

Take Note

• AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will offer free income tax preparation every Monday through Monday, April 5, 2021, from 8 a.m. until Noon at the Big Spring Senior Citizen's Center. The Senior Center is located at 100 Whipkey Drive, Big Spring, Texas. The service is available to all taxpayers with moderate to low income. Covid protocols will be observed: masks required, appointments required and no children allowed. Taxpayers need to bring: a photo ID, social security card for every person on tax return; last year's tax return and W-2s and all other proof of income received in 2020. Free electronic e-filing will be available for faster refunds.

• April Mental Health First Aid classes will be taking place: April 8 In-person MHFA Public Safety - Gaines County; April 9 Youth Mental Health First Aid; April 16 - In-person Adult MHFA - Howard College; April 26 - Youth Mental Health First Aid; April 28 - Adult Mental Health First Aid
April 29 - Youth Mental Health First Aid

• 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 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 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 Howard County Library meeting rooms will be opening up – at limited capacity – on Feb. 1. There will only be five people allowed in the small room and 15 in the large room and can only be used by appointment only by community organizations. No parties or social gatherings will be allowed at this time. For more information, call the Howard County Library.

• 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. and orders will be placed around 5:30 p.m. after much socializing from a dis-

tance. The group will be meeting March 30 at Cowboys. The Senior Supper Club is an informal group of folks from Howard County who meet at least weekly and sometimes more for Dutch-Treat food at different area restaurants. Sometimes the group also meets for cards, dominoes, or desserts and fellowship. For more information, contact Colonel. Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com.

• St. Vincent de Paul will be open the following dates beginning November 2020. Food distribution will take place the second Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and other assistance will be suspended at this time, but will resume on Dec. 17. Distributions will take place at 1009 Hearn at SVDP Building. In December 2020, the food distribution will continue the 2nd Thursday as scheduled. SVDP will be closed from December 18 through January 7, 2021.

• Permian Basin Multiple Sclerosis Support Group for information, encouragement and support. The group meets monthly on the Second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express at 5321 John Ben Sheppard Parkway, Odessa. If you or someone you know has been touched by MS, or if you are just interested in more information please feel to contact Gary Tidwell at garylteagle1987@gmail.com.

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

• DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible? There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

• O'Neal-Kunkle, Chapter #47 of the Disabled American Vets (D.A.V.), meets the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 2204 Runnels Street. For more information, please contact Norman Witcher at 432-413-6663.

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



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Support Groups

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

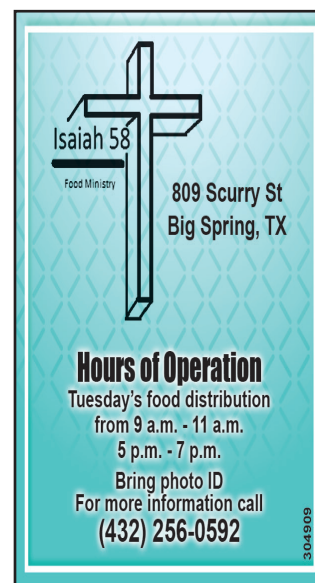
• DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible?

There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. The next session being Sept. 3, 2019. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

WEDNESDAY

• Celebrate Recovery meets at First United Methodist Church Youth Hall, 400 Scurry, from 6-8 p.m. Hurts, habits and hang-ups. Leave message for Joyce Webb at 325-212-860

Submit your Support Group information to be included or updated. Email information to editor@Bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.



Isaiah 58
Food Ministry

809 Scurry St
Big Spring, TX

Hours of Operation
Tuesday's food distribution
from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
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CHS

Continued from Page 1

5-3A District UIL Academic meet
Stanton High School
Results (Coahoma only)

Number Sense: 5. Nick Biddison (alternate); 6. Maggie Guo (alternate); 7. Braiden Boaz; 10. Bryden Fontana. The team of M. Guo, Boaz, Biddison, and Bryden - alternate.
Science: 5. Olivia Davidson (alternate); 7. Alexander Smalley, 17. Nick Biddison; 27.; Cailey Clover;

28. Jocelyn Young; 29. Braiden Boaz.
Ready Writing: 5. Olivia Davidson; 6. Netalie Roberts; 9. Emily Lowder.
Poetry Interpretation: 4. Cailey Glover (alternate).
Prose Interpretation: 2. Faith Raspe (advanced).
Current Issues: 1. Grayson Glidewell (advanced); 7. Kenan Kimberly; 9. John Alex Reagan. The team of Glidewell, Reagan, and Kimberly — advanced.
Persuasive Speaking: 5. Natalie Rodriguez (alternate).
Informative Speaking: 1. Grayson Glidewell (advanced).
Spelling and Vocabulary: 1. Amy Guo (advanced);

