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# BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY EDITION,  
 JUNE 8, 2020

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## Community discussion top of Tuesday's City Council agenda

**COVID-19 Update:**

- Active Cases: 1
- Confirmed: 9
- Tests performed: 986
- Pending: 13
- Negative tests: 962
- Recovered: 7
- Deaths: 1

**By AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

The request for an open community discussion regarding the George Floyd incident in Minneapolis, MN and what steps the City of Big Spring can take to be more responsive, open and accountable to its citizens of color has been granted and is on the list of agenda items up for discussion at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

The community discussion surrounding issue is the opening item on the agenda which was released Friday afternoon. Those wishing to make a public comment can call 432-264-1211 during the meeting and make their statement. All those who are wishing to speak during public comment are limited to five minutes and will need to state their name and address. Those wishing to speak who are attending the meeting should fill out the form at the podium and turn it into the City Secretary.



ing Board of Adjustments, Animal Control and Rescue Committee, Convention and Visitors Bureau Board, Parks Recreation Board, and Citizens Advisory Board.

As part of new business, the Council will also hear a first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 6 entitled "Cemetery, Parks and Recreation" Article 4, Section 6-76 and 6-77 in order to require that all members of the board be citizens of Big Spring.

City Manager Todd Darden will also provide information on the upcoming Large Item Pickup for District 6, which is scheduled for June 17. Next month - July - the rotation of pickups in the districts will begin again with District 1.

As the opening of the Russ McEwen Aquatic Center nears for the 2020 season, the City Manager will also provide an update to the Council regarding the aquatic center and opening.

The item which was originally set to be discussed in the Special Meeting held last Tuesday surrounding seeking legal action to seek a court order for a Special

**Just a Note:**

- Summer Meal Program will run through June 30. Text **FOODTX** to 877-877 to find a site close to you.
- Aquatic Center to open June 15 at 25% capacity
- Big Spring HS Prom 2020 June 13

- Cancellations:**
- Funtastic Fourth
  - Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo

## Structure fire on Dallas Street Sunday



*HERALD photo/Natalie Permenter*  
**A vacant structure caught fire in the 400 block of Dallas Street on Sunday afternoon. At press time the cause of the fire was still under investigation. No injuries were reported.**

## BSEDC to discuss Director prospects in special meeting

**By AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

The Big Spring Economic Development Corporation Board has called a special meeting for Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held at 215 W. Third Street.

The meeting will begin with a call to order followed by the invocation and Pledge. A moment for those wanting to make a public comment will take place before the board members enter into executive session.

During the executive session the Board will discuss prospect activity and the Executive Director search. After discussion the board will reconvene and take any needed

See **BSEDC**, Page 3

## Public hearing topping Stanton City Council agenda

**By AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

The City of Stanton will hold a regular meeting this evening at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The meeting will take place at 102 W. School Street in Stanton.

A public hearing for planning and zoning will take place at the beginning of the meeting. There will be four properties up for discussion:

James G. Wheeler (Wheeler addition, section 14, block 36, T-1-S); Donald Fulton 1409 N. St. Peter (w/100 lot 10 block 1 Graves Addition); Robert Barrera 509 W. 4th (Lot 11 block 1 Clardy Addition); and Jose Cazares 204 S. Caudle (lot 4 and 11-12 block A9 east addition). There will be five minutes allotted for public discussion per person, for those wishing to speak. Once all who have registered to speak have spoken the public hearing will conclude and the open regular hearing will begin.

As part of the regular meeting there will be a public comment section where those wishing to

See **STANTON**, Page 3

## Toasty Tuesday focusing on FM 700 near SMMC



*Courtesy photo*  
**Keep Big Spring Beautiful will continue Toasty Tuesday's this week focusing on FM 700 near the SMMC emergency room entrance. The community is invited to attend. Last week the group focused on Wasson Road and FM 700.**

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- If your Hearing Aids are not moisture resistant, and get wet, take them off and remove the battery. Towel off carefully and place in a dehumidifier for a couple of hours.

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 Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center  
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# Take Note

• 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

• St. Vincent de Paul will be open the following dates beginning May 2020. Food distribution will take place the second Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and other assistance will take place the third Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Both distributions will take place at 1009 Hearn at SVDP Building.

