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 OCTOBER 15, 2021

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Upcoming Events

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Howard County Library, 500 S. Main Street, has re-opened. Hours: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday - Friday

Oct. 16 United Way Clay Shoot

Alive After 5 SMMG/OBGYN 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Oct. 20

Fundraiser Event for Amanda White Delgado Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. at the Howard Co. Fairgrounds

Thank a Veteran Day Oct. 15

BSISD students start the year off well on benchmark tests

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Herald Staff Writer

At their meeting Thursday evening, Big Spring ISD school board members heard reports on students' progress so far during the 2021-22 school year, and on the 2020-21 Annual Bilingual/English as a Second Language Program Review, as well as the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System results from 2021.

Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Assessment Dr. Raemi Thompson delivered the report on student progress. "We don't want to over-test kids, but we do want



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

October is National Principal Recognition Month, and the BSISD School Board recognized the district's principals and assistant principals Monday evening at its regular monthly meeting.

to track their progress and track their growth. We're going to rate teachers...70 percent of their score is growing

kids. Are they doing better after being a year in a classroom with you?" Dr. Thompson said.

Thompsons said the start-of-year test is used as a benchmark to measure how much students learn and improve their skills over the course of the school year.

"What you're seeing is September data," she said. "They staggered those, so fifth-grade reading just took theirs this week, because they've already taken fifth-grade math, and the next week fifth grade science, and then the next week fifth-grade reading. But what I wanted to talk about today was beginning-of-year data. I took all of them, all the templates that we have given, even though they're not

See **BSISD**, Page 3

Crossroads Farmer's Market cooking up a Fajita competition

Cooking to feature high school competitors

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Herald Staff Writer

The Crossroads Farmer's Market is back this weekend!

The event, which last graced the G.C. Broughton Ag Complex on Sept. 11, will return to the Howard College facility this weekend from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It's all of our tried and true vendors. It's everyone you've grown to love, our vendors out there," said event organizer Jessica Kennemur. "There's always something new. We're going to have a photo booth area."

Probably the biggest new event this time involves the culinary skills of some competitive high schoolers.

"We're going to have a huge fajita cookoff," Kennemur said. "It's a few of our area high schoolers. They

have signed up to basically compete in a fajita cookoff. There's eight of them - there's four teams of two. They're all enthusiastic about cooking and are excited to do the competition. We will have public tastings for donations."

Kennemur said the event is sponsored locally by the K/C Cattle Company, who is also providing the steak for the savory treats the students will be grilling up in hopes of winning cash prizes and a trophy.

The Fajita Showdown will feature the judges tasting at 12 noon, public tasting at 12:30 p.m., and the awards ceremony at 1 p.m.

In addition to the contest, Kennemur said the event will feature several new vendors.

"They're all local people. It's all

See **COOK**, Page 3

Event filled weekend for Howard County

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Whoever says there is nothing to do in Big Spring just might be missing a few of the promotions taking place around town. This coming weekend, beginning Friday, Howard County residents will have several options to choose from, whether they are looking for a date night or to make memories with the family, or to support a good cause.

Life Church will be kicking off their Family Revival Weekend as they welcome Jubilee Gang. The three day event will begin this evening at 6 p.m. at Life Church, located at 1004 Johnson Street.

"This is an opportunity for the entire family to worship together, have some fun and get connected to a church family," Manny Negron, Life Church Associate Pastor said.

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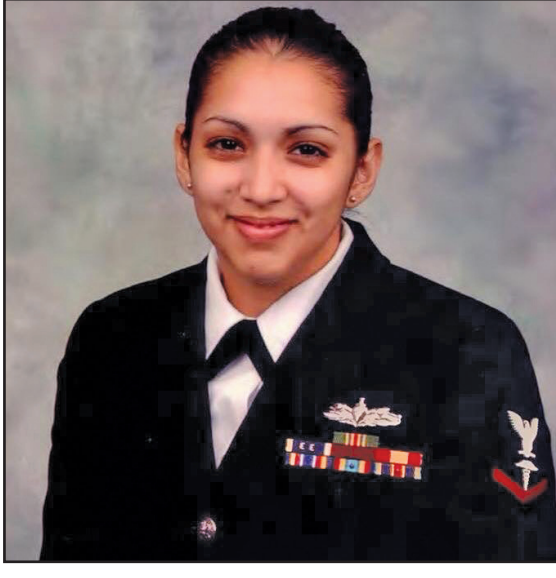
Courtesy image/KBest Media

"WHEREAS, the City of Big Spring, in recognition of the courage, honor, devotion and sacrifice of our service men and women, hereby establish the 15th day of every month as "Thank a Veteran Day", and this day shall forever stand as a day to honor those that have selflessly served each citizen of this Great Nation."

The Big Spring Herald stands in support of all Veterans. The above is part of a proclamation presented by the Big Spring City Council in honor of everyone that has served our Country. Please take a moment today to thank a Veteran. This proclamation was presented by Mayor Larry McLellan on behalf of the Big Spring City Council on Tuesday, April 10th, 2018. God Bless our veterans!

If you know a veteran we should recognize, please send the information to editor@bigspringherald.com.

Thank a Veteran Day



By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

To serve your country; to make a positive change and a decision to take a step towards making her parents proud. Valerie Gross, local Big Spring Veteran, signed up to serve in the United States Navy and was a hospital corpsman.



