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# BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY EDITION,  
DECEMBER 31, 2020

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VOLUME 116, NUMBER 87      COPYRIGHT 2020      75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION



**Upcoming Events**

**Howard County Commissioners Meeting was rescheduled for January 4 at 3:30 p.m. County Courthouse**

**City offices available by appointment or electronic communication only**

**Silver Wings Ball Jan. 30, 2021 The Club at Silver Hills 5:30 p.m. cocktails 6:45 p.m. dinner, dancing, auction**

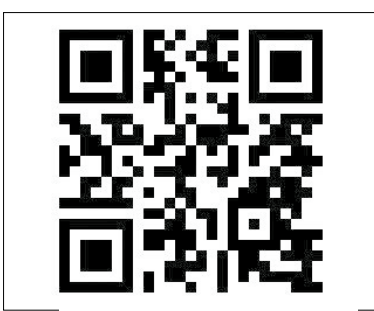
**City, County, and other local businesses will be closed in recognition of New Years Day Friday, Jan. 1**



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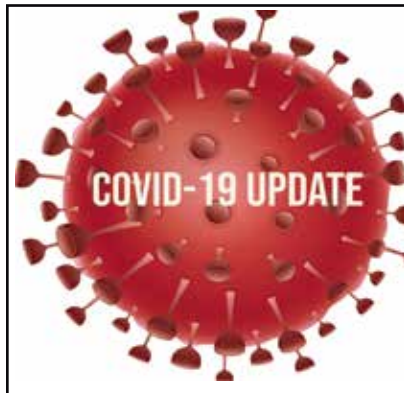
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## New Year holiday closures across Howard County

**Herald Staff Report**  
2020 has drawn to an end, and 2021 is ready to roll in. While the community celebrated the Christmas holiday, just last week, once again City and County offices will once again be closing in recognition of the New Years holiday. Local banks and some businesses will also be closing in recognition of the holiday, many have their business times and adjustments posted on their Facebook pages or website. Emergency services (Police, Fire, and EMS) will continue normal operations during the holiday. The Emergency Utilities

Department will also be available and can be reached by calling 432-264-2392. Anyone with questions can contact the Public Works office at 264-2501. Thank you for your cooperation and have a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday. In addition Howard County offices will be closed for the holiday as well. The emergency services will still run as usual. The Big Spring Herald office will be recognizing the holiday by closing on Friday, Jan. 2 – and resume business hours on Monday, See **CLOSE**, Page 3



**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Scenic Mountain Medical Center has reported:  
• 15 Covid-19 positive patients  
• 2 in ICU & 1 vents

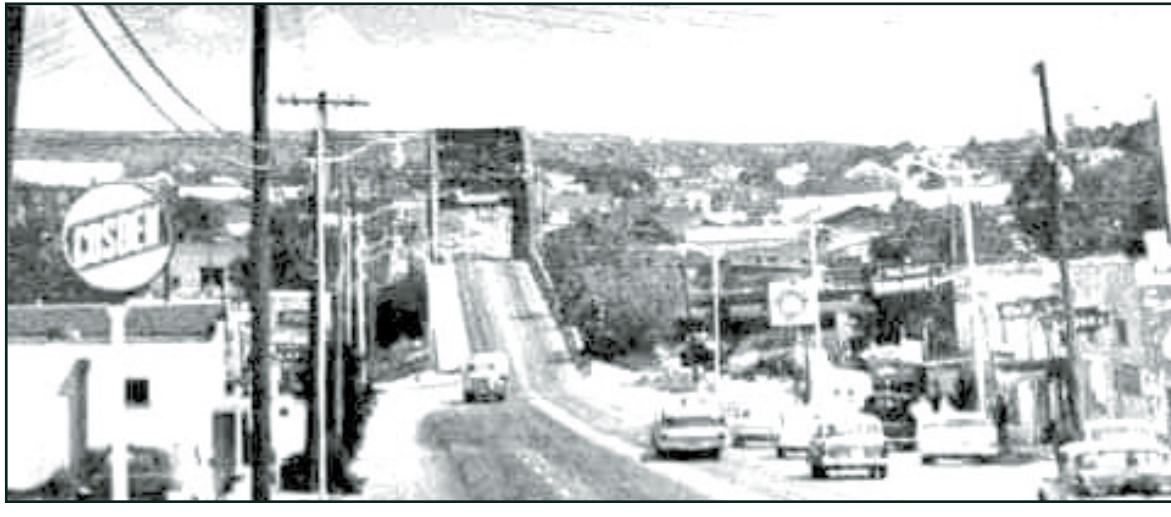
SMMG & SMMC Testing through 12/29:  
• 2478 tests  
• 656 positives for 26.5% positivity rate

For the month of December, 542 patients have tested of which 146 were positive for a rate of 27.0% positivity. 1 tests are pending.

Howard County has reported as of 12/30:  
• 2,500 positive cases  
• 63 Covid-19 fatalities  
• 3456 recoveries  
• 389 active cases  
1,408 probable cases

\*SMMC provided numbers for in-house patients/ SMMG testing since the onset of Covid-19; info obtained from Texas Health Department website

## El Northside De Big Spring Keeping history alive one story at a time



**Pictured above is the cover image for the El Northside De Big Spring Facebook Page. The pictures shows a place in Big Spring that allows you to see the Northside and the history that has been contained through business, people and in the community.**

**By AMANDA DUFORAT**  
Managing Editor  
Preserving history can be done in many ways, and for the past two years, one local resident - Raul Marquez - has begun to utilize social media to help preserve the history of those with ties to the Northside community. Marquez began the El North-

side De Big Spring Texas Facebook page as a way to inform, connect and embrace a community around history which helped form their foundation. "It started very simple ... sometimes you think you have an idea and all of a sudden it comes to your mind, but it doesn't. God gives it to

you and tells you what to do, Raul Marquez said. "One day God told me to start this for the community." At the time, Marquez wasn't sure where to start, but he kept his heart, his mind and his eyes open for some sign of direction. One day, during his day to day, he saw a photograph of the

*Courtesy photo*

Northside from the 50s and that picture can be seen when you first arrive to the El Northside De Big Spring Texas Facebook Page. "I selected that picture because you can see the Northside. It's the best picture I have found of us looking into the old bridge and seeing all the business to the side. You can picture where you are at that corner. That corner is still there. The businesses may not be there, but that See **NORTH**, Page 3

## Safety first when heading out for New Years

**By AMANDA DUFORAT**  
Managing Editor  
A New Year is arriving and while social distancing is still highly encouraged, there will be those who will be out on the road this holiday. In an effort to reduce the amount of accidents that occur According to statistics, in 2019 the State of Texas alone saw 24,617 DUI crashes. Crashes which involved alcohol impaired driving accidents included motor vehicle collisions, property damage, and fatalities. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics, nationally there are 300,000 incidents per day linked to drinking and driving. "Drinking and driving is a choice. While many are not getting behind the wheel with the intention of hurting someone on their way to the next destination, the fact of the matter is some-



one could get hurt, someone could get killed, and someone's life could forever be altered," Ashley Teel, recent accident victim, said. "Teel and her children, along with her fiance at the time, were hit head on by a drunk driver about a month and a half ago. The driver had just recently left his home and was headed to a bar when he collided with Teel's vehicle as they were heading home. The children ended up with seatbelt burns and minor injuries, while Teel had to have surgery to repair her shattered arm. Her fiance ended up with a traumatic brain injury and minor injuries on the outside. Once an alcoholic drink is consumed it can take the body one to two hours to process a drink. Keeping with that process, for every drink consumed one should wait an hour before driving. However, even though consumption has stopped alcohol levels can continue

to rise over the next few hours while the body processes the alcohol. "Drinking and Driving is not only about you but others on the road around you. You may know the path you are going to travel, but you never know something unexpected will cross that path or change up your direction needing to be traveled.." Teel said. "Life changes in a matter of seconds." Drunk driving accidents statistically tend to increase around the holidays, especially on New Years Eve. Drinking and driving related accidents can change the lives of those who choose to get behind the wheel intoxicated and their families, and possibly other families. One person's choice can have a ripple effect that may not fully be understood. "Do not be the reason peoples lives change forever just because of the decision you make to get behind the wheel," Teel said. A DWI or DUI could end up costing See **SAFE**, Page 3

**Shannon Clinic Big Spring**  
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## Obituaries

## Dio Valcee Cox

Dio Valcee Cox, 83, of Big Spring, passed away Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020, in a local hospital. A private graveside is planned at this time. A memorial service is planned for July 22, 2021, on Valcee's birthday. Those wishing to pay their respects may go by Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home to sign a guestbook.

He was born July 22, 1937, in Olney, Texas to Ira Luther Cox and Thelma Loraine Parmley Cox. His father, Ira, preceded him in death in June 1937. His mother, later named Thelma Showalter, taught at various elementary schools throughout West Texas. The day after high school graduation, he joined the United States Airforce where he repaired and maintained radio and radar communications equipment for the 686th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron in Roswell, New Mexico. Nearly four years later, he pursued a Bachelor of Science in Business at Texas Tech University where he met his wife, Bettie Crawford. They married Aug. 17, 1963 in Early, Texas.

After four years of accounting, he joined Bettie in the teaching profession. He later earned his Masters of Arts degree in history in 1975 from Texas Tech University. They taught for 10 years in Sea-

graves, Texas, and later moved to Big Spring where he taught history at Big Spring High School for another 20 years. He enjoyed computers, photography, and amateur radio. He was very proud of his call sign, "K5RDV". He was both honored and humbled to serve his remaining years as a Deacon at First Baptist Church. He was also a member of the following Masonic organizations; Staked Plains Lodge #589 A. F. and A. M. in Big Spring, Centennial Lodge in Midland, the Scottish Rite of Lubbock, Suez Shrine of San Angelo and Big Spring, the York Rite of Big Spring, the Keystone Chapter #172 and Council #112, Commandery #84, Knights of the York Cross of Honor, West Texas York Rite College #36 of Lubbock, Red Cross of Constantine, Knight Masons - Libertas Council KM #83, Allied Masonic Degrees #438 and the Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter #67.

Survivors include his wife, Bettie Cox; one daughter, Amy Sperry; one son, Alan Cox; and two granddaughters, Alexandra "Allie" Kinsey and Genevieve Cox.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

If you wish to donate, please give to your favorite Masonic group or to the First Baptist Church of Big Spring where they will be appreciated.

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

*Paid Obituary*

## Robert F. Brewer

Robert F. Brewer, Sr., 73, of Hastings, Nebraska, formerly of Big Spring, Texas, passed away Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020. Graveside services were held Monday, Dec. 28, 2020.

He was born March 8, 1947, in Big Spring. His parents were Herbert and Faye Brewer. He was married to the former Patty Elizabeth Heckler.

Robert joined the Army on Nov. 1, 1965, and retired as a Sgt First Class on Feb. 28, 1987. He has various jobs after retiring from the Army until he got a job working for the State of Texas as a Youth Correction Officer. He stayed there until retiring for good on July 31, 2007. He really enjoyed fishing and would do it nearly every chance that he got and would go with anyone who wanted to fish with him.

Survivors include sisters Joyce Bippert and Nedra Traweek. Son Robert F Brewer Jr and his wife Kim. He had three grandchildren Jacob Brewer and his wife Skydra, Hope Brewer and Julie Drake and one great grandchild Jaxxon Brewer.

He was preceded in death by his parents Herbert and Faye Brewer, wife Patty.

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

*Paid Obituary*

## Sheri Bailey

Sheri Bailey, 51, of Big Spring lost her month-long fight with COVID-19 in an El Paso hospital on Monday, Dec. 28, 2020.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

The funeral service will be Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E. 12th Street, Big Spring, Texas. Services will be officiated by Pastor Michael Willard.

Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Sheri was born Sept. 30, 1969, in Big Spring, Texas, to Sharon and William "Lin" Wallace. Sheri married the love of her life, Richard Monroe Bailey, on Dec. 14, 1988. She attended Big Spring High School. Sheri worked in the medical field for most of her adult career.

Many friends became family through her time working with Dr. McDaniel and Steward Clinic. Sheri loved to dance and listen to live music. She was passionate about helping others. She adored her children and loved being "Noni" to her grandchildren more than anything. She was proud of her family!

Sheri is survived by her husband, Rick Bailey, Sr., daughter Amanda Wallace of Big Spring, son Rick Bailey, Jr. and wife Shawna of Big Spring, and her son Joshua Bailey. She is also survived by two brothers, Randy Wallace and Ricky Wallace, both of Big Spring; two sisters, Sheli Buck and husband Scott Buck of Big Spring, and Kelsie Johnson and husband Josh Johnson of Oklahoma; Grandkids Neely Key, Kylee Key, Linken Lasater, Jaxxon Bailey, Brayson Reid and Bentley Bailey, and several nieces and nephews, as well as BONUS family that she loved as her own.

She is preceded in death by Parents Sharon and William Wallace, grandparents Henry Clay Payne and Buella Beatrice Payne, Clifton and Elizabeth Wallace, and one brother William "Little Lin" Laird.

Pallbearers will be Rick Bailey, Jr., Joshua Bailey, Adrian Grant, Shane Burt, Jason Key, Ky Hockett, Luke Smith and Austin Lane.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Linken Lasater, Jaxxon Bailey, Brayson Reid, Bentley Bailey and Lane Johnson.

Arrangements are made by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

*Paid Obituary*

## Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 94 inmates at the time of this report.

- **CARLA CAI BRYANT**, 36, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of assault causes bodily injury family..
- **TERESA LORENE LANG**, 38, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession dangerous drug and criminal trespass.
- **JUSTIN SCOTT ROCE**, 39, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of assault family violence.

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**MEMBER 2020**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**



# NORTH

Continued from Page 1

corner is still there," Marquez said. "You can stand at that corner and look toward the bridge and see all those businesses."

Marquez is a lifetime Big Spring resident, Navy Vietnam Veteran - served 1968 to 1972 - and previously named Man of the Year. Throughout his lifetime he has - and continues to - serve his community. Over the years he has been involved in numerous organizations, including LULAC which is where his foundation for community service began.

"Our family has always been a close knit family, and when I came home after serving I stayed, mostly for my mother... I had been all over the world with the Navy and had no desire to see anything else," Marquez said. "I made a choice and joined the Navy and when I was finished I came home. I did what many want to do; I left home, saw the world, and came home. I am a hometown boy and always will be."

There are those who aren't able to find value in the community in which they live, but Marquez is not one of those people. He has been and is one who sees the importance of the different people, different thought processes and different foundations that work together to make a community a place to call home.

"Big Spring has always been my community, and I love my community. I wanted to be part of something that would address the things that were happening, which is how I became involved in LULAC. That (LULAC) was the vehicle that got me to understanding more things, addressing more things and learning how to address things without violence," he said. "I realized if you really don't get involved

in the whole community structure you don't know anything. You think ... you have to set some kind of credibility for yourself."

In an effort to better himself so that he could be help better the community, Marquez found different avenues to get involved in that would help serve as a catalyst for change. Over the years he has served on the College Board and school board to name a few.

"You learn all the mechanics of everything. My goal was to learn about everything, volunteer myself and learn everything about the inner works of all the government agencies," he said. "At the same time they get to know who Raul is ... while I may have been accused of being a rebel at one time. The thing is, sometimes being a rebel is what it takes to change things, and if they call me then that's okay; that's what I was. I was here to change things."

He continued, "Everything that I've changed, while I may have started to do it for my children or my grandchildren, the whole town benefits from the changes. My goal is to better the lives of everybody."

While the Facebook Page has two years under the belt, the history that has been displayed so far is only the tip of the iceberg. Those visiting the page will see family photos, community events, school photos and more. Each member - now totalling more than 2600 - of the group has been carefully selected and accepted into the group in an effort to maintain the authenticity and truth behind the page's mission.

"The goal is to preserve the history of the Northside and the people who live there, who grew up there. Everyone went through the same thing, but we are able to share those stories together," he said. "There are so many places on the Northside - Kate Morrison, Lake View, Bauer - rich in history from

the beginning until the end... Through this page we can highlight that history and keep it alive."

Anyone who has Northside community connections or history to share can reach out to Marquez or request admission to the group.

"This is a private group because if you aren't from the Northside then what is being posted won't make any sense to you. Those with no connection to the Northside won't understand what we are posting or find meaning in the posts," Marquez said. "Each post is designed to not only preserve the history, but to stir conversation, bring more memories and bring more history."

He continued, "There is lots of history to cover and this page isn't stopping anytime soon. As more people come in more history appears."

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

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Alvin Marin, 83, died Thursday. Visitation 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM January 10, 2020 with a vigil service at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service at 10:00 January 11, 2020.

Richard Mills, 72 died Monday. Viewing and visitation will be 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Maria Perez, 80, died Friday. Visitation will be 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Wednesday with a vigil service at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Marcelino Rangel, 86, of died Monday. Viewing and visitation will be at Myers & Smith Funeral Home on Sunday, January 3, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM with a vigil at 7:00 PM. Services will be at 10:00 AM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Monday, January 4, 2021. Burial

will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Irma Chapa, 56, died Monday. Viewing and visitation will be Monday, January 4, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM with a vigil service at 7:00 PM. Funeral service will be Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 10:00 AM at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Mauricio Hernandez, 66 of Big Spring died December 17, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sheri Bailey, 51, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 11am-9pm on Friday, January 1, 2021 at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. The funeral service will be Saturday, January 2, 2021 at 11am at Cornerstone Covenant Church. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jackie Murphree, 53, died Monday. No services will be held.

# SAFE

Continued from Page 1

you a year's worth of salary if convicted. According to TxDOT drivers charged with a third offense can face up to \$10,000 in fines, have their license suspended and can face between two to 10 years in prison.

"Each year Texas ranks in the top 10 states with the most DWI related deaths," Big Spring Police Chief Chad Williams said. "Make sure you have a clear plan before heading out on New Years Eve. Have a clear plan to get children home safely if they're likely to be present where alcohol is served, and if you are hosting keep an eye on your friends. Don't let them leave your residence intoxicated."

Chief Williams also reminds the community it is a violation of a city ordinance to explode, set off or ignite or discharge within the corporate limits of the city any firecrackers, roman candles, torpedoes, or any other fireworks of any kind or make. In addition, Howard County issued a burn ban and a restriction on the use and sale of fireworks with fins or sticks. It is also unlawful for any person to discharge a gun, pistol or firearm of any kind within the city limits.

"Patrol officers concentrate on finding drunk drivers on these known heavy celebrated days, and our patrol is increased around bar areas," Chief

Williams said. "Please be safe if you are heading out this holiday season."

A few safety tips to remember before heading out New Years Eve:

- Assign a designated driver before heading out that way all are on the same page and you know who to turn to when it's time to go. Make sure this person is holding the car keys so nobody who has been drinking tries to leave the gathering intoxicated.
- If you see a friend drinking, ask if they need a ride or call a cab. If at all possible keep the intoxicated person from getting behind the wheel.
- If you have been drinking and do not have a designated driver already, find one, call a cab or a friend to drive you home. Do not get behind the wheel and attempt to drive.
- If you are the host of the party and are offering alcoholic beverages double check with guests to ensure they have a designated driver or set up a place for them to stay the night if needed.

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

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305588

# CLOSE

Continued from Page 1

Jan. 4, 2021. Newspapers will still be delivered and any breaking news or updates will be posted on the Big Spring Herald website. The e-edition will also be available on New Years Day.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau will be closed on New Years Day and resume regular business hours on Jan. 4, 2021.

The Texas Department of Transportation Services (DPS) offices will be closed starting Thursday, Dec. 31 at Noon and will reopen on Monday, Jan 4.

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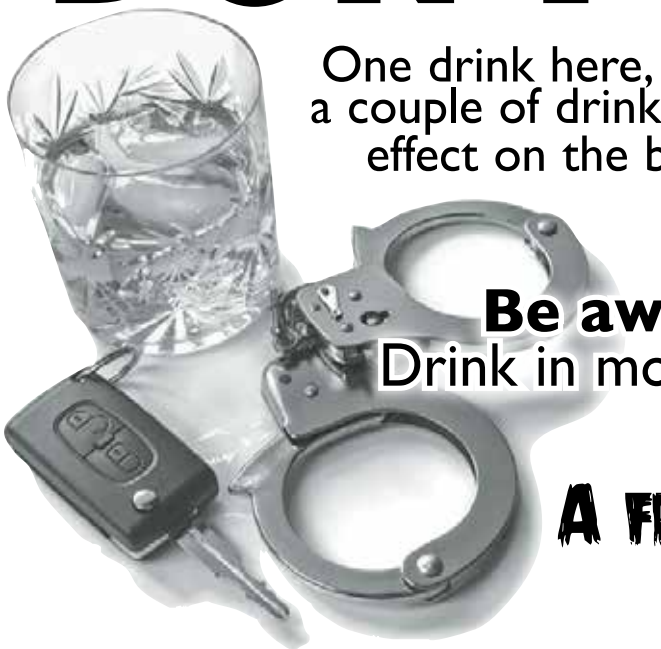
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# DON'T DRINK & DRIVE

One drink here, another there... No big deal, right? **WRONG!** All it takes is just a couple of drinks to affect the body. The more alcohol consumed, the worse the effect on the body and the more compromised the ability to drive becomes.



