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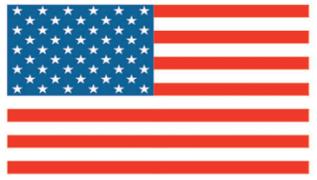
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City announces rental facilities to reopen Feb. 1

Special to the Herald

The City of Big Spring will reopen all indoor rentable facilities as of Monday, February 1, 2021 for normal operations. We still request that individuals holding events and persons attending events adhere to the following:

- Please wear a mask when not eating or drinking anything
- Make sure to wash and/or sanitize your hands regularly
- If you are not feeling well, running a fever, or have been exposed please do not attend events.

All City of Big Spring offices have reopened to the public effective January 19, 2021.

We ask citizens to act responsibly and follow all health precautions and sanitizing guidelines. We strongly recommend that citizens continue to practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently, stay home if you're sick, and wear a mask when in public areas.

Upcoming Events

Silver Wings Ball
 5:30 p.m. cocktails
 6:45 p.m. dinner
The Club at Silver Hills
 Jan. 30

INDEX

- News 1 & 3
- Obituaries 2
- Sports 5 & 10
- Classifieds 6-8
- Comics 9

Find us online at:
 www.bigspringherald.com



Joe Biden sworn in as 46th President of the United States of America

Howard County residents share thoughts on the historic day

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

A new president has been officially sworn in. Crowds gathered – dignitaries, American citizens and military members – and watched the historical 2020 Presidential Inauguration on Wednesday morning. The 46th President of the United States of America Joseph (Joe) R. Biden, Jr. was sworn into office a little before 11 a.m. Wednesday, shortly after the first Female African American/Asian American Vice President Kamala Harris.

The event, as usual, garnered national attention and was watched by millions of Americans. The months leading up to the Inauguration have been fueled with strong emotion and thought on both sides. While some watched and

celebrated as their candidate was sworn in, others watched as history was made or as part of tradition. Nonetheless, wherever political ideologies may lay, Howard County residents shared their thoughts on the historic event.

“... I hope and pray that all Americans unite and work together for peace in this United States of America.” I really enjoyed the words that our new President Biden spoke about democracy and that he will be a President for all Americans,” Steve Escanuelas, Howard County resident, said.

Another Howard County resident, Patti Brown, while unable to watch the Inauguration as it happened due to her work schedule, it was a historic event that she felt garnered attention.

“... I hope and pray our nation will

come together and work for the benefit of America and all Americans. The division by all parties must end. The destructive behaviors and riots that have been normalized over the past year must be stopped now,” Patti Brown, Howard County resident, said.

As the nation took to social media to share their thoughts on the new Commander in Chief, House Representative Jodey Arrington also extended his congratulations to President Biden through his official Facebook page, with the following message:

“On behalf of West Texas, I extend my congratulations to President Biden and Vice President Harris. I ask all Americans to join me in praying for their

See **BIDEN**, Page 3

County Commissioners table items on special meeting agenda until Monday

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

The Howard County Commissioners met in a special meeting - in the 3rd Floor Courtroom at the Howard County Courthouse - Wednesday to award a bid for the erection and installation of a 400' Guy Tower per standard: TIA-222-H.

After discussion, the motion was made to table the decision - by Commissioner Craig Bailey with a second made by Commissioner Eddilisa Ray - in order to allow more time for the Commissioners to review the bids that have been received.

“We need to make sure we aren't getting something we don't need and ensure that that we are getting what we thought we would,” Bailey said.

The bids will be discussed again and one possibly awarded during the regular meeting set for Monday.

Following the bid discussion, Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker presented the

Racial Profiling Report for the year 2020 to the Commissioners Court.

According to Sheriff Parker the report shows there are no indicators present that show racial profiling in our county. The report didn't garner any discussion, but did require approval from the Court. Commissioner Bailey made the motion to approve with Commissioner Jimmie Long making the second before the motion was approved unanimously.

Once discussion concluded over the statistics, Sheriff Parker moved discussion to an MOU between Howard County and Midland Police for the use of the Howard County Airport driving track. Due to some agreement changes the Commissioners decided to table the item until Monday's meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, a moment was allotted for public comment, but no comment was made.

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

Howard County Volunteer Fire Dept. receives \$250,000 donation from the G.C. Broughton Foundation

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department was presented with a check from the G.C. Broughton Foundation in the amount of \$250,000 to be used for the purchase of firefighting equipment, including a new communication system that will be compatible with the other emergency organizations in Howard County.

According to a press release issued by Howard County Volunteer Fire Department, Jim Weaver, Board Member of the G.C. Broughton Foundation stated that the board has been impressed with the volunteer fire department's grant requests in the past, as well as their follow-up on how the grant funds have been applied. The HCVFD originally requested \$125,000, however, the existence of the volunteer fire department is dependent on donations, therefore the board awarded the department an addition \$125,000 for a total of \$250,000.

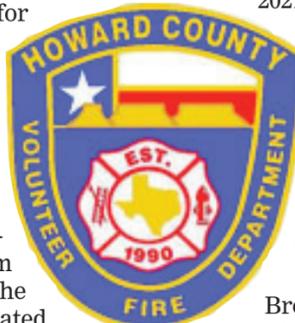
The G.C. Broughton Foundation was established in 2005 and is made up of a board

of directors in Big Spring, with Jean Broughton – Powell as President. The foundation actively contributes to 501 C3 charities and has granted six to seven million dollars in Texas to date. The recent contributions for 2020-2021 totaled \$1,380,000, almost all of which was directed to Big Spring charities including CASA of Big Spring, Howard College Nursing Program, Mobile Meals, Sterling County Volunteer Fire Department, Victim Services of Big Spring, West Side Community Child Care Center, and West Texas Food Bank.

“We appreciate that the G.C. Broughton Foundation recognizes the importance of communication between the first responders of Howard County, and we are grateful that they are committed to providing the tools to help keep our citizens safe,” Eric Barber, HCVFD Board President said.

Barber stated that the grant will allow for the purchase of a new communication system that will be compatible with the Howard County Sheriff's Office, Big Spring Fire

See **DONATE**, Page 3



COVID-19 Updates

Scenic Mountain Medical Center has reported 1/20/2021:

- 4 Covid-19 positive patients
- 2 in ICU & 2 vents

SMMG & SMMC Testing through Jan. 20:

- 2946 tests
- 746 positives for 25.3% positivity rate
- 2 pending

From Dec. 2020 - Jan. 20, 1012 patients have tested of which 236 were positive for a rate of 23.4% positivity. 2 tests are pending.

Howard County has reported as of 01/04:

- 2655 positive cases
- 80 Covid-19 fatalities
- 244 Active cases
- 3628 recovered
- 1541 probable cases

Outpatient COVID testing in Big Spring

Gregg Street Clinic
 2301 South Gregg St.
 Big Spring, Texas 79720
 Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

910 S Main St
 Big Spring, TX 79720
 Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

West Texas Medical Plaza
 1501 W 11th Place
 Big Spring, Texas 79720
 Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday

Big Spring Urgent Care
 1700 W. FM 700
 Suite B

Affordacare
 710 S. Gregg Street

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

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Christopher Haddad, MD



Rudy Haddad, MD

Interventional Cardiology

Big Spring natives Christopher Haddad, MD, and Rudy Haddad, MD, see patients each Monday at Shannon Clinic Big Spring.

For appointments and info call (325) 481-2281.

Obituaries

Georgia Joyce Newsom

Georgia Joyce Newsom, 76, of Tyler, formerly of Garden City, passed away, Friday, Jan. 15, 2021, at her daughter and son-in-law's home. Graveside service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park.

Georgia was born April 4, 1944, in Mangum, OK to Reva Wallace and Lewis Heflin. She married Dean Newsom on March 13, 1965. She loved her family, fishing and crafts. She had been a lifelong resident of Garden City before moving to Chandler in 2000. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Tonya and Scott Wilson of Tyler, daughter Ronda Newsom of Lindale; her sister, Judy Watts, of Eu-

Helen Danford Alexander

Helen Danford Alexander, formally of Brownwood, Texas, and the daughter of the late Homer V. and Kittie (Adams) Riddle, passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 18. She was born Feb. 18, 1927 in Brown County and graduated from Brownwood High School in 1944. She then attended the University of Arkansas where she was a member of the Delta Gamma sorority and the university symphony. She graduated with a B.A. degree from Daniel Baker College alongside her mother, which was one of her most treasured memories. They then began their teaching careers together.