• Maranatha Baptist Academy located at 903 Johnson Street, in Big Spring, Texas, is currently open and taking applications for enrollment for 20-21 School year. We are a faith-based Christian Academy and use the individualized Accelerated Christian Education Curriculum for Kindergarten through 12th grade, out of Hendersonville, Tennessee. July 20, is our startup date and applications will be accepted year-round. Someone will take your call for information at 432-213-1046. Please leave a message and we will get back with you.

• Forsan Elementary has opened virtual pre-registration for 2020-21 school year. Due to COVID-19 pre-registration will be done virtually. Contact Mandy Buske with any questions at 432-457-0091 ext. 203 or by email at abuske@forsan.esc18.net. All pre-registration packets will need to be completed and returned to Mandy Buske via email or fax. A copy of the following items need to be returned with the packet: certified birth certificate, social security card, immunization record, proof of residency for district students only (utility bill), parent driver's license and proof of income (pre-k only). Age requirements are: Pre-K – must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2020; Kindergarten – 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2020. New transfer students (Kinder - 5th) may apply at this time.

• Pre-registration for CISD Kinder, Pre-K3 & Pre-K4 underway. Due to COVID-19, Coahoma Elementary will be handling Pre-K3, Pre-K4 and Kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school year a little differently.

For safety precautions, district officials will only take registration by phone at this time. The phone registration does not guarantee your child will be attending CES for the 2020-2021 school year, but it will give the district a starting point until restrictions are lifted.

Pre-registration by phone will continue through Friday, April 17, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. To register, please call 432-394-5000, ext 2 and speak to Jessica. Pre-registration is only open for children who live in the district. Transfer requests will not be processed until after June 1.

For CISD Kindergarten and Pre-K requirements, please visit the CISD website:www.coahomaisd.com

• Isaiah 58 while not open during normal business hours; will be open on Mondays from Noon until 2 p.m. until further notice, for the safety of their volunteers and those they serve. The change will take place June 1.

•Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Big Spring Economic Development Corporation and Leading EDG understand the serious challenges our country faces as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. In response to this crisis, the Small Business Administration (“SBA”) has created new programs geared towards financial relief for affected businesses.

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan (“EIDL”), is currently available, but only by applying directly to the SBA via the online portal: <https://www.sba.gov/disaster/apply-for-disaster-loan/index.html>. It only takes a few minutes to fill out.

Another option, The Paycheck Protection Program, (“PPP”), has been approved by Congress. If you want to apply for the “PPP” loan contact your local lender.

Information changes daily so make sure you are checking the SBA website regularly.

• City of Big Spring announces water office num-

ber change. Effective immediately, the temporary phone numbers used to contact the Big Spring Water Office are no longer in effect. Customers can contact the water office at the following phone numbers:

1. Pay online at [www.mybigspring.com](http://www.mybigspring.com). Click ONLINE BILL PAY. Pay via the automated phone system by calling 833-227-1752. Payment can be placed in the Drop Box at 305 South Johnson. Staff checks the box daily. Pay over the phone by calling the Water Office directly at the phone numbers listed above. Water Office staff are available to assist customers Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5:00 PM, by phone or in the office located at 305 South Johnson Street.

• City of Big Spring offices will remain open by appointment and electronic means only effective Sunday, March 22, at midnight. These offices include: City Hall (432-264-2401); Finance Department (432-264-2513); Public Works Department (432-264-2501); Human Resources Department (432-264-2346); Water Office (432-264-2319); Code Enforcement/Permits (432-264-2505); Community Services Office; Convention and Visitors Bureau (432-263-8235); Facilities (432-264-2322); Cemetery (432-264-2323); Police Department (432-264-2550); Fire Department (432-264-2304; The Big Spring Senior Center will be closed to congregate meals, but those who wish to pick up a to go order can call 432-267-1628, for more information. All City pavilions and playground structures will remain closed until further notice. For any questions or concerns please contact the City Manager's Office at 432-264-2401.

• Permian Basin Multiple Sclerosis Support Group for information, encouragement and support. The group meets monthly on the Second Saturday of each month from 10 AM to 12 PM 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](mailto:garylteagle1987@gmail.com).

• Big Spring High School will be recognizing the football team, band members and cheerleaders who participated in the first game at Memorial Stadium in the fall of 1956. The recognition will take place Friday, Sept. 4, 2020 at Memorial Stadium. If you are a member of these groups, or know of a member of these groups, and would like to participate, please contact Edward Slate at 432-270-1995, or at 813 Vista Ridge, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

• 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 to 8 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.