**Be aware** of the effects alcohol can have on your body. Drink in moderation this holiday season and don't drive impaired.

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Alive in Christ Lutheran Church

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20.1% of responders aged 35-44 know someone who has been killed in a drunk-driving accident. 37.4% of college-age responders believed they were fit to drive after 3 or 4 drinks.

**Be Smart and Be Safe this Holiday Season! Don't Drink & Drive!**



"Who will be taking you home tonight?"

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# Forsan Lady Buffs lose offensive battle with Top 5-ranked Rankin 59-51

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

It was a match-up of two offensive juggernauts on Wednesday afternoon when the Forsan Lady Buffs battled the Rankin Lady Devils. After four back-and-forth quarters of play, the Lady Devils prevailed 59-51.

"I thought our effort was really good. They jumped out on us quick and for our girls not to check in at that point was awesome to see," Head Coach Seth Johnson said. "They just had more bodies to roll in there than we did and we started to get a little bit winded."

Rankin is a Top 5 team in the state that continues their undefeated season (14-0) while the Lady Buffs (11-3) winning streak was snapped at four games on Wednesday afternoon.

The game began with a fast pace and kept up its speed throughout the entire contest. Forsan scored two quick baskets as Reagan Phillips and Kaeli Woodall swapped baskets and assists to go up 4-2. Rankin then drilled a three-pointer and got hot while Forsan got cold during a run where the Lady Devils ended up with leading 10-4 before Johnson called a timeout with just under four minutes remaining. The Lady Buffs closed out the first quarter strong and trailed 15-11 following eight minutes of nonstop action.

Forsan began the second quarter by scoring 13 straight points and taking a 24-15 lead. Rylee Evans knocked down two shots from beyond the arc, Woodall converted a nice and-one, and Ella Hoff came off the bench to add four points for the Lady Buffs as they began to swing the momentum in their direction. They finished the quarter by outscoring Rankin 18-10 and turned a four-point



HERALD Photo/Shawn Moran

Taryn Spivey makes a pass inside the paint.

deficit at the end of the first into a four-point lead at halftime (29-25).

"To be able to take all the good things we did from this game speaks to our players' attitude. I think they'll learn from it and be better because of this game."

Rankin came out with a full-court press defense and began to knock down some three-pointers as they went on an 8-0 run to start the third. Forsan then fired right back to take the lead behind two three-pointers from Evans and Hoff. Both teams were trading the lead and neither side was giving the other an inch. Rankin ended up outscoring the Lady Buffs 18-10 in the third quarter and once again Forsan trailed by four points (43-39) heading into the final eight minutes.

The Lady Devils closed out strong and were able to hold Forsan to 12 points in the fourth quarter to continue their undefeated

season. Forsan should not be disappointed with the loss however, as they led a top-ranked team for half of the game and pressured them until the final buzzer.

"We'll learn from this game, keep working, and come back better because of it."

**UP NEXT:** Forsan will head to Brownfield this weekend to challenge the hometown Lady Cubs. The game will be at the high school and will be played at 11:30 a.m.

*Shawn Moran is the sports writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact him, e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.*

# Lady Steers drop second game of back-to-back 47-29



HERALD Photo/Shawn Moran

Tristan Smith looks for an open teammate to pass to.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

The Big Spring Lady Steers (6-9) went down early and were never able to dig themselves out of the hole on Wednesday afternoon when they fell to the visiting Sundown Lady Roughnecks 47-29.

"I just feel like we were a half-step behind and playing tired. Playing a back-to-back isn't easy and we're also nursing a few minor injuries. We did a good job playing through some stuff and I think we played better defensively in the second half," Head Coach Eric Tuttle said.

Sundown took a quick lead and were able to control most of the first half as Big Spring was noticeably slower during the second game of their back-to-back. Forward Ryen Terrazas notched seven points in the first half, Jacqueline Belew knocked down three free throws, and Tristan Smith converted on one layup as the Lady Steers headed into the halftime break trailing 27-12.

The third quarter was not much kinder to the Lady Steers as they could not stop turning the ball over with sloppy passes. It was not all bad, however, with Ryen Terrazas consistently crashing the boards and adding four more points to her total on the day. She would finish the game with 15 points.

"They shut her down a little bit yesterday and she came in today and went to the hoop," Tuttle said. "I was proud to see her step up and play hard in this one."

Outside of her two baskets near the net, Alex Enriquez was able to score one shot from beyond the three-point line. Sundown was moving the ball well on the offensive end and were finding the open shooter consistently and held a 42-19 lead heading into the final quarter.

Terrazas added a few more points to her total while Mya Blanco and Enriquez both knocked down a three, but that was all of the scoring for Big Spring. The Lady Steers outscored the Lady 10-5 in the fourth but it was too little, too late for Big Spring.

"These back-to-back's are both good and bad. It's good because we need to play after having those days off. I hate having that break right before district starts, but it is what it is."

The Lady Steers have one non-district game remaining on the schedule when they will host the Fort Stockton Lady Panthers on Saturday afternoon.

**UP NEXT:** Big Spring hosts Fort Stockton on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

*Shawn Moran is the sports writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact him, e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.*

# 10-win team to miss playoffs in AFC despite expanded field

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

A 10-win team will miss the playoffs this season, and a team with a losing record will make the postseason.

When the NFL expanded the playoffs from six to seven teams per conference this season, the fears it would allow an inferior team into the postseason.

That's far from the case in the top-heavy AFC, which already has eight

teams with double-digit wins, leaving one quality team out of the playoff musical chairs.

Miami, Baltimore, Cleveland, Tennessee and Indianapolis all enter Week 17 with 10-5 records and are fighting for the three wild-card spots, and the AFC South title between the Titans and Colts.

Indianapolis is the only one of those teams that needs help.

## NCAA Basketball AP Top 25

Ranking	Team	Overall	Points	Prev
1	Stanford (26)	7-0	744	1
2	Louisville (1)	5-0	692	2
3	NC State (2)	8-0	675	4
4	Connecticut (1)	5-0	674	3
5	South Carolina	5-1	641	5
6	Arizona	7-0	601	6
7	Baylor	7-1	557	7
8	Oregon	7-0	556	8
9	Texas A&M	8-0	498	9
10	Arkansas	9-1	447	11
11	UCLA	5-2	427	10
12	Mississippi State	5-1	426	12
13	Kentucky	7-1	393	13
14	Maryland	5-1	382	14
15	Northwestern	4-0	330	15
16	Michigan	5-0	256	17
17	Ohio State	4-0	253	16
18	DePaul	5-2	205	18
19	Texas	6-1	175	20
20	Indiana	4-2	172	19
21	South Florida	5-1	168	20
22	Syracuse	5-1	98	22
23	Gonzaga	5-2	86	23
24	Missouri State	4-2	69	24
25	Michigan State	7-0	66	25

### RECEIVING VOTES:

Georgia (33), North Carolina (27), South Dakota State (24), Oregon State (20), Iowa State (12), Tennessee (10), Arizona State (8), Iowa (6), Rutgers (6), Wake Forest (4), Georgia Tech (4), Rice (3), Alabama (2)

## NCAA Basketball AP Top 25

Ranking	Team	Overall	Points	Prev
1	Gonzaga (62)	7-0	1,598	1
2	Baylor (2)	6-0	1,537	2
3	Kansas	8-1	1,458	3
4	Villanova	8-1	1,370	5
5	Houston	7-0	1,313	6
6	Wisconsin	8-1	1,249	9
7	Tennessee	6-0	1,217	8
8	Texas	7-1	1,109	10
9	West Virginia	7-2	1,080	7
10	Iowa	7-2	1,008	4
11	Creighton	7-2	926	13
12	Missouri	6-0	888	14
13	Texas Tech	7-2	821	15
14	Rutgers	6-1	659	11
15	Illinois	7-3	650	18
16	Michigan	7-0	582	19
17	Michigan State	6-2	431	12
18	Florida State	5-1	377	21
19	Northwestern	6-1	350	NR
20	Duke	3-2	290	20
21	Oregon	6-1	252	25
	Minnesota	8-1	252	NR
23	Virginia	4-2	238	16
24	Virginia Tech	7-1	230	24
25	Ohio State	7-2	216	23

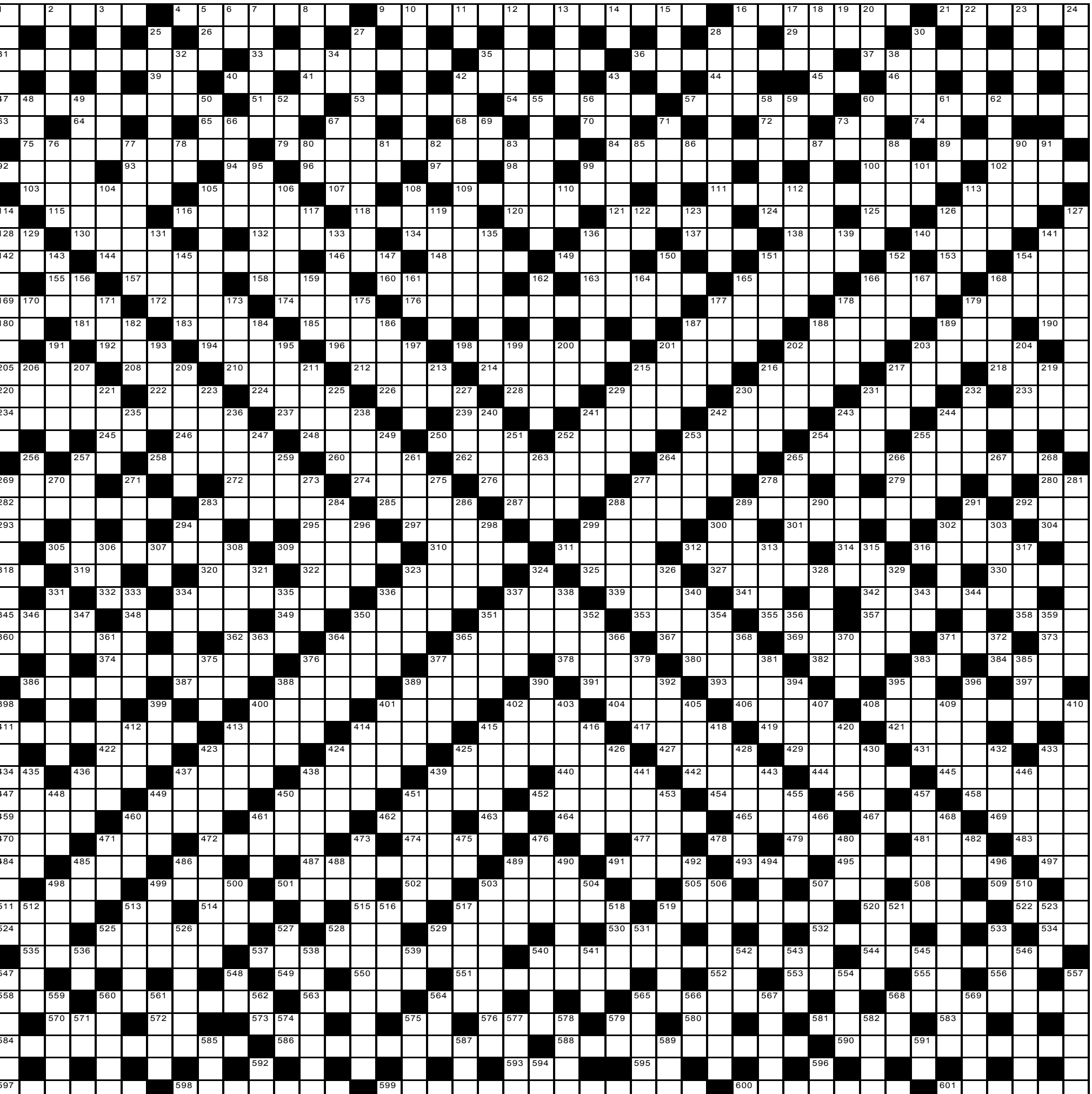
### RECEIVING VOTES:

Xavier (178), San Diego State (172), North Carolina (57), Arkansas (55), Clemson (50), Colorado (50), Saint Louis (49), Florida (20), Louisville (18), BYU (12), Georgia (10), NC State (8), Indiana (4), UCLA (4), Richmond (3), UCF (2), Western Kentucky (2), Boise State (2), SMU (1), Drake (1), Chattanooga (1)



# ANNUAL MAMMOTH CROSSWORD PUZZLE

More than 200 clues in the 2020 Annual Mammoth Crossword reflect news events, anniversaries and pop culture occurrences of the past year. In 2020, we met a Tiger King, witnessed a private space flight arrive at the International Space Station and said farewell to celebs including The Gambler, Spartacus and the Black Panther. We saw the iPad turn 10, the boys of NSync hit their 40s and Dirty Harry turn 90. These are just a few of the events that inspired clues in this puzzle from the 2020 Mammoth Crossword Puzzle. Sharpen your pencil and enjoy. Answers will appear on Friday, January 1, 2021.



- Across
- 1 The virus that changed, well, everything (6)
  - 4 Fab Four who permanently broke up 50 yrs ago (7)
  - 9 Influential guitarist, with tambourine band, who died at age 65 (5,3,5)
  - 11 Adhesive bandage turned 100 (4,3)
  - 16 NBA champs were Los Angeles \_\_\_ (6)
  - 26 Jude \_\_\_ reprised role in The New Pope (3)
  - 28 The room where surgeries occur (2)
  - 29 One, in German (4)
  - 31 This photo sharing network turned 10 (9)
  - 33 His SpaceX co. took astronauts to the Int'l Space Station (4,4)
  - 35 The U.K. left the European \_\_\_ in Jan. (5)
  - 36 Proton-beam therapy used debuted 20 yrs ago (8)
  - 37 This Pulp Fiction director racked up another Oscar nomination (9)
  - 39 Opposite of off (2)
  - 40 Pronoun referring to oneself (2)
  - 41 Popular cooking spray (3)
  - 42 Branch processing unit, abbr. (3)
  - 44 A typographic unit, half the width of an 'em' unit (2)
  - 45 What a green light means (2)
  - 46 AC \_\_\_ released 1st album in six years (2)
  - 47 Doing up buttons on a coat (9)
  - 51 One of five on each foot (3)
  - 53 One who consumes food (5)
  - 54 Apparition (6)
  - 57 Hellenic Republic got its 1st female prez (6)
  - 60 Young French heroine, from 1400s, became a saint (4,2,3)
  - 63 A common prefix for a ship's name (2)
  - 64 This is \_\_\_ started season with COVID & BLM themes (2)
  - 65 Organization that said moon may have more water (4)
  - 67 A paid-for message (2)
  - 68 Large American news agency (2)
  - 70 Our continent, abbr. (2)
  - 72 One thousandth of a gram, abbr. (2)
  - 73 One of the states devastated by wildfires, abbr. (2)
  - 74 Fictional singing family debuted on TV 50 yrs ago (9)
  - 75 Beloved talk & game show host passed at 88 (5,7)
  - 84 Female singer who swept Grammys (6,6)
  - 89 McDonald's introduced Shamrock \_\_\_ 30 yrs ago (5)
  - 92 A four-member Japanese idol group formed this year (4)
  - 93 Common conjunction (3)
- Abbreviation editors use to mark a spelling error (2)
- 157 Show the way (4)
  - 158 Out's opposite (2)
  - 160 The word for the 13th letter of the alphabet (2)
  - 163 A series of solemn or religious actions done in a prescribed order (6)
  - 165 Dark comic film about a mobile army hospital released 50 yrs ago (4)
  - 168 This Lady won five MTV Video Music Awards this year (4)
  - 169 Slang for microwaving something (6)
  - 170 \_\_\_ the Explorer premiered 20 yrs ago (4)
  - 172 Saint, abbr. (2)
  - 174 Birth control 1st approved in N.A. 60 yrs ago (3,4)
  - 176 Tampa Bay \_\_\_ won hockey's Stanley Cup (9)
  - 178 Jewelry for the finger (4)
  - 179 Prescriptions (4)
  - 180 A small dome adorning a roof (6)
  - 181 Best of the best (5)
  - 182 Gridiron official, for short (3)
  - 183 A large lemur (5)
  - 184 Dig in! (3)
  - 185 Symbol for the element Neodymium (2)
  - 186 Hay bundle (4)
  - 188 A group of mountain people in Uganda (2)
  - 190 Slangy accent (4)
  - 192 Swiss city started museum exhibit about denim (5)
  - 194 Feathery scarves (4)
  - 198 Sporty Pontiac, old muscle car (3)
  - 200 24-hour news channel turned 40 (3)
  - 202 Former CEO of GE \_\_\_ Welch died in March (4)
  - 203 Boonish (4)
  - 205 Oregon won the \_\_\_ Bowl (4)
  - 207 Another name for virus class (2)
  - 210 It was year of the \_\_\_ in Chinese zodiac (3)
  - 214 Rains a plan (8)
  - 216 NYC's state, abbr. (3)
  - 218 World's largest continent (4)
  - 219 Floral necklace (5)
  - 216 World's largest continent (4)
  - 218 Actor William H. \_\_\_ turned 70 (4)
  - 217 A doctor asks you to say this word (2)
  - 220 The Bachelor's \_\_\_ Higgins got engaged (3)
  - 222 For better \_\_\_ for worse (2)
- Shelace problem (4)
- 224 A short play (4)
  - 226 Keen intelligence, aptitude for jokes (3)
  - 228 Flocced (5)
  - 229 Approaches (5)
  - 230 Amount of medicine (4)
  - 231 Actor \_\_\_ Damon turned 50 (4)
  - 232 Rat neck member \_\_\_ Martin died 25 yrs ago (4)
  - 234 Jeopardy host who passed away in Nov. (4,6)
  - 237 Warm-hearted (4)
  - 239 Instant message, abbr. (2)
  - 241 Sean Connery, who played James \_\_\_ passed away (4)
  - 242 Scientists discovered a new black \_\_\_ (4)
  - 243 30 yrs ago \_\_\_ Marley's birthday became a holiday in Jamaica (3)
  - 244 Earth's oldest asteroid \_\_\_ was found in Australia (6)
  - 247 Audiovisual, abbr. (2)
  - 246 Toot one's horn (4)
  - 248 Fashion house created pandemic-inspired longwear collection (4)
  - 249 Bluish green (4)
  - 250 Grace (4)
  - 251 Gardener's need (4)
  - 252 What you put on the fire (3)
  - 253 \_\_\_ Brady joined the Buccaneers (3)
  - 255 Slow reply, texting abbr. (2)
  - 257 Extent (6)
  - 260 Miffed \_\_\_ off (4)
  - 262 Comely legend, Harry \_\_\_ (Ben's dad) passed at 92 (7)
  - 263 The \_\_\_ Dance, about the Chicago Bulls, was huge hit (4)
  - 265 Magicians' word (11)
  - 269 Gait between walk and center (4)
  - 272 Prefix for data or physics (4)
  - 274 Nose-in-the-air type (4)
  - 276 Reverse, neutral or drive (4)
  - 278 Talk on and on (3)
  - 280 Min., especially food (4)
  - 282 Airplane misnomer (4)
  - 289 Goldmann Sachs' stock exchange symbol (2)
  - 282 Stuck on a sharp instrument (7)
  - 283 Igneous rock formed from lava (6)
  - 285 Not as (4)
  - 287 Simon Cowell missed finale of this show, due to broken back (3)
  - 288 Ding, in a car (4)
  - 289 Board game decided OK was a real word (8)
  - 290 Transitions per second, abbr. (3)