Helen's greatest accomplishment was selflessly raising her five children in Big Spring, Texas. She taught elementary school in numerous locations throughout Texas and Mississippi. Helen taught for 18 years at Elbow and retired from Sands in Ackery, Texas in 1988 after over 35 years of teaching. After retiring from teaching, she loved to travel and enjoyed visiting Bluegrass Festivals across Texas.

nice, NM; sister-in-law, Margaret Newsom of Garden City; two grandsons, Michael Stanton of Big Spring and Christopher Stanton of Trinity, NC; two granddaughters, Kasie Stanton of New Orleans, LA and April Talamantez of Big Spring; four great-granddaughters: Sosie, Alyssa, Kailynn and Ava and three great grandsons: Soulan, Asa and Braxton.

She was preceded in death by her husband Dean Newsom and her parents Reva Wallace and Lewis Heflin.

Pallbearers will be Mike Stanton, Chris Stanton, Asa Talamantez, Ron Collins, Scott Wilson and Paul Talamantez.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com

Paid Obituary

She was an avid dancer. If music was playing, she was sure to be moving.

Helen was married to Harold W. Danford, who passed away in 1988, and Lloyd Alexander who passed away in 1994. She was also preceded in death by one daughter, Janice Danford Flowers; her parents; and sisters Kathirene Niemczura and Joyce Chesser. She is survived by four children, Chris and Robin Danford of Arlington; Mike Danford of Arizona; Heddy and Lynn Wigington of Big Spring; and Harold and Wendy Danford of Kerrville; 10 grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren.

Her family would like to thank Robbie Gay, Amy Hernandez, Brandi Sanchez, Kara Daniels, Interim HealthCare, and the staff at Marcy Place for their love and care.

Graveside services will be Saturday, Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. at Greenleaf Cemetery in Brownwood, Texas with Shane Blackshear officiating. She will be laid to rest beside her mother.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that contributions be made to the charity of your choice.

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

Paid Obituary

Joseph Earl Meads

Joseph Earl Meads, 69, of Big Spring passed away on December 12, 2020. He was born on September 30, 1951 in Aspermont, Texas to Joseph Daniel Meads and Erma Dean Moore. Joseph was a cowboy who worked cattle, and broke horses. He married Diane Williams and they spent over 21 years together.

Joseph is survived by his wife, Diane Meads; his mother, Erma Dean Moore; his son Jody Meads; his daughters, Kristal Meads and Joeann Meads; his stepson who was loved like a son, Doug Smith; his stepsister, Pam Duncan and husband Tommy; Dara Moore, who was loved like a daughter; his grandsons, TJ Tulley, Arren Hawley and Loga Hebert; his granddaughters, Dariann Hawley and Noah Hebert and one niece, Jacy (Meads) Jajoyla.

He is preceded in death by his father, Joseph Daniel Meads and his brother, John Meads.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Paid Obituary

Chon Y. Garcia

Chon Y. Garcia, Jr., 52, of Big Spring, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Fire/EMS

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 88 inmates at the time of this report.

• **SOMER DANAE LANCASTER**, 42, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of controlled substance less than 28 grams.

• **MATTHEW ERIN STURGILL**, 23, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• **KRISTEN NICOLE THAMEZ**, 25, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

The Big Spring Fire Department and EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of NW 12th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2400 block of Morrison. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Mesquite. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of Hearn. No transport was required.

Support Group

THURSDAY

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

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

Take Note

• The City of Big Spring will reopen all indoor rentable facilities as of Monday, February 1, 2021 for normal operations. We still request that individuals holding events and persons attending events adhere to the following: Please wear a mask when not eating or drinking anything; Make sure to wash and/or sanitize your hands regularly; If you are not feeling well, running a fever, or have been exposed please do not attend events.

• 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; adult mental health virtual class will take place Feb. 17 from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.; in-person adult mental health first aid class will take place Feb. 23, at 3205 Hwy 87 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.; and the final class in the series will take place Feb. 25 from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. virtually.

• 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 or call 432-517-7675.

• The Howard County Courthouse will only be open by appointment. All doors except the handicapped entrance located on

the west side of the building will be locked. All who enter will be screened following Covid guidelines. Face masks are required for all who enter.

• Forsan Food Pantry will be open twice a month from 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Families who are in need can pull up to the front doors of the Junior High/High School and receive a free box of pre-packed meals. If you have any questions or need to pick up a box at a different time, contact Kaci Wash at 432-457-2223 ext 821 or Jenny Sayles at jennysales@yahoo.com.

• Cub Scouts meet Monday from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Naz Family Church, located at 1400 S. Lancaster.

• Howard County Republican Club meets the second Monday of each month in the Cactus Room at Howard College. The next meeting is Jan. 20 and will be held in the newly renovated Cactus Room. Everyone is welcome. The meeting takes place at Noon. For more information call 432-213-7628.

• A new group named Taking Care of Business has started in Howard County. It is made up of people of all ages and genders who want to be better than they are. The focus of the fledgling organization is to engage in meaningful discussions that promote personal growth. Additionally, the organization will plan and execute worthwhile activities within the community. There is no membership fee and attendance is not taken. The only requirements are that you be

positive or want to be more positive than you are, consider yourself to be a good person but want to be better than you are, and that you have a desire to help others be better too. Childcare is available during the discussion time if you let us know. Topics to be avoided include Religion and Politics, though we can dance around them.

Taking Care of Business is being sponsored by the local Masons and it meets in the Masonic Lodge on the court square. It is not necessary that you have any masonic affiliation to participate in this Growth Group. All Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed as defined by local, state, and federal authorities. At this time refreshments will not be served but you are welcome to bring your own and not share. The meetings take place at 219 South Main Big Spring, Texas. For more information write to Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com or just come to the meeting.

• The Life Center in Big Spring is helping moms and dads with a Diaper Day Giveaway! Call for a five minute phone appointment and a pickup time for free diapers, wipes and formula. 432-606-5041.

• The Senior Supper Club has come out of hibernation to resume its normal Tuesday evening dinners. The Come-One-Come-All group will be meeting on Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

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BBB offers tips for a fraud-free 2021

BBB Column

The new year has started, and 2021 resolutions have been made. While many New Year's goals focus on improving health and finances, consumers should also consider resolutions they can make to prevent fraud and protect their personal information.

In 2020, the top scams in Texas included government impostor scams, tech support scams and phishing scams. These, like most scams, have one thing in common: the goal is to steal your money and identity. Fortunately, there are small but effective steps you can take to keep yourself safe. Keep these tips from your Better Business Bureau in mind as you take on 2021:

Be cautious with email. Scammers often utilize forms of communication like email or text to send consumers dangerous links that lead to malware and identity theft. If you receive an unsolicited message from an individual or organization, refrain from clicking on links or opening any attachments. Even if the sender appears to be a government agency or legitimate business, exercise caution.

Never send money to strangers. If you have never met a person face-to-face, do not send them money. Scammers often reach out to victims over the internet with urgent, emotional appeals and some-

times go as far as building a personal relationship with them. Cut off contact with strangers asking for money online, especially if they are asking for a wire transfer, prepaid gift cards or other untraceable forms of payment.

Do research when shopping online. Online shopping has increased dramatically since the start of COVID-19, and so have online purchase scams. Ask yourself some simple questions before you enter your credit card information. Is the site secure? Look for the lock icon next to the URL to check. Is the deal too good to be true? Comparison shop to get an idea of the average price for that item. What experiences have other customers had with this retailer? Check the company's business profile at BBB.org to view their rating and read customer reviews.

Think carefully before sharing personal information. Sharing personal information leaves you vulnerable to identity theft. Keep your banking information, Social Security number and Medicare private, even if you think you're being contacted by a legitimate business or agency. Remember, most government agencies, like the SSA and IRS, will typically only contact you through the mail. It is also a good idea to avoid sharing personal identifiers such as your date of birth and address, as they can also be used to access more sensitive information.