3. Maggie Guo (advanced), 12. Nyssa Tran. The team of A. Guo, M. Guo, and Tran — advanced.
Copy Editing: 1. Maggie Guo (advanced); 5. Amy Guo (alternate).
News Writing: 6. Ruby Sosa (alternative).
Feature Writing: 2. Netalie Roberts (advanced); 4. Nyssa Tran (alternate); 5. Ruby Sosa (alternate).
Editorial Writing — 1. Ruby Sosa (advanced); 4. Netalie Roberts (alternate); 6. Nyssa Tran.
Headline Writing: 2. Oliva Davidson (advanced).
Social Studies: 5. John Reagan (alternate). The team of Davidson, Rodriguez, Reagan, and Biddison — alternate.
Mathematics: 4. Nick Biddison (alternate)

HOUSE

Continued from Page 1

cakes in that kitchen. I loved going upstairs where there were storage areas. I could not quite reach (high enough) to delve into the treasures I was sure were hidden there. I wanted to grow up enough to be able to leave the children’s table and sit with the adults in the dining room. The cellar, in the backyard, fascinated me as did the big porch on the south and west.”
Mr. and Mrs. Burney Reagan arrived in Big Spring in 1898. Reagan had recently graduated from Baylor and had begun teaching. The young red headed Professor had many ideas on how to reorganize the school system. Three years later, when the Big Spring Independent School District was organized, Professor Reagan was given an assignment of drafting a curriculum. This led to the establishment of an accredited high school.
In 1910, Mrs. Reagan worked in establishing the first Boy Scout Troup in Big Spring. Mr. Reagan joined his wife and spent more than four decades working with the Troop and serving on the Buffalo Trail counsel as Vice President.

After four years of schoolwork, Mr. Reagan started a small drug store on Main. Ten years later he sold the business to Cunningham and Philips and served as postmaster during Woodrow Wilson’s administration. Reagan continued work on his many community causes including the establishment of the U.S. Experimental Farms, The Chamber of Commerce, The West Texas National Bank, West Texas Historical Association, and the City Airport. He was a weather observer from 1899 to 1922 as he chronicled the weather. His greatest pride was his work in First Christian’s Church, where he taught Sunday School for thirty-five years and was a life elder.
The home at 411 Lancaster sat high on a hill and was the location for many parties, meetings, social and religious gatherings. The Reagan children fondly recalled how their mother loved planting trees around the home, digging big three-foot holes in which they played in. Daughter Ona came home from school one day and could not resist leaping into one of the tree holes quickly discovering that it had been filled with mud and water.



Courtesy photo

The Big Spring Herald was able to capture a photo of the Reagan Home, which was once located on Lancaster and 5th, as it was burning and captured one of the last memories of the home.

Mrs. H.B.(Barbara) Reagan passed away in June of 1950. Her husband died three months later in September of the same year.
Through the years the house was divided, and rooms rented. Eventually, the family decided to sell the old home as they remained hopeful that a new family would love it as they had. Sadly, the house burned down in 2014 but the happy memories will remain with them forever.

Weather

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 60. Southeast wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. Windy, with a south wind 20 to 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. Southwest wind 20 to 25 mph becoming south 10 to 15 mph in the evening. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

(Weather courtesy National Weather Service via forecast.weather.gov)

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

and the Big Spring Independent School District also provided assistance.
Two people were transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center for smoke inhalation and burn injuries. Their status is unknown at this time.
This fire is under investigation by the Big Spring Fire Marshall's office.
Anyone needing assistance as a result of the fire can report to the Reunification Center in the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum or contact the American Red Cross at (432) 563-2267
Nothing further at this time.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:
• **ERIC ACUOSTA ARGUIJO**, 25, of 1111 Settles Street, was arrested on a charge of theft of firearm.
• **THEFT** was reported in the 10000 block of Hwy 176; 3600 block of W. Hwy 80; 3600 block of W. Hwy 80.
• **ASSAULT** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80; 800 block of S. Douglas Street.
• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1800 block of Hamilton Street.
• **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported in the 2800 block of Navajo Drive

Big Spring Herald Poll
Question of the Week

In preparation for Easter weekend, the ever mysterious question was asked: What’s the worst Easter candy? There were 51 comments made on the Facebook Poll this past week in regards to the debate.
The choices were
Jelly Beans , Robin Eggs, Creme Egg, Peeps, and Chocolate Bunny.
There were nine people who said Creme Eggs were the worst candy. There was an overwhelming response from 23 people stating Peeps were the worst. A couple of people attacked the Jelly Beans and even a couple went after the Robin Eggs.