- 291 \_\_\_ Thompson appeared in Back to the Future 35 yrs ago (3)
- 292 A unit of absorbed radiation (2)
- 293 The new album from K-pop sensation BTS (2)
- 294 The cover for a pot (3)
- 295 Moby-Dick captain (4)
- 296 Hours, minutes and seconds (4)
- 297 Gulls against, abbr. (2)
- 298 Ghost's cry (3)
- 299 \_\_\_ ended 75 yrs ago (3)
- 300 Defensive tackle, abbr. (2)
- 302 Billboard's top group was Jonas \_\_\_ (8)
- 304 Batman sidekick made debut 80 yrs ago (5)
- 305 \_\_\_ & remixer, historical court terms (4)
- 310 Packing product Bubble \_\_\_ introduced 60 yrs ago (4)
- 311 Ian Wisniewski \_\_\_ Really died at age 78 (5)
- 314 A variation of the common Korean surname Lee (2)
- 315 The Prime Minister quit in this Land of the Rising Sun (5)
- 316 Road, abbr. (2)
- 318 The country code for Senegal (2)
- 319 Abbr. for the enzyme thyroid peroxidase (3)
- 320 Victory (3)
- 322 NBA star who died in helicopter crash (4)
- 323 Choir part (4)
- 325 Opposite of NW on a compass (2)
- 327 A thin layer of cells acting as a boundary (8)
- 328 Concelian \_\_\_ Retzer died at 98 (4)
- 332 An expectant mom's doc \_\_\_ GYN (2)
- 334 This Clinton turned 40 (7)
- 336 TV show Party of \_\_\_ rebooted (4)
- 337 Letters of distress (3)
- 339 Back-to-school month, abbr. (4)
- 341 Sports mag announced partnership with The Curling News (2)
- 342 Actor \_\_\_ Foyc turned 60 (7)
- 345 This tablet turned 10 (4)
- 348 Actor Ted Lange is AKA \_\_\_ the Love Boat's bartender (5)
- 349 A Russian brand of cigarettes now owned by Japan Tobacco (2)
- 350 Religious ceremony, act of passage (4)
- 351 The traffic \_\_\_ was invented 100 yrs ago (5)
- 353 Challenge someone to do something (4)
- 355 Scotland's Firth of \_\_\_ (5)
- 357 Electronic musician short outside The Dakota 40 yrs ago (4,6)
- 358 Tiny European country became 1st in world to make all public transit free (10)
- 360 Martial arts expert Chuck \_\_\_ turned 80 (6)
- 362 Astronauts started staying here, long term, 20 yrs ago (3)
- 364 Carol Burnett Show actor \_\_\_ Waggoner died in March (4)
- 365 Officials who examine movies, books for unacceptable content (7)
- 367 Allows (4)
- 369 Apple released its 1st wrist device 5 yrs ago (5)
- 371 Animated show Family \_\_\_ had 30th episode (3)
- 373 Interest code for Lithuania (2)
- 374 Stundinutun (4)
- 375 Rauch newborn (4)
- 377 He founded analytical psychology (4)
- 378 Dog sound (4)
- 379 Reverbaterate (4)
- 382 Ignited (3)
- 383 Internal affairs, abbr. (2)
- 384 Tom Selleck's show \_\_\_ Bloods turned 10 (4)
- 386 One more time (5)
- 387 Lil \_\_\_ X was Grammy for Old Town Road (3)
- 388 Existing as a result of birth (4)
- 389 Civil wrong (4)
- 391 \_\_\_ Earnhardt Jr. was voted into motorsport's hall of fame (4)
- 393 Mount, abbr. (2)
- 395 Actor \_\_\_ Harris turned 70 (2)
- 397 Roll call reply (4)
- 400 Aluminim or tin (4)
- 401 Slang word for criticize (3)
- 402 Food for sea urchins (4)
- 404 Sirocco Man With a \_\_\_ ended (4)
- 406 Popular Sunday dinner feast (5,4)
- 411 One of the first celebs to get COVID-19 (3,5)
- 412 Watered-down (4)
- 413 This Dead Man Walking actor turned 60 (4)
- 414 Oak hammock (4)
- 415 It's thrown at a ballgame (4)
- 417 Improvising in jazz (4)
- 419 Guilty or not guilty (4)
- 421 \_\_\_ Danson's series The Good Place wrapped (5)
- 422 It may be raised at a party (4)
- 423 Rabbit relative (4)
- 425 Murder \_\_\_ a type of stinging wasp, arrived (7)
- 427 Not far (4)
- 429 Financial debts and obligations (11)
- 430 Colorado resort town changing its affordable housing rules (5)
- 431 A complete, ready-to-go product or service (7)
- 433 Third note of a major scale (2)
- 434 Versus, abbr. (2)
- 436 Rocker \_\_\_ Stewart turned 75 (3)
- 437 The last name of The Incredibles (4)
- 438 Actress Goldie \_\_\_ turned 75 (4)
- 439 Go left or right (4)
- 440 Basic unit of a chemical element (4)
- 442 Employed (4)
- 444 Himalayan spikenard (4)
- 445 \_\_\_ Johnson was world's No.1 golfer (6)
- 447 Early anesthetic (5)
- 449 Clods (4)
- 450 Farm building (4)
- 451 What spiders spin (4)
- 452 A person taking part in a sport or game (6)
- 454 Mickey Mouse \_\_\_ debuted on TV 65 yrs ago (4)
- 456 Plunder (7)
- 458 Into office (5)
- 459 United Arab Emirates sent a rover to this planet (4)
- 460 Coal site (4)
- 462 Gene With the \_\_\_ won best picture some 80 yrs ago (4)
- 463 Evergreen (3)
- 465 Short word for agricultural (2)
- 466 Afraid (6)
- 467 Notion (4)
- 468 Casual conversation (4)
- 469 We hear with these (4)
- 470 30 yrs ago \_\_\_ Marley's birthday became a holiday in Jamaica (3)
- 471 \_\_\_ Garfunkel turns 80 next year (3)
- 472 Bedridden (3)
- 473 One of Gibson's electric guitar models (2)
- 474 Bad day for Caesar (4)
- 475 Strong adhesive tape (4,4)
- 476 Earthquake hit this state in July (6)
- 478 A food catcher, fastened around the neck (3)
- 479 A Kipling poem published 110 yrs ago (2)
- 483 Decay (3)
- 484 Reest, abbr. (2)
- 485 Poison ivy woe (4)
- 486 Hallucinogenic drug used in new trials to treat adult ADHD (5)
- 487 Regarding, abbr. (2)
- 488 Needle-shaped, as pine leaves (7)
- 489 Ben's counterpart (3)
- 491 Price (4)
- 493 Tina \_\_\_ turned 50 (3)
- 494 A triathlon of running, swimming and cycling (7)
- 495 Opposite of yes (2)
- 497 Popular expression, showing a lack of interest (3)
- 498 \_\_\_ Tyler Moore got her own show 50 yrs ago (4)
- 499 Spheres (4)
- 500 A Thai unit of measurement (2)
- 503 Steals (5)
- 505 Operating system, abbr. (2)
- 506 Yellow, Black or Red (3)
- 507 The ringing of bells (5)
- 508 An address assigned to every computer connected to a network (2)
- 509 Regrets only, abbr. (2)
- 510 Latin word found in footnotes (4)
- 511 District attorney, abbr. (2)
- 514 A bomb deployed in ways other than traditional military action (3)
- 515 Transitions per second, abbr. (3)

Please find the answers to our 2020 Annual Mammoth Crossword puzzle in tomorrow's edition, Friday, January 1, 2021.

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

Contact Amanda Dufort  
432-263-7331 Ext. 230 for questions or to submit your resume at editor@bigspringherald.com.

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### Legals

#### CITATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: VERONICA WHITBY

**You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.**  
A petition was filed on the 31 day of January, 2020, in the indicated court of **HOWARD** County, Texas. You are directed to file a written answer to the petition on or before 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served with this citation and petition.  
The suit is an action to establish paternity of and to enter appropriate orders for the conservatorship and support of the following child

### Legals

subject of the suit:

#### Name

SABRILLA MCKENZIE WALKER  
SAVANA MAGDALENE WALKER

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's interest, which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption. No property is involved in the suit.  
The suit is entitled:

#### CAUSE NUMBER 43612

IN THE INTEREST OF

SABRILLA MCKENZIE WALKER  
SAVANA MAGDALENE WALKER

CHILDREN

IN THE 118TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

OF

HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

Other parties to the action:  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
MCKINLEY WALKER  
VERONICA WHITBY

#10756



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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Maximizing your chances

East dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 9 5  
♥ 10 3 2  
♦ A J 6 4  
♣ K J 4

**WEST**  
♠ Q 10 8 3  
♥ Q 8  
♦ 10 7 5 2  
♣ 9 8 5

**EAST**  
♠ J 6  
♥ K J 7 4  
♦ Q 8 3  
♣ 10 6 3 2

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

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT  
Opening lead — three of spades.

Suppose you have a 50-50 shot at making a contract if you play one way, and a 2-to-1 chance if you play another way.

Obviously, you should choose the latter course, because you'll do much better in the long run. Granted, sometimes the right play may turn out wrong and the wrong play may turn out right, but to become a steady winner, one has to be philosophical about such matters and pursue the more promising probabilities.

To illustrate, consider this deal where West leads a spade against your three-notrump contract. You

take East's jack with the king and must decide what to do next, since you have only eight sure tricks.

If you follow the line of least resistance, you play the king and another diamond, finessing the jack and losing to the queen. East returns a spade and eventually you go down one, having given yourself essentially a 50-50 chance to make the contract.

Sometime later, it dawns on you that you could have improved on your chances by crossing to the jack of clubs at trick two and returning a low diamond to your nine in the hope that East had the ten. If he did, nine tricks would be yours after the nine either held or lost to the king.

In the actual deal, the nine would have lost to the ten, but you would still have had another string to your bow. When you later cashed the king and ace of diamonds, the queen would have fallen, establishing dummy's jack as your ninth trick.

The suggested line of play improves your prospects substantially. You start with the 50-50 chance that East has the ten, and the battle is over if that develops. But on top of that, you also make the contract — even after the nine loses to West's ten — whenever either defender started with the doubleton or tripleton queen of diamonds. Since this will occur quite often, it would be rather foolish not to give yourself this additional chance.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



22-Jan. 19). Maybe you're not consciously willing to let go of your old way of doing things in the name of trying

Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 25, 1, 17 and 36.

**COSMIC QUESTION:** "You never seem to have anything to say about a Libra and Cancer combination. I am a Cancer born on June 27, 1981, and my long-term boyfriend is a Libra born on Sept. 26, 1983. I have a friend who is studying astrology and she says that Cancers and Libras are a bad combination. Is this true?"

You make a charming pair! Do you cohabitate? If so, your home together is filled with art and beauty, but is so comfortable that friends stop by often. Sometimes, you wonder when they'll leave. You are both what's called "cardinal" signs. In astrology, the modality "cardinal" means you tend to be initiators. You have ideas, start projects and stick out your hand first when meeting new people. Because you are both like this, as a couple, try to find people to fulfill and finish what you start, or your lives become cluttered with the evidence of many beginnings that remain unrealized -- e.g., golf clubs you never use and mountain bikes you never ride, art supplies that sit in the corner. Your social network is an important key to staying together. Quality people with similar values to your own make the sweet times sweeter and rocky times smoother.

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis.com](mailto:HolidayMathis.com).  
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### Leo Moon Calls Cosmic Countdown

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Relationships, just like any other endeavor, will roll much easier once momentum kicks in. This never happens from a still position. Things have to be moving to get moving.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The words "I love you" translate nicely, though not directly. Anyway, you know when you're loved. You could tell them when it happens and that would be a more accurate and evidence-based approach.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's as though, sign of the twins, you are two people, one being perpetually surprised at what the other wants and equally impressed by what both are willing to do to get it.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You wanted it to be very beautiful, and so you saw it as very beautiful. And so it was. Perhaps there are objective standards to be met but they are boring compared with the complex metrics your heart searches to satisfy.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You'll mentally scan through your recent history, which will lead to a broad array of feelings including (but not limited to) pride, satisfaction, gratitude, hunger, compassion, tenderheartedness and ambition.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're

self-driven. You still have to answer to people, but ultimately, they are getting the sense that this protocol, while you may follow it, means little to you. Your assessment is the only one that matters.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You may be particularly sensitive to stress triggers, but when you take extra precautions to make yourself feel comfortable and safe, you become quite impervious.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** All this talk about expressing one's authenticity and yet many don't realize that each person contains multitudes. You embrace your complexity, which affords you flexibility of expression.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Where you used to have very few choices, you now have options aplenty. So many, in fact, that many are paralyzed by seemingly endless possibilities. Not you. You've an uncanny sense for finding your perfect fit.

**CAPRICORN (Dec.**

## SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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### Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

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## Annie's Mailbox

### Stressing Over Accents

**Dear Annie:** Sometimes, in the course of conversation with someone who has an accent, I'll find myself mimicking their speech. It's entirely unintentional and embarrassing, and I'm sure it irritates the other person. I've had to explain multiple times to people of varying vernaculars that I'm not mocking them. How do I defuse awkward situations like this, short of avoiding conversation in the first place? -- Don't Shoot the Mockingbird

**Dear Mockingbird:** Your flock is bigger than you'd think. A common psychological phenomenon known

as "mirroring" or "the chameleon effect" leads people to unconsciously emulate those with whom they're speaking. Though it can be embarrassing, this tendency is not inherently a bad thing. In fact, psychologists believe that it signals high levels of empathy, and a 2013 study found that this kind of unconscious imitation actually tends to make conversational partners feel more positively about the speaker.

Of course, we shouldn't go around deliberately imitating people's accents. But when you do find yourself slipping up, briefly apologize when it feels appropriate, and then move on. You're

not intentionally hurting anyone, and you're probably not the first person they've encountered who's done it.

**Dear Annie:** Concerning the lady who was attacked by her neighbor's dogs: You were exactly right to recommend she contact the authorities. I can't imagine any local jurisdiction where vicious unleashed dogs attacking citizens would be allowed or their owners not held responsible. I'm sure I will be one of many voices who would encourage her to immediately contact an attorney to file a civil suit for wrongful injury. There's no doubt she has a case. -- Lawyer Dave

**Dear Lawyer Dave:** If ever I miss the mark, then I can count on my readers to help me find it. Dozens of you wrote that I should have recommended that "Sincerely Confused" hire a lawyer. The following letter includes a few more tips.

**Dear Annie:** "Sincerely Confused" should notify the dogs' owners' home insurance company of the incident. She'll need to provide a detailed, written personal account of what happened. She should also seek such statements from those good samaritan witnesses, too, if possible. Additionally, she should include copies of the police reports, as well as copies of her hos-

pital records and any notes from follow-up doctor visits. And she should compile an itemized list of every single medical cost associated with her attack (the full charges, not just co-pays).

Since some time has passed, it seems she might be reluctant or fearful of pursuing a lawsuit. But she should still talk it over with an attorney. At the very least, she may be able to negotiate a settlement with the insurance company privately. I encourage her to choose an amount sizable enough to compensate her for all expenses incurred, plus the lifelong burden caused by her injuries. Project what it will cost

to pay for future medical visits and to buy the equipment and therapies necessary to cope with her condition for the rest of her life.

If the cops or city doesn't do it first, a claim like this might get the dog owner's attention. If they hope to stay insured, I'll bet they build a fence. My heart goes out to her! -- Bitten Once in ND

**Dear Bitten:** I'm sorry to hear that you learned from a similar experience, but I appreciate your wisdom, and I'm sure "Sincerely Confused" will as well.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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## Obituaries

## Jackie Murphree



Jackie Murphree, 53, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 28, 2020.

No services will be held.

Jackie was born May 28, 1963 in Big Spring.

He is survived by two daughters: Krista Murphree of Big Spring and Stephanie Pina of San Angelo; two sons: Dakota Murphree of Big Spring and Jackie Murphree, Jr. of Big Spring; and nine grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his wife: Ruthie Murphree; and his parents: Mattie and J.B. Murphree.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Marceino "Mark" Rangel Sr.



Marcelino "Mark" Rangel, Sr., 86, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 28, 2020. Viewing and visitation will be at Myers & Smith Funeral Home on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a vigil at 7 p.m. Services will be at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Marcelino was born June 2, 1934. in Big Spring.

He is survived by his wife: Maria Rangel; one son: Marcelino Rangel; one daughter: Rachel Bristo; three grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; two brothers: Willie Rangel, Jr. and Meliton Rangel; one sister: Pauline Reloba; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Reyes and Guillermo Rangel; two sisters; and one brother: Johnny Rangel, Sr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Richard Mills



Richard Mills, 72, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 14, 2020. Viewing and visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020 at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Richard was born on Jan. 13, 1948 in Sweetwater to James and Novie Mills. He married Loyce Craig on June 23, 1973 in Farwell. They were married 47 years. He lived most of his life in Big Spring. He owned

several roofing companies through the years and was also an electrician. He was a Vietnam veteran and served in the Navy on the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk.

Richard's favorite time of year was Christmas and he loved to decorate. He loved his grandchildren. He loved his puppies: Patches, Lil Bit and Baby. He also loved to fish.

He is survived by his wife: Loyce of Big Spring; four sons: Matthew Mills and spouse Cody of Hubbard, Kerry Mills of Big Spring, Nicolas Mills and wife Laura of Big Spring, and Brody Mills of Big Spring; one daughter: Jodie Mills of Big Spring; thirteen grandchildren: Alex Roland, Alexia Mills, Bethany Mills, Camron Roland, Meghan Mills, Rey Mills, Jonathan Mills, Dustie Roland, Wendie Crabtree, Skyler Crabtree, Mark Castleberry, Lewis Castleberry, and Alesha Mills; three brothers: Jimmy Mills, Kerry Mills, and Mark Mills; and two sisters: Judy Roberts and Laurie Mackey.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one grandson: Gage Mills; three brothers: Terry Mills, Johnny Mills, and Billy Mills; and one daughter-in-law: Rose Mills.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid Obituary*

## Jason C. Beard

Jason Christopher Beard, 40, of Lumberton, Texas, passed away after his battle with cancer, on Dec. 23, 2020, in Beaumont, Texas.

Born in Orange, Texas to Marion "Bubba" Beard and Paula Jones Ferguson, Jason grew up to be the embodiment of a southern gentleman. He attended Coahoma High School, and graduated from Lamar University. Jason was a member of the Exxon-Mobile family. To his friends and colleagues at Exxon-Mobile, Jason was diligent and hardworking.

In his personal life, Jason was an avid hunter and family man that enjoyed volunteering as a coach, treasurer, and grounds keeper for his kids' soccer league. He was generous with his time and love. Jason had the ability to make everyone's day better. He was a dedicated husband, attentive father, and beloved son, who always thought about his loved ones first. To his family, Jason was the light

that brightened their lives. He was grounded in his Christian faith and will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his wife, Lorie Beard, of Lumberton, Texas, his three children, Britton Beard, Hadley Beard, and Autumn Beard, his mother, Paula Ferguson, of Lumberton, Texas, his father and step-mother, Marion "Bubba" Beard and Sandra Beard of Granbury, Texas, his sister Courtney Phernetton and her husband Jeff of Big Spring, Texas, nieces and nephews, Berkley, Peyton, and Landri Phernetton, and his three step-children.

He was preceded in death by maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Jones, his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Davis, and his aunt, Patricia Hargett.

Funeral services will be not be held due to COVID-19, but the family will hold a celebration of life at a later date.

*Paid Obituary*

## Take Note

• West Texas Centers will be hosting the January 2021 Mental Health First Aid training classes twice in January. The classes will be held on Jan. 26, 2021 for Adult Mental Health First Aid, and Jan. 28, 2021 for Youth Mental Health First Aid. Both classes will be virtual.

• A gofund me page for Ed Flores, who recently tested positive for coronavirus and was recently transferred to Lubbock. Donations are requested to help with medical bills and travel expenses so his wife can be close with him. Ed worked with Shroyer for about 25 years and 87 Auto Sale as a mechanic; he has always been willing to help out people even when they didn't have enough money to pay him. Donations can be made at GoFundMe by Monica Medina. For more information on how to help, e-mail [jessemonica1234@gmail.com](mailto:jessemonica1234@gmail.com) or call 432-517-7675.

• Isaiah 58's last distribution will be Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. The food pantry will be closed for the holiday season, through the end of the year beginning Dec. 21. through January 5, 2021.

## Robert Lee Avalos



Robert Lee Avalos, 79, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020. Viewing and visitation were Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lee was born Oct. 30, 1941. He married Nancy Jenkins on Dec. 3, 1962, in Blair, VA.

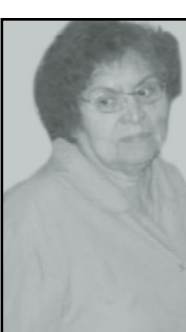
He is survived by his wife: Nancy Lee Avalos of Big Spring; two sons: Robert Avalos, Jr. of Virginia and James R. Avalos of Las Vegas, NV; four grandchildren; six great grandchildren; one sister: Beatrice Apodacci; and two brothers: Johnny T. Avalos and Jerry Avalos.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Ramona and Rito Avalos; and two brothers: Benny Avalos and Rudy Avalos.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Maria Luisa (Licha)

## Ramirez Perez



Maria Luisa (Licha) Ramirez Perez, 80, of Big Spring, passed away Dec. 25, 2020.

Visitation will be 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020 with a vigil service at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020 at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Maria was born in Big Spring on

Sept. 10, 1940.

She is survived by her husband, Pedro (Pete) Perez; two daughters: Janie Perez Fernandez of San Antonio and Cynthia Moffett of Big Spring; three grandchildren; four brothers: Robert Ramirez of Big Spring, Albert Ramirez of Denton, Raul Ramirez of Odessa, and Manuel Ramirez of Big Spring; and one sister: Lori Limon of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents Estafana and Juan Ramirez, she was preceded in death by one daughter: Elizabeth Perez; one brother; and one sister.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to Myers & Smith Funeral Home on her behalf.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Irma Chapa



Irma Chapa, 56, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 28, 2020.

