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Just a Note:

Heritage Museum announced that 2020 Legends and Legacies will not be taking place in June this year.

National Nurse Week
May 6-12

National Hospital Week
10-16

Help slow the spread:
Adhere to social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands.

Share with us who your Everyday Hero is! Email a photo and the reason why this person is an Everday Hero to editor@bigspringherald.com

COVID-19 Update:
Confirmed: 6
Tests performed: 238
Pending: 91
Negative tests: 140
Recovered: 3

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Find us online at:
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Howard County Commissioners implement Burn Ban for 90 days

By **ERICA MORSE**
Herald Contributing Writer

The Howard County Commissioner's Court met yesterday through telecommunications and live stream on Facebook, as the Court continues to take precautions over COVID-19.

First on the agenda was the Howard County Burn Ban, which has been extended through August 10. Although the Commissioners considered adding language to the current law allowing for an extension beyond 90 days, it was determined the ban must be re-reviewed and re-issued every three months without extension.

A unanimous motion carried to approve a retainer to Austin-based law firm Allision, Bass & Magee, LLP. The Court authorized the assignment of the firm as a partner to current County Attorney Joshua Hamby for personnel matters. Allison, Bass & Magee specializes in representation of local governments.

A follow-up to last month's discussion received approval after Howard

County Tax Assessor Tiffany Sayles presented her reasons for wanting to switch from the County's current mail-in data vendor for tax statements. The Commissioners authorized Sayles to switch from the current mail-in vendor to The Master's Touch Mailing Service for a cost of \$8,000. The service, which offers e-statements and notifications, requires a \$1,000 setup fee, and will still save the County approximately \$3,000 in postage costs to switch to an online effort. Sayles states that she has had ongoing issues with the mail-in service, including missing, delayed and incomplete statements.

The Court also extended the current order for COVID-19 screenings at the Courthouse along with continued use of masks, at the directive of individual department heads.

"I personally encourage everyone to please wear a mask," County Judge Kathryn Wiseman said. "When June 1 comes, we will look at it again and evaluate."

Howard County Elections Coordinator Jodi Duck requested the Court's

permission to accept the gift of a Deed transfer from the City of Big Spring. If they approve said gift during Tuesday night's City Council meeting, Duck stated that, due to current size restrictions, county election records and equipment are currently spread throughout the Courthouse, between the basement and Duck's office. The current space issues, along with limited parking at the Courthouse, make it difficult for Duck to hold training sessions for election volunteers, and put the security of the election records and equipment at risk. According to Duck, the COBS is considering gifting the old Water Department building - located on Runnels Street - to the County for a new elections' facility. While it would cost the County approximately \$15,000 to get the 6,000 square-foot facility up to code with cosmetic and mold repairs, the City has reportedly offered to fix the water leak inside the building.

Duck also stated the water department building, because it has a drive-

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

Big Spring Intermediate recognized as National Capturing Kid's Hearts School for 2019-2020

BSI was one of 265 selected schools, out of 1,300 recommended

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
Managing Editor

Many have heard the saying Big Hearts, Big Spring and now Big Spring Intermediate school is one more extension of that saying. This past weekend, BSI received the news that they were named a National Capturing Kid's Hearts School.

According to the Flippen Group, there were 285 campuses nominated for the 2019-20 school year. The school district was informed a few months ago of the nomination, and last week, representatives from Big Spring ISD joined in on a Zoom call with other nominated schools where they received the news.

"We did not know we had been selected; up until this point all we knew was that we had been nominated," Patsy Sanchez, BSI Principal, said. "Year before last we were considered for a nomination, but we were not nominated. This year (2019-20) we were nominated."

With the nomination, according to Sanchez, the school had to submit various forms of data to include discipline referrals, attendance, teacher turn over, and other data points. A school visit took place before school was released for Spring



Courtesy photo Patsy Sanchez received the news of Big Spring Intermediate receiving the recognition this year through a Zoom meeting, with other winning schools, due to the pandemic situation.

Break. "I didn't tell the staff they were coming because it was a what you see is what you get type of thing," she said. "We were not going to put on a dog and pony show simply to get the recognition. I cannot tell you how excited and proud I was when Mr. Fip Flippen himself announced us as a Showcase School."

The Flippen Group recognizes campuses that go above and beyond in building a safe and welcoming environment where students are relationally connected and eager to learn by annually selecting Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools. The nominees are evaluated and selected based on survey and performance data from administrators, teachers,

staff and students. Decreases in discipline referrals as well as positive campus culture and climate are common themes among the data from nominated campuses.

"You and your team have created an outstanding environment for students and staff to learn and grow together. During our team's visit to your school, the positive energy and

See **BSI**, Page 3

Big Spring Bowl-A-Rama Re-Opening May 18th

At Big Spring Bowl-A-Rama, we are dedicated to protecting our guests and employees. To ensure everyone's safety as we have fun bowling, playing and partying, we ask that together we make the following promises to each other:

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- We will adhere to all local and state health standards.

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Obituaries

Maxine Coffman

Maxine Coffman passed away in Midland, Texas on Saturday, May 9, 2020. Funeral services will be 2 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.



She was born in Enochs, Texas, on Sept. 20, 1931. They resided near Mulshoe, Texas, before moving to Big Spring, Texas, Garden City, Texas, and retiring to Cloudfcroft, New Mexico.

She is survived by one sister, Joyce Strouth; daughters Twilla Leverett and husband, Wane of Gardendale, Texas,

Evette Tardiff and husband, Daniel of Manchester, Tennessee, and Keitha Van Ness and husband, Tracy of Beaumont, Texas; seven grandchildren; and 17 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Harvey L. Coffman, in 1999; and her eldest daughter, Cherlyn Manyor-Coffman.