Use social media thoughtfully. Social media is a great way to stay connected with friends and family, but it is also a great way for scammers to reach you. Make use of privacy settings on your account, as an extra layer of protection. You should also be cautious when interacting with quizzes that ask for sensitive information or ads that may be trying to sell you counterfeit or defective products.

For more ways to stay safe this year, visit us at BBB.org.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

Before the meeting adjourned, Howard County Judge Kathryn Wiseman informed the Commissioners about 80 possible apartments being built near North Johansen Road and West of Highway 87. The developer is applying for a grant that will help fund the project. Also according to Judge Wiseman she is working with the County Attorney to work through plea deals being done in person and possibly moving them to Zoom.

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

DONATE

Continued from Page 1

Department, Big Spring Police Department, Howard County Road and Bridge and the Texas Forest Service.

According to Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Mitchell Hooper the department will be purchasing five dual band radios and several single band radios to equip the pumpers and engines with a radio, along with ensuring the brush trucks have one or two radios on board. Currently the HCVFD has 10 trucks to serve Howard County and five active stations, along with two stations that have been shut down. Once the new radios arrive, the old radios will be kept in case the HCVFD needs to provide assistance to surrounding counties to allow for communication outside Howard County.

"Our radios have been in bad shape and failing for awhile now. There are times we can be a mile

and a half apart and not able to communicate," Fire Chief Hooper said. "We have to make sure our cell phones are on us and hope we have signal where we are so we can stay in contact."

The original donation request will be utilized for the radios. The addition funding will be determined at a meeting of the board and could include an array of needed equipment such as hoses, tools, flashlights, nozzles and more. Last year's donation from the G.C. Broughton Foundation helped with the purchase of a new large brush truck to service Coahoma. The truck was originally supposed to arrive this month, but due to the pandemic delays the truck is expected to arrive in April. In addition to the Foundation's donation, the HCVFD is awaiting to hear from another foundation along with the Texas Forest Service.

According to Fire Chief Hooper, the department is in need of repairs on the pumper truck along with repairs to the fire stations.

"There are currently two stations that have been shut down due to the state or disrepair they are in,

and we are looking at being able to find a more centralized location for the Silver Hills and Tubbs Edition station," Hooper said. "We would like to build a training field in the future at one of the stations."

Currently there are 28 registered volunteer firefighters, but according to Hooper, due to schedules and other commitments, more volunteers are needed.

Hooper continued, "Any donation is appreciated. We have had snack and drinks donations which have been a huge help when we go out to fires, and every contribution that is made helps us out with much needed equipment, repairs and maintenance."

For those looking to become a volunteer firefighter, contact Fire Chief Mitchell Hooper for more information.

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

BIDEN

Continued from Page 1

safety and wisdom to lead our great country. While I will always look for common ground and opportunities to work together, I will respectfully and relentlessly oppose policies I believe are harmful to the country and inconsistent with our traditional American values.

I also want to extend my gratitude to President Trump for his tireless efforts and historic achievements to truly make America great again. I am extremely proud of all we were able to accomplish together for our country," Congressman Arrington said. "Today, we turn from politics to focus on that uniquely American experience of a peaceful transition of power and give thanks to Almighty God for the blessing of liberty in the most exceptional nation the world has ever known."

There were some who chose not to watch the Inauguration this year, but still shared their thoughts with us. One Howard County resident, Cindy Willis, responded to a Facebook question on the Big Spring Herald Facebook and stated her opinion of not believing Biden was the President Elect, but Trump was.

Another comment from Jennifer Griffis Rainey, stated: "We are watching our country go the next four years with out a legitimate president."

Political parties set aside, the Inauguration, was an event that will have an impact on all American Citizens and will hold historical value. There are those who watched that moment for the first time this year, and others who turned on the TV to watch as they have for many years now.

"I'm not one of these people that pledge their allegiance to a political party and pout like a baby in anger when their candidate doesn't win. The first inauguration I ever saw was the one for President H. W. Bush. I've watched all of them since," Mick Silva

posted. "What I love in all inaugurations is seeing the former Presidents come together as fellow Americans united in this sacred tradition to remind us that we aren't enemies. It was sad not having President Carter in today's inauguration, but his health and well-being is more important. The people not being able to attend is also sad. Terrorism will never win. Covid-19 will one day be wiped away."

As part of President Biden's Inaugural speech, President Biden spoke about bringing unity, the foundation that has been laid from the forefathers and the battles that have come against the nation.

"...if my name ever goes down into history it will be for this act and my whole soul is in it... Today, on this January day my whole soul is in it; bringing Americans together and uniting our nation and I ask every American to join me in this cause," President Biden said. "Uniting to fight the foes we face, resentment, anger, hatred, extremism, lawlessness ...disease, joblessness and hopelessness, with unity we can do great things, important things. We can right wrongs ..."

Many have said the 2021 Presidential and Vice Presidential Inauguration has broken barriers, busted through glass ceilings and opened the door to new opportunities.

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

www.bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Helen Alexander, 93, of Big Spring, died Monday. Graveside services will be held at Greenleaf Cemetery in Brownwood on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 2:00 PM with Shane Blackshear officiating.

Chon Y. Garcia, Jr., 52, of Big Spring, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Wall Street hits records amid profit reports, inauguration

By STAN CHOE, DAMIAN J. TROISE and ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writers

U.S. stocks are rallying to records Wednesday on encouraging earnings reports and continued optimism that new leadership in Washington will mean more support for the struggling economy.

The S&P 500 was 1.4% higher at 3,851 in afternoon trading, topping its record closing level of 3,824.68 set earlier this month. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 220 points, or 0.7%, at 31,151 as of 3:13 p.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 2.1% higher.

Joe Biden took the oath of office to become U.S. president, and he has a flurry of executive actions at the ready. He has also pitched a plan to pump \$1.9 trillion more into the struggling economy, hoping to act quickly as his Democratic party takes control of the White House and both houses of Congress.

The hope on Wall Street is that such stimulus will help carry the economy until later this year, when more widespread COVID-19 vaccinations get daily life closer to normal. Such hopes have helped stocks and Treasury yields rise, even as the worsening pandemic digs a deeper hole for the economy. Spiraling coronavirus counts and deaths have more workers applying for unemployment benefits and shoppers feeling less confident.

"Most of Wall Street is assuming that the second half (of 2021) is when we will see pent-up demand start to show up in the economy, and that will push economic indicators higher and will likely cause a ramp up in earnings projections," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA.

The incoming Biden administration is taking control of the White House from Donald Trump, who pointed again on Wednesday to the stock market's level as validation of his work.

Trump's preferred measure is often the Dow Jones Industrial Average, even though the S&P 500 is much more important to most workers' 401(k) accounts. Under Trump, the Dow had an annualized return of 11.8% from his inauguration until his last day in office, according to Ryan Detrick, chief market strategist for LPL Financial. That's better than any Republican president since Calvin Coolidge during the roaring 1920s, but it's not as good as the returns for Bill Clinton or Barack Obama.

Trump has said in the past that he should get credit for the stock market's gains following his election but before his inauguration. The market got a "Trump bump" then on anticipation of lower tax rates, less regulation on companies and faster economic growth. Much of that did come to fruition, but the COVID-19 pandemic and the government's response to it upended everything in 2020.

Gains for stocks have also been accelerating since Biden's election, before his inauguration, on enthusiasm about COVID-19 vaccines and hopes that he and Congress can deliver more stimulus for the economy. The bump for stocks between the most recent Election Day and Biden's inauguration is bigger than Trump's bump before his inauguration.

"The market is up more than 13% since Election Day," Stovall said, noting that since World War II, the S&P 500 has risen an average of 3.5% in the first 100 days of a Democratic president's administration, versus an average gain of 0.5% when a Republican was in the White House.

Janet Yellen, Biden's nominee to be Treasury secretary, told the Senate Finance Committee during her confirmation hearing on Tuesday that the incoming administration would focus on winning quick passage of its \$1.9 trillion plan.