Viewing and visitation will be Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a vigil service at 7 p.m.

Funeral service will be Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 at 10 a.m. at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Irma was born on July 13, 1964, in Merced, CA. She is survived by her husband: Vidal Chapa, Jr.; two sisters: Leticia Dominguez and Marisa Barrientes; two daughters: Maria Canales and Ashley Barrientes; two sons: Joe Barrientes and Joshua Chapa; five grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Maria and Eliseo De La Garza; and one sister.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## List of UIL 1A-4A 2020 Texas Football State Championships won recently

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

The UIL State Championship games have been held recently. It was a different year for football teams when it came to preparing for the season, off-season practices, and navigating through any coronavirus issues that their own teams, or teams they were set to play, endured.

The ultimate goal for every team throughout Texas was to finish their season inside 'Jerry World' with a chance to win a state title.

In the 1A Six-Man Division I Championship, Sterling City finished their undefeated season by crushing May 68-22.

Making the jump to 2A Division I, the Post Antelopes were defeated by the Shiner Comanches 42-20. In the 2A Division

II title game, Windthorst won a 22-21 thriller over Mart.

Tuscola Jim Ned won the 3A Division I title with a 29-28 overtime vic-

tory over Hallettsville. Canadian won the 3A Division II title 35-34 over Franklin.

Argyle won the 4A Division I title

49-21 over Lindale. Finally, Carthage concluded their undefeated season with a 70-14 shellacking of Gilmer for the 4A Division II title.



# PARKVIEW

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**Editor's Overview:**

January brought in more than just a new year ... new faces, new projects and new potential was ushered in with the onset of 2020.

The City of Big Spring brought back the Large/Bulk Item pickup in an effort to help reduce the amount of illegal dumping taking place and allow residents to get rid of larger items without having to make a trip to the landfill. With the relaunch of the program, each district would have two opportunities during the year to clear out unwanted larger items for free.

The West Texas VA Medical Center launched VA Video Connect in an effort to connect veterans in rural areas and bridge the gap between doctor vis-

its. Howard College received new signage and the Amphitheater Phase 1A portion of the renovation project kicked off at the onset of the new year.

The community gathered together to give recognition to first responders for the work they do with prayer at the pole and other thoughtful gestures. The DAV and Mike Tarpley also held a special - first one in Howard County - Quilt of Valor presentation for three first responders who served their country. A community recognition ceremony took place as a member of the Howard County Sheriff's Department, Big Spring Police Department and Big Spring Fire Department were presented with a Quilt of Valor in recognition of their service to the country.

The City of Big Spring welcomed in a new City Attorney, Andrew Hagan mid-month as the Sheriff race heated up with a Sheriff Debate hosted by the Big Spring High School students.

The big discussion surrounding the decision to make Big Spring a Sanctuary City for the Unborn began to grow. Discussions continued every couple of weeks as the Council continued to hear from concerned citizens on both sides of the aisle. As the community interest in this topic grew, the Council meetings had to move to the Municipal Auditorium to accommodate all who were interested in attending and voicing their concerns at City Council meetings.

## Big Spring City Council passes Sanctuary for the Unborn ordinance, 4-2 vote



HERALD file photo

City Council meetings saw a packed house for several of the meetings, some of which were moved to the Municipal Auditorium to hold those who wanted to attend.

**Herald Staff Report**

After months of discussion and heated opinions across the community, the Big Spring City Council pass an ordinance declaring Big Spring as a Sanctuary City for the Unborn. The vote passed with a 4-2 vote after a rather lengthy meeting. As the Council took to the vote Councilman Doug Hartman was absent, Councilmembers Gloria McDonald, Jim DePauw and Terry McDaniel along with Mayor Shannon Thomas cast a yes vote; and Councilmembers Camilla Strande and Raul Marquez cast a no vote. With the majority ruling in favor of the ordinance, it passed, making Big Spring one of the first in the state to establish a

Sanctuary City for the Unborn.

The discussions surrounding the ordinance first surfaced in November 2019, with several of the meetings having to be held in the Municipal Auditorium due to the influx of attendees at the meetings. Over the course of the months, numerous residents addressed the council voicing their opinions on both sides of the fence.

One of those speaking in favor of the ordinance was Lindsey Pinkerton from Big Spring; during her speech she asked that the council pass the ordinance as she spoke up for those who could not. John Ferguson Big Spring resident since 1962, spoke about how the ordinance was not constitutional. He said that he could address the issue that would make Big Spring a laughing stock across the nation but he would focus on other things. In closing, he asked the council to let the decision be a private one between a woman and her doctor and to leave the judgement up to God. "You are not God," Ferguson said.

And others voiced their opinions merely reflecting on that they believe this wasn't for City Council to be deciding. In addition to numerous residents of Big Spring voicing their concerns, there were those who traveled from outside of our community to speak their minds on this ordinance and the impacts it could have across the state and for generations to come.

## Ryan Tannehill leads Titans to AFC Champ.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

Following the 2006 season, Big Spring Steers starting quarterback Ryan Tannehill was the 630th-ranked player in his recruiting class. He was moved to wide receiver in his red-shirt freshman season at Texas A&M after finishing third in a starting quarterback position battle behind two players who combined to start one game in the National Football League. He was the third quarterback drafted in the first round in the 2012 NFL Draft by the Miami Dolphins and was traded away after seven seasons and over 20,000 passing yards.

What do all of those things have in common?

None of them matter to the current Tennessee Titans' starting quarterback, his courteous and humble parents, or the Big Spring community.

"I think he knows having these small-town roots is very beneficial where you have the support you have from our community," Tannehill's mother Cheryl said.

Tannehill passed for over 5,000 yards in his senior season at Big Spring High School. The local legend went on to break the Texas A&M school record for passing yards in a game and season. He also finished one touchdown short of a tie for career passing touchdowns in only 20 games as the starter. In a loaded first round that included first overall pick Andrew Luck and Heisman-winner Robert Griffin III, Tannehill is the only starting quarterback remaining of the trio. In an NFL playoffs that featured two other quarterbacks from his draft class, Kirk Cousins and Russell Wilson, the former Steer is the last one standing.

The Tennessee Titans began the 2019 season 2-4 behind the second overall pick and former Heisman Trophy-winner Marcus Mariota. After the less-than-impressive start to the season, Titans' head coach Mike Vrabel knew he needed to make a move to kickstart an offense that was averaging only 16.3 points per game through that six-game stretch.

"Just felt like now was the time," Vrabel said to ESPN following his decision to make Tannehill the starter following his fill-in performance against the Buffalo Bills in Week 6. "Sitting at that game, sitting where I was, made the decision during the game and then just was able to think about it, evaluate it, and move forward and make a decision to try to spark the offense, to try to do something to get us going, to score some points and to help us win."

Tannehill has answered the call.

"One thing his dad has always said is 'You may not have that position right now, so you need to work hard so that if you get an opportunity, you can be successful at it,'" Cheryl Tannehill said. "I think that's just his mind-set is 'I want to be ready when I get the opportunity.'"

Tim Tannehill, Ryan's father, added, "He takes care of his body, he stays committed to what his goals are and works through those issues. He stays positive and that's worked out for him."

Since taking over the starting job, the Titans have gone 9-3 while averaging 29.3 points per game. Tannehill led the NFL in multiple categories such as passer rating (117.5), yards per attempt (9.6) and yards per completion (13.6) while passing for 22 touchdowns and only six interceptions. Tennessee seems to collectively be playing with more confidence and swagger than they had been with Mariota under center and are participating in their first AFC Championship Game in exactly 17 years.

## Big Spring welcomes Hagan as new City Attorney

**Herald Staff Report**

As a new year started, the City of Big Spring welcomed a new face to the team. After receiving the resignation of former City Attorney Marianne Banks, the City Council voted to approve the hire of Andrew Hagan.

City Attorney Andrew Hagan is a native of Fargo, North Dakota and a 1996 graduate of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. He is also a 2002 graduate of Rutgers Law School in Camden, New Jersey. Before moving to Big Spring, Hagan held a position as a City's Information Technology Department in Uvalde and even served as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Uvalde since 2011.

In an interview earlier in the year, Hagan said he was looking forward to coming to Big Spring and serving a community with the potential he saw.

"When I think of Big Spring, I see a city that has a lot of things going for it," Judge Hagan said. "It has a lot of potential, I see a great future ahead, and look forward to doing the best job I can for the citizens of Big Spring."

Hagan began his new position as City Attorney on Feb. 3.

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# FEBRUARY

**Editor's Overview:**

The activity across Big Spring began to stir as February rolled in. While February may be the shortest month of the year, it was by no means slow. The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce helped kicked off the month with the annual recognition of Man and Woman of the Year - an award that recognizes two individu-

als who continuously invest into the community in hopes of seeing positive impacts spread throughout Big Spring. In addition, recognitions for the good deeds done and positive things taking place expanded with the inclusion of 5 Under 55 - a new award focused on highlighting young business professionals who are making a difference in the community

through their businesses and organizations. Recognition seemed to be the theme for the month as Big Spring was recognized as one of the best cities for business growth.

Newness continued to flow in as Oncor received a new fleet of vehicles to better serve the areas needs. The Big Spring Fire Department also received a new addition to the team, with the

receipt of AutoPulse machines that were added to the ambulances to better serve those cardiac calls and save more lives.

Sadly, February had a few upsets as one of Big Spring's own firefighters was injured in a structure fire. Big Spring Police Department was part of a joint investigation that resulted in two arrests for child pornography.

## Big Spring recognized for business and industry growth

**Herald Staff Report**

Business and industry growth has been taking place throughout Howard County over the past few years. According to a study recently conducted by LendEDU using U.S. Census Bureau data. The data showed Big Spring is ranked number 11 in the state and 251 in the country for number of business openings in recent years.

According to data that reflects growth across the nation - business openings and closings - Big Spring netted 13 business openings between 2015 and 2016. This report from the U.S. Census Bureau was released July 31, 2019 and is the most recent report available. Overall, Big Spring had 69 businesses open and only had 56 businesses close during that time.

"Big Spring has netted one of the highest numbers of business openings out of any place in the country is a testament to the economic environment that has been cultivated," Teresa Darden, Associate Director at the Big Spring Economic Development Corp., said.

New business is a positive sign of growth in a community, whether it be a large corporation bringing in hundreds of jobs or a small, family-owned business; regardless of the size new jobs created brings revenue and economic health to a community. In addition to the business profit, there will be additional tax revenue for the local government, increased foot traffic in the area and for other businesses and increased options for local consumers.

According to the BSEDC, each city was ranked according to its net number of business openings, meaning the number of business openings minus the number of business closings over the same period of time.

The data showed that in the state Big Spring has seen more business growth than surrounding areas, including Midland, Odessa and Sweetwater. According to the report, Midland is ranked 29 in the state and 462 nationally; Odessa is ranked 57 in the state and 711 in the nation; and Sweetwater is 17 in the state and 373 in the nation.

## Howard Stewart steadily improving Comanche Golf Course

**By SHAWN MORAN**

Herald Sportswriter

Near the beginning of a new year it is always interesting to see just how far things have come along since you last checked-in on them. In the city of Big Spring, several things have changed over the past year. This includes the city golf course and a new leader who has taken over at the helm.

Longtime Big Spring resident Howard Stewart took over as Course Superintendent for the Comanche Trail Municipal Golf course last summer. In that time, Stewart has made multiple changes in improving the appearance and overall efficiency of the course.

"We've had our wells re-done, we've got a new computerized sprinkling system, and we're doing a lot more work ourselves," Stewart said. "We've stayed busy. We're doing little things that have needed to be done that and have just been neglected."

The changes also include the fact that Comanche is now the home course for a handful of schools around the greater-Big Spring area and have over 25 tournaments scheduled from now until the end of the year. Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan and Garden City will be playing their host tournaments at Comanche Trail this season.

Stewart grew up in Big Spring and has been in love with the game of golf for decades. As a top-notch young player, Stewart played golf at Odessa College for two years before moving onto Hardin-Simmons to finish out an impressive collegiate career. Golf has always been one of the focal points of Stewart's life. After completing college, his first job was as Big Spring High School golf coach when he returned to town.

Stewart has been heavily involved with the beautiful game ever since.

Comanche gained a tremendous golf enthusiast when they elected to hire Stewart as the newest superintendent last July. After working at the Big Spring Country Club for years, the opportunity arose for Stewart to take a step up in the ranks and move on to run his own course.

"My whole life it seem like I've been in the right place at the right time," Stewart said. "It's not like I was looking for any of this. It just kind of fell in my lap and I can't say no. I love a challenge."

With a new and humble leader running the show there has been obvious advancements in both course upkeep and technology. Comanche has a brand-new computerized watering system that hydrates the grass every day automatically. If it rains, the system can sense that and will adjust itself to produce as much water is needed on the course.

Some of the other improvements that Stewart has made since taking over a little over seven months ago include: taking down three old, dead trees that were becoming an eyesore and re-doing some cart paths that have needed repair after years of wear-and-tear.

There are also things that Stewart still wants to improve and change as the year progresses and the schedule begins to fill-up. The superintendent would like to fix two water pumps that have an issue with leaking, continue to clean up the course, and have the fairways and greens up to his standards before this time next year.

Golfweek is a top news source for the latest golf-related news and stories. They have created a top golf course list that takes into account criteria such as: overall strength of routing, feature shaping, natural settings, greens, variety and remarkable nature of holes, conditioning and maintenance, landscape management, etc. to determine what makes a golf course great.

## BSFD receives autopulse machines for ambulances; injured firefighter recovers

**Herald Staff Report**

The Big Spring Fire Department received a helping hand this past year, as AutoPulses were added to the ambulances. With the addition of these machines, more support was offered to EMS while they were in the field helping cardiac patients.

An extra set of hands can be helpful, especially in the case of an emergency. The Big Spring Fire Department has an extra set of hands on two of their units with the new Autopulse machine, which assists in CPR for cardiac patients.

"This is another tool for the toolbox to help us provide adequate care for our community," Lt. Albert Cavazos, said.

When the Firefighters and EMS teams arrive on scene, access the situation and determine the patient is in cardiac arrest manual CPR will be started until the Autopulse device can be introduced. Once the device is introduced which only takes a few seconds to apply get started, according to Cavazos.

"Once the device is implemented it is going to allow our hands to be free which will allow us to put an airway in such as an ET tube, attaching monitors, getting machines and IVs started for medications," he said.

Apparatic Engineer Bryant Kleman added, "The biggest thing is adequate CPR. We are all human and when we become fatigued, especially doing compressions at a 30-2 rate, thirty compressions, two breaths delivered over two minutes. This adequately provides blood throughout the body; it releases our hands to be able to do the other things that are needed to try to save a life. It's ultimately better for the patient going into cardiac arrest and increases that survival rate to a 75 percent success rate. You take out the fatigue, the human factor and deliver the compressions adequately."

Cavazos and his team each echoed the benefits of the Autopulse, not only for the crew, but for the community.

However, while the BSFD was celebrating the addition of the new equipment, they were also awaiting to hear news of an injured fellow firefighter who was injured in one of the structure fires that the BSFD had to battle this month. After a few weeks, the firefighter made a complete recovery.



HERALD file photo

**Albert Cavazos (right) along with fellow EMS personnel pose for a photo with the new Autopulse machines that were added to the ambulances this year.**

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# MARCH

**Editor's Overview:**

March was the month that 2020 did a 180 as the Covid-19 pandemic swept into Howard County. For the first couple of months, Howard County had only watched from the sidelines, but as area schools released for Spring Break, what was next was unexpected. Spring Break 2020 seemed to become the longest Spring Break in history.

In addition to a pandemic, Big Spring residents were experiencing a new site inside city limits – a drilling rig. Sinclair Oil drilled a well inside city limits. As industrial based projects continued, the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation

airpark project started stirring up conversation.

Politics ramped up again as the Joint Primary Election was taking place, amongst one of the more popular races was the one for Howard County Sheriff between incumbent Stan Parker and Tad Ellis.

Keeping with a little bit of normal, Toasty Tuesday's kicked off, Sands One Act advanced in competition and the Grand Jury handed out indictments to 24 people. As the second half of the month came in, schools announced closures due to the pandemic, and a public health declaration was released. While schools were learning to take on a virtual learning experience, governing bodies

were taking their meetings virtual as well, and the YMCA offered online drills to keep the youth active.

The West Texas VA unveiled the new Small House – the first of several – with a small ceremony. Long time BSEDC Director Terry Wegman retired and the 2020 Census kicked off.

Of course, while the unexpected was taking place the hearts of Big Spring shined bright. Community began to come together and a group of mask makers put their sewing ability to use and began making masks for frontline workers.

## Mayor uses veto power on \$6 million dollar EDC project

**Herald Staff Report**

During a special meeting of The Big Spring City Council and a lengthy discussion surrounding the final reading of a Resolution of the City Council of the city of Big Spring, Texas authorizing and approving a project and a loan (and terms thereof) in the amount of up to six million dollars to finance infrastructure and road improvements to the Big Spring Airpark, approving the execution and delivery of loan documents relating thereto, delegating authority to the President of Big Spring Economic Development Corporation to consummate the loan and containing other matters related thereto.

The proposed BSEDC project is to build a road from the reliever route into the Industrial Park in order to allow for easier access. The access into the Industrial Park is projected to be under \$6 million and is to take around three months, according to the information provided in the contract discussed.

After hearing and reviewing the proposed information presented in the meeting, the City Council passed the final reading of the Resolution with a 5-2 vote; Council members Raul Marquez, Terry McDaniel, Gloria McDonald, Camilla Strande and Jim DePauw voted for the approval of the loan with Councilman Doug Hartman and Mayor Thomason voting against.

A press release was sent out to local media the Sunday afternoon following the meeting regarding Mayor Shannon Thomason's veto regarding the \$6 Million loan to the Big Spring EDC for financing of the road construction at the Big Spring McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. This is an issue that was discussed at the past few City Council meetings. Last Thursday, the Big Spring City Council held a special meeting regarding this issue - after Mayor Thomason removed the final reading of the resolution from the regular meeting on Tuesday. During the special meeting, the Council passed the resolution with a 5-2 vote, with Mayor Thomason and Doug Hartman voting against. The following is the press release related to the Mayor's veto along with the letter Mayor Thomason sent to City Secretary Don Moore stating his reasoning behind the veto.

On March 29, 2020, City of Big Spring Mayor Shannon Thomason notified City Secretary Don Moore of his veto of Resolution 006-2020, which approves a loan of up to \$6 million to the Big Spring EDC to Finance road construction at the Big Spring McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

Mayor Thomason's veto of the resolution cites financial uncertainty during the current COVID-19 pandemic as well as issues with the project itself.

**By SHAWN MORAN**

Herald Sportswriter

Countless sporting events, concerts, celebrations, etc. have been cancelled or postponed over the current outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

One of those events was the Combate Americas straw-weight title rematch between Big Spring's very own Desiree "Dirty Dez" Yanez (5-2) and current undefeated champion Melissa "Super Melly" Martinez (7-0).

Back in early December, these two superb fighters battled it out for three five-minute rounds. Martinez was named the winner by a split decision and retained her championship belt. The fight's outcome was highly controversial with a lot of people saying that Yanez was robbed after dominating the majority of the fight.

"I feel like I have some unfinished business to take care of," Yanez said.

In the sport of fighting, the incumbent champion usually always retains their title as long as they are not knocked out or submitted. Yanez knew this heading into their first fight and was motivated to end the match before the decision was forced to be made by the judges.

She was unable to make the knockout happen in December and is still motivated by the judges slighting her.

"I stressed and stressed not leaving it to the judges and I ended up doing that," Yanez said. "I thought I was going to be able to finish her in that second round. I kind of emptied my gas tank on her with all of the punches and blows and I really was just tired in the third round and wasn't able to get that finish."

The upcoming fight was going to be held in Martinez' hometown of Mexico City. With the location seemingly setup to favor the champion, Yanez was ready to embrace the role of the villain.

## 'Dirty Dez' Yanez preparing for title fight rematch

Yanez only has a handful of wins under her belt, but she carries herself with the confidence of a future champion and the heart of a warrior. Following the first loss of her career, Yanez returned to knockout her next opponent just over two minutes into the first round. She went on to win her next three bouts before the loss to Martinez last winter.

During that winning streak in a fight against Paulina Vargas, Yanez said after the fight that she did not want to hit again following the first two rounds. So, she changed up her strategy mid-fight. That strategy involved Dirty Dez breaking Vargas' ankle in a submission win that led up to the first matchup with Martinez.

Dirty Dez will return to the octagon after this public health situation is resolved with the goal of having another early-round knockout following a loss.

"My mindset going into this fight is finishing her," Yanez said.

She stressed that she needs to not get too comfortable in the rounds and also needs to always keep the pressure on her opponent. The fighter who graduated from Big Spring High School says her endurance is the best it has ever been and can not wait for the opportunity to step back into the cage against Martinez.

