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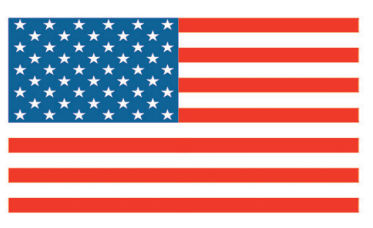
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**Announcements**

*Burger Benefit*  
 Sept. 11  
*Eagles Lodge*  
 To raise funds for  
*Krista Bounds funeral*  
 expenses

*Found object Art Show*  
 and Sale  
*Heritage Museum*  
 now through Oct. 28

*15th DAV 9/11*  
*Remembrance*  
*Ceremony*  
 4 p.m.

*Spring Creek*  
*Fellowship*

*Dove Hunt*  
 Sept. 17  
 Community invited to  
 honor veterans  
*First Methodist*  
*Church*

*Howard County Fair*  
 Sept. 17-19

Share your  
 community events &  
 news: e-mail editor@  
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**INDEX**

News ..... 1 & 3  
 Obituaries..... 2  
 Sports ..... 4  
 Comics ..... 8  
 Classifieds ..... 5-7



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 www.bigspringherald.com

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## K-9 unit on BSISD board agenda

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Herald Staff Writer

Big Spring ISD school board trustees will hear a report on a narcotics K-9 unit during its regular meeting Thursday.

The board will meet in the Board Room at Big Spring High School at 5:15 Thursday.

Following the opening prayer and pledge and a time for public comment, the board will conduct a special recognition before moving on to the report on the police dog narcotic unit. Although no more information is given on the subject in the meeting's agenda, specially trained dogs are often used to sniff out narcotics whose scent is undetectable to humans. As the measure is listed as a "report item", no action should be taken regarding it during the



meeting. During the Consent Agenda portion of the meeting, board members will consider approving board minutes from the Aug. 12 regular meeting, and the public hearing and special meeting held Aug. 30; and also the regular financial reports. A discussion item. Followed by an action item to adopt a resolution on the matter, is called to discuss renewal of Big Spring's "District of Innovation"

Plan. According to the Texas Education Agency's website, "District of Innovation" is a special designation given to districts that meet certain standards laid out in the Texas Education Code. The designation exempts these districts from certain portions of the TEC that conflict with their locally adopted Innovation Plan.

According to the TEA site, 916 of Texas' 1,247 public school districts are designated as Districts of Innovation.

Also on the agenda, the board will consider approval of expedited and general state waivers; employment recommendations, and personnel issues.

Superintendent Jay McWilliams will give his report, focusing on resignations and retirements, enrollment, and the district's response to and the status of COVID-19 districtwide.

## Toasty Tuesday scheduled for Amphitheater this week



Courtesy photo

This past week, Keep Big Spring Beautiful's Toasty Tuesday program fired back up in the region around Big Spring's YMCA. On Tuesday, 14 volunteer workers managed to fill 20 garbage bags with litter picked up in the area, beautifying the town for everyone to enjoy.

This evening, the clean up will continue, as Toasty Tuesday once more gets to work... this time at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater in Comanche Trail Park.

The group will gather at 6:30 p.m. at the amphitheater, and declutter its way toward U.S. Hwy. 87. Head on out and join them, or find a volunteer and thank them today!

## Board of Adjustments and Appeal to convene Wednesday inside City Council Chambers

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

The Big Spring Board of Adjustments and Appeal is set to have a regular meeting on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. inside the City Council Chambers. The community is encouraged to attend and take part in the meetings.

Once the meeting has been called to order there will be a moment allotted for public comment. Upon completion of public comment, the board members will move to discussion of new business. The first new business item is discussion and possible action concerning the adoption of the 2021 Property Maintenance Code.

Next on the agenda is discussion and possible action con-

cerning the adoption of the 2020 National Electrical Code. In addition, consideration will be given to the adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code.

The board members will hold discussion and possibly take action concerning the adoption of the 2021 ICC Codes including residential building, existing building, plumbing, fuel gas, swimming pool and spa, private sewage disposal, mechanical and energy conservation codes.

Before the meeting adjourns for the evening there will be an opportunity for board input.