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Steers fall short against Lubbock Estacado



HERALD photos/Dustin Pope

Pictured above left is Braxton Sizenbach, #6, smashing the ball to bring in runners from the bases. Pictured above right: Maverick Yanez is shown sliding into home as the Steers battled through the tough competition put out by Lubbock Estacado.

By DUSTIN POPE

Herald Sports Writer

The Big Spring Steers Baseball Team took a trip to Lubbock to take on the Lubbock Estacado Matadors on Good Friday, April 2, in a District battle. Steers took the loss ending with a 20 to 12 final score. The loss moves the Steers to 11-11-1 on the season and a 2-5 district record.

The Steers jumped on Estacado in the top of the first inning scoring four runs. Big Spring got things started when Maverick Yanez reached base on an error. Next up, Josh Miramontes had a hard-hit single to advance Yanez to second. Freshman Isaiah Diaz then stepped into the box and delivered a hard-hit single to load the Steers' bases. Marcus Paredez then smashed a double to drive in the first two runs of the inning. Isaiah Diaz then had a single to move in a third run of the inning. Braxton Sizenbach had a sacrifice fly to center to drive in the fourth run of the inning. Sophomore Pitcher Ricky Escovedo took the mound for the Steers enjoying a four-run lead heading into the bottom of the first. Estacado cut into that four-run lead by scoring two runs of their own to tighten things up.

Leading 4 to 2 after one inning of play, the Steers failed to score in the second inning, leaving the score as 4 to 2 heading into the bottom of the second. Estacado continued to battle back, scoring two more runs in the bottom of the second, tying the game at four-all.

With a tie game heading into the third inning, the Steers again got back on track in the inning by scoring five runs in the inning. Escovedo started off the inning with a walk. Paredez then had a triple to drive in a run. That brought up Sizenbach, who had a hard-hit double to drive home Paredez. That gave the Steers a lead of 6 to 4. Jose Cantu reached base when the Estacado committed an error that allowed him to get on base and allowed Sizenbach to score. Lead-off man Maverick Yanez kept the momentum going with a hard-hit single of his own. Josh Miramontes then narrowly missed a home run to left field, settling for a two-run triple to increase the lead to 9 to 4. The big inning seemed to get the Steers back on track as Escovedo was able to shut the Estacado bats down in the bottom of the third, leaving the Steers with a 9 to 4 lead after three innings of play.

Big Spring did not score in the top of the fourth inning, leaving the Steers lead at 9 to 4 heading into the bottom of the fourth inning. The bottom of the fourth was when Lubbock stated to come on in the game. In an inning filled with errors from the defense and walks, Estacado was able to score six runs in the inning to take a 10 to 9 lead.

The Steers tried to answer back in the top of the fifth, scoring one run to tie the game up to ten apiece. Unfortunately, the Steers struggled again at the bottom of the fifth. The Matadors' bats capitalized by putting up three more runs to once again

take the lead back at 13 to 10.

The young steers showed their fight by answering back in the top of the sixth inning when they score two more runs. Maverick Yanez accounted for the two runs when the Steer had a double drive in the two runs. Those two runs cut the Matador lead to 13 to 12. Lubbock shut the door on any comeback attempt at the bottom of the sixth when they could score seven more runs opening the lead to 20 to 12.

Being down by eight runs heading into the seventh and final inning is too much for any team to overcome. The Steers went on to fall in this game by a final score of 20 to 12.

This Steers team is a young one; on most nights, they start two maybe three seniors, the rest are all underclassmen. This team is exceptionally talented, perhaps one of the most talented teams I've ever covered.

With a team that is so young, they have some growing pains right now. It's no secret they have been struggling as of late, but I'm here to tell you, once this team gets on a roll, the sky is the limit for these young men. They still have time to get this thing rolling in the right direction, and I 100% believe these guys will. They have two games this coming week against San Angelo Lake View. Tuesday's game is in San Angelo, Friday the Steers are at home. If they can get on a roll and gain some confidence this week, they will be a sight to see.

