

BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY EDITION,
FEBRUARY 19, 2020

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Upcoming Event

Early Voting
Feb. 18 - 26
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Feb. 27-28
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Howard County Courthouse

February is
Heart Health Month and Black History Month

February 21

Wound Care Open House
11 a.m.
1501 W. Eleventh Place

March 7-8

Gem & Mineral Show
Howard Co. Fair Barn

Health Fair
April 4
8 a.m. - Noon
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AARP Tax-Aide
Mondays
Big Spring Senior Center

Submit your story ideas to editor@bigspringherald.com

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www.bigspringherald.com



Big Spring Veterinary Diagnostic Hospital receives "Talk of the Town" award

By ANNA GUTIERREZ

Staff Writer

The Talk of the Town awards are calculated based on consumer-review websites, social networks, business rating services, and other award information to determine the top companies. Big Spring Veterinary Diagnostic Hospital (BVDH), earned a top rating of five out of five stars and was awarded the 2020 Excellence in Customer Satisfaction award, which is based on client reviews during the fourth quarter of 2019. It is a reflection of the team's hard work and dedication.

"This company contacted me and said they'd been watching BVDH's internet presence, the amount of reviews received, and they noticed the amount of positive internet reviews steadily increasing," says Leslee Hurwitz, Certified Vet Practice Manager and Co-owner of the practice. "Based on these internet reviews, we were awarded the Talk of the Town Award. It shows that all the hard work we've put in has



HERALD photo/Anna Gutierrez

The staff at the Big Spring Veterinary Diagnostic Hospital holds up their recently received Talk of the Town award. The award is based on consumer review websites, social networks, and other ratings.

been recognized by the community and region. We were thrilled to receive this award."

Continues Hurwitz, "We've really tried to increase our social media and

See **AWARD**, Page 3

Military Night gives honor to local veterans

By Savannah Geer

Staff Writer

Military Recognition Night took place Feb. 4, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. before the tip off of the Forsan Varsity Girls basketball game, at the Forsan High School Game Gym. The recognition ceremony was originally scheduled for Jan. 28, but was rescheduled due to bad weather.

"The weather ended up impacting our Veteran attendance. We only had six men who were able to make it," Coach Robert Hillger said.

A tentative date for the next, Military Recognition Night is being considered in December. According to Coach Hillger, he is looking at possibly doing the next recognition night at the beginning of the season when the Buffaloes face off against Coahoma.

"I have plenty of leg work to do as I would like to include their community as well," he said.

As a community, taking the time to show our apprecia-



Courtesy photo

The Young Marines presented the colors during the recent Military Night at Forsan before one of the Lady Buffs games.

"While there are those in our community who have served and prefer to stay out of the spotlight, we still extend our gratitude, but we do encourage all of our veterans and their families

See **MILITARY**, Page 3

tion for our veterans and active military members, is something that can always be improved upon. This first Military Night was the first of what is hoped to become an annual event to show the gratitude expressed in the community.

"We are looking forward to hosting again, and having the Military Recognition Night growing tremendously," Hillger said.

The Young Marines opened the night's short ceremony with the presentation of the colors, followed by the National Anthem. The National Anthem was sung by Moses Quintet. Veterans in attendance and those whose names have been submitted by family members or friends were recognized directly following.

BSPD to offer CPR classes to community

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Managing Editor

Every little bit helps, and sometimes those extra moments can save a life. The Big Spring Fire Department will be offering a couple of CPR training class to the community, on March 26. Each class will be about four hours, with the first class taking place from 8:30 a.m. until Noon and the second class will take place 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

"You never know when a cardiac event is going to take place, and the more people we can have trained in

the community the better the chances are that someone will be able to do something in case of an emergency," Fire Chief Craig Ferguson, said.



The classes being offered are open to those 13 years of age and older. Chief Ferguson does caution that these classes are not recommended for healthcare providers seeking certification for their license requirements, but instead are focused more on educating the citizens of Big Spring who are not already certified in CPR.

"The quicker CPR can be started the higher the survival rate is," Chief Ferguson said. "The more people we can get trained the better our chances

of having someone who will respond, who will be able to offer help should they see a cardiac arrest happening. We are equipping more people to be able to save a life."