In lieu flowers, donations may be made through Marini at El Paso Baptist Church Association for the Baptist encampment at "Aspendale Baptist Encampment, PO Box 287, Cloudfcroft, NM, 88317".

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

Paid Obituary

Betty Jo Smith

Betty Jo Smith, 86, of Big Spring, passed away Friday, May 8, 2020. Graveside services will be 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Mona Lu Tonn, officiating.



Betty was born April 5, 1934, to Odis Milam and Maude Gaw Milam in Big Spring. She married Ellis Smith.

She was an active member of the PTA. She put her daughter

through college at Texas Tech. Betty worked at State National Bank for 15 years.

She is survived by her husband, Ellis; her granddaughter, Somer Lancaster of Big Spring; and her great-grandson, Aiden McNew of Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her two children, Sonia Lynn Lancaster and Billy Don Whittington; and her sister, Yvonne Ray of El Paso.

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

Paid Obituary

Francisco Sosa Bustamante

Francisco Sosa Bustamante, 92, of Big Spring died Thursday, May 7, 2020.



Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Service will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Francisco was born March 9, 1928, in Presidio, Texas to Vicenta and Vicente

Bustamante. He married Rosa Villa and she preceded him in death on Jan. 4, 2018.

Francisco is survived by five daughters: Adelita Rosa of Midland, Martha Martinez of Stanton, Pilar Johnson of San Angelo, Isabela Bustamante of Pampa, and Tonie Bustamante of Big Spring; and twelve grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his son: Frank Jr. Bustamante and grandson.

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

Jim McCurtain

Jim McCurtain left this earth for a better mansion the morning of May 9, 2020, suddenly in Big Spring, Texas. He was born June 13, 1930, in Poteau, Oklahoma to Jackson Haskell McCurtain, Sr. and Ernestine Garrett McCurtain. He attended an Indian boarding school, Jones Academy, in McAlester, Oklahoma. After high school he started working for Southwestern Bell Telephone. He joined the



Marine Corps and fought in the Korean War. He was in the 1st Division, 7th Regiment, 1st Battalion Bakercompany, and a Purple Heart recipient. He returned home and went back to work for the telephone company until he retired December 31, 1988.

He was very proud of his Choctaw Indian Heritage. He was the great grandson of Principal Chief Green McCurtain and grandson of David Cornelius McCurtain. He told us many stories of the early years in Oklahoma with the Indians. He would tell us about camping in Robbers Cave where Jesse James Gang used it as a hideout. That was just one of hundreds of stories he told us.

He married Carol Snell in 1954, in this union they had one son Gary Don McCurtain. In 1955 he mar-

ried Edna Ruth McDonald and was together until she preceded him in death in March 1989. In this union they had five children, two daughters Sheila Ann and Sheryl Jene; three sons, Leslie Jim, Wesley Jack and Jay Tee McCurtain. He married Lazell Land Osburn in June 1992. In this union he was blessed with two stepsons, Bobby Joe and Billy Wayne Osburn.

He preceded in death with his parents, Jackson and Ernestine McCurtain, his first two wives Carol Snell and Edna McCurtain, and two sons Leslie and Jay Tee McCurtain.

He is survived by his wife Lazell McCurtain, two sons, Gary McCurtain (Kat), of Stephenville, Texas, and Wesley McCurtain, Tucson Arizona, two daughters Sheila Shanks (Larry) of Loveland, Colorado and Sheryl McCurtain, Big Spring, two stepsons Bobby Joe Osburn (Liz) of Lumberton, Texas and Billy Wayne Osburn (Dianna) of Lufkin, Texas many grandchildren and great grandchildren, one brother Jackson McCurtain, Jr. Glenrose, Texas, many nieces, nephews, sisters, brothers-in-law, cousins, and many friends

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid Obituary

Raymond Overton

Raymond Overton, 61, died Sunday, May 10, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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White House recommends tests for all nursing home residents

WASHINGTON (AP) — With deaths mounting at the nation's nursing homes, the White House strongly recommended to governors Monday that all residents and staff at such facilities be tested for the coronavirus in the next two weeks.

Why the government is not ordering testing at the nation's more than 15,000 nursing homes was unclear. Nor was it clear why it is being recommended now, more than two months after the nation's first major outbreak at a nursing home outside of Seattle that eventually killed 45 people.

Vice President Mike Pence, who leads the White House coronavirus task force, told governors on a video conference call that it's the federal government's strong recommendation that such testing be done.

"We really believe that all 1 million nursing home residents need to be tested within next two weeks as well as the staff," added Dr. Deborah Birx, the task force coordinator, according to a recording of the call obtained by The Associated Press.

President Trump has repeatedly said there have been plenty of testing kits and has shifted blame to governors for reacting too slowly on testing, a charge he repeated in a Rose Garden news conference later Monday.

"Frankly, some of the governors were very lax with respect to nursing homes. It was obvious right from the beginning," Trump said, referring to the Washington state outbreak.

Asked why testing was recommended, not ordered, Trump said: "I would certainly consider that. I will mandate it if you'd like."

More than 27,000 residents and staff have died from outbreaks of the virus at the nation's nursing

homes and long-term care facilities, according to an AP tally based on state health departments and media reports. That is about a third of all 80,000 deaths in the U.S. that have been attributed to the virus.

Nursing home operators have said the lack of testing kits has left them nearly powerless to stop the virus from entering their facilities because they haven't been able to identify silent spreaders not showing symptoms.

The American Health Care Association, the main nursing home trade group, welcomed the new testing recommendation but said the federal government needed to do more to make that possible, including allocating billions of additional dollars to the effort.