"More must be done," Yellen said. "Without further action, we risk a longer, more painful recession now — and long-term scarring of the economy later."

A better-than-expected start to earnings reporting season is also helping to lift the market Wednesday. Analysts came in with low expectations, forecasting the big companies in the S&P 500 will report a fourth straight drop in earnings per share because of the damage from the pandemic. But the vast majority of the earliest reports have managed to top forecasts.

Analysts have been expressing concerns about pricey stock values heading into the latest round of corporate earnings, but they look more reasonable amid the backdrop of historically low interest rates, said Solita Marcelli, chief investment officer, Americas, at UBS Global Wealth Management. The low rates, along with new stimulus and the continued rollout of vaccines, will likely help bolster markets and the recovery.

"We think that global growth is going to continue to pick up," she said.

Netflix jumped 17.9% for the S&P 500's biggest gain after it said it ended last year with more than 200 million subscribers. It also said it made more in revenue during the end of 2020 than analysts expected, though its earnings fell short of forecasts. Business is good enough for the company that it says it likely doesn't need to borrow anymore to cover its day-to-day operations.

Companies will need to meet the market's expectations — including for a huge rebound in profit growth through 2021 — to validate the big runs for their stock prices during 2020, even as their profits plummeted. Stocks of several companies slipped on Wednesday, even though they reported stronger profits than expected. Procter & Gamble fell 1%, for example.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.09% from 1.07% late Tuesday.

Inaugural poet Amanda Gorman: 'Even as we grieved, we grew.'

By HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In one of the inauguration's most talked about moments, poet Amanda Gorman summoned images dire and triumphant Wednesday as she called out to the world "even as we grieved, we grew."

The 22-year-old Gorman referenced everything from Biblical scripture and "Hamilton," and at times echoed the oratory of John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. With urgency and assertion she began by asking "Where can we find light/In this never-ending shade?" and used her own poetry and life story as an answer. The poem's very title, "The Hill We Climb," suggested both labor and transcendence.

"We did not feel prepared to be the heirs
Of such a terrifying hour.
But within it we've found the power
To author a new chapter,
To offer hope and laughter to ourselves."

It was an extraordinary task for Gorman, the youngest by far of the poets who have read at presidential inaugurations since Kennedy invited Robert Frost in 1961, with other predecessors including Maya Angelou and Elizabeth Alexander. Mindful of the past, she wore earrings and a caged bird ring — a tribute to Angelou's classic memoir "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" — given to her by Oprah Winfrey, a close friend of the late writer.

"I have never been prouder to see another young woman rise! Brava Brava, @TheAmandaGorman! Maya Angelou is cheering—and so am I," Winfrey tweeted. Gorman was also praised by "Hamilton" playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda, who tweeted "YES @TheAmandaGorman!!!" Gorman, soon responded: "Thx @Lin_Manuel! Did you catch the 2 @HamiltonMusical references in the inaugural poem? I couldn't help myself!"

Among the "Hamilton" inspirations in her poem: "History has its eyes on us," a variation of the "Hamilton" song "History Has Its Eyes On You."

Gorman, a native and resident of Los Angeles and the country's first National Youth Poet Laureate, Gorman told The Associated Press last week that she planned to combine a message of hope for President Joseph Biden's inaugural without ignoring "the evidence of discord and division." She had completed a little more than half of "The Hill We Climb" before Jan. 6 and the siege of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump.

"That day gave me a second wave of energy to finish the poem," Gorman told the AP. She had said that she would not mention Jan. 6 specifically, but her reference was unmistakable:

"We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it,
Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.
And this effort very nearly succeeded.
But while democracy can be periodically delayed,
It can never be permanently defeated."

Frost's appearance at the Kennedy inaugural was a kind of valedictory — he was 86 and died two years later. Gorman's career is just beginning. Her first two books come out in September — the picture story "Change Things" and a bound edition of her inaugural poem, along with other works. Ceremonial odes often are quickly forgotten, but Angelou's "On the Pulse Of the Morning," which she read at the 1993 inaugural of President Clinton, went on to sell more than 1 million copies as a book.

Invited to the inaugural late last month by first lady Jill Biden, Gorman has read at official occasions before — including a July 4 celebration when she was backed by the Boston Pops Orchestra. She has also made clear her desire to appear at a future inaugural, in a much greater capacity, an ambition she stated firmly in her poem.

"We, the successors of a country and a time,
Where a skinny black girl,
Descended from slaves and raised by a single mother,
Can dream of becoming president,
Only to find herself reciting for one."

No-go for Joe Exotic: Trump pardon list omits 'Tiger King'

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — One name missing in President Donald Trump's flurry of pardons is "Tiger King" Joe Exotic.

His team was so confident in a pardon that they had readied a celebratory limousine and a hair and wardrobe team to whisk away the zookeeper-turned-reality-TV-star, who is serving a 22-year federal prison sentence in Texas. But he wasn't on the list announced Wednesday morning.

Joe Exotic, whose real name is Joseph Maldonado-Passage, was sentenced in January 2020 to 22 years in federal prison for violating federal wildlife laws and for his role in a failed murder-for-hire plot targeting his chief rival, Carole Baskin, who runs a rescue sanctuary for big cats in Florida. Baskin was not harmed.

Maldonado-Passage, who has maintained his innocence, was also sentenced for killing five tigers, selling tiger cubs and falsifying wildlife records. A jury convicted him in April 2019.

In his pardon application filed in September,

Maldonado-Passage's attorneys argued that he was "railroaded and betrayed" by others. Maldonado-Passage, 57, is scheduled to be released from custody in 2037, but his attorneys said in the application that "he will likely die in prison" because of health concerns.

Maldonado-Passage's backers, who referred to themselves as "Team Tiger," said in a statement Wednesday that "140 million Joe Exotic fans had a hard time getting out of bed this morning."

"We are as disappointed that the president did not sign Joe's pardon, as we were confident yesterday that he would," the statement said.

The blond mullet-wear-

ing zookeeper, known for his expletive-laden rants on YouTube and a failed 2018 Oklahoma gubernatorial campaign, was prominently featured in the popular Netflix documentary "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness."

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Steers claim first win of the season, defeat Sweetwater Mustangs in 60-40 victory

By SAM YOUNG

Herald Contributing Writer

As the regular season reaches its last few weeks, Tuesday night provided our local basketball squads with a variety of emotions as the postseason lingers on the horizon.

For Big Spring, playing home and away to 3-4A district rivals Sweetwater, their games offered an opportunity to gain separation in the battle for playoff seeding. The Lady Steers were once again on the road, entering the night at 1-3, against 1-3 Sweetwater. Big Spring had the better of the early proceedings, building a lead of as many as nine by the middle of the second quarter. The hosting Lady Mustangs used a late second quarter surge to reel Big Spring back in, closing their halftime deficit to 22-20. Things remained tight in third as emotions flared for both teams, with neither team finding separation they desperately wanted. Moving into the final two minutes the game was knotted at 47-47 — before Sweetwater's defense clamped down, eventually culminating in a 51-47 Sweetwater victory. The defeat puts Big Spring fifth in district at the halfway stage, with a 1-4 mark. Sweetwater grabs hold of fourth place, now at 2-3 in 3-4A play.

The boy's game wound up being much more straightforward between a pair of squads starting the night at 0-2 in distinct. Visiting Sweetwater would jump out to an early 12-8 lead after the first quarter, but it wouldn't last. The Steer defense held Sweetwater to just six second quarter points while building a solid 25-18 halftime edge. Big Spring would continue to add to their lead as the second half progressed, clinching their first win of district with a

60-40 triumph. That moves the Steers into fourth in the 3-4A standings at 1-2, while Sweetwater drops to fifth at 0-3.

In the first of two trips further east, Coahoma basketball resumed 5-3A play by hosting Reagan County. The Bulldogettes began the night by looking to bounce back from their first blemish in district, and they did so emphatically. Coahoma pounced on Reagan County early, holding the Lady Owls to just three first quarter points en route to building a comfortable 24-10 halftime lead. MaKynlee Overton was hot from the all night long, scoring a game-high 23, while keeping any hope of a comeback from Reagan County on the back burner. Madison Rogers would chip in eight more to help propel Coahoma into the win column, 53-33. The win gives Coahoma a 4-1 mark in 5-3A as they move to the second round of district; Reagan County is now at 2-3.