Yanez is a determined fighter who always respects her opponents and respects the art of mixed martial arts fighting. She is also a brawler who prefers to inflict punishment on her opponents through heavy punches and strikes.

Since the last fight, Yanez feels that Martinez' corner has been disrespectful because of the outcome of the last fight being branded as controversial and so highly-contested by fans.

## Sand Castle Small House opening celebrated at WTVAH



HERALD file photo

As the pandemic began to enter into Howard County, the West Texas VA was able to host an outdoor ribbon cutting with a small group of community members and dignitaries for the Sand Castle Small House, one of four small houses on the Big Spring campus. The small house will offer veterans another avenue of treatment at the Big Spring facility, opening the door for more personalized care.

May the year ahead be filled with good health, good fortune & happiness too!

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Happy New Year!



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# APRIL

### Editor's Overview:

April began with Governor Greg Abbott issuing an announcement closing non-essential businesses across the State of Texas in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. With the announcement from the Governor, restaurants began offering curbside service and delivery in an effort to keep their doors open; grocery stores began offering free curbside services and community members began stepping up to deliver groceries for those who were unable to get to the stores. Grocery store shelves began to empty as community members began to stockpile foods, toiletries and other everyday items.

The May elections – across the county – were postponed with the uncertainty of the pandemic and its impacts. The City of Big Spring, Howard

County, Big Spring ISD, and Howard College postponed their elections in the contested races until November with the General Election.

The first confirmed case of Covid-19 was announced in Howard County on April 9 and the first fatality from the virus was announced April 10. School closures were extended until the end of the semester, Big Spring Art Association Art Show was postponed and the State Park closed. In an effort to ensure the youth in the community had access to at least two full meals a day while the schools were closed, area schools set up pickup locations were those under 18 could get breakfast and lunch.

As the pandemic impacts continued to hit, West Texas saw oil prices plummet to negative numbers – a first for the oil

industry (to the recollection of those in the area.)

As uncertainty continued, there seemed to be a light at the end of the tunnel or at least a little relief as food pantries began to open across the community, small business loans became available and the government pushed out different avenues to help provide a little relief to small business owners and communities. Talks about re-opening began and slowly the economy began to receive increased business.

## UIL cancels competition for spring

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

The day that high school sports players, coaches and fans were dreading has arrived. After Governor Greg Abbott announced that all schools will finish the year through distance learning late last week, the University Interscholastic League's (UIL) decision came soon after.

All 2019-20 spring sports and state championships are now cancelled. No high school program will be returning to play against competition until next fall at the earliest.

"Our staff had been working hard on plans to resume activities this spring, but without schools in session, interscholastic activities cannot continue," UIL Executive Director Dr. Charles Breithaupt said. "Our highest priority during this challenging time is ensuring the health and safety of our students and communities and making progress in the containment of COVID-19 in Texas. We are now turning our attention to the 2020-2021 school year."

While all in-person practices now have no chance of resuming, coaches can still get in contact with their players through online meetings. Online video chats such as Zoom and Google Classroom are being used to communicate with these students and athletes and that will continue now into the summer months.

Even though it is an unfortunate situation for the athletes who are graduating next month and all of the others who have worked so hard for their spring sports season, there is still confidence surrounding Big Spring about what the future of sports in town holds.

"It's not the ideal situation for us but it will make us better in the end," Big Spring assistant coach Eric Tuttle said. "We have to respond like champions."

Now that no students will be returning to school this year, there will be no team workouts for sports that will start in the fall until further notice. The next big sport to be played is now the upcoming football season which will start in August.

The UIL has said that they will "continue to follow the direction of state authorities and will work closely with member schools to navigate this unprecedented time."

This is a time unlike any other in this country's history. We are now in the second month of there being no sports and social distancing still being in full effect. Sports are an easy escape for the mind and people have been growing anxious without any athletics going on.

Seniors who participate in spring sports at Big Spring, Coahoma, and Forsan will never get to finish out their athletic careers the correct way. The coaches who have developed those players for years to lead the team will now never get to see those players thrive in those leadership roles. Parents will now be unable to see their sons or daughters complete their high school playing careers the way they had done years before them.

From the Forsan basketball Twitter account, Coach Cory Richardson tweeted out "To our seniors: we feel bad for you just like everyone else, but sports has prepared you for the 'un-fair.' You have the ability to overcome this and anything else this world can throw at you. Two claps, next possession. You've been given a head start on your future-how will you use it?"

Those seniors will now move on to their new colleges or careers in the next few months and will always think that they were the unlucky ones who had their senior year cut short by a virus. But Richardson poses a great question for his players. How will they respond to this negative news? The answer to that question might not be known for a while but the important thing is that all of those players have strong supporters all throughout their programs.

Sports are now done for the 2019-20 school year. All we can hope for now is the next few months to fly by.

## Oil prices hit all-time low Monday, dramatically dropping, market closes -\$37.63

### Herald Staff Report

West Texas oil prices hit an all-time low as oil prices plummeted. In less than a couple of hours oil prices took more than a 300% drop going from less than \$5 a barrel to well below \$0. By mid-afternoon oil was sitting in the negatives and steadily declining. The oil market closed at -\$37.60 a barrel on Monday afternoon.

"This price drop was drastic and unless there is some relief that comes from the government, of which there is chatter about, there is a discussion about what to do," Quincy Krosby, Prudential Financial Chief Market Strategist, said. "The shale producers are incredibly important. It's difficult to imagine the producers in the Permian and across the country are going to be left without aide."

As Krosby stated, the decline of oil prices have a domino effect on the economy. If you have shale producers default on their debt, they go under, they fire people and then the banks in the region aren't getting paid and

are under pressure, as well as the other companies associated in shale production and hydraulic fracturing.

"The government is keen on avoiding; the idea is to shut down the economy to cushion the downturn so when we come out of it there is an upside of consumers and businesses ready," she said.

According to Krosby there is chatter at the higher levels of government about financial aide programs or facility, to keep producers from producing, to stop oil production but still be paid until the global demand picks up.

Monday's oil prices decline was the first time in history that oil prices dropped as quickly and as low as they did. The last major downturn, as referenced by Krosby was in November 2014, when the Saudis began pumping oil at increased rates. The idea behind the increased production was to put pressure on those producers who were unable to function because of high prices and then to dramatically drop prices forcing a consolidation in the industry.

## Gov. Abbott closes non-essential businesses due to pandemic

### Herald Staff Report

During a press conference on Tuesday afternoon Governor Greg Abbott issued the Executive Order No. GA-14 relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities during the COVID-19 disaster. During this press conference, Gov. Abbott also announced statewide the closure of non-essential businesses through April 30, 2020 and extended school closures through May 4, 2020.

Shortly after the order was announced, local school districts began communicating with students and families via Facebook pages and other avenues of communication regarding extended closure.

Following the announcement area school announced their plans for virtual learning and continuing education of Howard County youth. Upon receiving the Governor's Executive Order Mayor Shannon Thomason met with the Emergency Management Team to discuss and review the order.

The Governor's order read as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective 12:01 a.m. on April 2, 2020, and continuing through April 30, 2020, subject to extension based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC and the White House Coronavirus Task Force:

In accordance with guidance from DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt, and to achieve the goals established by the President to re-

duce the spread of COVID-19, every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

In providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible. In particular, all services should be provided through remote tele-work.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

This executive order does not prohibit people from accessing essential services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize inperson contact with people who are not in the same household.



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**2021 INSTRUCTOR-LED FITNESS CLASSES**

Time:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WE Pool 8:00 AM	Water Aerobics w/ Patty Schuelke	Water Aerobics w/ Patty Schuelke		Water Aerobics w/ Patty Schuelke	
Spin Room 9:00AM	Boot Camp w/Kellie Wash	Strength & Cond. w/Kellie Wash	Boot Camp w/Kellie Wash	Strength & Cond. w/Kellie Wash	Boot Camp w/Kellie Wash
Board Room 9:15AM	Chair Exercise w/Patty Schuelke	Chair Exercise w/Patty Schuelke		Chair Exercise w/ Patty Schuelke	
Spin Room 10:00AM		Sr. Strength & Cond. w/Kellie Wash		Sr. Strength & Cond. w/Kellie Wash	
Board Room 11:00AM	Chair Exercise w/Patty Schuelke	Chair Exercise w/Patty Schuelke		Chair Exercise w/ Patty Schuelke	
WE Pool 5:30 PM	Water Aerobics w/Annie McKinnon		Water Aerobics w/Annie McKinnon	Water Aerobics w/Annie McKinnon	
Spin Room 5:30 PM		Yoga w/ Rett Hutto		Yoga w/Rett Hutto	

306 W 3rd Street  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
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304317



Editor's Overview: The month of May came in and brought a ray of sunshine with it. The State Park's publication highlighting the history of the area received an award, Big Spring Intermediate was recognized as a Capturing Kids Hearts Schools, and Big Spring ISD reached 100,000 meals served to the community youth.

The economy began to come back to life as bars and restaurants were allowed to open and other non-essential businesses were allowed to open at 50% capacity. However, with the dry weather that is no stranger to West Texas, the county was placed under a burn ban.

Graduations became an anticipated event, but due to the ongoing pandemic and the uncertainty of what was on the horizon, area schools either postponed graduation or had to alter the ceremonies. Forsan opted for a drive-thru distribution of diplomas and a virtual recording of graduation ceremonies; Coahoma celebrated their graduates outside on the football field and Big Spring opted to postpone until the summer in hopes of having an actual ceremony.

For the first time in its inception, the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo was cancelled as was Pops in the Park.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center received new ownership and became part of the Steward family, and with that transfer of ownership new signage began going up around the facility grounds. The West Texas VA Medical Center received a new director as Jason Cave was welcomed back to Big Spring.

## MaKynlee Overton breaks Coahoma shot put record

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

Earlier this year, in one of the many sports she plays and excels at, Coahoma student-athlete MaKynlee Overton broke the school shot put record.

The mark of 35' 6" is an outstanding throw and even more impressive when you realize that Overton is only a junior. She still has an entire year to get stronger and try to make her record as untouchable as possible.

"I'm hoping (to add) quite a bit," Overton said. "I feel like if we had been able to continue the season I would have been able to throw even farther."

Track and Field Head Coach Mitchell Woodard also believes that she could add some solid distance to her record before her high school career is finished.

"I would say she can put another two feet on it," Woodard said.

The initial thought was that Overton broke the record at the first meet of the year at Big Spring High School. But after further judgement it was known that she had come up just a few inches shy of the record.

Following some more practice time, the extremely competitive Overton went out to the home meet in early March and finally etched her name into the Coahoma record books with her eye-popping throw.

"I was amazed, honestly," Overton said. "I wanted to win but I didn't think about any records or anything and so when I broke it, it kind of caught me by surprise."

Overton will now have her name displayed in the Coahoma weight room for her record-breaking throw. The Coahoma coaching staff celebrated her record-setting throw and Overton was ecstatic with her performance. Even though she is only a junior, Overton and all of her coaches seemed to expect this type of performance out of her.

"After the first track meet at Big Spring when she threw almost 34 feet and I saw that she could've put a lot more into it, I knew she was close. In practice she kept getting better everyday and I knew she was going to break it pretty soon," Coach Steven Arista said.

There is going to be a long time away from practice now and Overton might not have a chance to pick up a shot put until next spring. Athletic Director Chris Joslin is still hoping, and planning, to have summer workouts where all of his student-athletes can come up to the school to improve their skills.

During last year's summer workouts, in the first year of their existence, is where Woodard believes that Overton took a big step forward with her track and field throwing skills.

"She's one heck of a competitor and she's going to do whatever it takes to win," Woodard said. "She always showed up to our summer workouts last year and worked hard so she's going to do whatever it takes to win."

Whether there are summer workouts are not this year, Overton will surely be back next year to star on and lead the Bulldogettes' volleyball, basketball, softball and track & field teams.

She has already begun to step into those leadership roles during this past school year and has brought her skills to the next level. Next year, the ball will move through her on the court in Head Coach Jim Kinnear's system and she is expected to be the Ace on the mound when softball starts back up next year. There is no reason to believe that she will not also excel in volleyball and in her shot put throwing.

"I feel like I'm ready and I'm excited to be able to be looked up to as the leader. I feel like I'm ready for it," Overton reiterated.

Overton has established herself as one of the premier athletes in the Coahoma program over the past year-plus. With still more time to grow and develop as an athlete, the sky is the limit for Overton and the Coahoma community should get prepared to start cheering for the future college choice of the star shot putter, pitcher and forward.

## Peaceful protests take place in Big Spring for several days, sparked by George Floyd death



HERALD file photo

Community members gathered together for several nights to peacefully protest in hopes of raising awareness after the death of George Floyd. Floyd was killed by a police officer after being held down by the officer's knee on his neck. Protests took place all over the nation, some not as peaceful as Big Spring's.

## Outstanding Interpretive Site Publication earned by Big Spring State Park guide

By AMANDA DUEORAT

Managing Editor

The Big Spring State Park recently received the Outstanding Interpretive Site Publication Regional Award for 2019 from the National Association for Interpretation. The competition included Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Kansas.

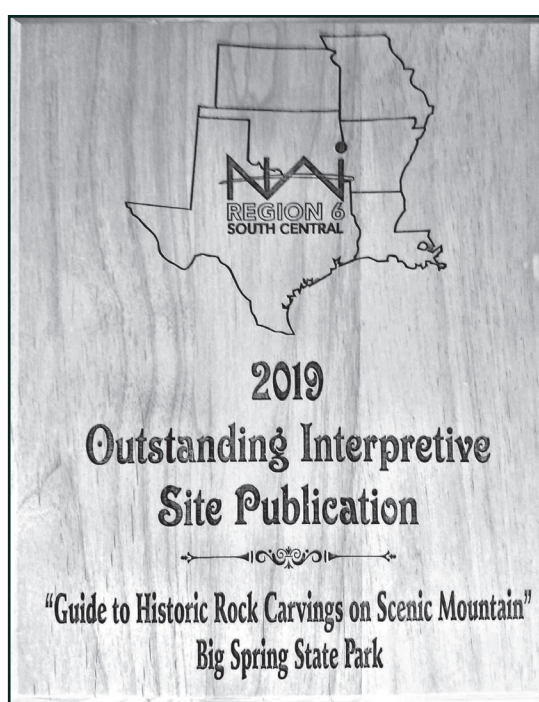
Scenic Mountain State Park has been offering the historical site guides at the State Park and at the Heritage Museum for a couple of years now. The publication offers a historical insight to the carvings located throughout the park. In addition to the carvings, there is information about the State Park and the new hike and bike trails.

"I like the idea for this publication was birthed by citizens of our own town, and the original poem and other ideas from locals were included in this award winner," Alton said.

According to Alton, there were five other different states who submitted publications for this particular competition.

"There was quite a bit of effort that went into this project to come out the winner," Alton said. "We have some interesting features in this park available to our visitors."

To grab a copy of the publication, visit the State Park. As per Governor Greg Abbott's order, State Parks are now open, but those visiting should wear a mask and adhere to social distancing practices.



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**Editor's Overview:** The month of June brought a sense of unrest across the nation as the death of George Floyd stirred all communities and brought the issue of racism to the forefront, in addition to the ongoing pandemic. While the nation dealt with riots, looting, protests and heightened confusion, the community of Big Spring continued to stand together and come to a peaceful resolution. For a few nights peaceful protests took place along Gregg Street and in the Heart of the City Park, residents attended in mass numbers to speak with the City Council about possible outreaches and changes that could take place in our own community to avoid an instance like George Floyd's from happening.

The community of Big Spring dealt with another first this year as news was released that an arrest had been made for voter fraud in the March election.

The Big Spring community was dealt another hard blow as the death of Marj Carpenter was announced. Carpenter had made an impact in the world of journalism and throughout her lifetime had seen and been part of many pieces of history,

across the nation. Carpenter brought a piece of notoriety to Howard County and the legacy she left behind won't soon fade.

The turmoil in the community grew as four of the City Council members walked out of a meeting one evening, after months of tension loomed at the meetings. As the Council discussed the infill development incentive program discussions became heated and the council members walked out. Soon after recall petitions were filed for two of the four members who walked out.

On a positive note, Big Spring High School students were able to celebrate their graduation outdoors in a full ceremony. While the routine may have looked a little different, the celebration took place and it drew attention from the entire community. A graduation parade took place as graduates entered Memorial Stadium from a parade and the sunset offered the perfect backdrop to the occasion.

Big Spring EDC welcomed a new di-

rector, Mark Willis and the Big Spring Area Community Foundation offered a little relief to local businesses and families. Small businesses were able to apply for a relief grant and more than 100 residents had their water bills paid up.

## Four councilmembers walk out of meeting, recall petitions filed

### Herald Staff Report

In the midst of heated discussion - which began stirring in a stressed atmosphere earlier in the year - four council members walked out of a City Council meeting in the late part of the month. The Council was discussing the Infill Development Incentive Program at the time, with the feeling of inability to truly represent their constituents with the constant silencing, the four chose to walk out of the meeting and take a stand.

Shortly after the councilmembers walked out of the meeting, recall petitions began to be filed. The first recall petitions were for Councilwoman Camilla Strande and Councilman Jim DePauw. Both petitions cited dereliction of duties.

The original petition which was filed against Jim DePauw was thrown out due to the petition being filed by a resident of another district. Shortly after, a resident of District 6 resubmitted a recall petition for DePauw.

## Saying goodbye to Marj Carpenter

The sad, unexpected news of Marj Carpenter's passing hit those who knew her hard.

Marj Carpenter was more than just a Big Spring resident, she was a lady who made her own way in the world of journalism and did it with integrity, built trust and above all respect.

The stories of Marj Carpenter showed her determination, strong will, and her never take no for an answer attitude. For anyone who knew Marj, she was a firecracker with a purpose.

The impact she made on Big Spring is only a droplet in the impact she made in the world.



## Calderon arrested for illegal voter fraud

### Herald Staff Report

An arrest had been made in Howard County in reference to illegal voter fraud. On June 16, 2020, Isabel Calderon, 46, of Big Spring, was arrested after an investigation took place by the Texas Rangers.

According to a press release issued by the Howard County Sheriff's Office, on March 13, 2020, Ranger Tod Reed requested assistance from the Howard County Sheriff office with an illegal voting investigation. The complete investigation was turned over to the Texas Rangers due to the conflict of Sheriff Stan Parker being on the election ballot in the impacted election. Ranger Reed learned that Howard County was contacted by the Secretary of State Elections Division in reference to the suspect identified as Calderon having duplicate ballots issued. According to records received, Calderon voted in the early voting for the primary election - which was held at the Howard County Courthouse

- and once again in the primary election, on Election Day.

"After each election, an audit is conducted to ensure voting activity is documented for each voter. Even though the ballot is secret, the day, party affiliation, and voting location is noted for each voter," Jodi Duck, Howard County Elections Administrator, said. "It was discovered that one voter had duplicate activity for the March Primary Election held March 3, 2020."

According to Duck, once the determination had been made that a voter had indeed voted twice by personal appearance, the Howard County Attorney was contacted for direction on how to proceed with this matter and from there the issue was turned over to the Texas Rangers. Ranger Reed conducted an interview with Calderon who confessed to voting twice in the 2020 primary election. An arrest warrant was issued for Calderon who was arrested and formally charged with illegal voting.



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# JULY

## Editor's Overview:

Summer arrived and with the warmer temperatures came more heated issues across the community. Announcements came of the Howard County Fair being cancelled due to the unknown of what the coronavirus situation would be at that time.

Big Spring Police Department were tasked with investigation an unexplained fatality in Comanche Trail Park.

The political scene continued with the Democratic Runoff election and the results being announced. In addition to the two council member recalls that were filed in June, another recall petition surfaced for the Mayor position. As the local community dealt with a heated political arena, President Donald

Trump made a visit to the West Texas Region. President Trump made a stop in Midland/Odessa to discuss the oil industry as he placed boots on the ground. Several Big Spring residents made the trip over in hopes of seeing the President, with one local resident sharing the story of attending the luncheon with President Trump.

On a positive note, Kelly Seales was welcomed as the new Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2 and Scenic Mountain Medical Center welcomed Stacy Brown as the new President of the newly acquired Steward facility. Former CEO Emma Krabill resigned her position as she pursued her career in another small community hospital.

## President Donald Trump visits West Texas, lands in Midland



Courtesy photo/White House

President Donald Trump made a special visit to the West Texas region this past summer. He landed in Midland and visited with oil producers, workers and businesses to address the oil crisis situation and actions he was prepared to take to alleviate the downturn. West Texas residents, including many from Big Spring, traveled to see President Trump. One local resident - Nolan Dominguez - even had the opportunity to sit in at the luncheon with President Trump.

## Seth Johnson takes over as Forsan girls' basketball coach

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

Lloyd Vedder had been the coach of the Forsan girls' basketball team for years and led them to many great seasons. He was a very likable coach with a big personality and an unrelenting drive to win.