Charlene Harrington, a professor emerita of nursing at the University of California, San Francisco, said nursing homes should have been prioritized from the start given their vulnerable populations and questioned why the testing recommendation is only happening now.

"We're two months into it," she said. "If they had done that to begin with, we would've picked up cases early and we wouldn't have so many deaths."

Representatives for the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services did not immediately respond when asked why the agency wasn't making testing a requirement. In mid-March, it asked homes to cease group gatherings and visitations, and to screen staff with such measures as temperature checks.

A senior administration official said taking a tougher stand is still an option.

"If the states aren't able to come back with plans

quickly to do it, then there's a good chance we will order them to do that, but we believe that right now there are plenty of tests out there," the official said on condition of anonymity because he lacked authorization to speak to the media.

West Virginia and Texas have already mandated testing for all nursing home residents and staff. And just Sunday, New York, the nation's leader in nursing home deaths, began requiring all staff to be tested twice a week.

Ohio Republican Gov. Mike DeWine said his state was ramping up testing but cast doubt on the feasibility of doing that for everyone in every home.

"I don't know that that's going to get done," said DeWine, whose state has reported nearly 500 deaths in long-term care facilities in three weeks. He added, "There's frankly a lot of people in the medical field who would argue that the testing of everybody in that nursing home might not be the best protocol."

Pence led the White House's weekly call with governors from an isolated room after his press secretary tested positive Friday. Three of the country's top health care officials, including infection disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci, are quarantining themselves on fears they have been exposed to the virus, too.

Condon reported from New York. Candice Choi and Randy Herschaft in New York, Darlene Superville in Washington and Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

thru, would offer no-contact voting for the November election. Voters could utilize the drive-thru as a pre-service to sign required forms and present documentation, then an election volunteer could bring an express voting machine out to the parking lot to the voter's vehicle.

Additionally, Duck requested the purchase of 33 new machines to be utilized at three new polling locations across the County. Duck explained that a recent finding showed Howard County to be in violation of the rules regarding number of polling places versus precincts due to the current population. The Court discussed ordering 20 new machines instead of the 33, and tabled both matters to the next meeting, pending further review and discussion.

In other business, the Court approved:

- Invoices, purchase requests and budget amendments from the County Auditor

- The County Clerk's monthly report

- County Clerk Brian Ziterkopf noted that last months' revenues were down by 50% as a result of COVID-19, as many switch to online requests through the County Government Records site.

Finally, Commissioner Jimmie Long requested the Court's approval for a temporary salt water cross line on the old Howard County Airport site. Long explained the 10-day temporary period would cost \$15,000, with any additional days costing \$1,000 per day. The Court approved the 10-day temporary period.

The next meeting date, which would be scheduled on Memorial Day, has yet to be announced.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 76 inmates at the time of this report.

- **CHASITY ANN ARGUIJO**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of theft less than \$100, fail to identify fugitive intent to give false information, and criminal trespass.

- **REBECCA LYNN COMSTOCK**, 36, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of theft of property between \$100 and \$750.

- **HENRY DAVID HUBBARD**, 64 was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- **RICKY LIN WALLACE**, 54, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of parole violation.

- **HAROLD EDWARD WILSON**, 64, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

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Jimmy Eugene Berry, 60, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sue Fowler, 90, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Jim McCurtain, 89, died Saturday. No services will be held.

Francisco Sosa Bustamante, 92, died Thursday. Vigil service will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Service will be at 10:30 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Raymond Overton, 61, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BSI

Continued from Page 1

welcoming tone was evident from the moment they arrived. Their reports have been impressive with all they saw and heard during the visit," a letter sent to BSI staff stated.

According to information provided by Sanchez, there are over 10,000 schools who implement CKH and a little over 1,300 were recommended for nomination. There were 434 nominated and 265 chosen as National Showcase Schools.

"You (BSI) are to be commended for your commitment to building a safe and caring culture through Capturing Kids' Hearts processes. We are excited to showcase your school, sharing your expertise and experience with other education leaders who aspire to create exemplary campuses such as yours," the letter mailed to BSI stated.

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

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Something to think about...

During this global crisis we have been spending a significant amount of time around our family. Incidentally, we have found ourselves looking for creative ways to keep our kids occupied. One thing we rediscovered recently is that our children love to play games that involve searching. They enjoy a good scavenger hunt or several rounds of "I Spy". On long road trips we usually play the "Alphabet Game". "Hidden object" pictures are a good way to spend the afternoon and we have several "Where's Waldo" books. But one of their favorite games is "Hide and Seek".



Richard Schneberger

I will never forget one particular day that the kids begged me to play a game of "Hide and Seek" with them. They always want me to be the one hiding and they all search together. Whenever

they get close, I jump out of my hiding spot and chase them around the house. After a few rounds, I decided that it was too easy, so I found a really good hiding place in our house. I could hear them talking and laughing as they looked for me. They searched and searched, but couldn't find me. After a while, I couldn't hear them anymore. I waited for several minutes and finally decided to come out and see what happened. I found them in the living room playing another game. I was still hiding, but they stopped searching for me. In fact, they were so engrossed in whatever new game they were playing they forgot that I was hiding at all. That experience made me wonder, are we still seeking after God or have we gotten so distracted by other games that we simply stopped looking for Him?

I believe that human beings, by nature, are seekers. We are always searching for something. People are searching for meaning, seeking significance, looking for more information, or just looking for our car in the parking lot. The fact that I simply have to say "google it" and everyone knows exactly what we mean should tell us something about

ourselves. The popularity of "search engines" is not surprising because we are naturally seekers. I can't tell you how much time I've spent trying to find the remote, it is like they make those things out of camouflage. What are you searching for?