Athletic Support: "Removal of mask requirement could cost us games"

Dear Athletic Support: Recently, my home state did away with the mask mandate. I was shocked when the local school board followed suit by voting to no longer require students to wear masks. My son's a senior high baseball player. I'm not sure how the removal of masks will impact his final season, or any of the other school-sanctioned athletic events, but I'd sure hate for my son to lose another year due to COVID.

I understand people's hang-ups with masks. I don't particularly like wearing a mask myself. But I would've worn one for my son, if that's what it took for him to get his senior season. With everyone returning from Spring Break trips and Easter gatherings, I feel like we could definitely see a spike in cases again. Maybe there's nothing to worry about. Maybe my son will get to play a normal season, but I can't help but feel like we've been put at a competitive disadvantage. Our athletes will be much more susceptible to the virus compared to schools that still enforce masks. Maybe everything will be fine. But if this thing comes back to bite us, and my boy loses out on his senior season (over something that was completely avoidable), I will not be happy. What do you think? Could the removal of the masks hurt a team's chances as the school year comes to a close?

—Disappointed Dad



Eli Cranor

Dear Disappointed: As a country, we're not out of the COVID woods just yet. Things are better. Sure. But COVID isn't gone by a long stretch.

If the virus got into your son's school and started making its way through the student body then, yes, I think your son's team has a greater chance of infection compared to a school where students are still required to wear masks.

There's an old coaching idiom that goes something like: "It's always easier to take away than to add." I used to employ this thought process when determining how many wind sprints my team

would run at the end of practices. I always started with the highest number possible in the summer, then worked my way back down as the season went along.

The reason?

I knew once I dropped the number, it would be twice as hard to go back up again. The same is true in this situation.

With the end of school fast approaching, it would've been easy to ride the masks out until summer.

The kids were already accustomed to them. Masks were part of everyone's daily routine. So why shake things up with less than a couple months to go?

I can't answer that question.

But I will say this: If things do turn south and cases start to rise — which in turn means games will be forfeited — it won't be easy to ask students to wear masks again.

It'll already be too late.

Final thought: If I were a coach, and my season was on the line, I'd consider urging my players to still wear masks at school. Maybe that's something your son's coach would consider?

Eli Cranor is a former professional quarterback and coach turned award-winning author. Send questions for "Athletic Support" to eli.cranor@gmail.com

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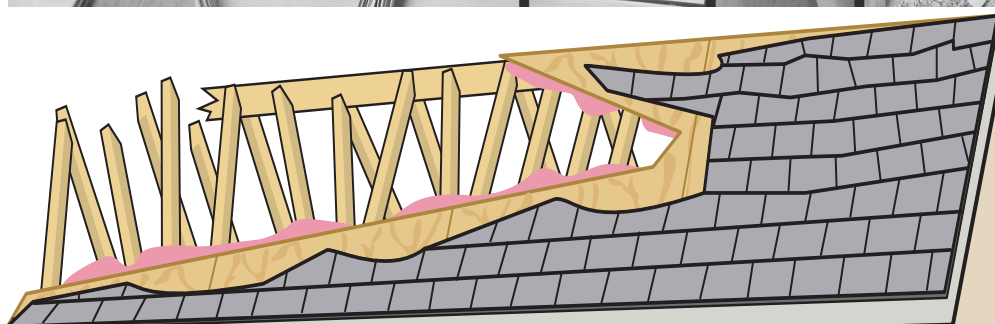
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST		SOUTH	
♠ Q 9 6 3 2		♠ J 10	
♥ J 2		♥ 9 6	
♦ K 9 8 4 2		♦ A Q J 6 5 3	
♣ J		♣ K 9 5	

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — three of spades.

The ability to interpret the opponents' cards as they appear is a necessary prerequisite for good card play. For an example of fine card reading, consider this deal played in a national championship by Subhash Gupta, a member of Canada's 1985 Bermuda Bowl team.

Gupta reached three notrump on the auction shown. West's spade lead was ducked to the king, and East's eight-of-spades return was covered by the jack and queen, again ducked by declarer. A third spade dislodged

the ace, East following suit with the four as South discarded a heart.

With only seven top tricks in view, Gupta naturally chose to attack diamonds for the additional tricks he needed. But when he led the ten from dummy and East discarded a heart, he was forced to reconsider.

He could afford to lose the king of diamonds to West only if West had started with four spades, not five. But Gupta decided that East's play to the first three tricks — specifically the K-8-4, in that order — marked West with five spades. The only alternative was to try to score seven tricks in hearts and clubs, a seemingly impossible assignment.