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

## Sheriff provides info on no-permit firearms carry

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Herald Staff Writer

Texas is now the 21st American state to allow permitless carry of handguns.

The legislation, introduced as Texas House Bill 1927, passed by the legislature May 24 and signed by Governor Greg Abbott on June 16, went into effect Sept. 1.

"It basically changes it from where you don't have to go get a permit to carry a gun," said Howard County Sheriff

Stan Parker. "However, you have to be able to legally own a gun to carry. If you can't legally own a gun, this doesn't apply to you."

Parker said convicted felons, those charged with assault/family violence, as well as minors, are still restricted from carrying a firearm. Assault causing bodily injury, deadly conduct, terroristic threat, and disorderly conduct with a firearm convictions also bar those convicted from carrying handguns outside

their property or vehicle.

"To be able to legally own a handgun, you have to be 21, no felonies, no assault/family violence, no protective orders, and things like that," Sheriff Parker said.

Parker said the law allows both concealed and open carry of handguns.

"You can carry it concealed or you can carry it open," he said. "If it's carried

See **FIREARMS**, Page 3

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• The Cotton Boll Scramble will take place on Sept. 30 at the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Registration will be at 8 a.m. at G.C. Broughton Junior Ag Complex followed by Howard County Crop Tour. Lunch will be served at Noon and the Golf Scramble will begin at 1 p.m. Area cotton producers who attend the crop tour will receive free lunch and free golf. The Golf Scramble is sponsored by Expedition Royalty.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you. The meetings are starting back up Sept. 18. Kay Smith will be the featured presenter and be discussing how to mat and frame artwork. For more information, call 432-263-4155; Michelle Worthan at 325-227-3911; Kay Smith at 432-213-1153; or Ruby Bruns at 432-664-1943.

• Burger Benefit to help with funeral expenses for Krista Bounds. Donations will go to Rick and Shoni Morrow. The benefit will be held Sept. 11 beginning at 11 a.m. The benefit will take place at the Eagles Lodge, located at 703 W. 3rd. There will be food plates, an auction, and pool tournament. Volunteers, monetary donations, auction items and services are being accepted at Eagles Lodge.

• 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.

• The Howard County Fair has a beautiful quilt that will go to a lucky winner on the last day of the Fair, September 19, 2021. Made and donated by Lois Ellison, the quilt has a Texas theme. Tickets are \$1 each or 6/\$5 and may be purchased at the Fair or by calling Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674. Winner need not be present to claim prize.

• The Howard County Fair is looking for all creative people to enter items in our Creative Arts categories. Entries will be taken on Tuesday, September 14 at the Fair Barn from 8 am-6 pm. Categories include Hobbies and Crafts, Handwork and Needlework, Sewing, Baked Goods, and Canned Goods. The special category for this year is candlesticks and candleholders. For more information please contact Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674.

• 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

• 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 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

• O'Neal-Kunkle, Chapter #47 of the Disabled American Vets (D.A.V.), meets the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 2204 Runnels Street. For more information, please contact Mike Tarpley at 432-556-2227.

• Home Hospice is looking for volunteers (18+) and junior volunteers (9-16 years old). Applications can be picked up at the Home Hospice office, located at 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite A between 8 a.m and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Adult volunteers will need to complete a training and must be able to pass a background check. Volunteer duties will include home visits; junior volunteers will be helping with office work, community events and holiday activities. More information can be obtained by calling 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon the first Monday of every month at Howard College in the Cactus Room. Our vision is that every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the most beautiful city in Texas. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Tammy at 432-935-0057.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies, as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

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# News Briefs

## Police: Four shot dead in Houston house that was set ablaze

HOUSTON (AP) — Firefighters found two adults and two children dead of apparent gunshot wounds after extinguishing a blaze at a home in Houston on Sunday.

There weren't any signs of forced entry at the house in the southwest of the city and the fire, which was reported shortly after 8 a.m., may have been an attempt to destroy evidence or disguise something at the scene, Police Chief Troy Finner said during a news conference.

The dead were adults in their 50s and children who were apparently in the 10 to 13 age range, Finner said. He didn't identify the dead, saying police hadn't yet notified their family.