Gross served as an E4 from 2003 to 2009. During her time in the service, she was stationed on the USS Frank Cable out of Guam and Naval Medical Center San Diego (Balboa). In addition she had the opportunity to traveled to Hawaii, Hong Kong, Singapore, Okinawa, Philippines,

See **DAY**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Opal Tanner

Opal Tanner, 98, of Malakoff was called to her eternal resting place on Oct. 11, 2021. She entered this world on July 17, 1923, in Hosston, La., born to Jesse Hill Sr. and Ophelia Hill.



Opal graduated from Kilgore College and North Texas State University, Denton, Texas. She received her post graduate education from University of Texas at Austin, Abilene Christian University, and University of Texas Permian Basin, Odessa, Texas. She was a middle school and high school teacher for 35 years. She taught in Calallen, Texas, LaGrange, Texas, Bardwell, Texas, Malakoff, Texas, Beeville, Texas, and Big Spring, Texas.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Jesse Hill Sr., Ophelia Hill; husband, C.W. (Snooks) Tanner; sister, Amber H. Barber; brother, J.T. Hill Jr.; great-grandchild Sebastian Karacic-Garrett.

She is survived by her son, Tommy Tanner and wife, Linda, of Malakoff; daughter, Mary Garrett and husband, Don, of Malakoff; daughter, Judy Bullard and husband, Graham, of Ft. Worth; grandchildren, Jenny and Shawn Hood, John Tanner, Joel Tanner, Richard and Deniza Garrett, Robert and Lexi Garrett; great-grandchildren, Ellie Hood, Lukas Karacic-Garrett; sister-in-law, Martha Ramsey Hill; brother-in-law, William (Bill) Green; sister-in-law, Wanda Tanner; sister-in-law, Loretta Petty.

Visitation for Mrs. Tanner will be Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021, from 1-2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Malakoff, Texas. Service will be at 2 p.m. with Bro. Casey Perry officiating.

Serving as pallbearers are Richard Garrett, John Tanner, Joel Tanner, Robert Garrett, Shawn Hood, Jeff Reed.

Interment will follow in the Malakoff Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family would like memorial donations be sent to: Cal Farley's boys ranch, St. Jude's Hospital, or Faith in Action.

Under the direction of Huckabee-Tomlinson Funeral Home.

Paid Obituary

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of E. 6th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **PUBLIC SERVICE** was reported in the 1000 block of E. 14th Street. No transport was required.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Take Note

- Senior Citizens Dances are held every other Friday at 7 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center. The next dance is Oct. 15. Music will be Western style. Entry fee is \$5 and includes a snack. For more information contact Cotton Mize at 270-5060.

- Submit your Halloween Safe Stops to editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331 to place your Trunk or Treat on the list.

- Powderpuff game will take place Oct. 15 at Memorial Stadium. Gates will open at 6 p.m. and Seniors v. Freshmen will take place at 7 p.m. The Championship will be at 9 p.m. This event serves as the Junior Class fundraiser.

- Fall festival will be hosted by Big Spring Intermediate on Oct. 23 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. A haunted house will take place from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. The events will take place at BSI located at 2000 South Goliad Street.

- District 4 Large/Bulk Item pickup will take place Oct. 20. Those residents in District 4 wishing to have items picked up will need to schedule a pick up by Oct. 18 at 5 p.m. More information can be found by visiting mybigspring.com. To schedule a pick up call 432-264-2501.

- Community blood drive is set to take place Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the City Council Chambers. Chambers are located at 3047 E. 4th Street. To schedule an appointment e-mail sking@mybigspring.com or call 432-264-2347. Walk in appointments are welcome, but appointments are strongly encouraged.

- City of Big Spring offices remain open by appointment and electronic means only. These offices include: City Hall (432-264-2401); Finance Department (432-264-2513); Public Works Department (432-264-2501); Human Resources Department (432-264-2346); Code Enforcement/Permits (432-264-2504); Water Utilities (432-264-2392); Community Services Office; Convention and Visitors Bureau (432-263-8235); facilities (432-264-2322); Cemetery (432-264-2323); Police Department (432-264-2550); Fire Department (432-264-2304); Municipal Court (432-264-2530)

Citizens who have an appointment in a City office

will be asked to wear a face covering and present valid identification upon arrival. The identification can be as simple as a utility bill. The City of Big Spring Water Office is open to the public; no appointment is necessary. The Big Spring Senior Center remains closed to congregate meals, but those who wish to pick up a to go order can call 432-267-1628, for more information. Rentable facilities including the Dora Roberts Community Center will remain open, however, users are requested to maintain social distancing and other COVID-19 precautions. For any questions or concerns please contact the City Manager's Office at 432-264-2401.

- 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. 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. The Big Spring Art Association will meet this Saturday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to Noon at Brushworks Studio, 2106 Scurry. The program will be on watercolors given by Frizi Herron of Odessa.

- The Big Spring Symphony is celebrating 40 years. Shows remaining this season include: Dec. 8 "Holiday Spectacular"; Jan. 22: "The Music of Queen"; Feb. 19 "Winter Wonderland"; and Spring Pops Concert on April 23. The remaining concerts will all take place at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased in season passes or per concert. For updates and general information, follow The Big Spring Symphony Facebook page or go to www.bigspringssymphony.org.

- 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.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **CHARLES WILLIAM POOL III**, 24, of 109 E. 16th Street, was arrested on a charge of fail to identify giving false/fictitious info.

- **ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ JR.**, 24, of 1411 Jefferson Street in Plainview, was arrested on a warrant from other agency.

- **COLTIN JACE NOBLES**, 19, of 425 Hwy 856 of Rayville, was arrested on a charge of driving under influence of alcohol minor.