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ~ Isaiah 55:6 NIV

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ~ Jeremiah 29:13 NIV

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ~ Matthew 6:33 NIV

The question isn't whether you are seeking, but rather what are you seeking? We can spend our time looking up useless information and searching for things that don't really matter or we can invest our lives seeking those things that have eternal significance. We can get distracted playing games and forget that we are seeking our Heavenly Father. My prayer is that we seek Him in all things. And the promise is that we will find Him if we seek Him with all of our heart.

Salty Eyes

By TOM SLOAN

"Jesus wept." John 11:35

Someone has said that real men don't cry. Oh, really!? Some of the toughest men I have ever known have been tough enough to love me...and cry over my sin. Do real men cry? Well, they do if they are tough enough to love. And, the tougher they are, the greater their love...the saltier their eyes.

Something tells me that Christ doesn't see us as we see ourselves. His tears tell me that His opinion of our sin and guilt does not match our own. Christ's salty eyes were the result of his love and unconditional acceptance of the lowest of the low, the sinfulest of sinners, the guiltiest of the guilty.

But did Jesus really cry? I mean, come on now, we are talking about the Creator of the universe! Can you imagine the Christ who walked on the water, raised the dead back to life, turned water into wine and healed the lepers, crying?

But don't be fooled, Jesus' tears are not a sign of weakness, but of His strong and courageous love for sinners. He was strong enough in His love to eat with publicans and harlots while the religious crowd accused Him of being crazy for doing so. They called Jesus a drunken, gluttonous, demon possessed bastard (they really did). But still, Jesus persisted in expressing His divine, sovereign love for sinners as He sat and ate with them. In His love for sinners, He was strong enough to go against the flow of that which was expected of Him by the "goodie two-shoes" of religious culture.

But why did Jesus cry?

He cried because - He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. Jesus wept because they rejected God's love, mercy and grace. Jesus said: "how many times would I have gathered you together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you refused"! He didn't cry because they sinned too much. He cried because they rejected their only hope of salvation in His mercy and grace. Jesus wept because they preferred their own good religious works above His easy yoke and light burden. Look at Jesus' salty eyes and know that He is truly meek and lowly in heart. You can rest in the fact that Jesus' tears were salted with His passionate love for sinners.

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Two more Howard Hawk baseball players heading to Southern Arkansas

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

It is currently a dull time in the world of sports with no games being played, practices being conducted and no leagues seem to be coming back anytime soon. However, there is news coming out of Howard College about two more Hawk baseball players that will be taking their talents to Southern Arkansas University in the fall.

Brandon Gonzalez and Santos Sosa are two pitchers who will now be heading into a new rotation. Both players had limited playing time at Howard but they had shown enough to catch the eye of the Muleriders' scouts and coaching staff.

The pair of pitchers added to the roster will now make a total of seven former Howard Hawks that are now members of the Southern Arkansas baseball program. Earlier this year, Howard infielder Jake Smith committed to the Muleriders and he looked to join the four former Hawks next season. Now, there is Gonzalez and Sosa which makes a total of three new commits to the Muleriders.

What made the Southern Arkansas program so special to this pair of Howard Hawks?

"I know a couple of guys there and they were telling me about the team and how they all get along really well," Sosa said. "They said that knowing me, I'd be a fit for the team. It's mostly all junior college kids so they know baseball really well and it seemed like a good fit for me."

Gonzalez added, "I had done my two years at Howard and was ready to move on. I think Southern Arkansas was a good option for me."

Gonzalez was a redshirt freshman at Howard during this past school year and had limited playing time during the shortened season. The pitcher from Houston appeared in only one game this past season with one-third of an inning pitched. Gonzalez was able to strikeout one batter but gave up one hit and one earned run in his limited playing time.

Even with the inexperience at the college level, Gonzalez is prepared for the next step in his journey and is looking forward to his future com-



petition at Southern Arkansas.

"My family is all competitors," Gonzalez said. "Even in a game of UNO, I want to win. The competition will make me better as a person and I'm ready for it."

Sosa was also a redshirt freshman at Howard but did enough in his just over seven innings of action this year to earn himself a scholarship as well. The flame throwing pitcher from Irving recorded 10 strikeouts and had an ERA of 6.14 over 7.1 innings pitched.

Even though neither of these pitchers have a lot of experience at the junior college level, they both have great talent on the field and the Mulerider coaching staff believes that they can succeed at the NCAA Division II level.

"I know I'll be a good strike thrower for them whether it's a starting spot, in relief or even clos-

ing," Sosa said. "I know I'll throw a lot of strikes and get a lot of outs and definitely help the pitching rotation out."

The duo will be arriving on campus with Smith and will be reunited with some of their former teammates. Head Coach Justin Pettigrew has made it a focus of his and his staff's recruiting trail to check out all of the talent Howard College has to offer.

The plan has seemed to work so far and the Muleriders were off to a 19-4 start to the year before the NCAA canceled the remainder of the season. In fact, they have been one of the most consistent and successful teams in the Great American Conference (GAC) over the duration of Pettigrew's time as the skipper in Magnolia.

How excited are Gonzalez and Santos to extend their playing careers and join their Howard College brethren in their new royal blue and gold threads?

"Signing with a new team and school is a big step in your life and so to be able to move onto the university level is a big blessing for me and my family."

Sosa added, "It's always good to go places with people that you know. It's just nice to have some familiar faces around."

There will be a large team reunion in Magnolia this fall with all seven of the former Howard Hawks now set to take on the challenge of a full Division II baseball season together. The Howard Hawks are loaded with talent and will surely have more players commit soon.