He said investigators believe the shootings were an act of domestic violence, but he didn't say why they think that.

"It's real sad," he said. "When it's innocent kids, it's even more upsetting."

## Portland to vote on Texas trade ban over abortion law

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The City Council in Portland, Oregon will vote Wednesday on an emergency resolution that would ban the purchase of goods and services from Texas in response to a new law there prohibiting most abortions.

The resolution if passed would also bar city employee travel to the state. Mayor Ted Wheeler's office said Friday in a news release that the resolution would be in effect until Texas either withdraws the abortion law or it gets overturned in court.

"The Portland City Council stands unified in its belief that all people should have the right to choose if and when they carry a pregnancy and that the decisions they make are complex, difficult, and unique to their circumstances," the news release said.

The new Texas law prohibits abortions once medical professionals can detect cardiac activity, usually around six weeks — before some people know they're pregnant. Courts have blocked other states from imposing similar restrictions, but Texas' law differs significantly because it leaves enforcement up to private citizens through lawsuits instead of criminal prosecutors.

The Supreme Court's decision this past week not to interfere with the Texas law has provoked outrage from liberals and cheers from many conservatives.

"We urge other leaders and elected bodies around the nation to join us in condemning the actions of the Texas state government," the Portland mayor's office said.

## US Navy IDs 5 killed in helicopter crash off California

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The U.S. Navy on Sunday identified five sailors who died when a helicopter crashed in the Pacific Ocean off of Southern California.

They were Lt. Bradley A. Foster, 29, a pilot from Oakhurst, California; Lt. Paul R. Fridley, 28, a pilot from Annandale, Virginia; Naval Air Crewman (Helicopter) 2nd Class James P. Buriak, 31, from Salem, Virginia; Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sarah F. Burns, 31, from Severna Park, Maryland and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Bailey J. Tucker, 21, from St. Louis, Missouri.

# FIREARMS

Continued from Page 1

open, it must be secured in a holster. It can't be just hanging out somewhere. It has to be in a holster, secured. If it's concealed, you can carry it however you want, as long as it can't be seen."

Parker said that, although the new law gives citizens the right to carry handguns without a permit, there are still restrictions on where those weapons may be taken.

"People need to really learn those and understand those," Parker said. "I believe carry permits opened up a little bit where you can go on certain pieces of property of schools, where open carry cannot. And hospitals. So be sure you read — emphasize they need to read the guidelines on this. It's not like if you have a carry permit. The rules are totally different, and the places that are prohibited are totally different. I think that's where we're going to see some problems."

Parker said the law also allows privately owned businesses to restrict or prohibit the carrying of firearms on their premises by posting signs approved by the State — designated 30.06 or 30.07 — declaring the premises to be gun-free.

"They can restrict it. I believe they have to post the sign to restrict it, and that signage is different

now," he said. "Basically it says constitutional carry cannot carry a gun, but they have to specifically post the 30.06 and 30.07 signs for carry permits."

As a law enforcement officer, Parker said he has no issue with the new law.

"Since the beginning of time, we've had people — law-abiding citizens — carrying guns to protect themselves. They just don't announce what they're doing. This gives them a little more legal right to do that. I don't think we're going to see much difference in it, to be honest with you. But again, I want to emphasize that people need to read the laws on where you can and where you can't carry a gun. They need to understand the difference, because that's going to be the kicker right there. That's where people are going to get in trouble."

Places where it is prohibited to carry a firearm include schools, including K-12 and colleges, school activities, and school buses; polling places, courts or offices utilized by the court; racetracks; airports past security; bars (establishments that make 51 percent or more of their income from the sale or service of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption); sporting events (high school, college or professional); correctional facilities; civil commitment facilities; hospitals; nursing homes; mental hospitals; amusement parks (75-plus acres, in large counties, and open at least 120 days a year); and government open meetings if notice is provided.

Carrying into prohibited places can result in either a Class A misdemeanor or a third-degree felony charge.

Permitless handgun carry is also prohibited if you are intoxicated, unless you are on your own property, in your vehicle, or on/in another person's property or vehicle with their consent; on a school/college campus; or on Federal property.