- **ANDREW SLOAN ROBINSON**, 26, of 16307 N. County Road 15, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication and criminal mischief between \$2,500 and \$30K.

- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1400 block of E. 17th Street.

- **UNWANTED SUBJECT** was reported in the 1500 block of E. 17th Street.

- **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the 1100 block of N. Lamesa Highway.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 3300 block of E. I-20.

- **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the area of CR 15/CR 52.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 2100 block of W. I-20.

- **WELFARE CONCERN** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson Road.

- **FOUND PROPERTY** was reported in the 600 block of E. 6th Street.

- **WELFARE CONCERN** was reported in the 800 block of S. Aylesford Street.

- **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 700 block of W. FM 700.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 115 inmates at the time of this report.

- **ALEXIS JADE BLAND**, 24, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of FTA/Burglary of a building.

- **DONALD GENE KOERBER III**, 34, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of parole violation.

- **COLTIN JACE NOBLES**, 19, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol.

- **CHARLES WILLIAM POOL III**, 24, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of fail to identify giving false/fictitious information.

- **ANDREW SLOAN ROBINSON**, 26, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of public intoxication and criminal mischief between \$2,500 and \$30K.

- **ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ JR.**, 24, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of parole violation.

A small prayer by K. Rae
*We are a work in progress, Lord,
may we trust in Your love.
Amen*

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10am - 6pm

Sunday, October 17, 2021

11am - 6pm

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2021**

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Take Note (cont.)

- 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 call 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.

- 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.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1

cumulative. Some grade levels have given two... High School and Junior High have tried to give them on three-week rotations, so they've given more than one...and I compared this."

Dr. Thompson said she's compared benchmark tests from the beginning of this school year with old STAAR tests taken last school year. While overall fewer students are scoring in the "Approaches Grade Level" range on the tests this year, students are often scoring higher in the "Meets Grade Level" and "Masters Grade Level" ranges, she said.

The reports on the district's bilingual and ESL programs, and the TELPAS results, were given by Bilingual/ESL Coordinator Rosie Lopez.

Lopez reported that the Texas Education Agency has changed rules regarding the program, changing the classifications for students from EL (English Learner) or Non-EL to "Emergent Bilingual".

"This year, we did not have any students that reclassified, which means exited the program," she said. "The reason is, TEA has set a new criteria. Now, the students have to rate 'Advanced - High' in all four domains, and our students are having difficulty passing the speaking part. The have to speak into a microphone, and a lot of them are not speaking enough. Last year we had one that met the classification, and in 2019 we had 42, because in '20, that's when TEA changed the criteria, 'Advanced - High' in all four domains, plus they have to pass the STA-

AR Reading. So they're making it difficult for our students to exit, so they have to be really prepared to get out of the program."

At the start of the meeting, Superintendent Jay McWilliams recognized new Assistant Superintendent Jeff Perez, who will officially start work Nov. 8. McWilliams also recognized the district's principals and assistant principals, as October is National Principal Recognition Month.

The board unanimously approved minutes from the Sept. 9 board meeting and monthly financial reports in the Consent Agenda portion of the meeting before moving on to the meeting's Action Items.

The board approved by a 5-0 vote a legal services agreement with the Underwood Law Firm of Austin to determine whether the BSISD requires redistricting based on data from the 2020 Census. If the firm finds that population levels in the school district's school board's single-member districts has shifted significantly, they will order redistricting.

The board renominated current Howard County Appraisal District Board Chairman Craig Wyrick and board member Mike Dawson for another term on the board.

The board also unanimously accepted two donations: One anonymous donation to Big Spring Intermediate School for \$5,000 to be spent as the school sees fit; and \$3,400 to the Special Ed department from Mars Energy Company for specialized swings.

In his regular report, McWilliams announced one resignation from Big Spring Intermediate School; as well as a district-wide enrollment

increase of 16 students since the last school board meeting.

"Yes, we're still down as far as this time last year," he said. "We started the year way behind, and we're slowly creeping up. Again, our high school is hanging right around 1,100. This is a re-alignment year. In October we have a snapshot day, and then we'll be in new districts for UIL band, all athletics...and that will be announced in February and they base it on this."

McWilliams gave a brief update on COVID-19 in the district.

"All I can say is, every time I turn it in to Craig Ferguson, it's been really, really good," he said. "The last time I turned one in, we had three staff members out of 600-plus, and one student. That was it. I'm talking about active." McWilliams gave dis-

trict updates, announcing the Area-level band competition at Wylie Monday, a Kindergarten through second-grade UIL meet Nov. 9, and District-level UIL meets hosted in Big Spring in December.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Juan Bermea, 79, died Wednesday. Visitation will be 9 AM until 9 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral Service will be 10 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel

Sylvia Torres, 58, died Thursday. Memorial service will be 10 AM Saturday October 23 at Myers & Smith Chapel

Cynthia Ainsworth died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home

Dorothy Johnson, 74, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Kevin Ramirez, 49, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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COOK

Continued from Page 1

small businesses from around our area," she said. "We just kind of wanted to start this market to kind of remind people that a lot of the things they buy out of town or online are right here in their own community.

Future farmers markets are planned

through November, and possibly into the beginning of December, Kennemur added.

"It's great holiday shopping. It's lots of arts and crafts and things that people love. Christmas gifts," she said.

Products available at the market will include fresh produce, fresh eggs, salsa and jelly, baked breads and desserts, seasonal items, hand-crafted wood and leather, and food prepared by vendors.

The event will also include activities for younger patrons, including a bounce house.