The boy's game was a back and forth affair, between a pair of 1-1 teams looking for a crucial early second district win. Reagan County rushed out to the initial lead, only for Coahoma to chase them down in the second, and go to the half up 22-20. Reagan County would regain the lead in the third, before Coahoma mounted another charge in the fourth. The Bulldogs were trying to overturn an eight-point hole in the final eight minutes, but the visiting Owls would have just enough left to hold on for a 51-43 win. Reagan County overcame 12 points from Raheem Ashford and another eleven from Ryan Shifflett, jumping to 2-1 in district. The Bulldogs are now at 1-2 in 5-3A games.

Finally, even further east, in Colorado City, Forsan was making the short trip for an 8-2A double header. The girl's contest was a battle for the top spot in district, between 4-1 Forsan and 5-1 Color-

do. The hosting Lady Wolves hadn't lost in nearly a month, since Forsan beat them 47-22. Early on, Forsan looked to be on track to repeat that effort, stretching out a nine-point advantage. However, the lead was short lived, as would be the case pretty much all night. The Lady Buffs would build up a decent lead, and then Colorado would whittle all the way down. Forsan would lead by four at the break, 23-19. They would remain out in front until midway through the fourth when Colorado took only their second lead of the game. It would prove to be the final lead change though. Despite Colorado leaving the door open at the free throw line, the Lady Buffs struggled to retain possession of the ball late, and couldn't find a bucket in the final minute to overturn a 45-43 defeat. Rylee Evans paced the ladies with 14 points, while Kaeli Woodall dropped in 13 more. Forsan falls to 4-2 in district with the loss, while Colorado now has breathing room at the top, sitting at 6-1 in 8-2A play.

Rounding out the night's games was a boy's game widely expected to be a coin-flip kind of game. The first two quarters produced just that between 2-1 Forsan and 2-2 Colorado — back and forth swings of momentum that left Colorado up, 22-19. The game turned on a dime in the third frame, however. Colorado sank three quick shots from downtown, and swelled their lead to double figures by the midway point of the quarter. The figures were never really able to find the spark to a run that would bring back into the game, and the Wolves grabbed their first home district win, 57-40. Jace Richardson was the only player in double figures on the night for Forsan, finishing with 11 points. Forsan dips back down to 2-2 in 8-2A, while Colorado elevated to 3-2 in district.

Dawgettes down Lady Owls, 53-33

Special to the Herald

The Bulldogettes bounced back from last week's heart-breaking one point loss in Sonora to defeat Reagan County at home on Tuesday, 53-33.

"We played much better this game," said Bulldogette Head Basketball Coach Jim Kinnear. "We were able to work the offense with a little more patience. For the most part, our defense did what it was supposed to do. We need to work on our press and free throws, but other than that, I was pleased with how they played."

From the outset, Coahoma took control of the game forcing the Lady Owls into the uncomfortable position of having to play catch up throughout the entire match. By the half, the Dawgettes were up 24-10 and put away the game in the fourth quarter when they outscored the Lady Owls 21-13.

MaKynlee Overton had a game high of 23 points scored for Coahoma and fellow teammate, Madison Rodgers, tallied eight. With the win, Coahoma improves to 4-1 in District 5-3A play and stays in the hunt for the championship title.

Next: Coahoma (11-5, 4-1) hosts Odessa Compass Academy on Friday at 6:30 p.m. The JV game begins at 4 p.m.

REAGAN COUNTY 33, COAHOMA 53

Reagan County: 3, 7, 10, 13 -- 33

Coahoma: 10, 14, 8, 21 -- 53

Reagan County —Michelle Delacruz 1, Clarissa Flores 9, Valeria Ortiz 6, Nivea Goodloe 2, Shayn Darr 13, Delaney Yanez 2.

Coahoma — Julia Codd 4, Shae Lang 6, Madison Rodgers 8, Isabella Cox 6, Brynn Rodgers 3, Sophia Biddison 3, MaKynlee Overton 23.

Free Throws — Reagan County 9-17, Coahoma 13-28; 3-Point Goals — Reagan County

4 (Darr 3, Flores); Fouls

— Reagan County 24; Coahoma 19.



Courtesy photo

Brynn Rodgers heads down court during the Coahoma versus Reagan County varsity girls game on Tuesday. The Bulldogettes won 53-33.

BSJH Lady Steer highlights

7th Grade A Team:

The 7th Grade Lady Steer A Team powered over Andrews and brought out the win with a score of 35-13. Our leading scorers were BreAnna Woodruff with 20 points, Emily Carreon with 6 points, and Abigal Diaz with 4 points. Defensive players of the game were Bergan Pinkley, Bella Rios, and Audrie Reyes.

7th Grade B Team:

The 7th Grade B Lady Steer Team fell short to Andrews on Saturday with a score of 10-25. Arielle Viera, Alyssa Godines, Lynzi Arrieta, and Hailey Gonzales all pitched in on offense and played hard all game. Leah Ramirez and Laneigh Rushing played well and hustled on defense.

8th Grade A Team:

The 8th Grade A Lady Steers hosted the Lady Mustangs from Andrews on Saturday. They fell short in an aggressive battle by a score of 24 to 53.

Players of the game were Niomi Wines who led the Lady Steers scoring with 15 points and Carnisha Rutledge who scored 9 points. The Lady Steers will be back at it as they host San Angelo Lincoln on Thursday evening here at home. Come on out to support your Lady Steers!!

8th Grade B Team:

The 8th Grade B Team fell to a very aggressive and skilled Andrews team on Saturday with a score of 11-28. Jayla Overton and Essence Reynolds banked some

See **JH**, Page 10

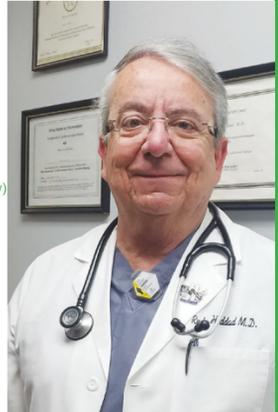
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Consider Mediterranean fare for healthy living

The start of the new year often begins with resolutions made to fix bad habits and/or adopt new, healthier ones. Resolutions designed around healthy eating are popular.

The Mediterranean Diet has long been touted as an informed and balanced way of eating. While not a diet, it is an approach to eating that includes foods indigenous to the Mediterranean region. It is marked by large portions of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, olive oil, as well as fish and other seafood. Poultry, eggs and cheeses are enjoyed in moderation, and fattier meats and sweet are allowed but should be limited. The guidelines also include plenty of water and a moderate amount of wine. A transition to the Mediterranean diet doesn't need to involve drastic changes. In fact, one can start slowly with a

tasty side dish or appetizer. This recipe for "Dolmades" from "The Mediterranean Diet Cookbook" (Rockridge Press) by the editors of Rockridge University Press is a popular dish in Greece.

Dolmades
Makes 20

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 shallots, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3/4 cup short-grain rice
- 1/4 cup gold raisins
- 1/4 cup pine nuts, toasted
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 2/3 cup water
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 1 small bunch mint leaves, finely chopped

- 1 small bunch flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 20 preserved grape leaves

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the shallots and garlic, and sauté for 5 minutes. Add the rice, golden raisins, pine nuts, and lemon juice. Season with sea salt and freshly ground pepper. Add 2/3 cup water, bring to a boil, and cover. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Turn off heat and allow rice to cool. Add the green onions and herbs to the rice filling and mix well.

Rinse the grape leaves in water and stuff each leaf with about 1 tablespoon of the filling. Roll tightly and place each in a steamer, seam side down. Steam for about 10 minutes, until leaves are tender. Serve warm.