Big Spring Mayor Shannon Thomason issued a statement — published in full in Friday's Herald — on the new law.

"I am a great supporter of the right to keep and bear arms and I think this has been long overdue in our great state," Thomason said in the statement. "That being said, we all must remember the 'great responsibility.' When we as law abiding gun owners choose to carry in defense of ourselves and our loved ones, we have the power of life and death at our fingertips. We therefore have a responsibility to exercise that right safely so as not to needlessly endanger ourselves or those around us."

Thomason's statement also urged those wishing to carry firearms to get trained, get a license to carry, and to educate themselves about the laws regarding firearms in Texas.

The full adopted text of HB 1927 can be read at <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB01927F.pdf> and <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB01927F.pdf>

## 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.
- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.
- Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email [francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org](mailto:francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org), or call 432-268-3003.
- GriefShare is a biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support); there is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held three times per year on Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the GriefShare Ministry of TBC Facebook page. You can also call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

## FRIDAY

- Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Fridays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.
- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

## SATURDAY

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

# Support Groups

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

## SUNDAY

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

## MONDAY

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

## TUESDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. 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 Burchard 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

Submit your Support Group information to be included or updated. Email information to [editor@Bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@Bigspringherald.com) or call 432-263-7331.

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# Forsan Buffs football team keeps momentum going by beating Post 22 to 6



Courtesy Photo

The Forsan Buffs traveled to Post this past Friday night, Sept 3, in hopes of making their record two and 0 on the season. Forsan did just that as they played a complete game from start to finish. Major Stockton led the way for this Buffs team once again. As they do, the quarterback went 6 for 10 for 76 yards and a touchdown through the air, then added another 46 yards on 12 carries and 1 touchdown on the night. Nate Hernandez lead the team in rushing as he had 11 carries for 75 yards and 1 touchdown. Once again, the Buffs' defense took control of this game as they limited Post to only six points on the night. Forsan is now 2-0 on the young season and has looked great in both games. The Buffs will be looking to make it three wins in a row this Friday, Sept 10, when they go on the road again to face Stanton. The game will start at 7:30.

## NFL 2021: AFC clearly the deeper, more powerful conference

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

It's almost as if the NFL is emulating college football heading into the 2021 season. Yes, the Buccaneers are the defending champions and the Packers deservedly have title aspirations.

The rest of the NFC, well, it looks more like Conference USA in comparison to the AFC, the professional version of the SEC. It is that lopsided.

Consider the likes of the Chiefs, Bills, Ravens, Browns, Steelers, Titans, Colts, Dolphins, Patriots and Chargers. All have their supporters as Super Bowl contenders, with Kansas City, Buffalo, Baltimore and Cleveland ahead of a packed field.

On the other side, it's difficult to take anyone seriously in the NFC East or North (aside from Green Bay). While the NFC West is strong and will be tightly contested, all four members — Rams, Seahawks, 49ers, Cardinals — have major questions the Bucs, who brought back virtually everyone — a rare feat for a Super Bowl winner, even one with Tom Brady at quarterback — and Packers already pretty much have answered.

"You want the road to the Super Bowl, the road to where we want to get to, to be as hard as possible," says Titans safety Kevin Byard. "I think

that's something we can be proud of, and it also keeps us on our toes to let us know, 'Hey there's a lot of competition out there for the AFC championship or just the Super Bowl. We have to go out here every single day and work as hard as we can and not take any days for granted. Because at the end of the day ... it's a crowded race, it's kind of like a horse race ... You got to keep going on.

"It's not one of those deals where you can get ahead early and think you can slack off. No, every single day we have to put the work in and not necessarily really get caught up on who's 5-0 early in the year, just keeping our heads down working and we'll see where we're at at the end of the year."

Adds Browns safety John Johnson III, who jumped conferences this season, signing with Cleveland as a free agent after four years with the Rams: "You got some big-time contenders — even just in this division alone. And then you look at Buffalo and Kansas City and you never know who else in that division with Kansas City can come alive. Denver can come alive, so I think it is pretty competitive, and it's a different game."

A different game in every way, because the continuing COVID-19 pandemic likely will be a competitive factor as the NFL plays a 17-game regular season for the first time.

