000 military personnel and several hundred civilians worked at the bombardier base.

On VJ (Victory in Japan) night, (August 15, 1945) soldiers "tore that hotel up from top to bottom." Pillows and furniture were ripped and thrown out of the windows and one young lady was hung out a high window by her heels." hotel manager Bill Lyons said. Firemen were called to the Settles to retrieve fire hoses that had been unwound and dangled from the windows.

January 2, 1944, it was announced in the Big Spring Herald that the Settles Hotel, owned by Affiliated National Hotels of Galveston, sold to A.J. Crawford of Carlsbad New Mexico and F.S. Hofues of Dallas. Mr. Crawford had built and owned the Crawford Hotel in Big Spring. Calvin Boykin, longtime manager of the Crawford, along with W.E. Lavender, became resident managers of the Settles. Boykin maintained his general office in the Settles occupying space on the Mezzanine. The Herald stated that this was the largest business property transfer in the city's history.

January 1946, two years to the date of the A.J. Crawford transactions, Federal Hotel Company purchased the Settles and Crawford, along with hotels in Colorado City and New Mexico for \$2,850,000. It was announced that Federal Underwriters of Dallas would operate the hotels as part of its system, which had units in Houston, Dallas, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and in New Mexico.

The list of famous guests, who stayed at the Settles Hotel, was numerous. Miss Agnes du Pont, slipped into Big Spring unnoticed except for the clerk at the Settles. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wrigley were en route from Catalina to Chicago when they stopped overnight and the nation's former presi-

dent; Herbert Hoover ate lunch in the coffee shop along with his son.

The Settles was in the middle of West Texas and offered a stopping place for motorists along the way. A reporter for the Big Spring Herald in 1940 stated, "Motoring through has become the favorite mode of travel for all classes, rich or poor, it is inevitable that the Settles gets them sooner or later."

The Big Spring morning coffee club met at the Settles coffee shop for coffee and conversation from 1931 until the hotel closed. The group talked mostly about current happenings and included a banker, preacher, school superintendent and a postmaster-just to name a few. Around 9 a.m., the gentlemen would stop what they were doing and meet in one corner of the Settles Coffee Shop. "In those days, everybody had worked two hours by 9 o'clock," one old-timer declared.

Bill Griese, who was an unofficial chairman of the group said, "When we finally had to move out of the Settles, we debated about where to meet. We thought about taking a thermos of coffee and meeting at the cemetery since that's where most of our friends were."

Bankers Life & Casualty Co. of Chicago was announced as the new owners of the Settles-Crawford Hotel properties in September 1961. Great Plains Hotel Company would operate the facilities. Plans were to remodel the Settles by changing out the furnishings, paint and upgrading the kitchen.

The Crawford would be remodeled and made into apartments. Residents of the Crawford were moved to the Settles.

Hotel Consultant, Lloyd Sifford praised the Settles saying it was the perfect hotel of its era. He said he had no intentions of changing the hotel's general design. Sifford added, "The building is exceptionally well built and other than for the natural wear and tear those thirty years of service brought about, it is in excellent condition." However, the Crawford remained closed except for the downstairs tenants. The Settles and Crawford hotels were sold October 31, 1963, to Congress International, Inc., and the Andrew Hotel Corporation, the operating unit. Bankers Life & Casualty Co. of Chicago came into possession of the properties once again on September 29, 1967.

The Crawford was torn down October 18, 1968, to make way for downtown parking.

CISD

Continued from Page 1

approve the minutes of previous meetings, budget amendments, and revisions to the employee handbook, along with sanction of 4-H as an extracurricular activity and grant adjunct staff member status.

Before moving to approve the proposed budget, the Trustees will take consideration and possibly approve the proposed tax rate. There will also be consideration and possible approval of the investment policy.

As part of information items, the board will receive the Enrollment/ADA/WADA report, financial, and upcoming board meeting dates. The Superintendent will deliver his report which will

include first rating.

Trustees will retire into executive session to discuss personnel and reconvene in open session to take any necessary action. There will be consideration and possible approval of employment contracts for the 2021-2022 School Year before the meeting adjourns for the evening.

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

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Joy Woods Holcomb, 83, died Wednesday.  
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306483

BSHS

Continued from Page 1

the technology fee (\$30/\$15) de-

pending on your students grade. The receipt or ticket from payment will need to be provided in order for school schedules to be picked up on Aug. 12 for each grade level.

**Encompass Health**  
Home Health

As summer temperatures rise so does the risk of dehydration, especially among older adults. Encompass is focusing on dehydration awareness to ensure patients risk is limited. Providers are focusing on the importance of proper hydration to keep patients safe, healthy and hydrated all summer long.

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# Coahoma track star Sean Striegler takes the next step in his track Career



Courtesy Photos

This past Friday morning, Aug 6. Sean Striegler signed his commitment papers to join the Greenville University Panther track team. The ceremony was held at Coahomas football field, where all of his teammates could attend.

## Davis, Torrez can't end US men's boxing gold medal drought

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO — Richard Torrez Jr. stared up at 6-foot-7 Bakhodir Jalolov and didn't blink, courageously holding his own and staying on his feet against the most intimidating fighter in Tokyo.

Keyshawn Davis and Andy Cruz traded shots for three thrilling rounds, showing off some of the most polished boxing skills in the entire Olympics.

The final two Americans in the Tokyo field got agonizingly close to ending their team's 17-year men's gold medal drought Sunday, only to fall short against two of the best boxers who stepped into the Kokugikan Arena.

Torrez and Davis still leave Japan believing they've started a new era for the once-dominant U.S. team with its best Olympic showing in decades.

"We came in here and did some things that a lot of people probably thought we weren't going to do," super heavyweight Torrez said after his 5:0 loss to Jalolov in the final bout of the tournament.