According to Chief Ferguson there are other communities who also offer classes such as this as a way of providing the knowledge and the training to the community. The Big Spring Fire Department is equipped with certified trainers and this is one more way the City and Fire Department can invest back into the community. Space for the classes is limited and spaces are expected to fill up quickly.

For those wanting to sign up, call 432-264-2303 to get on the list.

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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Obituaries

Ricardo Rodriguez

Ricardo Rodriguez, 80, of Big Spring died Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ricardo was born April 13, 1939, in Howard County to Maria Rivas Rodriguez and Juan Rodriguez Sr. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army. He was an operator for Fina for over 20 years. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Ricardo is survived by two sisters, Ramona Ro-

driguez of Big Spring, and Mariana Castillo of Rockdale, Massachusetts.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded by two sisters, Concepcion Ayala and Merced Valdez; and three brothers, Pedro "Pete" Rodriguez, Raymundo Rodriguez and Juan Rodriguez Jr.

Pallbearers will be Bryan Stokes, Steve Stokes, Aaron Combs, Tony Valdez, James Mata, and Tony Orlando Valdez.

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

Paid Obituary

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **LINDA LEE BARRIENTES-RAMON**, 28, of 1508 Wood St., was arrested on a charge of assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

• **VANESSA MARIE MUNIZ**, 35, of 309 N. St. Boniface, Stanton, Texas, was arrested on warrants for permitting unlicensed driver to drive (all except parent or

guardian), and failure to appear.

• **ANTHONY ROBERT SANCHEZ JR.**, 33, of 2813 Coronado Ave., was arrested on a warrant for driving with invalid license, and another outstanding warrant from another agency.

• **LAWRENCE NATHAN SHROYER**, 18, of 1321 Tucson St., was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana (less than two ounces).

• **ERIK SANCHEZ**, 26, of 2001

Monticello, was arrested on an outstanding warrant from another agency.

• **UNATTENDED DEATH** was reported in the 600 block of Elgin St.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 700 block of W. 18th St., and the 1500 block of Wood St.

• **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the 2500 block of S. Gregg St.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 93 inmates at the time of this report.

• **LINDA LEE BARRIENTES-RAMON**, 28, was arrested by BSPD on charges of assault causing bodily injury family violence.

• **JESSICA BLANCO**, 37, was arrested by BSPD on a warrants for expired drivers license, operating a motor vehicle with out financial responsibility, and operating a unregistered motor vehicle.

• **CANDICE NICOLE CERDA**, 37, was arrested by BSPD on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, and expired registration.

• **RAFAEL CISNEROS**, 48, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for bail jumping or failure to appear.

• **SEVERIANO LAWRENCE CORDOVA**, 36, was arrested by DPS on warrants for expired registration, expired drivers license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 (more than 4 grams)

• **MARTIN LEE EREBIA**, 30, was arrested by HCSO on charges of public intoxication, resist arrest search or transport.

• **MICHAEL ANDREW GAMBOA**, 46, was arrested by HCSO on warrants for theft of property between (\$100 and \$750)

• **STEPHEN DUANE HECTOR**, 56, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant for violating a bond or protection order.

• **KAREN SUE HERRERA**, 41, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant for interference with child custody.

• **ANSELMO HILARIO JR.**, 34, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxi-

cated, bac (0.01)

• **KEALIN CHASE HIRACHETA**, 28, was arrested by DPS on a warrant for terroristic threat cause of fear of imminent.

• **LIONSO LEE JIMENEZ III**, 40, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for parole violation.

• **EDNA LERMA**, 50, was arrested by BSPD on charges of theft of property between (\$100 and \$750)

• **JOSE DANNY MORENO JR**, 35, was arrested by BSPD on charges of public intoxication.

• **VANESSA MUNIZ**, 36, was arrested by BSPD on warrants for permit unlicensed operator to drive, and failure to appear.

• **GARRETT OSUNA**, 28, was arrest by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• **BRENDA DEAN PARTON**, 51, was arrested by DPS on a warrant for tampering with physical evidence.