"It's very family friendly and it's very fur-baby friendly," Kennemur said. "Just use leashes, of course."

More information is available on the market's Facebook group. Search Facebook for "Crossroads Farmers Market Howard County Texas."

EVENTS

Continued from Page 1

According to Negron, each night's presentation will be about an hour and a half and include light shows, games, special effects and puppet shows. The Family Revival weekend comes off the recent Youth Revival weekend, which featured speak guest Taylor Wilson.

Oktoberfest will be returning to Hotel Settles on Saturday, offering an opportunity for the community to visit with local vendors and hear local entertainers. Live music will be provided by Cory Michael and Eddie Austin. Shopping will take place from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. with a cornhole tournament beginning at 6 p.m. There will be entertainment for the kids, including mini golf, jump house, games and contests.

While enjoying the weekend, there will be three opportunities

to help support local community agencies and local families in a time of need.

The United Way of Howard County will be hosting their first Clay Shoot at Moss Creek Ranch. The shoot is set to begin at 9 a.m. Saturday.

In addition, there will be two opportunities to help families in the community. Saturday morning at 11 a.m. the benefit for Amanda White Delgado and family at the Howard County Fairground. The event will include a cornhole tournament that begins at 3 p.m. In addition food plates will be available and other opportunities to donate to the family. There is also a benefit for the McIntosh Family beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday until sold out, at the ALSA Car Club clubhouse, at 803 N. Lamesa Highway. There will be food plates for purchase and opportunities to donate. Both fundraisers will help these families with unexpected expenses due to life altering events.

DAY

Continued from Page 1

Korea and other places.

"When 9/11 hit I felt obligated to do something about it; wanted to serve and do something to make my parents proud," Gross said. "I wanted to do something better in my life I felt that there is no better way than to serve my country."

While she was serving her country and doing her duty, Gross found growth in herself and discovered an inner strength that she attributes to the time served in the military.

"As a female you have to hold your own. You are looked at as weak which means you have to work twice as hard as the men," she said. "It really helped me develop a better work ethic, made me take a sense of ownership and always giving a 120%"

She continued, "It gave me that extra push that whether I was doing something at work, in the community or just day to day, I was going to give it my all and make sure that I could be proud of the end result."

While serving her country was the right

path, and a rewarding path, for Gross, it is one to not be taken lately. For those who are considering stepping into military service make sure the reasons are from a pure heart.

"If you are ready for a life changing decision the military is a great way to learn discipline, improve work ethic and provides an opportunity for personal development and growth," she said. "The opportunities are endless; it's not a one way task, but plenty of opportunities to grow in and out of the military while you are serving. It's a great path to becoming a well rounded individual."

Serving as a hospital corpsman Gross received knowledge and training that she wouldn't have been able to get as a civilian.

Gross not only enjoyed her time in the service, but attributes it to the growth she has seen in herself. She is currently - for the past 7 years - working at the West Texas VA Medical Center, as the My

Healthy Vet Coordinator.



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Praise & Worship Guide

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

ADVENTIST

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
4319 Parkway
267-5381

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

LIVING WATERS
4th & Lancaster
267-7971

TEMPLO BELEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD
2205 Goliad 267-2111

BAPTIST

AIRPORT BAPTIST
1208 Frazier St.
263-7451

BAPTIST TEMPLE
400 11th Place
267-8287

BIRDWELL LANE BAPTIST
1512 Birdwell Lane
267-7157

CALVARY BAPTIST
1200 W. 4th.
263-4242

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

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

COLLEGE BAPTIST
1105 Birdwell Ln.
267-7429

CRESTVIEW BAPTIST
Gatesville St. 213-4177

EAST SIDE BAPTIST
1108 E. 6th
267-1915

FIRST BAPTIST
705 W. FM 700
267-8223

FIRST BAPTIST OF KNOTT
Knott

FORSAN BAPTIST CHURCH
201 W. Main
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Mail resume- PO Box 1413 Guymon, OK email- gigotag5@gmail.com fax- 580-338-1420. Applications available @ 105 Jerry St. off HWY 54 East, Guymon.

Concrete Services Corporation is looking for workers experienced in carpentry, and concrete forming ect. The position is labor intensive. Steel Toe boots are required. Hard hat and safety glasses are provided. Hourly rate of \$17. Call (918)455-8500

Help Wanted

The Town of Goodwell is hiring for a Full-Time and Part-Time Maintenance position. Duties include:

- Maintain and repair the water and sewer system • Maintain system maps
- Read, replace and install water meters and service connections
- Supervise water testing and testing schedules • Mowing and upkeep on all town properties
- Maintain and service town equipment • Animal Control • Manage other maintenance employees
- Maintain and repair streets Other requirements • Must be self-motivated • Must be organized
- Must be able to work with and manage others • Must be able to pass drug testing
- Must have a valid driver's license
- Will be required to obtain an Oklahoma class C water and waste water license after hire
- Equipment operation experience is preferred • Will be expected to perform some duties on weekends
- Mechanical experience preferred • Water and waste water experience preferred

The maintenance supervisor duties include but are not limited to those listed above. In addition, the board of trustees may assign or delegate other duties to this position. To obtain salary information, a detailed job description, and an application please contact Goodwell Town Hall at 580-349-2566, or apply in person at 104 S Main in Goodwell.

We are looking for an ambitious, creative, self-starter, to fill a staff writer role at the Guymon Daily Herald.

Do you have a heart to share others' stories and the desire to be involved in your community? We want to hear from you!