If Southern Arkansas has it their way, they may add a few more Hawks to their roster before the recruiting period ends. For now, the Big Spring and Howard College communities should be thrilled for their two newest success stories courtesy of the Hawks baseball program.

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

MLB owners OK plan that could lead to July start

By RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball owners gave the go-ahead Monday to making a proposal to the players' union that could lead to the coronavirus-delayed season starting around the Fourth of July weekend in ballparks without fans, a plan that envisioned expanding the designated hitter to the National League for 2020.

Spring training could start in early to mid-June, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because details of the plan were not announced.

MLB officials are slated to make a presentation to the union on Tuesday. An agreement with the players' association is needed, and talks are expected to be difficult — especially over a proposal for a revenue split that would be unprecedented for baseball. Players withstood a 7 1/2-month strike in 1994-95 to fight off such a plan.

"If you do anything that resembles a cap, that smells like a cap, you've given too much," said Dave Stewart, a four-time 20-game winner who is now an agent and spent two years as Arizona's general manager.

"A salary cap has been a non-starter for the players as long as I've been in baseball," said David Samson, president of the Expos and Marlins from 2002-17. "I think when MLB is proposing a revenue split, it is with the full knowledge that the players' union will automatically reject that."

Each team will play about 82 regular-season games: against opponents in its own division plus inter-league matchups limited to AL East vs. NL East, AL Central vs. NL Central and AL West vs. NL West.

Postseason play would be expanded from 10 clubs to 14 by doubling wild cards in each league to four.

Teams would prefer to play at their regular-season ballparks but would switch to spring training stadiums or neutral sites if medical and government approvals can't be obtained for games at home. Toronto might have to play home games in Dunedin, Florida.

"We'll see where we will be in July," said California Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose state is the home of five MLB clubs and who has talked with baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred. "We certainly look forward to Major League Baseball and all sports resuming. But again, the question is when and that will be determined on the basis of public health and public safety and the spread of this virus."

The All-Star Game, scheduled for Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on July 14, likely would be called off.

Medical issues will be at the forefront of talks along with economics.

"Bear with me, but it feels like we've zoomed past the most important aspect of any MLB restart plan: health protections for players, families, staff, stadium workers and the workforce it would require to resume a season," Washington pitcher Sean Doolittle tweeted. "What's the plan to ethically acquire enough tests? ... What's the protocol if a player, staff member, or worker contracts the virus?"

Teams will propose that players receive the percentage of their 2020 salaries based on a 50-50 split of revenues MLB receives during the regular-season and postseason, which likely will be among the most contentious aspects of the proposal during negotiations with the players' association.

"These concepts are beyond the spectrum of what players have both fought for and derived from the CBA from inception: salary caps, methodologies like this are something far afield from our working relationship with Major League Baseball," said Scott Boras, the sport's best-known agent. "You certainly know why they would suggest it."

That proposal would take into account fans being able to return to ballparks at some point, perhaps with a small percentage of seats sold at first and then gradually increasing.

Baseball players have refused to consider even the frameworks for the type of revenue splits that have been agreed to by unions in the NFL, NBA and NHL.

Active rosters would be expanded from 26 to around 30. With minor leagues shuttered, there likely will be the addition of about 20 players per club akin to the NFL's practice squad.

Top 50 College Football Prospects for 2020 Season (Sporting News)

Rank	Player	Hometown	Position	College
1	Trevor Lawrence	Cartersville, GA	QB	Clemson
2	Justin Fields	Kennesaw, GA	QB	Ohio State
3	Penei Sewell	Malaeimi, AS	OT	Oregon
4	Gregory Rousseau	Coconut Creek, FL	DE	Miami
5	Ja'Marr Chase	Metairie, LA	WR	LSU
6	Walker Little	Houston, TX	OT	Stanford
7	Justyn Ross	Phenix City, AL	WR	Clemson
8	Patrick Surtain II	Plantation, FL	CB	Alabama
9	Shaun Wade	Jacksonville, FL	CB	Ohio State
10	Alex Leatherwood	Pensacola, FL	OT	Texas
11	Sam Cosmi	Humble, TX	OT	Georgia
12	Richard LeCounte	Riceboro, GA	S	Georgia
13	Micah Parsons	Harrisburg, PA	LB	Penn State
14	LaBryan Ray	Madison, AL	DE/DT	Alabama
15	Marvin Wilson	Houston, TX	DT	Florida State
16	Deonte Brown	Decatur, AL	G	Alabama
17	Cade Mays	Knoxville, TN	G/T	Tennessee
18	Israel Mukuamu	Bossier City, LA	CB	S. Carolina
19	Jay Tufele	Salt Lake City, UT	DT	USC
20	Andre Cisco	Valley Stream, NY	S	Syracuse
21	Joe Tryon	Renton, WA	EDGE	Washington
22	DeVonta Smith	Amite, LA	WR	Alabama
23	Trey Smith	Jackson, TN	G/T	Tennessee
24	Travis Etienne	Jennings, LA	RB	Clemso
25	Chuba Hubbard	Albarta, CN	RB	Oklahoma St.
26	Creed Humphrey	Shawnee, OK	C	Oklahoma
27	Carlos Basham	Roanoke, VA	EDGE	Wake Forest
28	Dylan Moses	Alexandria, LA	LB	Alabama
29	Jamie Newman	Graham, NC	QB	Georgia
30	Jalen Mayfield	Grand Rapids, MI	OT	Michigan
31	Paulson Adebo	Mansfield, TX	CB	Stanford
32	Quincy Roche	Randallstown, MD	LB/EDGE	Miami
33	Jaylen Waddle	Houston, TX	WR	Alabama
34	Brevin Jordan	Las Vegas, NV	TE	Miami
35	Tyson Campbell	Plantation, FL	CB	Georgia
36	Rondale Moore	New Albany, IN	WR	Purdue
37	Josh Jobe	Miami, FL	CB	Alabama
38	Tedarrell Slaton	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	DT	Florida
39	Richie Grant	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	S	UCF
40	Kellen Mond	San Antonio, TX	QB	Texas A&M
41	Chazz Surratt	Denver, NC	LB	N. Carolina
42	Seath Williams	Cotterdale, AL	WR	Auburn
43	Trey Hill	Warner Robins, GA	C	Georgia
44	Thayer Munford	Cincinnati, OH	G	Ohio State
45	Najee Harris	Antioch, CA	RB	Alabama
46	Kyle Pitts	Philadelphia, PA	TE	Florida
47	Paddy Fisher	Katy, TX	LB	Northwestern
48	Caden Sterns	Cibolo, TX	S	Texas
49	Amon-Ra St. Brown	Anaheim Hills, CA	WR	USC
50	Wyatt Davis	Bellflower, CA	G	Ohio State