• Food2Kids will again be providing sack lunches to children in the Big Spring area who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It takes just a couple of hours of your time, and the work is very rewarding. Sacking takes place throughout the year on the first Monday and Tuesday of the month. To volunteer, just show up at Lakeview High School.

# Food pick up info

Big Spring ISD will be providing sacked meals for students while the campuses are closed. Meals will be available at three schools from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Meals can be picked up at any of the three campuses where they are being handed out, which will be Moss, Marcy and Big Spring Junior High School. At both March and Moss, pick up will be in the bus lane behind the campus. At BSJH, pick up can be made at Door #5 on the east side of campus.

Children in Big Spring ISD can also pick up meals at the following times and locations:

- Bus 13-Navajo and Choctaw (9 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.)
- Bus 14-Bauer (9 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.)
- Bus 15: Larry and McDonald (9 a.m. -10:25 a.m.)
- Bus 27: 5th and Abrams (9 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.)
- Bus 28: 3rd and Lockhart (9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.)
- Bus 28: Limestone Ridge Apt. (9:40 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.)
- Bus 77: Parkway and Hearn (9 a.m. -10 a.m.)
- Bus 85: Goliad Elementary (9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)
- Bus 86: 6th and Circle (9 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.)
- Bus 90: Southridge RV Park (9 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.)
- Bus 96: Albroom and Randolph (9 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.)

From 10 a.m. to 10:55 a.m., you can pick up at:

- Bus 13-Barcelona Apartments (10 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.)
- Bus 14-Lakeview (10 a.m - 10:30 a.m.)
- Bus 14 - Knollwood Apartments (10:35 a.m. -11 a.m.)
- Bus 15: Colby and Drew (10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.)
- Bus 27: 8th and Lorilla (10 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.)
- Bus 28: Roy Anderson Complex (9:50 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.)
- Bus 28: 14th and Main Church of Christ (10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.)
- Bus 77: Airport and Mobile (10:05 - 10:55 a.m.)
- Bus 85: Scott and Macauslan (10:35 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.)
- Bus 86: Washington Elementary (10 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.)
- Bus 90: Oasis and Neill (10 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.)
- Bus 96: Anderson School (10 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.)

Student meals will also be available for pickup on the Moss, Marcy and Junior High campuses, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until Noon. Please call, 432-264-3635 if you have any questions or concerns.

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CITY

Continued from Page 1

Election to be held on Aug. 22, 2020 or at the earliest possible date for the purpose of electing City Council members to represent District 1 and District 3 is once again on the agenda. The Council will also hear the first reading of an ordinance amending ordinance number 035-2019 which adopted the annual budget for the City of Big Spring for the Fiscal Year beginning Oct. 1, 2019 and ending Sept. 30, 2020 by increasing the general fund budget by accepting the Coronavirus Relief Fund for the State of Texas Cares Act Distribution to be used for COVID-19 public health expenses. Also on the agenda is a first reading of a resolution reaffirming its policies regarding police

procedures; issuing an official statement and providing an effective date. The Council will also discuss authorizing and appointing the City Manager to submit an application to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division to solicit funding from the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program for Personal Protective Equipment and supplies for use by the Big Spring Police Dept., Howard County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center and Emergency Medical Services to prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus. Before the meeting concludes there will also be consideration and possible action on a services agreement with Texas Communities Group LLC for services including identification, evaluation and action on dilapidated

structures and property foreclosures within the City and authorizing the Mayor or his designee to execute any necessary documents. Other items on the agenda include:  
• Vouchers for 05/29/2020 and 06/04/2020  
• Approval of City Council minutes of regular meeting of May 26, 2020 and Special Meeting of June 3, 2020  
• Council input  
• Appointments to the CRMWD Board of Directors two openings; John Myers who is willing to continue to serve and Jim Purcell's spot which expired 05/2020 with a new resume from Richard Steele.  
  
*Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.*

Weather



**Today:** Sunny and hot, with a high near 106. South wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 71. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.  
**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 93. Northwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.  
**Tuesday Night:** Clear, with a low around 60. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east after midnight.

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 95.  
**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 68.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 97.  
**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 68.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 96.  
**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 68.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 97.  
**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 69.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 98.

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

BSEDC

Continued from Page 1

action that will result from the Executive Session. Before the meeting concludes there will be an opportunity for Board comment. The meeting is open to the public and the meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. Any disabled persons needing special accommodations or hearing-impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should contact the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation at 432-264-6032. Requests for an interpreter should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

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

Support Groups

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinson's Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's Disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.
- 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 Purdy 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 begins 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

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 432-517-9207 for more information.
- Celebrate Recovery meets at First United Methodist Church Youth Hall, 400 Scurry, from 6-8 p.m.