But "impossible" proved to be too strong a word. After going up with the ace of diamonds, Gupta led a club to the ace, noting with interest the appearance of West's jack. This was highly likely to be a singleton under the circumstances, so he next led a club to the nine. When this held, only one more hurdle remained to be cleared.

The king of clubs was followed by the A-K of hearts, and when West's jack fell Gupta was virtually certain he was home. The ten-of-clubs play allowed East to score his Q-8, but at trick 12 East had to lead from his 10-7 of hearts into dummy's Q-8, giving Gupta the last two tricks and the contract.

Tomorrow: What can defeat me?
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SUDOKU

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!

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

Level: Beginner

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

ANSWER:

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



the rule to remember today, as you'll be hearing stories and getting marketed to nonstop with pretty words that only mean as much as their supporting evidence.

you'll learn what's needed for a new arena. People appreciate your confident yet modest opinion of your own importance.

Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 22, 7, 17 and 49.

COSMIC QUESTION: "What advice do you have for a Pisces who feels tired all of the time? I feel emotionally drained by life even when it's not particularly stressful. I'm exhausted when there's nothing going on, so I can't imagine how I'd be if I actually had to work a full-time job and juggle the things that others handle. I've been to the doctor and had all kinds of tests, and several doctors have suggested that nothing is physically wrong with me. What do you think?"

It's two things. First, Pisces like you are very impressionable and can easily be drained by negative people around you, and worse, people who enable you to be lazy. If there are sick, worried, bored, listless, disinterested or depressed individuals in your vicinity, you need to leave. If people are making it comfortable for you to have no goals, plans or challenge in life, you need to get away from them, too. Get exercise daily -- the more rigorous the better. It will not drain you; it will energize you -- maybe not at first, but keep with it and you'll soon be amazed at how different you feel. Likewise, a challenging goal will actually give you new vitality. You are stronger and abler than you think.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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Annies Mailbox

Past Choices Judged in Present

Dear Annie: I raised my son, who is now 41, as a single mom. I am 75. My son and I have always been very close. Ten years ago, he married a very intelligent woman, and now I have two beautiful grandchildren.

I was getting along well with everyone, but now my life is so depressing because my daughter-in-law hates me. She is angry with me and thinks I'm a horrible person because my son was conceived during a one-night stand while on vacation, and I didn't remember the man's name or any details about him.

Two years ago, my son found his father through DNA tests, and it turned out to be so wonderful. They now love each other. My son is so happy, but his wife still hates me.

I do their housework and more, and I just ignore her to avoid confrontation. I'm now not allowed to visit there, as I ruined one

of her sweaters when doing the laundry. I offered to replace it, but she said NO.

I'm so depressed because I miss my family and the pandemic has kept me isolated. My son has to agree with her to keep the peace. At this point, my health is being affected. What should I do? -- Feeling Very Lonely

Dear Lonely: Your daughter-in-law sounds entitled, judgmental and cruel. She is bullying you for a choice made four decades ago -- that resulted in her meeting her future husband! Given that your son picked her and she is the mother of your grandchildren, you should find a way to make it work. That doesn't mean being a doormat, either. Speak with your son to try and better understand why you are not allowed over. Tell him just what you told me -- that you are lonely because of the pandemic and miss them so much. Also, know that you are not alone; many people feel depressed after a year of isolation.

You raised your son without any support whatsoever. The goal is harmonious family relations, but your son, and his father, should stick up for you. I hope they do. Good luck -- and keep us posted.

Dear Annie: I'm the type of person who minds their own business and tries to live peacefully with everyone. I expect people to respond accordingly. However, very often I seem to get the opposite in return.

For example, I was confiding in my sister about my health and finances. She told our other siblings. I was very annoyed and have hard feelings toward her because I thought we had an understanding that our conversation was private. She should have known this without me telling her. I mean, if I wanted our entire family to know my business, I would have done a group chat.

How do I adjust my expectations of dealing with my family to be more realistic? If that's what's wrong.

... I honestly just don't know what to do moving forward to avoid hard feelings. -- Hard Feelings

Dear Hard Feelings: Saying, "She should have known this without me telling her," is exactly where the communication broke down. Next time you confide in someone -- even your sister -- explicitly say that you want that person to keep the information to themselves. Family can be an important resource to lean on if you are going through a tough time. My guess is your sister's spilling the beans to your other siblings came more from her feelings of love and concern for you, rather than a malicious intent to gossip.

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

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