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Answer: Stevie Wonder

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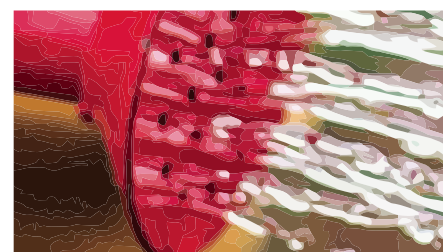
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3				1	6			8 5
	8	4						
9			7			8	6	4
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5		1	8			9	7	
2		6			1	3	4	
	4			7	3		5	2

Level: Beginner

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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!

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

ANSWER:

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Love Spelled Backward

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll maintain an air of mystery, surprising the people around you with a new side to your character. This keeps them doing the best kind of wondering about you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will drop ideas like seeds. They are not meant to take root immediately. Rather, they are going to take a while to become embedded in minds, where they will eventually have a life of their own.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You make people feel better about themselves and want to be around you. There are those who will come to depend on you for the ego boost, and the position this puts you in is not so bad at all.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Whatever is keeping you from maximum enjoyment of life can be dissolved with a plan and an excellent attitude. Daily life can feel hurried and improvised unless you think ahead and offer yourself something different.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't have to be looking for problems to see them. You'll rename the issues things like "challenges" or "opportunities," and you'll find and leverage all that's good in the situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). How do you feel about your own enjoyment? Do you allow yourself life's pleasures without comment from the peanut gallery of the mind? To delight with others is to unite with others. Why should this be wrong?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

There are those who make unwise decisions that affect you. In the past, you have gone along with them. Now, you're starting to wake up to the fact that you have greater influence than you once believed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've talents unexplored, and you are capable of things you never would have guessed you could do. To dedicate even a half-hour a day to this exploration will enrich you beyond measure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Things break; you fix them. They break again... When is it right to cut your losses and start fresh? The answer is: much further down the road. For now, keep fixing, as this will last a good while longer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Change is the only constant of life. Write about what's working and what's not and resolve to make a change regarding the parts that are lacking.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). By using words that are honest, balanced and kind, you will make

discoveries about what everyone needs and wants. You will put yourself in a position to create fortuitous bonds and arrangements.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Ideally, all of the conversations you take part in will be compassionate and truthful. However, you will be dealing in different interpretations of the truth, and ideas as to the form compassion takes can vary widely.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 12). You'll be often motivated by a strong sense of responsibility and be richly rewarded for your loyalty. Though your vigilance will net you a degree of security and the attainment of goals, there will also be stretches of leisure in which you can explore hobbies, talents and relationships that fortify your heart. Gemini and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 20, 18, 40 and 3.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Don't you think this is weird, even for a Pisces? I've had three different psychic readings in the last month (tarot) and in all three of them the queen of swords came up. Once it was reversed. What's hard to figure out

is why the interpretation was so different each time. What do you think it means?"

For the psychic who is truly connecting with you, the fates and the moment, no two readings will ever be the same. If the reading were the same twice, you'd probably feel that something was wrong, like you were getting a canned response that had nothing to do with your specific situation, time and being. As for the queen of swords as a prominent and recurring star of your reading, I'd say it signifies the need for self-care, trusted friends and confidantes. A massage would be nice, too. To be honest, usually, when I look at the queen of swords, I get a sad feeling of someone who has been cut off from her emotions, probably out of self-preservation. I gather she's been through an awful lot -- a woman trying to keep up appearances, acting as if everything is just fine. There is strength, confidence and wisdom here as well, to carry you through.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Happy birthday to Burt Bacharach, an acclaimed master of pop music who has penned no less than 70 Top 40 hits. His melodies are unmistakable and his style timeless. Taurus artists are known for longevity and lasting relevance. This sign has the determination to break into highly competitive arenas and the work ethic that keeps them turning in quality goods.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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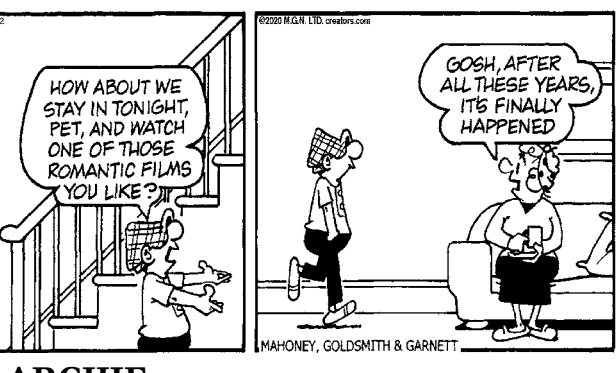
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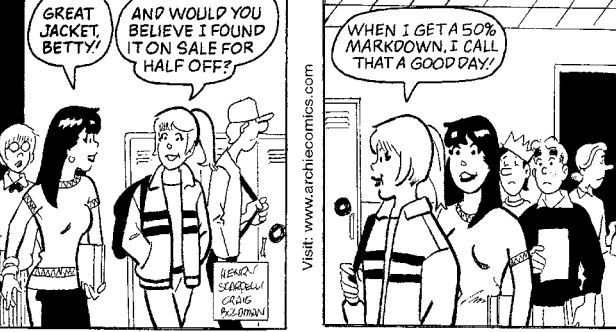
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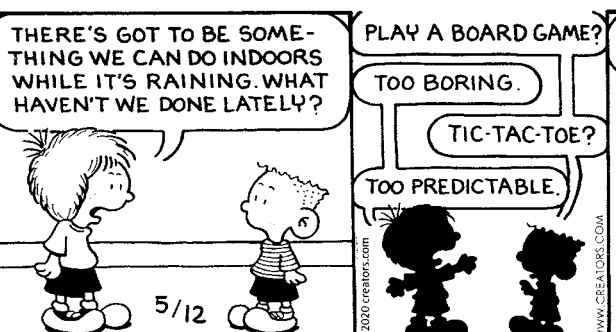
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This Date In History