CAPTION: Grape leaves are an ingredient in the popular Greek dish of Dolmades. Similar recipes also occur in regional cuisines of nearby countries.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Guesswork is not necessary

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

| NORTH | | EAST | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| ♠ J 9 | ♥ 10 8 2 | ♠ 10 7 6 5 2 | ♥ A Q 6 5 3 |
| ♦ A Q 10 9 4 3 | ♣ A J | ♦ 5 | ♣ 6 4 |
| WEST | | SOUTH | |
| ♠ K 8 4 3 | ♥ J 9 4 | ♠ A Q | ♥ K 7 |
| ♦ 7 | ♣ 9 8 7 5 2 | ♦ K J 8 6 2 | ♣ K Q 10 3 |

The bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♦ | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♥ | Pass |
| 6♦ | | | |

Opening lead — nine of clubs.

In today's deal, it is easy to see, after the opening club lead, that if East was dealt the king of spades, the diamond slam can be made by drawing trump, discarding two of dummy's hearts on South's high clubs and later taking a winning spade finesse. But if West has the king of spades, this line of play will fail, and the contract will be defeated.

Alternatively, the contract may be made by a different method of play if East was dealt the ace of

hearts. In that case, all South has to do is to lead a heart toward the king. The actual location of the king of spades thus becomes immaterial, since a spade can be discarded from dummy on a good club.

It would appear, therefore, that South is on a straight guess as to which line of play to adopt. He has an even-money shot on the location of the spade king, and also on the heart ace. If he guesses wrong, however, he goes down without getting an opportunity to try the other line of play.

But the fact of the matter is that there really isn't any guesswork involved at all. With proper play, South can test both possibilities before he is defeated.

After winning the club lead with the ace and drawing a round of trump, three more clubs are cashed, on which two hearts are discarded from dummy. Dummy is then entered with a trump, and a heart is led. In the actual case, since East has the ace, the hand is over. He takes the ace and returns a spade. Declarer puts up the ace and discards dummy's remaining spade on the king of hearts.

And what if West turns up with the ace of hearts? In that case, West captures the heart king and returns a heart, ruffed in dummy. Now the spade finesse is taken, and if East has the king, the slam is home.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

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!

Lunar Herding the Sign of the Bull

ARIES (March 21-April 19). New talent can favorably influence events, but only if given the stage. It requires that the old guard make room. If it happens, then it will be because you created enough safety and ego-stroking to allow for it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It will be tempting to ask others to solve problems that are best handled by you. Ask questions like, "What would be easier/simpler/cheaper?" You'll turn issues into nonissues.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Talented salespeople make things happen. You are such a person when you really believe in a thing. Today, you'll get a chance to apply this talent, and you'll promote your interest with ease.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't need to improve; you just want to. Your motivation to make healthy choices is greatest when you approve of and enjoy yourself just as you are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It will take many interests and people swirling around you at once to keep you from getting bored. By the end of the day, you'll have opened and closed many loops.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). For years,

people have told you that you were good at something. Your talent is so inherent that you don't even think of it as anything special, though today you'll understand that it really is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The efforts you make to tune your senses to the moment and stick mentally and emotionally with what's happening in the present, will keep you happier, even when said "moment" isn't particularly remarkable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be interacting in a group and figuring out where you fit in. It takes some jostling, so don't expect to get it immediately. Everyone else will have to adjust, too, which is part of it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being overly serious is not only boring, it's also an ineffective way to go through the day. You avoid anything that feels forced or grave. Answers could come to you in a fit of laughter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Now you're far enough away

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



from a past incident that you understand how it could be seen as "a learning experience" or possibly even as

"funny." Though, perhaps, not by you, not quite yet. In time!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In your sleep, you process life, grow your brain, become wiser and heal. That doesn't mean your dreams make a lick of sense. Don't overthink it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll field innocent questions, although that's not the norm today. It's more likely that the line of questioning follows an agenda that will be readily understood if you think it through a few times.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 21). Various enchantments include love and an enthralling area of study which intensifies under the guidance of a stellar teacher. A new position is perfect for you, so do not hesitate to apply to, or more likely to create, this role. In general, people will respond to your confidence and will go along with your

leadership. Cancer and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 30, 12, 28 and 5.

COSMIC QUESTION: A Scorpio writes: "People say beware of the catfish online -- the people who pretend to be something other than they are while interacting with others on the internet. Usually, the catfish are criminal types, trying to get money or have inappropriate relationships. But I was catfished by someone who was super cool and actually famous! This person was hiding his true identity because he didn't want to interfere with his public persona. Anyway, we're good friends now, and I just wanted people out there to know that not everyone has nefarious purposes."

That may be so dear Scorpio, and your sign is particularly fascinated by disguises, false identities and mysteries in general. However, what you describe is so rarely the case that I can't help but be skeptical about your famous friend. Have you met in person? I wouldn't advise this unless you meet in a public place -- after the pandemic subsides -- with a posse of friends and protectors around you. I love the optimism, but "safety first" is the best rule for all signs, even intuitives like you!

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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Annie's Mailbox

Video Conferencing Tips

Dear Annie: Throughout the pandemic, I've noted some things that make for a successful Zoom or FaceTime call. Perhaps these suggestions will be of use to your readers.

1. Look at yourself on your screen. What you see is what others will see.

2. Do not sit with a window or other bright light behind you. You will be a dark silhouette.

3. Have the light or window facing you from higher, beyond the laptop, or up to 45 degrees off to the side.

4. Incandescent lights are warmer and make you look more alive. Natural window light alone, particularly if snow is on the ground, can make you look ghostly pale blue.

5. Place your laptop

on a table to keep it from moving around to dizzy others. TV tray tables work.

6. Sit close enough so your head nearly fills the screen and you are recognizable.

7. Adjust the screen/camera angle to include your full face, preferably from nearly the same level to eliminate facial distortions and dominant ceilings. Sitting on extra cushions can sometimes help.

8. If there are two of you making the call together from one device, sit close enough so both faces show equally.

9. Check your background for distracting clutter. -- Harvey V.

Dear Harvey: Video conferencing has been so important during this past year, and I hope people will continue to make use of the technology even after the pandemic

ends. Thanks for the tips on Zooming like a pro.

Dear Annie: We have two grown sons, whom I will call "Tim" and "Tom." One is our biological son and the other is adopted. They are a few years apart and live just a few miles apart. When they were growing up, they were somewhat close, but they have been estranged for a number of years. There was never really a falling out or major disagreement between them or anything like that. Tim has expressed that he's worried that Tom will take advantage of him in looking for job connections. Tom says he doesn't want to make the first move because he says he always has to make the first move in communicating. So nothing happens. They have never communicated the reasons to each other. It was very awkward on Christmas when we did a FaceTime call together.

I'm very hurt because of this. My one desire is for them to be close. This bothers me a lot. Do I just let things go on as they are, or should I make some effort to get them together? -- Mom with a Last Wish

Dear Last Wish: I feel for you. Every parent wishes for their children to have special lifelong bonds with their siblings. But your sons are adult men with their own lives and beliefs. You can't force them to be closer. And trying to do so will only drive them further from you. Continue to create spaces to gather as a family, even if it's just virtual for now, and even if it's awkward. Hopefully, in time, that ice will thaw a bit. In the meantime, focus on your relationships with each of them individually.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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Please thoroughly wash your hands to
keep us healthy!