Now, after a move to Oklahoma for Vedder, the Forsan Lady Buffs will have a new coach to lead them on the hardwood for this upcoming season and beyond. That new head coach will be Seth Johnson.

"I guess that (the hiring staff) thought I fit what we needed and I feel like it's going to be good," Johnson said. "I know the girls and they know me and so I think we're going to be able to get back into it and hit the ground running."

Johnson has been an assistant coach on Vedder's staff for the past few years and has learned a lot working alongside him. In addition to the girls' basketball team, Johnson is the head coach of the tennis team and an assistant on the football coaching staff. Now that he is the head coach for the basketball team as well, Johnson undoubtedly has an extremely busy schedule to look forward to this next school year.

However, Johnson is fully prepared and ready to take on this next challenge. After coaching alongside Vedder, Johnson knows that his coaching style is different and there are a few things that he could see changing under his leadership.

"I think my coaching style is a lot different than Coach Vedder's but it won't be a wholesale change," Johnson said. "I'll keep some things that he did that were really good but I'm also excited about putting some stuff in that I think could benefit our team. One of those things would be a bigger emphasis on the defensive side of the ball."

Because of the lack of consistent training caused by the coronavirus, Johnson has only been able to hold one sport-specific workout with his basketball team this summer. This means he cannot yet install his new defensive system or the other new wrinkles he planned to implement. Even though there may be some minor tweaks that Johnson may like to install before the next season begins, there might not be as much team practice time that each player and coach has become accustomed to.

Therefore, it may be difficult for him to change too much in Year One about the system that has been built up by Vedder over the years.

"I only saw them one time for basketball-specific stuff. At that time, I just told them if you're not working on your game on your own, then you're wasting your time. That was just to motivate them to put in some work outside of the team workouts."

Even though their time training together has been limited this summer, Johnson is still encouraging his players to get out and shoot, work on ball-handling or any other skill they can work on improving while stuck at home.

Johnson will be taking over a very talented roster that has plenty of experience and is led by senior sharpshooter Rylee Evans. Following a season where the Lady Buffs only had one senior, the younger players should be able to take their games to the next level after all of the valuable on-court experience they gained over the course of last season.

"Experience is going to go a long way for us this year," Johnson said. "We know we'll need Rylee to be a leader again this year but we're going to have to have some other players step up and relieve some of those duties."

On the other hand, Vedder has already moved to his new hometown of Woodward, Oklahoma, and is thrilled to be able to focus all of his coaching ability on his new girls' basketball team.

"It was a really good situation and we made the jump," Vedder said. "I was offered the head coaching position at a 4A traditional girls basketball power and not having to coach a second and third sport played a huge part in the decision.

It was a tough decision and doubly tough telling my Forsan girls. Forsan was very nice and welcoming to my wife, Christy, and I. We have nothing but fond memories from our time there."

Vedder has passed the reigns onto Johnson, who will now look to build upon the winning culture that is already in place and take the Forsan Lady Buffs to the next level.

## Mayor recall petition filed

Herald Staff Report

A recall petition was filed, on Wednesday, July 29 for Big Spring Mayor Shannon Thomason. According to the paperwork, the petition was filed by Linda Burchett, Big Spring resident.

The petition for recall was submitted on the following grounds: "Dereliction of duty, threatening City personnel, cussing at city personnel"

In a letter to the City Secretary, Don Moore, Burchett also cited that the Mayor has threatened her business

permits in retaliation for a family member filing a lawsuit against the City. The Mayor abstracted council members on Dec. 16 and April 3 the ability to seek legal advice on a legal matter with a proposed ordinance when new information was brought to the council in a meeting. In addition, the letter goes on to state, "The Mayor personally rented the pavilion after he signed an emergency declaration closing all parks and pavilions and then allowed people to use it for a protest during the shut down."

## One vehicle accident in Comanche Trail Park, 1 fatality

Herald Staff Report

On July 13, 2020, at approximately 5:35 p.m., Big Spring Police Department officers were sent to the Comanche Trail Park in regards to a major accident.

Upon arrival it was determined that Aaron Rodriguez, a Hispanic male, 40 years of age, had been driving a white 2001 GMC Sierra Pickup southbound on Golf Course Rd. from Belvedere with no other occupants in the vehicle.

The preliminary investigation indicates Rodriguez to have traveled off of the main roadway and while his head was out of the driver's side window, struck a tree causing significant head trauma.

Unfortunately Rodriguez succumbed to the injuries sustained.

Officers requested the assistance of the Department of Public Safety for scaling the accident scene.

# 2021

## A Fresh Start

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# AUGUST

**Editor's Overview:**

The hustle and bustle of back to school looked a little different this year, as August rolled in. As schools across the nation contemplated the safest way to get students back in the classroom, families waited to hear the final announcement. Back to School events altered their delivery platforms and scaled back, as uncertainty loomed. The meal programs that were taking place across the county began to wrap up in order to allow for staff to transition to back to school mode. Big Spring ISD announced they had served 200,000 meals since

the coronavirus pandemic entered Howard County.

A monumental moment came for Howard County and Big Spring as the North Reliever Route was completed opening the door to more possibilities in the trade corridor. A small celebration was held on the Relief Route road with dignitaries and a few local community representatives on hand.

Howard College was under the microscope in the community as discussion of increasing the tax rate was placed on the table. The discussions carried over into the month of September before a decision could be made.

## Completing a vision - North Relief Route finished



**Herald Staff Report**

The North US Highway 87 Relief Route segment has been completed. On Wednesday morning, dignitaries, city and county leaders, along with TxDot officials, and community members, gathered together to celebrate another portion completed with a ribbon cutting.

"We are excited about the opportunities coming to us," Jeff Ward, President of the Economic Development Board, said. "There is going to be significant, economic growth, and a lot of expansion here in Howard County. We are excited for it to pave the way for Ports to Plains and I-27 to plow right through here for Big Spring."

The relief route projects - which can be found on the South end of Big Spring and now the North side - have been in the construction phase for almost 10 years. The project is a collaboration that exhibits the progress that can be made with teamwork and initiative across all levels of community and government. The Relief Route was made possible from the original visioning concept of Bill Crooker - former County Commissioner - presented the idea and through numerous local support avenues was able to garner Congressional and Legislative support.

"When you look at this and it's a nice piece of highway, but in a way it's not just a highway. It's a vision that people have had for a long time here," Senator Seliger said.

In 2013 the groundwork began on the southern portion of the relief route, and the ribbon was cut on the southern sector of the relief route in 2016 and the completed portion was named Bill Crooker Memorial Highway - honoring the man who started

the vision.

"The thing about vision is it doesn't quarantine. It doesn't take time off and it doesn't quit working because it's the image that people have for their community, their future and the dedication to it. We may see a slow period of business now and again, but it's clear with the dedication of the community to this and other transportation assets, the community is building for the future with the realization that it's not all going to be rosy, but there most certainly will be a vision."

The Big Spring community, over the past 10 years, has placed a heavy emphasis on building up not only the industrial sector, but also expanding the transportation platforms through highways, railroads and local improvements.

"There is no Texas community more focused on the role transportation plays in economic development and growth. You are leading the way into the future and it's going to be a very bright one for this community," Seliger said.

The relief route is the largest project thus far in the Abilene TxDot District. The total funding for the project is \$118 million, with \$25 million of those funds coming from Proposition 12 designated from other TxDot districts. The surrounding districts saw the importance of the relief route and the positive impact that could result from the completion of the project - not only for the region, but the economy on a national level - and decided to provide funding from the designated period to the project. The relief route spans 16 miles of roadway and is part of the Ports to Plains Corridor.

## Howard County bowl 2020



HERALD file photo

The Coahoma Bulldogs took the win this year in the Howard County Bowl.

**By SHAWN MORAN**

Herald Sports Writer

The Howard County Bowl kicked off football season in West Texas once again.

Following four quarters of close battling on the gridiron, Forsan sophomore kicker Nolan Park missed a potential 34-yard game-winning field goal with one second left on the clock. The kick sailed wide left of the goal post and allowed Coahoma to come away with a nail-biting 15-13 victory to start the season.

"We knew they were going to be physical, we just had to match their physicality, and that's what we did," Coahoma Head Coach Chris Joslin said.

This was Coahoma's fourth straight victory over Forsan in the annual season-opening Howard County Bowl. The crosstown rivals both delivered big play after big play and kept the game close for the entire 48 minutes of regulation.

Coahoma received the opening kickoff to start the game but they were unable to get anything going with penalties halting their momentum and forcing them to punt it away after just a few inconsistent plays.

That opened the door for Forsan to go for the home run on the first play of the game, and they did just that. Quarterback Sawyer Stallings was able to find Major Stockton down the right sideline for a 53-yard touchdown on the Buffs' first offensive play. The extra point was good and Forsan led Coahoma 7-0 just a few minutes into the game.

The Bulldogs then quickly went three-and-out following three runs up the middle by running back Brysen Kerby. Forsan was able to gain a couple of first downs on their second possession but ended up punting the ball all the way down to the Coahoma 1-yard line courtesy of a generous bounce.

Coahoma once again stalled out before they could reach mid-field and punted it away to Forsan with just over a minute left in the first quarter.

Each team had only one drive each in the fourth quarter and Coahoma was doing their best to dominate the second half time of possession. After trailing for most of the game, the Bulldogs kicker, senior Isaiah Martin, drilled a 21-yard chip shot to cap off a 15-play drive with three-and-a-half minutes remaining in the game to put his team ahead for good.

Forsan had one last long drive of their own to put together but the Coahoma defense locked them down once they reached the red zone.

"They got one on us on the first play of the game but I feel like the rest of the time, other than the time we gave them the short field before halftime, our defense played great."

The 2020 Howard County Bowl lived up to and exceeded expectations. It was great to see the bleachers lined with fans cheering on their team and everyone appeared ecstatic that football season is back.

## Big Spring ISD provides school supplies to students

Courtesy photo

School supplies were provided for PK-8th. BSISD was very excited to be able to provide the students free school supplies for the 2020-2021 school year. School supplies were distributed at the beginning of school. In addition, free meals were offered to the students to help alleviate financial pressures.



Happy New Year

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**Editor's Overview**

The community of Big Spring continued to band together as the pandemic situation rolled on. The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, through a partnership with Sarah Farms, was able to conduct two milk distributions in the community.

Fire danger continued to increase as the year dealt a hand of dry weather. However, with recent rainfall amounts in the summer months, the County Commissioners were able to safely lift the burn ban for two weeks and allowed for residents to clear out some brush in hopes of lessening the fire danger in the Fall and Winter months.

The Howard County Library was the recipient of four grants which provided aid to the community resources. At the time of numerous job layoffs from

the oil industry plummet and the increase unemployment from shutdowns across the state, library resources were more important than ever.

The DAV (Disabled American Veterans) celebrated their 100th anniversary and the continued impact the organization has on veterans in need. The community came together in a small ceremony to remember the lives lost on Sept. 11 and the battles following.

The Social Security office moved to a new location, after many years on FM 700. Howard College approved a 2% tax increase, after heated discussions amongst the community.

During a City Council meeting the City Manager contract was terminated immediately and Shane Bowles was named as Interim City Manager in a special meeting shortly after.

## Big Spring's Alex Leuschner excelling on golf course

By SHAWN MORAN  
 Herald Sports Writer

This year, while many businesses were closed down, the golf course has remained as a refuge for players both trying to improve their game and escape the constant negative news cycle. Big Spring High School's Alex Leuschner finds himself out at the golf course mostly every day and the senior has both been competing and preparing for the upcoming Steers' season.

"Hopefully our team can go to State this year," Leuschner said. "I think we have a pretty good shot with some good freshmen coming in. I feel like we have a chance of doing something really special and we could possibly go to State. I know that we can win District and finish well at Regionals."

Leuschner is the Steers leader and a consistent force on the course. He showed off his impressive skills with a second-place finish at the Reese Golf Center in Lubbock on Sept. 6. The tournament was a part of the Northern Texas PGA Junior Tour's Fall schedule and was the first date on the Fall competition calendar.

After a slow start to the day, Leuschner worked his way back up the leaderboard and finished two under par (-2). The Steers' leader on the golf course finished just two strokes behind tournament winner Alex Williams and put together an overall solid performance on the links in Lubbock.

Like any great golfer, Leuschner knows that it is not how you start the round but how you finish it that matters most.

"I didn't start off very well," Leuschner said. "I had a rough three holes but after that I started to play way better."

The senior is currently being recruited by some smaller universities to go and play for their programs following his graduation next spring. However, if Leuschner is able to keep building on his strong finishes and put together some winning scores over the next seven months, he believes it will do "a lot" for his recruitment following a self-described down junior year on the course.

Leuschner is looking to build on his strong summer season by taking the momentum and confidence that he has built up into each competition. He believes that if he puts together a great season this school year that it will open a lot more college coaches' eyes and bring his recruitment to the next level.

"If I play to my ability all-year long, it will do some wonders for me," Leuschner said.

If Leuschner continues to improve and play to his ability, the college level might not be the stopping point for his golfing career.

The skilled young golfer has a sky-high potential and could one day find himself as the first PGA golfer that was born and raised in Big Spring. While Larry Bryan is a local pro, he grew up outside of Big Spring and attended Midland Lee High School.

"It would be an awesome accomplishment because I would be the first one," Leuschner said.

While all of those things are possible in the future, Leuschner is just looking forward to the next time he can take the course. He is coming up on his final golf season as a Big Spring Steer and will be trying hard to put his previous season behind him.

Just like at the tournament in Lubbock, Leuschner knows that it is not about how you start, it is about how you finish.

## Howard College Trustees approves 2% Tax Rate for 2020-2021 Budget

**Herald Staff Report**

The proposed budget for Howard College including separate budgets for the Big Spring, San Angelo, and Lamesa campuses was set at \$53.3 million which included the insurance money for the roof project that is meant to take place later this year. According to Dr. Cheryl Sparks, this would mean the Big Spring budget for next year would be less. The proposed SWCD budget was \$6.7 million. The SWCD budget is not included in the Howard College budget, as it is a special item for Howard College with a separate budget. Howard College's unrestricted budget was set at \$32.4 million; SWCD's unrestricted budget is \$4 million. The combined Howard College budget and the SWCD budget do in-

clude both the restricted and unrestricted sides. The combined deficit budget for Howard College is \$1.943 million.

"The debt rate was going to be going up regardless. That debt rate obligation was something that was approved back when our bond was approved in 2007. So, until that bond is paid off, we will have that be our debt. We're asking the tax payers to pay more because of what's happened with our debt rate which is based on a tax rate calculation worksheet" Sparks said.

"The taxes are only for this campus [Big Spring], that's it. The Big Spring campus only. SWCD is funded by the state, San Angelo is funded by the people in San Angelo, tuition and fees, as is Lamesa. So, your taxes are not going out of this city. You're

not funding San Angelo, Lamesa, and SWCD," Board Chairman President John E. Freeman said.

After lengthy discussion, The Howard College/SWCD budgets, as presented, were passed unanimously.

After approving the budget, Trustees were then provided several tax rate options for the Howard College Big Spring budget including:

A 2% increase in M&O equaling a total tax rate of \$0.216675, for a total of 2.87% increase in the total tax rate

A motion was made to approve a 2% increase in M&O for a total tax rate of \$0.216675. The motion passed in a 6 to 1 vote. Last year's total tax rate was \$0.210637 and the total tax rate proposed is \$0.216675, an increase of 2.87%.

## City Manager Darden's contract terminated immediately during Council meeting

**Herald Staff Report**

City Council voted in a 4-3 vote to not renew City Manager Todd Darden's contract during Tuesday night's meeting. During the open session - elected by Darden - evaluation, Council member Terri McDaniel made the motion to terminate the City Manager contract immediately. McDaniel's motion was seconded by Council member Gloria McDonald.

During the evaluation, Councilmembers Raul Marquez and Doug Hartman spoke highly of the dedication Darden has shown to Big Spring and his position. McDaniel cited the recent \$2.2 million in collections outstanding, in addition to several other occurrences that have been brought before the Council's attention in the past, as indication there was a void in the collection procedure that cost the City of Big Spring \$2.2 million.

"Based on these things, I know we have the opportunity to simply give you a bad review and go

on down the road, but in this particular case I am going to make the motion that the City Manager be dismissed immediately," McDaniel said.

McDonald's second to the motion was followed by a heartfelt expression and explanation of her reasoning behind her decision.

"Even after making this motion, I still have a lot of warmth for Todd, a lot of like for Todd. Todd has always been very good to me, as I hope I have been fair to him," McDonald said. "This is not about what or who I like, this is about the best for Big Spring and to try to get some of our departments back in the running where we are not on Facebook against our discretion. Personally this hurts me to do, but I was elected to see the city ran well and to see we had opportunity for growth and that is what I feel I have done tonight."

The motion passed 4 to 3 with Council members Marquez, Hartman, and Thomason voting against.

## DAV celebrates 100th anniversary







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**Editor's Overview:**

A sense of normalcy began to appear as events slowly started popping back up on the calendar. Hotel Settles celebrated their 90th anniversary with live music, food and events outside on the lawn. While the Hotel Settles was celebrating their history in Big Spring, inside the Settles was a piece of history coming back together for a special reunion at the Tiger Bravo book signing. Members of Tiger Bravo offered an opportunity for the community to not only ready about a piece of history, but to come face to face with a piece of history. The Grand Jury returned to hand down indictments to 36 people. The Gov-

ernor's Mandate allowed bars to re-open and welcome in patrons for the first time in months. While bars were re-opening a local restaurant owner was arrested on federal charges.

In addition to the bars re-opening, nursing facilities were able to welcome family members back in to visit their loved ones. For several months in an effort to keep the elderly as safe as possible, visits in nursing facilities had been stopped. With stringent guidelines, the facilities were able to slowly begin allowing visits face to face.

## Capturing a moment of history Tiger Bravo Reunion



HERALD file photo

Community members lined up to have four members of Tiger Bravo sign a copy of the Tiger Bravo book, which highlights their memories from their time served.

**Herald Staff Report**

Four members of Tiger Bravo were on the 2nd Floor of Hotel Settles offering an opportunity to come face to face with history, during their reunion and book signing. Community members had an opportunity to stop by the book signing to shake hands with, express their gratitude and take home

a copy of their story.

While a living piece of history was sitting inside the Hotel Settles, outside on the Settles lawn was a celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Hotel Settles. The restored building is a story in itself and one that was celebrated with music, food, and numerous activities in the Downtown area.

## Eric Tuttle takes over as Lady Steers basketball coach

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

Sports have been an instrumental part in Eric Tuttle's life since he was very young.

The new Big Spring Girls' Head Basketball Coach was introduced to competitive sports by his parents just after beginning grade school. He began playing T-Ball, Pop Warner, and basketball while growing up in Tempe, Arizona. In fifth grade, Tuttle and his family made the move just outside of Fort Worth, Texas, where he eventually would participate in multiple varsity sports at Springtown High School. Tuttle was a tight end/wide receiver on the gridiron, ran middle distance while also throwing discus and high jumping in track and field, and began to excel at the sport that would put him through college – basketball.

Tuttle was a versatile player who could line up at all five spots on the court and played collegiately at the University of Texas-Permian Basin (UTPB). While in college, Tuttle discovered that he was interested in a career of teaching and majored in education while also showing interest in the criminal justice field. Tuttle made the switch over to being a criminal justice major but would never close the door on a future working in education.

"When I was finishing up, I knew that there was going to be a calling to get back into education and coaching. When I got my degree, I got with an alternative certification program in Weatherford at the Junior College and finished that up in about a year-and-a-half," Tuttle said.

He worked as a substitute teacher while working some other jobs and living back in Fort Worth. After feeling out the business of being a substitute and discovering that being a teacher and coach is what Tuttle wanted to do, he dove headfirst into his new career.

Tuttle ended up at Big Spring during the 2008-09 school year when he gave a call to an old college roommate who was working at Big Spring ISD at the time. The current Lady Steers' Head Basketball Coach just wanted to know if Big Spring was looking for any new coaches or teachers when he was put in contact with past Athletic Director Phillip Ritchey.

As they say, the rest is history.

Tuttle has been involved with the Big Spring basketball programs since he first started working as a teacher at Big Spring over a decade ago. Late in the summer, an opportunity arose and came knocking on Tuttle's door.

"Coach Tuttle has a good basketball background, he's also been an assistant under several head coaches who were very successful so he knows how to build a winning philosophy," Big Spring High School Principal Mike Ritchey said. "His enthusiasm is impeccable, he's been a Steer for a long time, and we love that he bleeds black and gold."

Ritchey was in the process of looking for a new Head Girls' Basketball Coach to take over on the hardwood this winter. The previous coach, Krystle Jim, is no longer at Big Spring and the Lady Steers needed a new leader at the helm. After a long time spent "paying his dues" as an assistant coach, Tuttle was caught off guard by Ritchey's proposal but ultimately agreed to filling the position.