Vaccinated players have a distinct freedom advantage in how they can conduct their lives — at least for now — compared to the unvaccinated. More than 93% of the players have gotten the vaccine, but it doesn't take much to cause an outbreak, as the Titans and Cowboys witnessed during the preseason.

"There's people's livelihoods at stake in terms of people's jobs," Bills coach Sean McDermott said late last month; Buffalo has had one of the lowest vaccination rates of the 32 teams. "Being able to count on people is important, so when you're going through a week — if they were a real work — and having the players out that we've had, that makes it harder to win games that way."

Injuries, of course, will also be a key factor; they always are. One of the most damaging last season was the severe ankle injury for Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott. He's been hampered by shoulder issues this summer, so the spotlight Thursday night will be firmly on him as the Cowboys kick off the schedule at Tampa Bay.

Oh, that 44-year-old guy named Brady, that 44-year-old guy named Brady might grab some attention, too.

Seven head coaches debut, with Urban Meyer in Jacksonville the headliner following his success — and wanderlust — in the college game.

Four of what figure to be the worst teams in the league have new men in charge: Nick Sirianni with the Eagles, Robert Saleh with the Jets, Dan Campbell with the Lions, and the Texans' David Culley, the only African American to get one of the seven openings. Arthur Smith takes over the Falcons, Brandon Staley the Chargers.

Meyer's excitement about the upcoming opener is palpable.

"This is right near the top because I don't remember ever coming out of the chute where the talent is equated across the board and you have a young quarterback," he says. "So, yeah, it is a lot going on but I like where we are at."

The league plans to return to London for games a year after moving those back to U.S. home stadiums. Those matches have Jets vs. Falcons and Dolphins vs. Jaguars in October.

One more very noticeable — and notable — scheduling item: The Super Bowl in Los Angeles will be played later than ever, Feb. 13. That's smack in the middle of the Winter Olympics in Beijing.

By then, the AFC will have sorted out its impressive collection of contenders. Don't be surprised if the conference winner finds Brady and the Bucs or Aaron Rodgers and the Packers as the opponent.

## Titans' outbreak nears end, other NFL teams deal with COVID

By TERESA M. WALKER AP

Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans' COVID-19 outbreak is nearing an end even with two starting offensive linemen still on the reserve list.

Not everyone around the NFL may be as healthy to kick off this season with COVID-19 proving to be an issue hovering over another season.

"Everybody, whether it's the league, whether it's your family, my family, we all have to just understand that we're going to deal with some things," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said Monday. "We're going to deal with positive test results from vaccinated people. We'll follow the protocols how we have to and try to be as safe as we possibly can."

Vrabel, who said last spring he was vaccinated, was the first to test positive Aug. 22 in an outbreak that reached at least 14, including 10 players. Vrabel is optimistic that both center Ben Jones and right guard Nate Davis will be back soon enough to practice before the Titans host Arizona in the season opener Sunday.

Other NFL teams may be without starters for their openers.

Miami put its presumed starting left tackle Austin Jackson and backup tight end Adam Shaheen on the COVID-19 reserve list Monday ahead of Sunday's opener at New England. Carolina starting right guard John Miller also went on the reserve list Monday and will miss the Panthers' home opener against the Jets.

Miller will be out 10 days, which indicates under league rules he was unvaccinated and tested positive. Carolina coach Matt Rhule said last week only two Panthers' players had not been vaccinated.

The Jets are waiting to see if wide receiver Jamison Crowder will be available after going on the reserve list last Friday after testing positive. Vaccinated, Crowder needs to test negative 24 hours apart twice under NFL protocols.

Dallas likely will be without four-time Pro Bowl right guard Zack Martin for its opener Thursday night at Tampa Bay.

All-Pro safety Tyrann Mathieu, who is vaccinated, remained out Monday after his positive test for COVID-19 as the two-time defending AFC champi-

ons began preparing Monday for their season opener against Cleveland.

Ryan Tannehill was just starting to practice with AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year Derrick Henry, seven-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Julio Jones and Pro Bowl receiver A.J. Brown when the Titans quarterback was put on the reserve list Aug. 26. He was activated Saturday and was on the field Monday.