Today in History
Today is Tuesday, May 12, the 133rd day of 2020. There are 233 days left in the year. Today's Highlights in History:
On May 12, 2002, Jimmy Carter arrived in Cuba, becoming the first U.S. president in or out of office to visit since the 1959 revolution that put Fidel Castro in power.
On this date:
In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the besieged city of Charleston, South Carolina, surrendered to British forces.
In 1922, a 20-ton meteor crashed near Blackstone, Virginia.
In 1937, Britain's King George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey; his wife, Elizabeth, was crowned as queen consort.
In 1943, during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered. The two-week Trident Conference, headed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, opened in Washington.
In 1949, the Soviet Union lifted the Berlin Blockade, which the Western powers had succeeded in circumventing with their Berlin Airlift.
In 1955, Manhattan's last elevated rail line, the Third Avenue El, ceased operation.
In 1958, the United States and Canada signed an agreement to create the North American Air Defense Command (later the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD).
In 1970, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Harry A. Blackmun as a Supreme Court justice.
In 1982, in Fatima, Portugal, security guards overpowered a Spanish priest armed with a bayonet who attacked Pope John Paul II. (In 2008, the pope's longtime private secretary revealed that the pontiff was slightly wounded in the assault.)
In 2001, singer Perry Como died in Jupiter Inlet Colony, Florida, at age 88.
In 2008, a devastating 7.9 magnitude earthquake in China's Sichuan province left more than 87,000 people dead or missing.
In 2009, five Miami men were convicted in a plot to blow up FBI buildings and Chi-

ago's Sears Tower; one man was acquitted. Suspected Nazi death camp guard John Demjanjuk (dem-YAHN'yuk) was deported from the United States to Germany.
Ten years ago: An Afriqiyah Airways Airbus A330 jet-liner plunged into the Libyan desert less than a mile from the runway in Tripoli after a flight from Johannesburg; a 9-year-old Dutch boy was the sole survivor of the crash that killed 103 people. An attacker hacked seven children and two adults to death in a rampage at a kindergarten in northwest China before taking his own life. Republicans chose Tampa, Florida, as the site of their 2012 presidential convention. Bowler Kelly Kulick, the first woman to win a PBA Tour title when she beat the men in the Tournament of Champions, won the U.S. Women's Open for her second women's major victory in 15 days.
Five years ago: U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin with an eye on easing badly strained relations over conflicts in Ukraine and Syria. An Amtrak train traveling from Washington, D.C. to New York derailed and crashed in Philadelphia, killing eight people.
One year ago: The White House's top economic adviser acknowledged on "Fox News Sunday" that U.S. consumers and businesses pay the tariffs that the administration had imposed on billions of dollars of Chinese goods; Larry Kudlow added that China would suffer losses from reduced exports to the U.S. The United Arab Emirates said four commercial ships off its eastern coast had been "subjected to sabotage operations"; the report came as the U.S. warned that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in the region.
Today's Birthdays: Composer Burt Bacharach is 92. Actress Millie Perkins is 84. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jayotis Washington is 79. Country singer Billy Swan is 78. Actress Linda Dano is 77. Actress Lindsay Crouse is 72. Singer-musician Steve Winwood is 72. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 70. Actor Bruce Boxleitner is 70. Singer Billy Squier is 70. Blues singer-musician Guy Davis is 68. Country singer Kix Brooks is 65. Actress Kim Greist is 62. Rock musician Eric Singer (KISS) is 62. Actor Ving Rhames is 61. Rock musician Billy Duffy is 59. Actor Emilio Estevez is 58. Actress April Grace is 58. Actress Vanessa A. Williams is 57. TV personality/chef Carla Hall is 56. Country musician Eddie Kilgallon is 55. Actor Stephen Baldwin is 54. Actor Scott Schwartz is 52. Actress Kim Fields is 51. Actress Samantha Mathis is 50. Actress Jamie Luner is 49. Actor Christian Campbell is 48. Actress Rhea Seehorn is 48. Actor Mackenzie Astin is 47. Country musician Matt Mangano (The Zac Brown Band) is 44. Actress Rebecca Herbst is 43. Actress Malin (MAH'-lin) Akerman is 42. Actor Jason Biggs is 42. Actor Rami Malek (RAH'-mee MA'-lihk) is 39. Actress-singer Clare Bowen is 36. Actress Emily VanCamp is 34. Actor Malcolm David Kelley is 28. Actor Sullivan Sweeten is 25.
Thought for Today: "Mistrust the man who finds everything good; the man who finds everything evil; and still more the man who is indifferent to everything." — Johann Kaspar Lavater, Swiss theologian (1741-1801).