"Mr. Ritchey approached me and asked me if I'd like to be the new Head Girls' Basketball Coach and we talked for a little while about it," Tuttle said. "I went home and thought about it, spoke to my wife, and I gave him a call later that night and told him, 'Yes sir, I'm ready to roll.'"

Big Spring had a hard time on the court last season under first-year coach Jim and were only able to compile a handful of wins. Tuttle knows that he will have his hands full but is also looking forward to the challenge.

The Lady Steers won eight games in the 2019-20 season and at times the negative mood on the court was directly reflected on the scoreboard. Big Spring was still able to collect four district

## Howard County bars re-open

**Herald Staff Report**

Howard County has opted in as Governor Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order today for the re-opening of bars and similar establishments in Texas beginning Oct. 14, 2020.

The following protocols must be enforced:

- Maximum of 50% capacity indoors (outdoor establishments excluded)
- No service after 11 p.m.
- Establishments that serve alcohol but generate 51% of their revenue from food sales may serve and remain open until midnight.
- This order remains in effect unless the Covid-19

hospitalization rate in the Permian Basin "Trauma Area J" exceeds 15% for 7 consecutive days. Currently, the rate is 8.9%.

Howard County Judge Kathryn Wiseman continues to encourage the public to wear masks, practice social distancing, and help keep Howard County safe.

## Big Spring Restaurateur sentenced to 15 Months for illegally employing undocumented workers

**Special to the Herald**

Department of Justice

A Big Spring restaurateur who illegally employed undocumented immigrants was sentenced today to 15 months in federal prison and ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine, announced U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas Erin Nealy Cox.

In March, Voum Chhuon, 45, owner of the Texas Cajun in Big Spring, Texas, pleaded guilty to harboring illegal aliens and unlawful employment of illegal aliens, both felonies. He was sentenced today before U.S. District Judge James Wesley Hendrix.

According to court documents, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) received a tip from the Howard County Sheriff's Office that Mr. Chhuon was illegally employ-

ing undocumented workers at the Texas Cajun restaurant. Agents obtained search warrants for Mr. Chhuon's residence and the restaurant, where two illegal aliens were present.

During an interview conducted by law enforcement, Mr. Chhuon admitted that all his kitchen staff were undocumented workers, and that he had been unlawfully employing illegal aliens since he purchased the restaurant. To disguise the employment of unauthorized workers, Mr. Chhuon paid the kitchen staff in cash and others by paycheck.

In furtherance of the scheme, once Mr. Chhuon unlawfully hired the illegal aliens, he would then provide them with room and board at a Big Spring residence. Mr. Chhuon would also arrange transportation.





# NOVEMBER

**Editor's Overview:**

November was filled with more political turmoil on the national level. The General Election took place with President Donald Trump and Joe Biden competing for the Presidential seat and local elections a heavy focus on the ballot. The November election had Howard County residents heading to the polls to cast their ballot on the Presidential election and three City Council recalls, along with two County Commissioner seats, and a school board seat. The election results on the local election were clear, as City Council representatives for District 5 and 6 were recalled with the Mayor recall failing. New City Council members Nick Ornelas and Cody Hughes were elected to the District 1 and 3 seats. However, why the local elections had a winner

and results announced quickly, the Presidential Election results were not so clear cut. A projected winner was not announced for four days as states across the country counted and recounted votes. Even with a projected winner, the results were not well received and the battle for who truly won the seat was still up for discussion.

On the local level, before final numbers were certified discrepancies in uncounted votes were taken care to ensure all votes made it to the final count.

One the local level, a silver lining appeared as Forsan and Big Spring ISDs announced free breakfast and lunch for the remainder of the year for all students.

Howard County and Big Spring lost a piece of history as the original Prosperity Bank building was

demolished in order to prepare for a new building. Former County Commissioner Oscar Garcia also passed away, leaving the Precinct 1 seat vacant for a couple of weeks before the new County Commissioner Eddilissa Ray was sworn into office.

Howard College celebrated 75 years of serving Howard County and surrounding areas in the pursuit of achieving ones dreams.

In a twist of events, the new City Council reappointed Todd Darden as City Manager.

The month of November allowed the door for community to come together as holiday outreach programs started to surface, including the annual Angel Tree program and the United Way food distribution, to name a few.

## 2020 Election Results

**Herald Staff Report**

In Howard County, unofficial results at the end of Election Day, showed that the Mayor recall failed with 50.67% voting Against and 40.26% For; The Recall for District 5 and District 6 were successful with 44.40% voting For the District 6 recall and 41.52% Against; and 49.94% For and 35.24% Against the District 5 recall. These totals reflect that Mayor Shannon Thomason will remain as Mayor of Big Spring, and is not subject to recall for at least three months from Election Night; Councilmembers Jim DePauw and Camilla Strande's seats will be put to a special election and both will be removed from their position. DePauw's term was set to expire in May 2021 and the special election will be held to fill the unexpired term. Strande's term was set to expire in May 2022, with the special election to be held to fill the unexpired term.

In the City Council District 1 Seat election,

Nick Ornelas received the highest percentage of the vote with 48.16%; City Council District 3 Cody Hughes received the highest percentage of the vote with 40.87%, however, no official winner has been named.

In the Big Spring ISD School Board Election for District 1, incumbent Tom Olague received the highest percentage of the vote with 49.44%.

With the School Board Election, City Council District 1 and District 3 elections having neither of the candidates receive more than 50% of the vote, a winner has not officially been declared. For a candidate to be considered a winner, 50.1% of the votes have to be obtained.

In the Howard County Commissioner Precinct 1 seat, Eddilissa Saldivar won with 59.69% of the vote and Incumbent Jimmie Long won the Precinct 3 seat with 73.8% of the vote.

The Howard County Assistance District proposal failed with 66.70% voting Against the proposal.

## Big spring locks up first winning season since 2014

**By SHAWN MORAN**

Herald Sports Writer

Big Spring football made it to the Bi-District round this year, offering up a thrilling 32-26 triple overtime win over El Paso Riverside in the Bi-District round.

It was win-or-go-home for the Steers and they rose to the occasion after blowing a 20-7 lead that they held in the second quarter. This is also the first time that Big Spring has advanced past the Bi-District round since 2014 and signals the beginning of a new era of Steer football.

"This win guarantees our first winning season since 2014," McWilliams said. "I said it at the beginning of the season, the laughing is over. We've been a joke for about six years and people have laughed at us. Now, we have great community support, this thing is turning around, and it's awesome."

The last time Big Spring advanced past the first round of the postseason, Ezekiel Elliott was leading Ohio State to a National Championship, the San Francisco Giants had just won their third World Series in a span of five years, and former Dallas Cowboys running back DeMarco Murray was in the midst of his Offensive Player of the Year campaign.

Now, the clock on a new streak has begun. A streak of consecutive Gold Ball's won that currently sits at one. While it is not an easy feat to advance past the Bi-District round, the Big Spring coaching staff and players expect to be in this position year after year moving forward.

"This is the new normal," defensive coordinator Brad Harman said.

Right before the end of regulation, the Steers had one last shot for the end zone. Baeza launched a deep pass that wide receiver Kaegen Mitchell had swatted out of his hands at the goal line.

Just like that, Big Spring was headed for overtime. There, both teams only had one-play drives as both quarterbacks threw an interception. Baeza was once again picked off again by Estrada on a pass that was late and behind the intended wide receiver. Then, on almost the exact same type of throw, Munoz tossed an interception to Mitchell near the goal line.

Both teams were headed for a third overtime. Riverside had the ball first and this time could do nothing with it. Facing a 4th-and-12 with the game on the line, defensive end Jonathan Miller came up with a huge sack that gave his team the ball with a chance to put the winning score on the board.

Baeza began the next drive with a 21-yard rush straight up the middle that set his team up inside the 5-yard line. He then plunged ahead for two more yards before connecting with Pablito Dehoyos from two yards out for the winning score on second down.

The entire Big Spring bench rushed the field with excitement and it was official that Big Spring would be moving onto the next round of the playoffs to play Springtown with a chance to continue shocking the 'experts' who so often pick against them.

## City Council unanimously votes to rehire former City Manager Todd Darden

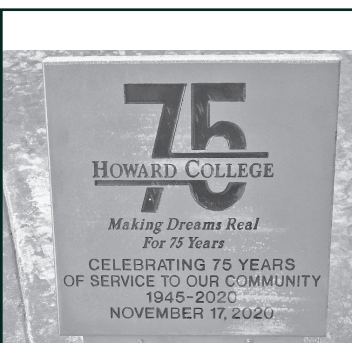
**Herald Staff Report**

During a Special Meeting of the Big Spring City Council, after canvassing the General Election results and swearing in the new Council members, the Council voted to adjourn into Executive Session regarding Personnel Matters for the City Manager and City Attorney.

After a two hour Executive Session discussion, Council members reconvened. At that point, Council member Gloria McDonald made a motion to hire former City Manager Todd Darden as new City Manager. A second was made by Council member Cody Hughes and the motion passed in a unanimous vote. There was no action taken for the City Attorney position.

The final reading and installation of Darden to the City Manager would take place a couple weeks later.

## Howard College celebrates 75th anniversary



**HERALD file photos**  
A series of ribbon cuttings took place in recognition of the 75th anniversary and upcoming projects.

**Herald Staff Report**

November 17, 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the creation of Howard College and the college kicked off a year of celebration through various ribbon cuttings and ground breakings across the Big Spring campus.

"This is a monumental day in the history of Howard College," said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, President. "And even though our celebration kick-off might not look like we originally planned due to the pandemic, we wanted to recognize the importance of this day with our community and our

students... The creation of the college was about having a place for students to take the next step in their educational journey and that included having buildings for the campus," added Sparks. "It is important for us to do everything we can to maintain those buildings in excellent condition, so we wanted to include this project in our activities for the recognition events."

The college will be holding various events on the different campuses through the next year with the culmination of the celebration on September 30, 2021 which will mark the 75th anniversary of the first day of class at Howard College.

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# 2021

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# DECEMBER

**Editor's Overview:**

As the last month of 2020 rolled in, Covid-19 cases were increasing and Region J - which includes Big Spring and Howard County - hit more than 15% hospitalization for more than seven days straight. With cases on the rise, occupancy was rolled back to 50%, masks and social distancing were highly encouraged as the area tried to get a handle on the pandemic to help alleviate the influx at the area hospitals.

In an effort to help slow the spread, The Christmas in Boomtown and the Big Spring Herald Christmas parades were cancelled. The community joined together to put on a parade and several activities Downtown following the parade. The annual Festival of Lights continued, as it provided a Covid friendly event to help get in the holiday spirit. The Heritage Museum continued the Christmas Tree Forest with the support of local businesses, organi-

zations and families decorating the trees throughout the museum. The Breakfast with Santa was switched to a drive-thru event in efforts of providing a safe family friendly event.

The City Council voted unanimously to nominate community members - one representative from each district - to work together to look at and rewrite the City Charter.

The youth in the community may have been faced with an unusual year faced with many challenges and adjustments to their education, but that didn't stop them from succeeding in academics and UIL sanctioned events once they were allowed to take part again. The Big Spring ISD Esports team was rocking and rolling, while the Forsan Buffalo Band and the Big Spring Steer Band took their performances to the State competition and performed in the Alamadome.

## Coahoma's Brysen Kerby concludes dominant junior season

By SHAWN MORAN  
Herald Sports Writer

Coahoma junior running back and team captain Brysen Kerby just finished up his extremely impressive 2020 regular season with 1,504 rushing yards, 183 receiving yards, and 24 touchdowns. He is a hard-nosed runner that keeps his legs moving through the whistle, does not shy away from contact, and runs north and south to always get the most yardage possible.

"He had an awesome year," Head Coach Chris Joslin said. "It's been great to see him mature over the last three years with his body. He has really bought-in to the weight room."

Kerby used the past Covid-filled offseason to get stronger and improve his body. He decided to set up his own weight room at home over the summer and when all of the players returned, Joslin was thrilled with the mass his star running back had put on.

"Me and him just talked the other day and the main thing was - as many times as he carried the ball this year, his body held up really well because of the bulk that he had put on. He was able to keep his speed," Joslin said.

When speaking to Kerby, he comes off as a humble and intelligent high school student. He usually defers any personal praise to how well the entire team has been playing, and the first words that Head Coach Chris Joslin uttered about him to this reporter seemed to be spot on.

"He definitely is a great player, but he is an even better young man," Joslin said.

While Kerby may not be one to toot his own horn, the humble playmaker has undoubtedly proven himself to be one of the best running backs in all of West Texas during the course of this season. Of course, he cannot produce those types of numbers all by himself, and Kerby would be the first one to tell you that. The entire Coahoma team has played with a chip on their shoulders all season-long, and it shows with the way they play on Friday night's.

"The main thing that excites me and makes me overall happy is the fact that so many people said that we wouldn't do very well this year since we lost so many people last spring. All of the guys that we have all stepped up and they're doing their jobs. They're all doing it to the best of their ability and that leads to the success of any individual person on the team," Kerby said.

As a sophomore, the 5-foot-9, 180-pound running back carried the ball 114 times for 778 yards (6.8 avg) and scored 17 total touchdowns. Head Coach Chris Joslin knew before this season started that getting the ball into his Kerby's hands would be a vital part to their offensive game-plan in 2020.

"This past season, he was the only junior that was voted a team captain and it's because of his work ethic," Joslin said. "We're going to lean on him not just on the offensive side, but for his leadership as well. I just got a text from him over the holiday weekend that he's ready to get back to work. That's the dedication it takes. With as good a football player as he is, and he's one of the best we've had around here, he's even a better young man."

## Covid-19 treatments and vaccines arrive in Howard County at Scenic Mountain Medical Center

**Herald Staff Report**

As Howard County spent the first half of the month with the local hospital over 75% capacity and no occupancy left for Covid patients, a light appeared at the end of the tunnel. As vaccines and treatments were pushed out across the nation, Scenic Mountain Medical Center was amongst the first group to receive them. During the second week of December, SMMC received a little more than 30 doses of the treatment to help with Covid inpatients and shortly after, received 300 plus vaccines to help protect the front line staff.

Around the middle of the month, a little relief was on the horizon as Region J was able to reach below 15% capacity of hospitalizations.



HERALD file photo

The Festival of Lights continued this year for community members to enjoy, minus the greeters.

## Buffalo Band and Steer Pride Drive perform at State Marching Competition Buffalo Band brings home 2nd Place



**Herald Staff Report**

The Alamodome was rocking Monday for the UIL State Marching Band Competition. Two local bands - Forsan Buffalo Band and Big Spring Pride Drive - competed in the State Competition held in San Antonio on Monday. The Buffalo Band earned a Silver Medal and brought home a 2nd Place award.

"What an incredible accomplishment during unprecedented times," Forsan ISD Superintendent Randy Johnson said.

The Forsan Band has traveled to the State Marching Competition for the past 12 years and each time is a unique experience. As the band traveled once

again to the Alamodome, the experience was a unique one in that the competition was one of the few that has been able to take place since the pandemic started.

"We have been State Champions. We have been Silver Medalists, but we have also been outside the medals looking in many times," Johnson said. "To break into the top three is huge and then when you consider the many interruptions that came due to COVID, it makes the accomplishment even more outstanding."

The Forsan Band has had several opportunities to overcome since the onset of the pandemic, from a late start of band practice due to COVID, cancelled football games and limits placed on training opportunities, but despite the hurdles, the band was able to not only advance to State, but to bring home the Silver.

"I am super proud that our directors and students saw this process through, did not give up, and continued to improve their show in spite of the complications," he said. "These students have learned lessons that they may not be aware of, but of those lessons of overcoming adversity, teamwork and creating a strong work ethic will pay off throughout their lives."

The Big Spring Pride Drive Band exhibited a well-performed show at the State Marching Competition Monday afternoon. However, the band did not make the Top 10 in the Division 4A category.

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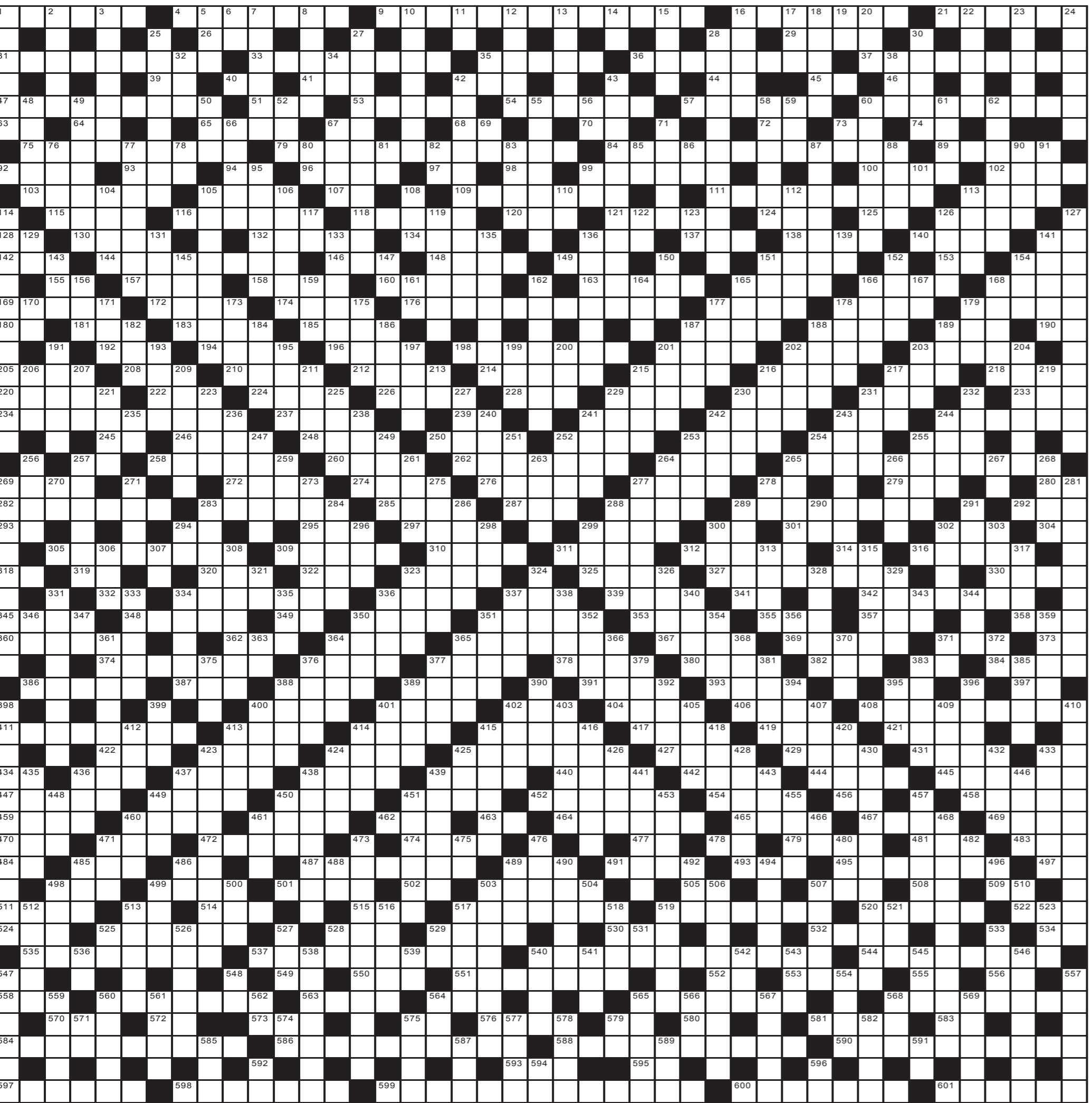
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# ANNUAL MAMMOTH CROSSWORD PUZZLE

More than 200 clues in the 2020 Annual Mammoth Crossword reflect news events, anniversaries and pop culture occurrences of the past year. In 2020, we met a Tiger King, witnessed a private space flight arrive at the International Space Station and said farewell to celebs including The Gambler, Spartacus and the Black Panther. We saw the iPad tum 10, the boys of NSync hit their 40s and Dirty Harry tum 90. These are just a few of the events that inspired clues in this puzzle from the 2020 Mammoth Crossword Puzzle. Sharpen your pencil and enjoy. Answers will appear on Friday, January 1, 2021.