STANTON

Continued from Page 1

address the Council will have five minutes to speak on any item listed on the agenda. As part of routine agenda items, the Council will consider and take action on the May 11, 2020, May bills and Planning and Zoning requests. Consideration and possible action will be taken on approval of the Economic Development Reports and Projects. The Council will hear reports from the City Administrator and Chief of Police. There will be discussion and possible action regarding granting Convent Board \$70,000 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund for the Historical Convent restoration. The Council could also possibly take action on appointing Justice of the Peace Nancy Bradshaw to continue processing all citation including those issued for ordinance violation. New appointments for the First National Bank of Stanton signature cards will also be

considered. The Council will look at removing Jim Smith and adding Mayor Sally Poteet. There will also be possible action on updating permit and variance fees to comply with state law. There will be approval on permit and variance application forms. A resolution authorizing participation in the TexPool Investment Pools and designating authorized representatives, Director of Finance Patsy Simer and City Administrator Jessie Montez. One of the major items for the Council will be possible action to renew the Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency for 30 days.

*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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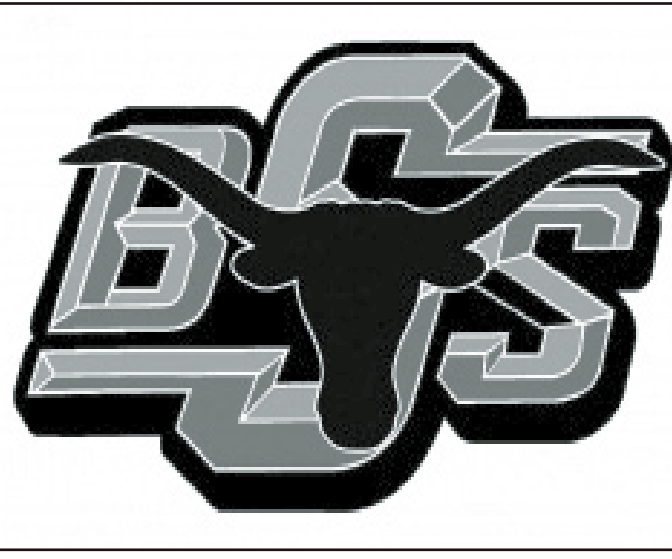
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# Summer workouts set to begin today for all three local high schools



Coahoma, Big Spring, and Forsan logos

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

The day has finally come.

After almost three months of no sports being played around Texas, all three local high schools will be beginning their summer workout programs today. This is a high step in the right direction of athletics throughout the state and another step towards returning to normalcy.

Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan will all start their summer workouts today but each has their own unique way of going about it.

Cannon McWilliams has said that the Steers workouts will be split up into five separate groups throughout the course of the day so that they can adhere to social distancing guidelines. They will be splitting the workouts up between boys and girls and each session should last an hour or two.

"We are excited to get the kids back to workout," McWilliams said.

The Steers head coach also added a post online about his team and just how much of a difference it will be to be able to work with them in-person.

"Finally... We get to work with kids directly (not through computer). We get to continue to build relationships. We get to help mold young men and women. We get to work with the best kids in the state. We get to work with the best staff in the state."

The long awaited day has finally come and everyone around or involved with the Steers athletics department is thrilled to be back to work. Big Spring will focus on workouts based around more reps with lighter weight to get the athlete's bodies adjusted to lifting weights again mixed with agility drills. There are now around two months to go before the start of the next school year and each day will be vital to the improvement of each and every athlete in the Steers program.

About 15 miles south, Forsan athletic director Jason Phillips is also excited to be back with summer workouts but has a slightly different plan than Big Spring.

"We're going in the evening," Phillips said. 9th and 10th grade will be in one group. 11th and 12th grade will go after. Junior High will start in a couple of weeks."

Phillips is also prepared for all of the health guidelines that have been announced by the UIL and will have the workouts safely prepared for his student-athletes.

"We will hand wash, pre-screen and take temperatures before working out," Phillips said. "Several hand sanitizer stations will be around for during work-

outs. Cleaning wipes will be spread throughout and used after each use. The outdoor group will be spread out using cones."

The first workout of the Buffaloes will be focused on strength, conditioning and agility. Since not every student-athlete has been proactive with their workout plans over the past few months, Phillips wants to ease them all back into the flow of workouts without demanding too much of them too soon.