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Attention-getting whisper
5 Birds that hoot
9 Shaft of lightning
13 Suffix for kitchen
14 Conqueror Genghis ___
15 Sailor's greeting
16 Souped-up engine sound
17 Casino city in Nevada
18 Take a chance
19 Cue stick user
21 Carryall bag
22 Tampa neighbor, for short
23 Spouse in Eden
25 Relaxing resort
27 One served at a pub
31 Quick scissor user
35 Fencing sword
37 Old maxim
38 "¿___ está usted?"
39 Woman riding a broomstick
41 Musk who heads Tesla
42 Roundish shapes
44 University sports org.
45 Stop work for a while
46 Rolling toward a runway
48 WWII-era president
50 Expert on IRS rules
51 BLT ingredient
56 Not respectful
59 Joystick user
63 Molecule part
64 Much-admired person
- DOWN**
1 Industrialist H. Ross ___
2 Bend (over)
3 Committed robbery
4 Entices
5 Veggie in gumbo
6 Curds and ___ (Muffet's meal)
7 Narrow street
8 Noisy sleeper
9 Swizzle stick server
10 Cincinnati's state
11 Misplaced
12 Young boy
16 Corporate officers: Abbr.
20 Toon skunk Pepe
24 By way of
26 Imitating
27 Low-power coffee
28 Curly-leafed cabbage
29 Swelled heads
30 Payment to a landlord
31 Traditional kilt weaver
32 Halifax, ___ Scotia
33 Giant screen theater
34 Guy who carries a nightstick
36 And so on: Abbr.
40 Was compelled
43 Taste of tea
47 Maritime forces
49 ___ Thesaurus (synonym book)
52 Scientist Curie
53 Longtime microwave brand
54 Tries out
55 Metal-laden rock
56 ___ and rave (show anger)
57 State with millions of Mormons
58 Prescribed amount of medicine
60 Brainstorm
61 Raggedy Ann
62 Otherwise

STICK WITH ME by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com
Crossword grid with numbers 1-71 and blacked-out cells.

Answer to previous puzzle
ABS STEM PODS
TENOR LAVA AVON
OZONE OXEN KENO
PORCHING RENEW
STEAL SLAB
BOWL SELECTS
SILL BEES INLAW
IDEA SPENT COCA
FLAWS TRIO HTTP
TENNIS SPUD
CEOS GRASP
OATH BUSHELTER
ARIA OSLO STAKE
HARI THAW SOLOS
UBER SIPS LET
5/12/20

UFC's return could provide blueprint for other pro leagues

By MARK LONG

AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — UFC President Dana White wanted a major fight card weeks ago. He was confident his team could pull it off whether it took place on a tribal land, on a private island or in any of the 10 states offering to host it.

Coronavirus testing. Fan-free arena. Social distancing. Self-isolation. White looked at all those unprecedented details that seemed too complex and too risky to some outsiders as merely extra challenges.

"I knew we could do this," he said following UFC 249 on Saturday night. "I knew we could figure it out. Even with all the hurdles that we had early on, this has been fun. It's been challenging and it's been fun."

"I know that sounds a little demented to say I've had fun going through this. It's been challenging and I've enjoyed the whole game of it, if you will."

White and the UFC look like the big winners following their rousing show at Veterans Memorial Arena in Jacksonville, an event that could serve as a blueprint for other sports leagues around the country and the world as they start to resume during a global pandemic.

The NFL, NBA, NHL, Major League Baseball and NASCAR, all of them had to have an eye on how the UFC approached and handled the first major human-centric sporting event in the U.S. since the new coronavirus shuttered much of the country nearly two months ago.

The UFC created a 25-page document to address health and safety protocols, which included disinfecting the octagon between bouts and mandating tests and masks for nearly everyone in attendance.

The spotlight only intensified when one fighter, Jacaré Souza, and two of his cornermen tested positive for COVID-19 a day before the stacked card.

Souza was pulled from the fight and removed from the hotel where hundreds of UFC employees are staying this week. The UFC's medical team continues to provide assistance and is helping

with necessary treatment, White said.

The UFC has two more fight nights scheduled this week in Jacksonville, beginning Wednesday, and plans to administer more than 1,000 more coronavirus tests for everyone scheduled to take part.

"However it was handled this week, this was our first week," White said. "It will only get better. And we can share what we learned here doing three events with other sports leagues who are reaching out to us and asking."

"A lot can be learned by what we're doing here."

Not just for professional sports but for sending people back to work and lot of other things in life."

White said he never considered postponing UFC 249 following Souza's positive test and got support from the Florida Athletic Commission, the governor and local authorities.

The show went on and, by most accounts, got rave reviews.

Justin Gaethje stunned Tony Ferguson in the

main event, earning a TKO in a lightweight bout that set the winner up to fight titleholder Khabib Nurmagomedov next. Henry Cejudo, with blood gushing from his head and dripping down his chest, defended his bantamweight title against Dominick Cruz and then announced his retirement.

Heavyweight contender Francis Ngannou pummeled his fourth straight opponent, this one in 20 seconds. Former NFL defensive end Greg Hardy won for the sixth time in eight fights.

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