This individual would provide news coverage, build pages, and update social media accounts/website.

Indesign and Photoshop are a plus, but will train the right person. We are looking for a creative, outgoing individual familiar with social media. Must be a self-starter, and be able to meet deadlines.

Individual will be responsible for several areas of coverage, from feature stories to hard news. Must have a flexible schedule.

Email Resume to:
editor@guymondailyherald.com
or
publisher@guymondailyherald.com

We are looking for an outgoing, ambitious individual to fill a role at the Guymon Daily Herald!

Are you eager to increase your income? Do you like to socialize and meet new people? We want to hear from you!

Responsibilities and Duties:
This individual will be responsible for contacting businesses and selling newspaper advertising.

Qualifications and Skills:
Knowledge of Microsoft programs is preferred, but will train the right person.

Organization, creativity and strong people skills is a plus. Must have reliable transportation and a valid driver's license.

Email resume to
publisher@guymondailyherald.com

Help Wanted



Now hiring for a part-time night delivery driver. Must have a clean driving record and be able to lift 50 pounds. Company vehicle provided.

Contact Jessica at 806-273-5611 or email editor@borgernewsherald.com for more information or to apply.

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Legals

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR AN ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE

In accordance with Title 37, Section 522 and Title 37A, Section 2-141 Mayra A. Hernandez 13253 Polo Way DBA Taqueria El Gallo de Jalisco a/an Individual hereby publishes notice of her intention to apply within sixty days from this date to the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission for a Beer and Wine License under authority of and in compliance with the said Act: That she intend(s), if granted such license to operate as a Beer and Wine establishment with business premises located at 204 SW Second Street in Guymon, Texas, Oklahoma under the business name of Taqueria El Gallo de Jalisco. Dated this October day of 5th, 2021.

Signature of applicant(s): if partnership, all partners must sign. If corporation, an officer of the corporation must sign. If limited liability company, a manager must sign. If tribe, a tribal member must sign.

Mayra Hernandez
/s/ Mayra Hernandez

County of Texas, State of Oklahoma Before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared: Mayra Hernandez to me known to be the person(s) described in and who executed the foregoing application and acknowledged that she executed the same as her free act and deed.

/s/ Tracey W Henry 09/30/2023
Notary Public Commission Expires #0075

Legals

BEFORE THE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

APPLICATION OF CENTURYTEL BROADBAND SERVICES, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE FACILITIES-BASED AND RESOLD LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND FACILITIES-BASED AND RESOLD INTRASTATE INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA)
) CAUSE NO. PUD
) 202100152

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC has filed an Application pursuant to OAC 165:55 and OAC 165:56 seeking a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity authorizing it to provide resold and facilities-based local exchange and intrastate interexchange telecommunications services within the State of Oklahoma.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person desiring to file an objection to the Application must do so within thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Notice. Objections must be filed with the Court Clerk at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Room 130, Jim Thorpe Office Building, 2101 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105, and served on counsel for Applicant and on any intervenors.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, if no objections are timely filed, the Commission, without hearing, shall issue such orders and grant such relief, if any, as it deems fair, just, reasonable, and lawful in the premises, whether or not specifically requested in the Application. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that additional information concerning this Cause may be obtained by contacting J. David Jacobson, Jacobson & Laasch, counsel for CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC, 212 East Second Street, Edmond, Oklahoma 73034, (405) 341-3303, or the Office of the General Counsel, Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Room 400, 2101 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105, (405) 521-2255.

DISTRICT COURT OF TEXAS COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN STEVE GIBSON, Deceased. No. PB-2021-10

NOTICE OF HEARING RETURN OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Megan Rae Bratcher, the duly appointed and qualified Personal Representative of the above estate, has returned and presented for confirmation and filed in said Court, the Return of the sale of the following real property of said estate, to-wit:

Lots Twenty-three (23) and Twenty-four (24), Block Thirty-eight (38), Stonebreaker-Zea Addition to the City of Guymon, Texas County, Oklahoma,

to Mackie-Kelly LLC, for the sum of \$45,000.00, with reference to the Return for further particulars; and that the 26th day of October, 2021, at 8:00 A.M., at the County Courthouse in Guymon, Oklahoma has been duly appointed by said Court for hearing said Return at which time any person interested in said estate may appear and file exceptions in writing to said Return and contest the same.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of October, 2021.

/s/ A. Clark Jett
Associate District Judge

DAVID K. PETTY
Attorney for the Personal Representative
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	?	?

What would you bid now with each of the following five hands?

- ♠ Q84 ♥ K942 ♦ K75 ♣ 963
- ♠ 963 ♥ K942 ♦ K75 ♣ Q84
- ♠ 62 ♥ K942 ♦ 862 ♣ KQ96
- ♠ 743 ♥ K942 ♦ A3 ♣ Q974
- ♠ Q105 ♥ KQ8 ♦ QJ74 ♣ 872

1. **Three hearts.** First, let's consider the meaning of partner's three-club bid. He presumably is trying to get to game (or possibly a slam), has some length in clubs and wants to know whether you have a minimum or maximum for your raise to two hearts. The normal range of that bid is six to 10 points, and it's now up to you to indicate how good or bad your raise was.

Here, with eight high-card points but no distributional values, you are in the middle of the range. The deciding factor is that you have no help for partner in clubs, so you sign off by retreating to three hearts.

2. **Four hearts.** The difference between this hand and the preceding one is that here you have the queen of clubs instead of the queen of spades. The club queen is almost certain to be useful to partner, and you might miss a sound game if you bid only three hearts and partner passes.