1	The virus that changed, well, everything (6)	94	Abbreviation editors use to mark a spelling error (2)	157	Shoeduck problem (4)	224	Isaac's eldest son (4)
2	Fab Four who permanently broke up 50 yrs ago (7)	97	Show the way (4)	158	A short play (4)	226	Look over (4)
3	Influential guitarist, with namesake band, who died at age 65 (5,3,5)	98	Out's opposite (2)	160	Fleeced (5)	228	Keen intelligence, aptitude for jokes (3)
4	Adhesive bandage turned 100 (4,3)	99	The word for the 13th letter of the alphabet (2)	163	Approaches (5)	229	Bit of sweat (4)
5	NBA champs were Los Angeles ___ (6)	100	A series of solemn or religious actions done in a prescribed order (6)	165	Amount of medicine (4)	230	Billboard's top touring artist was this female singer (4)
6	Jude ___ reprised role in The New Pope (3)	101	Dark comic film about a mobile army hospital released 50 yrs ago (4)	166	Actor ___ Dunton turned 50 (4)	233	Story 4 was Oscar's best animated film (4)
7	The room where surgeries occur (2)	102	This Lady won five MTV Video Music Awards this year (4)	168	Rat pack member ___ Martin died 25 yrs ago (4)	234	Jeopardy host who passed away in Nov. (4,6)
8	One, in German (4)	103	Slang for microwaving something (6)	169	Disincentive (5)	237	Warm-hearted (4)
9	This photo sharing network turned 10 (9)	105	___ the Explorer premiered 20 yrs ago (4)	172	Stare (4)	239	Instant message, abbr. (2)
10	His SpaceX co. took astronauts to the Int'l Space Station (4,4)	107	Saint, abbr. (2)	174	Cain's brother (4)	241	Sean Connery, who played James ___ , passed away (4)
11	The U.K. left the European ___ in Jan. (5)	109	Birth control 1st approved in N.A. 60 yrs ago (3,4)	177	Professionals (4)	242	Scientists discovered a new black ___ (4)
12	Probst-hosted reality show debuted 20 yrs ago (8)	111	Tampa Bay ___ won hockey's Stanley Cup (9)	178	Sitcom ___ & Grace ended, again (4)	243	Earth's oldest asteroid ___ was found in Australia (6)
13	This Pulp Fiction director racked up another Oscar nomination (9)	113	Jewelry for the finger (4)	179	Tovostu told wife ___ Preston to cancer (5)	245	Autobiographical, abbr. (2)
14	Person referring to oneself (2)	115	Prescriptions (4)	180	Tavostu told wife ___ Preston to cancer (5)	246	Anti-viral, abbr. (2)
15	Popular cooking spray (3)	116	A small dome adorning a roof (6)	181	Best of the best (5)	248	Fashion house created pandemic-inspired loungewear collection (4)
16	Branch processing unit; abbr. (3)	118	Best of the best (5)	183	Gender than grant (4)	250	Bluish green (4)
17	A typographic unit, half the width of an 'em' unit (2)	120	Gridiron official, for short (3)	185	RuPaul's ___ Race was Emmy's best reality competition show (4)	252	Gardener's need (4)
18	What a green light means (2)	124	Die in (3)	187	Actor Orson ___ died in Feb. (4)	253	What you put on the fire (3)
19	AC/DC released 1st album in six years (2)	125	Symbol for the element Neodymium (2)	188	Singer ___ Withers passed away in March (4)	254	Halitosis-causing drug used in new trials to treat adult ADHD (3)
20	Doing up buttons on a coat (9)	126	Hay bundle (4)	189	Wyoming saw 3 hot ___ balloons crash (3)	255	Slowly regaining ability, abbr. (2)
21	One of five on each foot (3)	128	A group of mountain people in Uganda (2)	190	Je's dad (2)	258	Extend (6)
22	One who consumes food (5)	130	Slangy accent (4)	192	Really show ___ Brother debuted in N.A. 20 yrs ago (5)	260	Miffed; ___ off (4)
23	Apparition (6)	131	Swiss city started museum exhibit about denim (5)	194	Children's author Byron (4)	262	Comedy legend Jerry ___ (Ben's dad) passed at 92 (7)
24	Hellenic Republic got its 1st female prez (6)	132	Ferthary scares (4)	196	Material (G) announced movie about her life was being written (7)	264	The ___ Dance, about the Chicago Bulls, was huge hit (4)
25	Young French heroine, from 1400s, became a saint (4,2,3)	134	Sporty Pontiac, old muscle car (3)	201	___ Carey was the llama in The Masked Singer (4)	265	Magicians' word (11)
26	A common prefix for a ship's name (2)	136	This ___ started season with COVID & BLM themes (2)	137	24-hour news channel turned 40 (3)	269	Gift between walk and canter (4)
27	Organization that said moon may have more water (4)	138	Boorish (4)	203	Boorish (4)	272	Now-in-the-air type (4)
28	A paid-for message (2)	140	Oregon won the ___ Bowl (4)	205	Another name for gym class (2)	274	A dog biscuit (5)
29	Our continent, abbr. (2)	141	It was year of the ___ in Chinese zodiac (3)	208	Mix, especially food (4)	277	To move into a sleeping position (4)
30	One of the states devastated by wildfires, abbr. (2)	144	Ruins a plan (8)	210	___ Raffalo won an acting Emmy (4)	278	TV's The Crown introduced its Lady ___ (2)
31	Continent south of us, abbr. (2)	146	World's largest continent (4)	212	___ Zelweger was Oscar's best actress (5)	279	German word for grandma (3)
32	Fictional singing family debuted on TV 50 yrs ago (9)	148	Floral necklace (3)	215	Feb. had 29 days so it was ___ year (4)	280	Stuck on a sharp instrument (7)
33	Beloved talk & game show host passed at 88 (5,7)	149	Actor William H. ___ turned 70 (4)	216	Actor asks you to say this word (2)	282	Ignis; rock 'n' roll, left army's active duty 60 yrs ago (4)
34	Female singer who swept Grammys (6,6)	151	A doctor asks you to say this word (2)	154	The Bachelor's ___ Higgins got engaged (3)	285	Not (4)
35	McDonald's introduced Shamrock ___ 50 yrs ago (5)	153	For letter ___ for worse (2)	155	___ Higgins got engaged (3)	288	Board game decided OK was a real word (8)
36	A four-member Japanese idol group formed this year (4)	154				289	Transitions per second, abbr. (3)
37	Common conjunction (3)	155					

38	Representative, abbr. (3)	388	Kidney, fava or lima (4)	617	___ Thompson appeared in Back to the Future 35 yrs ago (3)	517	Schulz comic strip that ended 20 yrs ago (7)	156	Representative, abbr. (3)	388	Kidney, fava or lima (4)
39	Income before depreciation, abbr. (3)	389	Musical quality (4)	519	A unit of absorbed radiation (2)	520	Someone who imitates another's dress or ideas (7)	157	Income before depreciation, abbr. (3)	389	Musical quality (4)
40	Glasses prescriptions include an OD and an ___ notation (2)	390	Pottery oven (4)	521	The new album from K-pop sensation BTS (2)	522	Varieties (5)	161	Glasses prescriptions include an OD and an ___ notation (2)	390	Pottery oven (4)
41	Two cases of this plague were confirmed in Mongolia (7)	392	Distasteful flour (4)	522	The cover for a pop (3)	524	Baseball Hall of Famer ___ Morgan died at 77 (3)	162	Two cases of this plague were confirmed in Mongolia (7)	392	Distasteful flour (4)
42	Evergreen (3)	394	Fancy fabric (4)	525	Moby-Dick captain (4)	525	A lacrosse league in North America (3)	164	Evergreen (3)	394	Fancy fabric (4)
43	Sketch (4)	395	Swab (3)	526	Hours, minutes and seconds (4)	528	A sea that is an arm of the Mediterranean (6)	165	Sketch (4)	395	Swab (3)
44	It's on your cereal (4)	396	A carved or cast figure (6)	529	Ghost's opponent, abbr. (2)	530	Sense of self (3)	166	It's on your cereal (4)	396	A carved or cast figure (6)
45	Symbol for the element thallium (2)	398	This star of The Jerk turned 75 (5,6)	531	Second World ___ ended 75 yrs ago (3)	532	Chris Hemsworth said he'll be back as ___ in upcoming superhero film (4)	167	Symbol for the element thallium (2)	398	This star of The Jerk turned 75 (5,6)
46	___ Jeter voted into Hall of Fame (5)	399	Chronic kidney disease, abbr. (3)	532	Defensive tackle, abbr. (2)	534	A restroom in the U.K. (3)	168	___ Jeter voted into Hall of Fame (5)	399	Chronic kidney disease, abbr. (3)
47	A former partner (2)	400	Successor, especially to a throne (4)	535	Billboard's top group was Jonas ___ (8)	535	___ vera (4)	170	A former partner (2)	400	Successor, especially to a throne (4)
48	One of 24 similar, curved bones in the body (3)	401	Terrarium plant (4)	537	Batman sidekick made debut 80 yrs ago (5)	537	Emmy's best drama series (10)	171	One of 24 similar, curved bones in the body (3)	401	Terrarium plant (4)
49	___ and needles (4)	402	Laura ___ said she'd appear in Jurassic Park sequel (4)	540	___ & terminator; historical court terms (4)	540	Emmy's best drama series (10)	173	___ and needles (4)	402	Laura ___ said she'd appear in Jurassic Park sequel (4)
50	Basic monetary unit of Latvia (4)	403	Get ready (4)	540	Packing product Bubble ___ introduced 60 yrs ago (4)	541	Emmy's best drama series (10)	175	Basic monetary unit of Latvia (4)	403	Get ready (4)
51	Chick's sound (4)	407	Leavened flatbread, popular in Indian cuisine (4)	544	I Am Woman singer ___ Reddy died at age 78 (5)	544	Show that swept all comedic Emmy categories (7,5)	177	Chick's sound (4)	407	Leavened flatbread, popular in Indian cuisine (4)
52	Take aggressive action (6)	409	Relatives (3)	547	A variation of the common Korean surname Lee (2)	547	Oscar's best film of the year (8)	179	Take aggressive action (6)	409	Relatives (3)
53	After bath powder (4)	410	Caroon about this prehistoric family 1st aired 60 yrs ago (11)	548	The Prime Minister quit in this Land of the Rising Sun (5)	548	10 actresses ___ Derek is about to become a senior citizen (2)	182	After bath powder (4)	410	Caroon about this prehistoric family 1st aired 60 yrs ago (11)
54	Romanov ruler (4)	412	___ Flanders lives next door to The Simpsons (3)	549	Road, abbr. (2)	550	This catch phrase turned 25; ___ infinity and beyond (2)	184	Romanov ruler (4)	412	___ Flanders lives next door to The Simpsons (3)
55	Bus stop (3)	414	Reality show Storage ___ debuted 10 yrs ago (4)	551	The country code for Senegal (2)	551	Regional sports network, abbr. (3)	186	Bus stop (3)	414	Reality show Storage ___ debuted 10 yrs ago (4)
56	Bean used to make miso (4)	416	___ Stars started its 17th season (4)	552	Abbr. for the enzyme thyroid peroxidase (3)	552	A smaller-sized newspaper (7)	187	Bean used to make miso (4)	416	___ Stars started its 17th season (4)
57	A feeling of relaxation from anxiety or distress (6)	418	Fossil found of T-Rex attacking this dino (11)	553	Victory (3)	553	___ Eliot's Cats was adapted into a movie (2)	188	A feeling of relaxation from anxiety or distress (6)	418	Fossil found of T-Rex attacking this dino (11)
58	Drop from the eye (4)	419	___ of Capri, or of Man (4)	555	NBA star who died in helicopter crash (4)	555	Clears after expenses (4)	189	Drop from the eye (4)	419	___ of Capri, or of Man (4)
59	Course of medication intended to replace estrogen (3)	422	Unit of length equal to one millionth of a meter (6)	556	Choir part (4)	556	Occupational therapist, abbr. (2)	191	Course of medication intended to replace estrogen (3)	422	Unit of length equal to one millionth of a meter (6)
60	Black gold (3)	424	Dallas ___ were defeated in Stanley Cup finals (5)	558	A thin layer of cells acting as a boundary (8)	558	Opposite of NW on a compass (2)	191	Black gold (3)	424	Dallas ___ were defeated in Stanley Cup finals (5)
61	Coal container (3)	426	Hi or lo ___ photos (3)	558	Comedian ___ Reiner died at 98 (4)	558	Musique populaire at races (3)	192	Coal container (3)	426	Hi or lo ___ photos (3)
62	Women whose husbands have died (6)	427	You fry eggs in this (3)	560	Religious ceremony, act of passage (4)	560	Jojoquin ___ won Oscar's best actor (7)	193	Women whose husbands have died (6)	427	You fry eggs in this (3)
63	Gym set (4)	428	Buildings for airplanes (7)	562	The traffic ___ was invented 100 yrs ago (5)	562	Identity (4)	195	Gym set (4)	428	Buildings for airplanes (7)
64	A large group of people or things (4)	429	Real Housewives ___ Giudice finalized her divorce (6)	563	Challenge someone to do something (4)	563	India's Mayurakshi River is also known by this name (3)	197	A large group of people or things (4)	429	Real Housewives ___ Giudice finalized her divorce (6)
65	Plant that felines love (6)	430	Something that doesn't work (3)	564	Scotland's Firth of ___ (3)	564	Card game in the rummy family (7)	199	Plant that felines love (6)	430	Something that doesn't work (3)
66	Where flour is made (4)	432	Course of medication intended to replace estrogen (3)	565	Electrocardiogram, for short (3)	565	The Social Contract philosopher (8)	200	Where flour is made (4)	432	Course of medication intended to replace estrogen (3)
67	Hair piece (3)	433	Black gold (3)	566	Martial arts expert Chuck ___ turned 80 (6)	566	Letters of distress (3)	201	Hair piece (3)	433	Black gold (3)
68	Artificial Intelligence, abbr. (2)	434	Color container (3)	567	Astronauts started staying here, long term, 20 yrs ago (3)	567	Back-to-school month, abbr. (4)	201	Artificial Intelligence, abbr. (2)	434	Color container (3)
69	It's measured with a thermometer (11)	435	Black gold (3)	568	Officially who examine movies, books for unacceptance (7)	568	Sports mag announced partnership with The Curling News (2)	202	It's measured with a thermometer (11)	435	Black gold (3)
70	Cigarette's end (3)	436	Black gold (3)	569	Apple released its 1st wrist device 5 yrs ago (5)	569	Actor ___ Tucci turned 60 (7)	203	Cigarette's end (3)	436	Black gold (3)
71	Merkl said she'd stand down as leader in this county next year (4,7)	437	Black gold (3)	570	Animated show Family ___ had 350th episode (3)	570	Pa's counterpart (2)	204	Merkl said she'd stand down as leader in this county next year (4,7)	437	Black gold (3)
72	A French article (2)	438	Black gold (3)	571	Internet code for Lithuania (2)	571	Early 20th-century art movement (4)	206	A French article (2)	438	Black gold (3)
73	The oldest ___ in Maasai Mara Game Reserve died (4)	439	Black gold (3)	572	Standardized units (7)	572	New dino relative of T ___ identified (3)	207	The oldest ___ in Maasai Mara Game Reserve died (4)	439	Black gold (3)
74	Fabrication (3)	440	Black gold (3)	573	Ranch newborn (4)	573	Proposition used in expressing location (2)	211	Fabrication (3)	440	Black gold (3)
75	Steve Harvey became ___ of Family Feud 10 yrs ago (4)	441	Black gold (3)	574	He founded analytical psychology (4)	574	Slang term for government-employed man (1,3)	212	Steve Harvey became ___ of Family Feud 10 yrs ago (4)	441	Black gold (3)
76	An island paradise the Kardashians infamously visited this year (4,4)	442	Black gold (3)	575	Dog sound (4)	575	Each day, 500 million of these social media messages are sent out (6)	213	An island paradise the Kardashians infamously visited this year (4,4)	442	Black gold (3)
77	Musical finale (4)	443	Black gold (3)	576	Reverberate (4)	576	Run off to wed (5)	214	Musical finale (4)	443	Black gold (3)
78	They fly in V formations (5)	444	Black gold (3)	577	Ignited (3)	577	A computer larger than a laptop (7)	215	They fly in V formations (5)	444	Black gold (3)
79	What you pay to a landlord (4)	445	Black gold (3)	578	Internal affairs, abbr. (2)	578	Impulsive part of our psyche (2)	216	What you pay to a landlord (4)	445	Black gold (3)
80	Italian money (4)	446	Black gold (3)	579	Tom Selleck's show ___ Bloods turned 10 (4)	579	Scientists debated if this planet showed signs of micro-organisms (5)	217	Italian money (4)	446	Black gold (3)
81	Smoother and even (4)	447	Black gold (3)	580	Li ___ X won Grammy for Old Town Road (3)	580	Wolf's sound (4)	218	Smoother and even (4)	447	Black gold (3)
82	Snuff (4)	448	Black gold (3)	581	Existing as a result of birth (4)	581	Mount, abbr. (2)	219	Snuff (4)	448	Black gold (3)
83	Home rental co. banned Halloween parties (6)	449	Black gold (3)	582	Civil wrong (4)	582	Actor ___ Peabo turned 70 (2)	220	Home rental co. banned Halloween parties (6)	449	Black gold (3)
84	Space Force launched this year (9)	450	Black gold (3)	583	Earl Warren (4)	583	Outback birds (4)	221	Space Force launched this year (9)	450	Black gold (3)
85	Got older (4)	451	Black gold (3)	584	Aluminum or tin (4)	584	Pickling liquid (5)	222	Got older (4)	451	Black gold (3)
86	Netflix show about Joe Exotic was a hit (5,4)	452	Black gold (3)	585	Slang word for criticize (5)	585	Keam Reeves 1st appeared as this Matrix character 21 yrs ago (3)	223	Netflix show about Joe Exotic was a hit (5,4)	452	Black gold (3)
87	Newspaper opinion piece is an ___ed (2)	453	Black gold (3)	586	Food for sea urchins (4)	586	A funeral song or lament (5)	224	Newspaper opinion piece is an ___ed (2)	453	Black gold (3)
88	Yellow ___ protests continued (4)	454	Black gold (3)	587	Popular Sunday dinner feast (5,4)	587	Qatar's capital (4)	225	Yellow ___ protests continued (4)	454	Black gold (3)
89	Legal (7)	455	Black gold (3)	588	One of the first celebs to get COVID-19 (3,5)	588	India's time zone (3)	226	Legal (7)	455	Black gold (3)
90	It is incumbent on someone to do something (7)	456	Black gold (3)	589	Watered-down (4)	589	Prevalent test (5)	227	It is incumbent on someone to do something (7)	456	Black gold (3)
91	Enticed (7)	457	Black gold (3)	590	Exposing food to direct heat (8)	590	Adhesive tape invented 90 yrs ago (6)	228	Enticed (7)	457	Black gold (3)
92	The Real Housewives of ___ turned 10 (2)	458	Black gold (3)	591	Right away (11)	591	Real Housewives ___ Jayne got a Broadway role (5)	229	The Real Housewives of ___ turned 10 (2)	458	Black gold (3)
93	Space Force launched this year (9)	459	Black gold (3)	592	Charging too much (11)	592	Adhesive tape invented 90 yrs ago (6)	230	Space Force launched this year (9)	459	Black gold (3)
94	Electrical conductivity, abbr. (2)	460	Black gold (3)	593	Whales that started ramming boats near Spain (5)	593	Exposing food to direct heat (8)	231	Electrical conductivity, abbr. (2)	460	Black gold (3)
95	Seventh note of a scale (2)	461	Black gold (3)	594	Heart lead singer ___ Wilson turned 70 (3)	594	Right away (11)	232	Seventh note of a scale (2)	461	Black gold (3)
96	Perhaps (5)	462	Black gold (3)	595	Not applicable, abbr. (2)	595	Charging too much (11)	233	Perhaps (5)	462	Black gold (3)
97	Driving ___ Daisy was regular play film 30 yrs ago (4)	463	Black gold (3)	596	Down's syndrome (2)	596	Whales that started ramming boats near Spain (5)	234	Driving ___ Daisy was regular play film 30 yrs ago (4)	463	Black gold (3)
98	Rocky's casual greeting (2)	464	Black gold (3)	597	Shakespeare wrote Much ___ About Nothing more than 400 yrs ago (3)	597	Heart lead singer ___ Wilson turned 70 (3)	235	Rocky's casual greeting (2)	464	Black gold (3)
99	An outline, especially of an irregular shape (7)	465	Black gold (3)	598	A puzzle solved for amusement or to exercise the mind (11)	598	Not applicable, abbr. (2)	236	An outline, especially of an irregular shape (7)	465	Black gold (3)
100	Musker's number, abbr. (2)	466	Black gold (3)	599	Financial debts and obligations (11)	599	Down's syndrome (2)	237	Musker's number, abbr. (2)	466	Black gold (3)
101	Shrimp's transport (4)	467	Black gold (3)	600	Colorado resort town changing its affordable housing rules (5)	600	It is incumbent on someone to do something (7)	238	Shrimp's transport (4)	467	Black gold (3)
102	Trendy (3)	468	Black gold (3)	601	A complete, ready-to-go product or service (7)	601	Enticed (7)	239	Trendy (3)	468	Black gold (3)
103	541	469	Black gold (3)	602	Marketing abbr. for Go No Go (3)	602	The Real Housewives of ___ turned 10 (2)	240	541	469	Black gold (3)
104											