Vrabel said Tannehill will have to build a relationship with Jones, acquired by trade in June, on the field. Both have met extensively, the Titans have talked about it and now must finetune in practice for the opener.

Asked if he talked to his players about staying safe before having a three-day weekend off, Vrabel said the Titans always try to be smart about what they do.

"Judging from the games that I watched, I didn't see that COVID was much of a concern for anybody, but we have to be smart in the decisions that we make," Vrabel said. "Whether it is who we hang out with, what we do, and I think that they are very conscious of that."

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PEGGY CHRISTIAN, Deceased, were issued on August 24, 2021, in Cause No. P-15197, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: BILLY W. CHRISTIAN.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **BILLY W. CHRISTIAN**  
2808 Sherman Rd  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

**DATED** the 31 day of August, 2021.

/s/Joshua Hamby  
Joshua Hamby  
Attorney for  
BILLY W. CHRISTIAN  
State Bar No.: 24034471  
107 W. 4th St.  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
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**Autumn is a prime time to tend lawns and gardens**

Autumn is gardening season. That statement may not seem right to those who think of the spring as the peak time to care for lawns and gardens. However, autumn is an ideal time to get into the garden and ensure that flowers, trees and garden beds will over-winter successfully.

A number of things make autumn a prime gardening season. The cooler days of fall enable gardeners to spend ample time

outdoors without the threat of blazing heat. In addition, soil harbors a lot of residual warmth in autumn.

Also, the colder temperatures haven't yet arrived in autumn, nor have the leaves completely fallen, making fall a prime time to assess what's already in the landscape, what needs pruning back and where to address planting for next year.

Gardening enthusiasts can focus their attention on these areas this fall.

• Pamper perennials. As annuals and perennials start to fall back, mark the spots where

perennials are located so they can be easily identified later on. This way, when planning spots for spring bulbs or other spring layouts for next year, perennials won't be overlooked or covered over.

• Prune shrubs. Look at shrubs and trees and cut out dead or diseased wood.

• Clean up borders. Weed and tidy up borders and lawn edging.

• Install pavers or rock wall. Embrace the cooler temperatures to work on labor-intensive projects, such as putting in a garden bed, retaining wall or walkway.

• Remove spent summer veggies. Take out vegetable garden plants that have already bloomed and borne fruit. Tidy up vegetable gardens and start to sow cooler weather plants, such as onions, garlic, beans, and sweet peas.

• Rake and compost. Rake the leaves and gather grass clippings to add to the compost pile.

• Plant spring bulbs. Get tulips and other spring bulbs ready for planting so they'll burst with color next year.

• Dig up herbs. Relocate herbs like parsley or basil to indoor gardens. Otherwise, strip all leaves and freeze for storage during winter.

• Consider mums. Chrysanthemum plants are perennials. While they look beautiful in pots, if planted, maintained and winterized, they can bloom every fall.

• Fertilize the lawn. Fertilizing in autumn helps ensure grass will stay healthy throughout the winter.

• Add mulch and compost to the garden. Replenish spent soil with mulch and compost so garden beds will be revitalized for spring planting.

• Prune hedges. Tidy up hedges, as they won't be growing much more this year.

• Clean and store equipment. Clean,

sharpen and oil all equipment, storing lawn and garden tools properly so they are ready for spring and not lying out all winter.

Autumn may not seem like gardening season, but there are plenty of lawn and garden tasks to tend to during this time of year.



By Steve Becker

**Sound technique**

North dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ 10 3  
♥ Q 10 9 5 3  
♦ A K J 6  
♣ 10 3

**WEST**  
♠ K Q 7 4  
♥ —  
♦ 10 7 5 3 2  
♣ A 8 6 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 9 8 6 2  
♥ K 7  
♦ 8  
♣ Q J 9 5 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 5  
♥ A J 8 6 4 2  
♦ Q 9 4  
♣ K 7

The bidding:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 1♥ Pass  
3♥ Pass 4♥  
Opening lead — king of spades.

make a play from dummy, you should assess your overall prospects. You conclude that it's possible to lose four tricks — a spade, a heart and two clubs. Granted, you'd have to be unlucky to make less than ten tricks, but since it's possible, you start looking for a way to prevent this from happening.