3. **Four clubs.** You have the wherewithal for a jump to four hearts, but it is better to pinpoint your values by raising clubs. This might enable partner to bid a slam with a hand such as: ♠ 5 ♥ AQ10753 ♦ AK ♣ AJ84

4. **Three diamonds.** All three of your high cards are "working," so your hand is now worth far more than it was when you initially bid two hearts.

As before, the queen of clubs has grown from a card of indeterminate value to a card that's worth three or four points, so you can now count your hand as being worth about 12 points. To let partner know that you have accepted his invitation to game and could be interested in even more, you cuebid the ace of diamonds on the way to four hearts. You hope this will encourage partner get to slam if he is so inclined.

5. **Three notrump.** Here you accept partner's invitation by bidding three notrump, indicating a balanced maximum with only three-card trump support and scattered values. Partner can, of course, retreat to four hearts if he prefers a suit contract, but at the same time your bid suggests the possibility that notrump might be better.

Tomorrow: Perspicacity.
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Reflections: Where are the birds

I have often risen before dawn to sit outside under the stars listening as the birds announce the coming day. It starts with a tweet or a chirp and then, as a crimson glow streaks the gray sky, their songs rise to a chorus as the sun breaks above the horizon. But lately, there have been no songs. The pre-dawn darkness is shrouded in an eerie silence. The first shadows stretch across the landscape where there is no movement. The birds are absent. Where have they gone?



BILL
TINSLEY

Probably it is a matter of seasonal migration. But this is the first year I remember watching the sun rise without a single bird to signal the day. There are no Sparrows, no Juncos, no Finches, no Blackbirds, no Geese. Where are they? According to a study out of Cornell University, birds are, in fact, disappearing. Since 1970 the bird population in North America has plummeted by 29%, from

10 billion to 7.1 billion. Almost 3 billion birds are gone. Scientists point toward climate change and the destruction of natural habitats as the primary reasons for the decline. Imagine a world without birds to greet the sunrise, geese to fill the skies, trees without songs. Imagine the natural world replaced with concrete, steel, plastic and virtual reality.

Years ago, I visited the abandoned coal mines near Birmingham, England, an area known as the "Black Country" due to its early industrial pollution. We toured the caverns where men labored to extract the coal. As we descended the guide pointed out the cage where they placed a canary to detect the build-up of dangerous gases. As long as the air was good, the canary sang. But when the canary stopped singing, and eventually dropped dead, the miners knew it was imperative they evacuate the shafts. Perhaps the birds are sending us a warning. Perhaps like the canary in the coal mine, the silence of their song signals the imperative that we take climate change seriously.

Birds play an important role in the Bible's redemption story. When Noah emerged from the catastrophic flood he sent out a dove that returned with an olive leaf, the first sign the waters were receding, (Genesis 8). When Elijah hid from Ahab by the brook Cherith, God sent ravens to feed him bread and flesh in the morning and evening, (1 Kings 17). When Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the bodily form of a dove, (Luke 3:22). Jesus urged us to consider the birds as an example of God's provision and care.

Our planet is a marvelous, mysterious and miraculous place. There is nothing else like it in the known universe. We share our space with the myriad of other living species. At the dawn of creation God gave his first commandment, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth," (Genesis 1:28).

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

CHURCH

Continued from Page 1

more information about First Christian Church or to see the online service, join Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/group/fccbigspring

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

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

Sunday morning Social Time - pre-Worship Service - starts approximate-

ly 9:30 a.m. in the Sitting Room by the office. Donuts, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Hot Tea and Bottled Water Worship Service starts at 10:50 a.m. Hope to see you there!

A new brick program has been started. Those who would like to know more information about the thankful brick program can contact Pastor Brian at 469-978-7547.

Life Church

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. for an experience in the Word and in Worship.

All families are invited to join us

this weekend, Oct. 15-17 for our Family Revival. Jubilee Gang will be with us the entire weekend ministering to the entire family.

Our revival services will be at 6 p.m. Friday & Saturday night. Then at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning.

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

YOUTH of Life will meet on Wednesdays from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on the Life Church Campus. For more information about YOUTH of Life follow their Facebook page <https://www.face->

book.com/youthofLifeChurch

Life Kids will have their classes this Sunday. Our Nursery is available for those ages newborn to 2.

Our Toddlers class serve those ages 3 & 4. Our Elementary class serves those ages 5-8. Our Pre-Teen class serves those ages 9-12.

Visit and follow the Life Kids Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Life-Kids-Life-Church-Big-Spring-TX-1654730487977488/> for more information.

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

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God Is Love

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:16
I must admit that in my own experience, this is a strange way to describe God because I was raised under a very strict, harsh, and unforgiving religion, full of rules and regulations.



TOM SLOAN

God is love!? What!?!
But I didn't learn this in my religion. I didn't learn that we are supposed to know and believe the love that God has to us. I learned that He is wrath. I learned that God is up there, itching to put a knot on our heads when we step out of line, make a mistake or commit some sin.
But then I saw Jesus in God's Word. Yes, I see Jesus, healing the sick, feeding the multitudes, raising the dead to life, loving and eating with sinners whom He forgave, and I say - God is love!
I see that Jesus died, was buried and arose again from the dead on the third day for our sins, and

I say - God is love! I see that Jesus, by His own death on the cross, became the end of the Law for righteousness to all who believe, and I say - God is love! I see that, for by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast, and I say - God is love! I see that God made Jesus to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him, and I say - God is love! There is nothing good we can do to gain God's favor, and nothing bad to lose it, and I say - God is love! All is grace, because all is by grace, and I say - God is love! Nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, and I say - God is love!