A short drive east of Big Spring will bring you to the home of the Coahoma Bulldogs. Athletic Director Chris Joslin is thrilled to get back to work with his student-athletes and fellow coaches but also realizes that during this time, health and safety are still the most important.

"The safety of our kids is the most important thing," Joslin said. "We're going to screen all of the kids and then all of them are going to workout but we're not going to go like it was the first day of workouts coming out of school because some of them haven't done anything for three months. Other than that, we're going back to work like we had left off in March and I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of the kids at the same time."

In addition to the safety of his student-athletes, Joslin also sees the need to ease everyone back into the swing of things. After not consistently working out for months and then getting back into a competitive setting, the importance of not over-exerting one's self goes to the forefront of these workouts.

Coahoma is expecting athletes from every sport to show up for the workouts and they will follow the guidelines set by the UIL. What is the biggest thing Joslin wants to see out of his student-athletes during the first few days of workouts?

"Just the work ethic that they've had since spring of last year," Joslin said. "Starting last spring and all the way through the summer and through this year the kids have worked extremely hard and the success was starting to show so I'm expecting that when they come back to continue that. We have to replace some leaders this year but we have some kids that are ready to step up and have been working."

All three schools and all three coaches are thrilled about the start of workouts. They also all understand the importance of continuing to stay clean and safe during this time.

The day has finally come. Sports are coming back.

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

# Fan experience to change profoundly amid COVID-19 pandemic

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Dayton Moore remembers so clearly the vast sections of empty seats inside Kauffman Stadium when he took over as general manager of the Kansas City Royals, and he remembers just as vividly — nearly a decade later — how those seats filled and fans roared as the long-suffering club won the World Series.

Those dueling memories make the thought of playing games in empty stadiums hard for Moore to fathom.

"I know how much strength all players draw from the fans and environment," he said, when asked about plans to play a shortened season without crowds, "and you need that support to get through an entire Major League Baseball schedule."

As lockdowns are lifted and restrictions eased, sports are finally starting to emerge in the coronavirus pandemic. But in virtually every situation, fans are not yet being allowed to attend and the only consensus for now is that there could be a long period of empty or nearly empty seating. Some U.S. universities are modeling for 25% capacity for the upcoming football season or maybe half-full arenas for the ensuing basketball season.

"I think for most sports, a reduced crowd wouldn't negatively impact the overall experience, especially in a situation like baseball or even the NFL," said Katy Lucy, a digital marketing agent from Atlanta whose fandom is split between all things Georgia Bulldogs and the Washington Capitals. "But it would be different for sure for those who attend in person."

Count her family among those who would pause before heading to the ballpark.

"For me personally, I'm not sure I would feel comfortable attending a live sporting event until there

is a known treatment or widely available vaccine," Lucy said. "I trust the institutions to put the proper measures in place; however, making sure that they are enforced is another matter."

Many college and pro sports teams already were dealing with declining ticket sales. Watching at home or streaming games are factors, as is the changing social makeup of fan bases. Dynamic pricing, increases in parking and concession prices, and a push toward luxury seating have exacerbated the problem.

Major League Baseball attendance has declined six of the past seven seasons. In college football, 13 of the 130 schools that played in the Football Bowl Subdivision reported average crowd sizes of 50% or less last season. Even the NFL has seen an increase in empty seats despite its generally rock-solid popularity.

So as coronavirus concerns linger, how are teams going to lure fans back when stadiums do reopen?

Loyalty and engagement apps, widespread around the major leagues and colleges even before the pandemic, will become even more common and interactive as teams try to recapture lost revenue. There also will be more behind-the-scenes content and enhancements available via smartphones that will only be available to those in the stadium or arena, offering fans something unique over fans watching at home.

"Fans want that experience to be top-notch, period. That's why teams are thinking about this," said Britton Stackhouse Miller, senior vice president at Fortress U.S., a developer of engagement and integration systems with clients in European soccer, baseball, the NBA, NFL and NHL.

Temperature checks, hand sanitizer distribution stations and touchless vending will become the norm for a while. Even concessions will change, though one big difference — gulp — could lead to a

lot of grumbling.

"If you don't sell beer the number of visits to the bathroom drops dramatically," said Marc Ganis, the director of sports consulting firm SportsCorp. "So for a time we may have to think about not selling beer."

It won't just be the vast oceans of bench seats left open, either.

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