You begin by allowing West's king to hold the first trick. This assures that East will never gain the lead in spades, a move that can do you no harm and might eventually do you some good.

West continues with a spade to your ace, whereupon you cross to dummy with a diamond and lead the queen of hearts, on which East produces the seven. The question now is whether it's better to finesse or play the ace.

Normally, when missing only the K-x of a suit, you should play the ace. Mathematically, the two missing cards will be divided 1-1 about 52 percent of the time.

But the correct play in the present case is the deuce. The reason is a very good one: If the finesse wins, you are sure to score 11 tricks, while if it loses, you can't make less than 10. But if you don't finesse, you might — and in the actual deal would — go down one.

Bridge is in large part a game of rules, but it also offers great opportunity for innovation. While general rules might suffice in most situations, a player must also be willing to abandon a rule when common sense dictates that he do so.

For example, assume you're declarer at four hearts on this deal and West leads the king of spades. How would you proceed?

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Table with 30 columns representing different TV channels and their programming schedules for Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Annie's Mailbox

Solve Your Own Relationship Issues

Dear Annie: My wife "Monica" has been having a mostly texting affair with "Mike" for almost two years. There are emails where they address each other with, "Hey, babe." It is disgusting. I accidentally discovered this years ago, and again recently after I thought they had not talked for years.

Upon this discovery, I texted Mike angrily -- he is not someone I actually know, but I took his number from my wife's phone -- and my wife claims that it's "over." I've heard this before.

My wife asked me not

to contact Mike's wife because "they would probably divorce if she found out." Why would I care about that? My wife thinks Mike is "a friend" and wouldn't want to see him hurt. I am sure he's not "a friend" and obviously wants something more.

Why should I honor my wife's wishes here? Doesn't Mike's wife deserve to know that he's in love with another woman? (His words, expressed in an email.)

Why do I have to be the only person who knows about this situation? I feel like someone else knowing -- Mike's wife, or maybe my wife's mom -- might shock either of these

two people into realizing that they are risking too much by carrying on this way. We have kids, as do Mike and his wife.

Why shouldn't I tell Mike's wife? Doesn't she have a right to know about her husband's infidelity? -- Let the Truth Out

Dear Let the Truth Out: Yes, Mike's wife has a right to know about her husband's infidelity -- if, in fact, he has been unfaithful to her. Mike has to be the one to tell her about his feelings for your wife instead of you. Rather than focusing on someone else's relationship, continue to focus on your own.

Seek marriage counseling with your wife. Try to understand why she needs an emotional connection with another man via texting instead of you. Maybe you will learn something. I know you are hurting about the texts you found -- and I am sorry for that -- but hurting Mike's wife will not make it better. Instead, focus on repairing your relationship. Let Mike figure out his own stuff. When we lie to the ones we love, we only hurt ourselves, so my guess is that Mike is already suffering. Best of luck to you and your wife.

Dear Annie: Your answer to the parent of

the 4-year-old who is not interested in books and can't sit still left out a possibility. Mom needs to talk to her pediatrician about the possibility that her son has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD.

The description would make me, a retired pediatrician, very suspicious. If the pediatrician agrees that the boy has ADHD, the pediatrician can help for now with some behavioral management suggestions, but if the child starts having behavioral issues in school -- often in first grade -- medication may be very helpful and save the kid's educational progress. --

Retired Pediatrician

Dear Pediatrician: Thank you for your letter and insights. I always love to hear from professionals in their area of expertise. That is a wonderful possibility that I missed, and I thank you for pointing it out. Hopefully, it will help others who are struggling with similar situations.

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WORDS

- ACCRUE
BASE
BONUS
COMPENSATION
DEBT
DEDUCTIONS
DEPOSIT
EARNINGS
ELIGIBLE
EMPLOYER
EXEMPT
EXPENSES
GROSS
INCOME
LEDGER
LEGAL
LIABILITY
NET
RATE
TAXES
TRANSACTIONS
WAGES
WEEKLY
WITHHOLDING

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