If God isn't love, then I don't have a prayer, because I am too sinful for anything else. I'm too sinful for religious rules and regulations. I'm too sinful to be holy by means of the deeds of the Law or good works.

I'm too sinful, because my sins are many. But then I hear Jesus say things like: "your sins, which are many, are forgiven", and I say...
...God is love.

Celebrate

This word has a special meaning to me in my childhood. It meant we had a family gathering to commemorate a joyous event. Sometimes it was a birth of a child. Sometimes it was an anniversary, or rodeo parade, or just an "A" on report cards. That didn't happen very much with me. I passed the classes mainly with "B's" and "C's" but nothing lower. I enjoyed friends too much to study that hard. Probably not a good confession to make as a teacher, but my professor in college said I was well-rounded. So I guess it wasn't such a bad idea.



LILLIAN BOHANNON

But the celebrations we had as children were always with relatives and friends. We didn't invite our enemies, except, maybe to church. That is always acceptable. And at these celebrations, there was always plenty of food to go around. Dinner or supper was like that as well. There was always enough food to feed the hungry crowds at our house.

I think as older adults, we don't celebrate as much. We can't or won't spend the money like our parents did. But there are other things we can do. We celebrate our grandchildren, and greatgrands. Some one said if we could skip the kids and go straight to the grand kids, that would be even better. But it doesn't work that way. When we celebrated kids first, it makes celebrating grandchildren so much more special.

So during this ongoing crises we can't seem to get through, don't forget to celebrate everything with joy. God's Word calls it like it is. Paul said, "Rejoice and again I say rejoice." What do we have to rejoice about?

Here's three reasons:

1. God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, still in control.
2. Forgiveness, peace, love of friends and family.
3. Heaven awaits those who know Reason #1 So CELEBRATE!!!

Something to think about ...

A Hungry World!

"As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.'"



RICHARD SCHNEGERGER

Jesus replied, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.' 'We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,' they answered.

'Bring them here to me,' he said." ~ Matthew 14:15-18 NIV

We live in a very hungry world! The needs surround us. Every day we hear of violence, poverty, disease, and disaster on the news. That is not to mention the problems in our own family and in our lives. It is easy to become overwhelmed with the hurt and hunger we encounter. As a follower of Jesus, I

often find myself turning to Him and saying, "Jesus, send these people to a place where they can find food. Help them, Lord!" But, in that moment I find that He turns right back to me and says, "You feed them!"

It is interesting to me that Jesus didn't conjure food out of thin air.

It was only when the disciples turned over what little they had that the need was met.

When they let it all go and placed it in Jesus' hands everyone was fed!

I believe the Lord wants us to be a part of His mission and people are not going to be fed unless we participate with Him in the feeding.

People will not be touched, loved, healed, disciplined unless we partner with God in the process!

The Lord tells us, "Stop waiting for food to fall from the sky and share what you have. Stop waiting for a miracle and be part of a miracle instead."

We often say, "But Lord, I don't have much to offer. How is my

little bit going to make any difference in the midst of all this hurt and hunger?"

There's not enough to go around. I don't have the time. I don't have the energy. I don't have the resources." You won't get off that easy with Jesus.

He simply says, "Bring what you have to me! Place your little bit in My hands and see what happens!"

Jesus then takes what we have. He blesses it. He breaks it. He gives it. And, wonder of wonders, it is enough! No, it is more than enough! Matthew says, "All ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, 12 baskets full." When we trust Him and let go, we find that there is more than enough to go around.

And the amazing thing is that when we feed others through Christ, we are filled too!

May that be a lesson for us today. May we be a part of the miracle God wants to perform in our very hungry world.

Biden to meet with Pope Francis to discuss COVID-19, climate

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is set to meet Pope Francis when he visits the Vatican later this month as part of a five-day swing through Italy and the U.K. for global economic and climate change meetings.

Biden plans to discuss the coronavirus pandemic, the climate crisis and poverty during his meeting with the pope, according to the White House. The meeting will take place on Oct. 29, and Biden will then attend a two-day summit of G-20 leaders in Rome, before heading to Glasgow, Scotland for the U.N. climate conference known as COP26.

Biden, who is Roman Catholic, often speaks of his faith in public and attends Mass every weekend. But his political views, including his support for gay marriage and abortion rights, have at times put him at odds with Catholic doctrine and brought controversy and criticism from some leaders of the Catholic church.

Earlier this year, a number of Catholic bishops proposed drafting a document that would rebuke Biden and other Catholic politicians for receiving Communion despite their support for abortion rights. The issue of Communion is expected to be discussed at the bishops' national meeting in mid-November, but any document that emerges is not expected to mention Biden or other politicians by name.

Biden has met with Pope Francis three times before — first, when Francis was inaugurated as pope, in 2013, later during the pope's 2015 visit to the U.S., and again in 2016, when Biden visited the Vatican for a conference on regenerative medicine, where he spoke on cancer prevention.

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Week 7 Breakdown: Buffs look to be stay perfect, and Bulldogs look to bounce back

By **DUSTIN POPE**
Herald Sports Writer

We have another loaded Friday night of football action coming at you this Friday. The Steers enjoy a much-needed bye week to get some rest and try to have everyone healthy. Forsan tries to keep its unbeaten streak alive as they will travel to Anson. The Bulldogs look to rebound back and get their first district win, as they will go to Stanton to take on the Stanton Buffaloes.