"We're putting boxing back into the USA," he added. "We're giving it a surge again. I can't be more proud of my teammates. I do think we came out here and we fueled the amateur scene in the U.S."

The team coached by Billy Walsh is leaving Tokyo with four medals — the most won by the U.S. since 2000. They also reached three gold medal

bouts, more than any team since 1988.

Although they finished with three silvers, it was impossible to fault the efforts of Davis, Torrez and featherweight Duke Ragan against three elite opponents. International amateur success is a process that takes years, and Walsh's teams rarely get more than a few tournaments together before their top talents turn pro and it all starts over again.

"The guys on this team, they've been through a lot, me included," Torrez said. "We usually only stay together for a year until another team comes in and it changes. Because of COVID, we got to stay together for a whole other year, and I think that helped us in our Olympic run."

Tyrell Biggs and Riddick Bowe are the only other Americans to win medals at super heavyweight, and Torrez was a striking figure in the division because of his size. Although he is hardly small at 6-foot-2, Torrez was the tiniest boxer in the super heavyweight field, and he fights in a cagey crouch that makes him look even smaller against giants like Jalolov.

Jalolov was an enormous obstacle, both physically and mentally: The Uzbek knocked Torrez unconscious when they fought in Russia in 2019.

Torrez got off to an outstanding start in the Olympic rematch before he forgot his game plan and began leaning too far forward in a rough second round.

"It's one of those bittersweet moments, and I have to blame myself," the visibly heartbroken Torrez said.

"It's a big dude. He's a great competitor. Being in the ring with him, it's not fun. ... Ever since I was 8 years old, I remember watching the Olympics with my dad. I was there. It just didn't go my way."

Davis lost 4:1 in a close bout with Cruz, who claimed Cuba's fourth gold medal in Tokyo. The 3-0 professional who repeatedly said the Olympics would be "easy work" acknowledged he was only trying to motivate himself to gold.

Davis almost got there after sweeping the second round on all five scorecards. Cruz then swept the third and claimed gold.

"Leaving this tournament, I'm a completely different fighter," Davis said "I'm glad I got to experience this Olympics, and it's something I'll remember for the rest of my life. I feel like I'm starting my career all over again. I'm a brand-new fighter. I'm worth way more than I was before, and I just can't wait to do it again."

Indeed, Davis is headed back to his pro career with Olympic recognition that boosts a fighter's promotional value exponentially. Torrez is about to seize the same opportunity.

"The pro thing does look like it's going to be upcoming very soon," Torrez said.

The U.S. team was strong, but it didn't have the most impressive performance in Tokyo. Cuba claimed four golds with a trio of two-time champions, while Britain won six total medals to match Russia for the overall Olympic lead.

Jalolov, an 8-0 professional who trains in California, won the only medal for the vaunted Uzbek team, which topped the table in Rio de Janeiro and sent 11 fighters to Tokyo. While his teammates endured a disappointing series of defeats, Jalolov dominated every time he stepped into the Kokugikan ring, winning 5:0 in three bouts and earning a stoppage in the fourth.

Jalolov said he isn't in a rush to fight for a professional heavyweight title, even indicating he might fight in the world championships in Serbia this fall.

British middleweight Lauren Price and Irish lightweight Kellie Anne Harrington also claimed gold medals in the final session of the 16-day tournament.

Price succeeded two-time gold medalist Claressa Shields of the United States as the champion of the largest women's

w e i g h t H arrington followed in the footsteps of Katie Taylor of Ireland, who won the inaugural lightweight gold in London.

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## IOC gives itself more power to remove sports from Olympics

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO — The IOC gave itself more power Sunday to remove sports from the Olympic program.

The International Olympic Committee voted in the new powers amid prolonged issues with the leadership of weightlifting and boxing. Both sports already had their quota of athletes cut for the 2024 Paris Olympics and weightlifting could be dropped entirely.

The Olympic Charter was amended so the full IOC membership can remove a sport if its governing body does not comply with a decision made by the IOC executive board or if it "acts in a manner likely to tarnish the reputation of the Olympic movement."

The IOC widened its authority by adding a "but not limited to" clause that goes beyond the stated reasons for removing a sport.

The executive board, which is chaired by IOC President Thomas Bach, also got new powers to suspend a sport or event discipline from the Olympics if its governing body refuses to comply with a decision.

The need for new rules was presented to the membership by IOC vice president John Coates, who also leads the Olympic body's legal commission and is a close Bach ally.

"In the recent past, the IOC has been confronted with situations raising serious concerns regarding the governance of certain international federations," Coates said at the end-of-Games meeting.

Weightlifting is most at risk of being cut from the Paris Olympics because of long-term doping cases and governance issues, including financial corruption. The International Weightlifting Federation was led for two decades until last year by long-time former IOC member Tamás Aján. The governing body's problems were detailed in an investigative program by German broadcaster ARD.

Boxing at the Tokyo Games was taken out of the control of the

International Boxing Association two years ago after doubts about the integrity of bouts at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and IOC concerns about its presidential elections. The IOC will now look at boxing's performance at the Tokyo Olympics and AIBA's ongoing reforms under president Umar Kremlev before deciding whether to reinstate its official recognition.

Boxing and weightlifting are among 28 core sports locked into the Olympic program, while host cities can apply to add others that appeal to a domestic market. Tokyo added baseball, softball and karate to this year's Games, and also gave debuts to skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing, which chimed with the IOC's attempt to woo young viewers.

Breakdancing will debut in Paris while skateboarding, climbing and surfing will be retained.



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**Legals**

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For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, at Big Spring I.S.D., Administrative Offices, 708 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720, Phone Number (432) 264-3600.

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