| | KMID (3) Midland | UNI (4) Spanish | KPEJ (5) Odessa | KOSA (7) Odessa | KTLE (8) Telemundo | KWES (9) Midland | KMLM (12) Odessa | KPBT (13) Odessa | KWWT (14) Odessa | KWES2 (15) Midland | WTBS (33) Atlanta | TNT (34) Atlanta | ESPN (35) Sports | ESPN2 (36) Sports | FSN (38) Sports | USA (55) New York | A&E (58) New York | DISC (60) Discovery |
|-------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 5:PM | Big 2 | Noticiero | FamFeud | CBS 7 | Tele | News | The | Wild Kratt | King | Burgers | Big Bang | Bones | SportsCenter | Daily Wager | Sports | Chrisley | The First 48 | BattleBots |
| 5:30 | ABC | Noticiero | FamFeud | CBS | Noticias | News | Behind | Wild Kratt | King | Burgers | Big Bang | Bones | SportsCenter | Daily Wager | Inside | Chrisley | The First 48 | BattleBots |
| 6:PM | News | Rosa de Guadalupe | Big Bang | CBS 7 | El domo del dinero (SS) | News | HaYesod | Xavier | Last Man | Fam. Guy | Big Bang | The | Women's College Basketball: Teams TBA. | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | Women's College Basketball | Chrisley | The First 48 | BattleBots |
| 6:30 | Wheel | Te doy la vida | Big Bang | ET | Mr. Mayor | News | House | Molly | Last Man | Fam. Guy | Big Bang | NBA Basketball: Lakers at Bucks | Women's College Basketball: Teams TBA. | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | Women's College Basketball | Chrisley | The First 48 | BattleBots |
| 7:PM | Celebrity Wheel | Amor eterno | Hell's Kitchen | Sheldon B Positive | Mr. Mayor Super | News | Master | Hero | Dateline | Walker | Big Bang | NBA Basketball: Lakers at Bucks | Women's College Basketball: Teams TBA. | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | Women's College Basketball | Chrisley | The First 48 | BattleBots |
| 7:30 | The Chase | Amor eterno | Kat | (:01) Mom | Todo por mi hija | Law & Order: SVU | Light of Southwest | Arthur | WordGirl | Legacies | Go-Big Show | NBA Basketball: New Orleans Pelicans at Utah Jazz. | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | UFC | High School Football | Chrisley | The First 48 | BattleBots |
| 8:PM | The Hustler | Como tú no hay dos | FOX 24 News at 9 | Star Trek: Discovery | Falsa identidad (SS) | Dateline NBC | Light of Southwest | Cyber | Mike | Seinfeld | Wipeout | NBA Basketball: New Orleans Pelicans at Utah Jazz. | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | UFC | High School Football | Chrisley | (:01) Killer Cases | BattleBots |
| 8:30 | ABC | Noticiero | TMZ | CBS 7 | Noticias | News | Zion | Pink | Friends | Creek | Conan | SportsCenter | UFC | NFL Live | | Chrisley | (:04) The First 48 | BattleBots |
| 9:PM | Big 2 | Noticiero | Mom | Late Show: Colbert | Caso cerrado (SS) | Seth Meyers | Hidden | Sesame | CBS 7 | Gold | Conan | SportsCenter | UFC | Award Show | Chrisley | The First 48 | BattleBots | |
| 9:30 | Jimmy Kimmel Live! | Contacto deportivo | Funny | James Corden | Sin Senos Si | Late-Lilly | Behind | Nature | Forensic | Short List | Wipeout | NBA Basketball: Lakers at Bucks | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | UFC | High School Football | Chrisley | (:04) Killer Cases | BattleBots |
| 10:PM | Big 2 | Noticiero | TMZ | CBS 7 | Noticias | News | Zion | Pink | Friends | Creek | Conan | SportsCenter | UFC | Award Show | Chrisley | The First 48 | BattleBots | |
| 10:30 | Jimmy Kimmel Live! | Contacto deportivo | Funny | James Corden | Sin Senos Si | Late-Lilly | Behind | Nature | Forensic | Short List | Wipeout | NBA Basketball: Lakers at Bucks | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | UFC | High School Football | Chrisley | (:04) Killer Cases | BattleBots |
| 11:PM | Big 2 | Noticiero | TMZ | CBS 7 | Noticias | News | Zion | Pink | Friends | Creek | Conan | SportsCenter | UFC | Award Show | Chrisley | The First 48 | BattleBots | |
| 11:30 | Jimmy Kimmel Live! | Contacto deportivo | Funny | James Corden | Sin Senos Si | Late-Lilly | Behind | Nature | Forensic | Short List | Wipeout | NBA Basketball: Lakers at Bucks | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | UFC | High School Football | Chrisley | (:04) Killer Cases | BattleBots |
| 12:AM | Extra | Inocente de ti | Simpsons | Drew Barrymore | Programa | News | Light of Southwest | Wild Kratt | Jerry Springer | Short List | Wipeout | NBA Basketball: Lakers at Bucks | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | UFC | High School Football | Chrisley | (:04) Killer Cases | BattleBots |
| 12:30 | Paid Prg. | Papá a toda madre | Pawn | Paid Prg. | Programa | News | Light of Southwest | Wild Kratt | Jerry Springer | Short List | Wipeout | NBA Basketball: Lakers at Bucks | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | UFC | High School Football | Chrisley | (:04) Killer Cases | BattleBots |
| 1:AM | Paid Prg. | Papá a toda madre | Pawn | Paid Prg. | Programa | News | Light of Southwest | Wild Kratt | Jerry Springer | Short List | Wipeout | NBA Basketball: Lakers at Bucks | College Basketball: Teams TBA. | UFC | High School Football | Chrisley | (:04) Killer Cases | BattleBots |

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



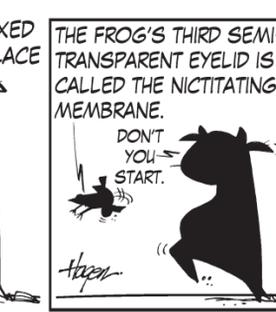
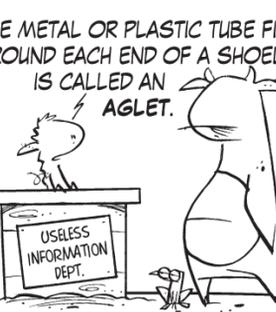
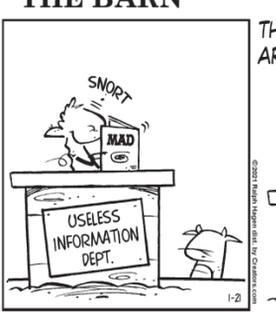
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ONE BIG HAPPY



THE BARN



MOMMA



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 21, the 21st day of 2021. There are 344 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 21, 2020, the U.S. reported its first known case of the new virus circulating in China, saying a Washington state resident who had returned the previous week from the outbreak's epicenter was hospitalized near Seattle; U.S. officials stressed that they believed the overall risk of the virus to the American public remained low.

On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolution, King Louis XVI, condemned for treason, was executed on the guillotine.

In 1915, the first Kiwanis Club, dedicated to community service, was founded in Detroit.

In 1924, Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin died at age 53.

In 1942, pinball machines were banned in New York City after a court ruled they were gambling devices that relied on chance rather than skill (the ban was lifted in 1976).

In 1954, the first atomic submarine, the USS Nautilus, was launched at Groton (GRAH-tuhn), Connecticut (however, the Nautilus did not make its first nuclear-powered run until nearly a year later).

In 1976, British Airways and Air France inaugurated scheduled passenger service on the supersonic Concorde jet.

In 1977, on his first full day in office, President Jimmy Carter pardoned almost all Vietnam War draft evaders.

In 1997, Speaker Newt Gingrich was reprimanded and fined as the House voted for the first time in history to discipline its leader for ethical misconduct.

In 2003, the Census Bureau announced that Hispanics had surpassed blacks as America's largest minority group.

In 2007, Lovie Smith became the first Black head coach to make it to the Super Bowl when his Chicago Bears won the NFC championship, beating the New Orleans Saints 39-14; Tony Dungy became the second when his Indianapolis Colts took the AFC title over the New England Patriots, 38-34.

In 2010, a bitterly divided U.S. Supreme Court, in

Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, vastly increased the power of big business and labor unions to influence government decisions by freeing them to spend their millions directly to sway elections for president and Congress. Former Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards finally admitted fathering a daughter during an affair before his second White House bid.

In 2019, first-term senator and former California attorney general Kamala Harris entered the Democratic presidential race. (Harris would withdraw from the race in December; she would be chosen the following August as the party's vice presidential nominee.) A light aircraft carrying Argentine soccer player Emiliano Sala to his new team in Wales went missing over the English Channel. (Sala's body was recovered from the wreckage two weeks later.)

Ten years ago: Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, seriously wounded in a shooting rampage, was transferred from the University Medical Center trauma center in Tucson to Texas Medical Center in Houston to undergo months of therapy. President Barack Obama visited Schenectady, New York, the birthplace of the General Electric Co., to declare that his job was "putting our economy into overdrive." South Korean special forces stormed a hijacked freighter in the Arabian Sea, rescuing all 21 crew members and killing eight Somali pirates. Ed Mauser, the oldest living member of a 101st Airborne Division company that became known as the "Band of Brothers" during World War II, died in Omaha, Nebraska, at age 94.