The Forsan Buffaloes are perfect so far this season. They are 6-0 and have been playing great football. This week, they have another district game in front of them, as they will be on the road to take on the Anson Tigers. The Tigers come into this game with a 3-3 record on their season. Anson opened up the season with a 24 to 6 win over Winters. They followed that up with a loss to Coleman by a final score of 33-6. They then lost again to Dublin 21-14. The Tigers blew out the Hamlin Pied Pipers 54-7. They then got blown out by Albany 48-2. Last week they had their first district game against Stamford, a game of which they won 41-27. The Tigers have both a decent running game and a good, pass game. They are about a 50/50 split on both run and pass. On the season Anson has 733 total yards rushing and has passed for 588 yards on the year. The Buffaloes have been prevalent all season long as they are coming off of their first district win of the season as they beat the Colorado City Wolves 27-7. The win pushed them to a perfect 6-0 on the season. Forsan has been outstanding on both sides of the ball. They use the run game to put pressure on the opposing defense. So far in the season, the buffs have rushed the ball for 1702 yards. Chris Mendez leads the team with 545 yards on 91 carries and he has six touchdowns in the year. Second, on the team is their dual-threat quarterback, Major Stockton. He has carried the ball 64 times for 479 yards and has 12 touchdowns in the season. Nate Hernandez has had 77 carries for 383 and five touchdowns. While they rely on the rushing game to move the ball and control the clock, the Buffs can also do damage through the air. Major Stockton has 492 yards through the air and four touchdowns. Joshua Cervantes leads the team in receiving yards with nine receptions for 195 yards and two Tds. Cayden Morgan is second on the team with ten receptions for 133 yards. Brandon Valdez rounds out the top three with six catches for 127 yards and one touchdown. Not only has this team been powerful when they have the ball, this defense has been lights out all season long. They have merely given up 61 points all season long, and this is week seven. The defence is led by Cayden Morgan, who has an amazing 73 total tackles in the year. Nate Hernandez is second

on the squad with 39. Kevin Kligora has also had a great season for the buffs as he has been a key player on both sides of the ball. This Buffaloes team is loaded and is a special group of players.

This is the first time since 1998 that the Forsan buffaloes have been 6-0. The Students from Forsan came out with a pretty cool list of things that happened the last time the buffs were 6-0: 1: No one from the 2021 Buffs teams was even born. 2:The quarterback of the team was Cade Park, brother of coach Dave Park. 3: Google was founded. 3:No iPhones. 4: Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin, and Deion Sanders all played for the Cowboys. 5:Coach Steve Park was coaching and teaching at Forsan and he is still there. On a personal note, that is also the year I graduated, so that was a long time ago. What this team is doing is something special. The way coach Phillips has these boys playing is remarkable. Let us hope they keep this streak rolling as they will travel to Anson this Friday Night. They have set kickoff for 7:30 P.M.

The Coahoma Bulldogs are 2-4 on the season and are coming off a loss to the Idalou Wildcats. It has been a bit of an up and down season for the young Bulldogs. They have played some good football. I think they have had just a few bad breaks here and there.

This week they will take on the Stanton Buffaloes. The Buffaloes are entering this matchup also with a record of 2-4. Stanton is 0-1 in district play, so somebody will get their first district win this Friday night. Stanton opened up the season with a win over Water Valley 21-7. They then lost three straight, starting with Merkel with a score of 19-0. Then they lost to Forsan 45-7, and they lost their third straight against Sanderson 31-7. They then got on the right track with a big win over San Angelo Texas Leadership 46-13. Then finally last week they lost to Roosevelt

54-2. With both teams having their struggles this season, this should be a good game for one of these teams to get a win under their belt.

This will be a good game for the Coahoma Bulldogs. I think they will come out and show that Bulldogs spirit we all know and love. This team can play with anyone in the state as they showed by their first-half performance last week against the top-ranked Idalou Wildcats. Coahoma loves to pound the ball and control the clock. They rely massively on running this season. They rushed for 1525 yards and 14 touchdowns. Bulldogs are led by Brysen Kerby, who has 138 carries for 848 yards and five touchdowns. Second, on the team is Isaiah Eleda has 30 carries for 320 yards and five touchdowns. Billy Bailey leads the team in passing yards as he is the starting quarterback. Bailey is 37 of 68 for 616 yards and six touchdowns.

The Coahoma Bulldog team has played well and I think they get the victory this Friday night. They will hold the game in Stanton and kickoff will be at 7:30 P.M.

Both of our local teams that are in action this week will be on the road, so please have safe travels while you are on the road to support your local team. I will have all the scores from this Friday's action in the Saturday's paper and will also update the website.

Dustin is the sports writer for the Big Spring Herald. To contact him e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com



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EXPLAINER: What exactly is a check-swing?

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — It's always been one of the most murky areas in baseball: What exactly constitutes a check-swing?

Suffice to say, a lot of people were taking a swing at that one Thursday night after San Francisco's Wilmer Flores was ruled out on precisely that kind of call, ending the Giants' 2-1 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers in the deciding Game 5 of their NL Division Series.

A hotly disputed call, too.

So how far does a big league hitter have to go with his swing in order for a pitch to be called a strike? Is it when he "breaks his wrists" trying to hold up? Or when his bat crosses the plate? Or when he appears to be trying to hit the ball?

Don't bother looking for it in the Official Baseball Rules: Amazingly, in the nearly 200 pages that govern Major League Baseball, there's no mention of how to decide.

Officially, it's purely an umpire's judgment.

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