Five years ago: The Obama administration tightened restrictions on European and other travelers who had visited Iran, Iraq, Syria or Sudan in the previous five years. Daniel Holtzclaw, a former police officer convicted of raping and sexually victimizing women while on his beat in a low-income Oklahoma City neighborhood, was ordered to spend the rest of his life in prison.

One year ago: A marcorous dispute over rules ranked the first full day of President Donald Trump's Senate impeachment trial; Senate Majority Leader Mitch

McConnell added an extra day for opening arguments and agreed that evidence from the House impeachment proceedings would be included in the record. Terry Jones, a founding member of the Monty Python comedy troupe, died at his London home at the age of 77 after suffering from dementia. Derek Jeter came within one vote of being a unanimous pick for baseball's Hall of Fame, while Larry Walker

earned baseball's highest honor in his last chance on the ballot. Heavy metal music legend Ozzy Osbourne announced that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Today's Birthdays: World Golf Hall of Famer Jack Nicklaus is 81. Opera singer-conductor Plácido Domingo is 80. Actor Jill Eikenberry is 74. Country musician Jim Ibbotson is 74. Singer-

songwriter Billy Ocean is 71. Former U.S. Ambassador to China Gary Locke is 71. Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder is 70. Actor-director Robby Benson is 65. Actor Geena Davis is 65. Sen. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., is 60. Basketball Hall of Famer Hakeem Olajuwon is 58. Actor Charlotte Ross is 53. Actor John Ducey is 52. Actor Karina Lombard is 52. Actor Ken Leung is 51. Rock musician

Mark Trojanowski (Sister Hazel) is 51. Rock singer-songwriter Cat Power is 49. Rock DJ Chris Kilmore (Incubus) is 48. Actor Vincent Laresca is 47. Singer Emma Bunton (Spice Girls) is 45. Actor Jerry Trainor is 44. Country singer Phil Stacey is 43. R&B singer Nokie is 42. Actor Izabella Miko (MEE'-koh) is 40. Actor Luke Grimes is 37. Actor Felix Ramirez is 29.

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Newsday Crossword PARENTAL GUIDANCE by Winston Emmons Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

| ACROSS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | Bit of information | 6 | Bound bundle | 10 | Yoga surfaces | 14 | Tiresome task | 15 | Shade of the sea | 16 | Bounced-back sound | 17 | Acclaims | 18 | Cameo stone | 19 | Course hazard | 20 | After-meal guidance | 23 | What Apples run on | 24 | Taunting cry | 25 | Open, as mail | 29 | Accepting | 34 | Before-meal guidance | 36 | Actress Tyler or Ullmann | 37 | Underground rock group | 38 | Brewpub order | 39 | ___ colada | 40 | Sch. founded by Jefferson | 41 | Before-school guidance | 45 | Subs for | 47 | Granitelike rock | 48 | "Messenger" molecule | 49 | Attempting to emulate | 50 | After-school guidance | 58 | Lend of tennis | 59 | Slightest bit | 60 | Paul Bunyan activity | 62 | Buck or bull | 63 | Expense reductions | 64 | Allude (to) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DOWN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 650, to Caesar | 2 | Melville monomaniac | 3 | Excursion | 4 | Language of Pakistan | 5 | Yuletide masterwork | 6 | Hip-hop dudes | 7 | Purina alternative | 8 | Hawaiian bash | 9 | Certain sushi | 10 | Part of some showers | 11 | Thousands of square yards | 12 | One of those | 13 | New sorority sister, often | 21 | Flaw in one's logic | 22 | Fare-well connection | 25 | "Forgive ___ trespasses" | 26 | Audacity | 27 | Eye-opening bargain | 28 | UFO crew | 29 | Grimm collection | 30 | Toe the line | 31 | Rap-beating story | 32 | Poker pair | 33 | Certain show stoppers | 35 | Assessment, so to speak | 39 | Starter like ante- | 41 | Software option list | 42 | Greediness | 43 | Stare at | 44 | Out of the loop | 46 | Resolved, with "out" | 49 | Stockpile | 50 | Grows faint | 51 | Elliptical shape | 52 | Third-oldest American university | 53 | Kilowatt-___ (power-use unit) | 54 | Beetle Bailey dog | 55 | Plow pullers | 56 | Breach | 57 | Low joint | 61 | "I'm peeved!" |

Answer to previous puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | E | S | T | S | A | S | S | S | N | A | G | | | | | |
| I | D | E | A | U | N | T | I | E | T | O | D | | | | | |
| P | I | C | K | I | N | G | U | P | T | H | E | T | A | B | | |
| A | T | T | E | N | D | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | A | H | | C | I | A | O | | | | | | | | | |
| T | H | R | E | E | A | R | C | D | | M | A | D | | | | |
| R | O | U | N | D | A | M | O | K | | F | A | R | E | | | |
| A | M | I | D | | A | T | B | A | | E | P | I | C | | | |
| D | E | N | S | | F | E | E | T | | B | A | L | S | A | | |
| E | S | S | | B | A | R | R | I | E | R | R | E | E | F | | |
| M | A | R | S | | A | M | A | | | | | | | | | |
| S | P | A | I | N | | B | I | G | C | A | T | | | | | |
| N | O | T | | N | E | A | R | L | | Y | E | N | O | U | G | H |
| A | L | O | T | | B | Y | E | A | R | | A | R | E | A | | |
| P | O | P | S | | S | E | E | M | S | | T | E | S | T | | |

Coahoma drops district game to Reagan County

COAHOMA — The Bulldogs fell to Reagan County 43-51 in a heavily contested district game on Tuesday night.

By the beginning of the second quarter, it seemed Reagan County had taken full control of the match with a 10-point lead over Coahoma (7-17), but the Bulldogs headed into the locker room ahead by two thanks to Ryan Shifflett, who buried a 3-point shot in the waning seconds of the second quarter.

After returning for the second half,

the two teams continued the battle until the Owls had a run late in the third quarter that included a 3-point basket falling in just before the buzzer sounded.

Heading into the fourth with an eight point lead, the Owls kept the game just out of reach for Coahoma and claimed their second district win.

Raheem Ashford led the Bulldogs in points. He tallied 12 for the night. Ryan Shifflett had 11 and sank three 3-point goals in the first half.

Next: Coahoma (3-9, 1-2) hosts Odesa Compass Academy on Friday, at 8 p.m. The JV game begins at 5:15 p.m.

REAGAN COUNTY 51, COAHOMA 43
Reagan County: 13, 7, 18, 13 -- 51
Coahoma: 5, 17, 8, 13

-- 43
Reagan County — Christian Galindo 12, Jaden Gonzalez 5, Raymond Saldibar 3, Isaac Perez 3, Juan Martinez 8, Elijah Gonzalez 2, Logan Knight 18.

Coahoma — Isaiah Martin 6, Tony Hagins 4, Ryan Shifflett 11, Junior Emerson 3, Kolt Redden 3, Raheem Ashford 12, D’Kota Harrison 4.

Free Throws — Reagan County 8-16, Coahoma 6-12; 3-Point Goals — Reagan County 3 (J. Gonzalez, Saldibar, Perez) ; Coahoma 3 (Shifflett); Fouls — Reagan 15; Coahoma 13.



Courtesy photo

Pictured at right: D’Kota Harrison, No. 32, looks for an open man during the Bulldogs loss to the Reagan County Owls on Tuesday night.

JH
Continued from Page 5

key free throws for the team, and other players of the game were Quasett Woodruff and Ambrie Franco for their leading on the court. We look forward to seeing the growth of these girls in the two games we play this week! Both are home games on Thursday against the San Angelo Lincoln Maidens and on Saturday against the Lamesa Tornados.

We look forward to our two games this week! Everyone come out and try to support. Our girls would love it.



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- Reception Dress
- Reserve Tuxedos
- Get Marriage License
- Schedule Rehearsal Dinner
- Photographer
- Choose a Ring Bearer
- Entertainment
- Choose Flower Girls
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