• **JESSICA RENEE PITTMAN**, 33, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

• **SAMUEL DAVID PITTMAN**, 36, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

• **ISMAEL EMMANUEL REYNA**, 27, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **NICKOLAS JONPAUL RODRIGUEZ**, 26, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction or suspension.

• **JUAN LIONEL SAMANIEGO**, 38, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for bail jumping and failure to appear.

• **ANTHONY ROBERT SANCHEZ JR**, 33, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for grand jury indict with bond conditions, and driving while license invalid.

• **ERIK SANCHEZ**, 26, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant for deadly conduct discharge of a firearm.

• **CLYDE OWEN SAXTON**

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the block of I-20 mm 189. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1100 block of Dogwood. One person was transported to

Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 6300 block of E. Midway Rd. No transport was needed.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 600 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of Larry Dr. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Take Note

Benefit fundraiser for Deb and Buddy Arrick will take place Saturday, Feb. 22, from 2 p.m. until close, at Apt. 9 Saloon, located at 1800 N. Birdwell Lane. Deb is currently battling cancer, and all money raised will go toward medical bills and expenses. Please come out and support Deb and Buddy!

Coahoma Lions Club will be hosting their annual pancake supper on Tuesday, March 3. the

supper will be held at Coahoma Elementary Cafeteria from 5 to 7 p.m. Proceeds from the Pancake Supper help fund scholarship opportunities for Coahoma High School graduating seniors.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax prep help to anyone, and if you're 50 and older, and can't afford a tax preparation service, AARP Tax-Aide was made especially for you. With the help of our team of IRS-certified

volunteers, we make it easy for you.

AARP Tax-Aide Service will be at the Big Spring Senior Center every Monday, beginning on Feb. 3, 2020, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. There's no fee and no sales pitch for other services; AARP membership not required. Additional information can be found on the AARP web site https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2004/about_aarp_taxaide.html

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2300 block of Cindy. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Gregg St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of Larry Dr. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2300 block of Cindy. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Gregg St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of Larry Dr. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1100 block of Dogwood. One person was transported to

Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Support Groups

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. Hurts, habits and hang-ups. Leave message for Joyce Webb at 325-212-860

THURSDAY

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

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

• **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder** support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

• **Bring Everyone Into The Zone**, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org, or call 432-268-3003.

• **GriefShare** is a biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support); there is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held three times per year on Thursday evenings, 6 to 8 p.m., at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the GriefShare Ministry of TBC Facebook page. You can also call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

FRIDAY

• **Reformers Unanimous International** is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Fridays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

• **AA open discussion** meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• **Alcoholics Anonymous** open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

• **Alcoholics Anonymous** closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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Rich History, Big Possibilities — Big Spring, Texas

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**MEMBER
2020**

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

MILITARY

Continued from Page 1

to join us, and allow us to show our gratitude," Hillger said. Veterans are encouraged to attend, along with their families.

"We want people to understand there are a large

number of veterans in our community, and they need to be honored as much as possible, more than Veterans Day," Hillger continued, "This is something we hope to continue annually."

"To the citizens of Howard County and everywhere, take the time to shake hands and show your appreciation for those who have served and currently serve our great country; don't take for granted

the freedoms we have here, they were bought and paid for on the backs of men and women who have sacrificed comfort for us to live as free Americans, so let them know you care," he said.

Savannah Geer is a staff writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail reporter@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331 ext. 235.

AWARD

Continued from Page 1

internet presence, and that has increased a lot. The internet is how we connect to our clients now-a-days. We want to hear from them, and they want to see what we're doing. And we can use our internet and social media as an educational tool, as well. For example, we had a dog with antifreeze poisoning, so we can educate the

public about keeping that substance away from their pets. It's a great way to advertise and keep the public educated.

"I want to stress that this award is about the client relation specialists and the veterinary technicians. Those are who the public sees day-to-day. This is about the service they provide, from the time a client calls on the phone until they walk out the door, this is about the care provided by the people who work here. Our staff takes a lot of pride in their jobs, and to be recognized for their efforts is amazing."

Hurwitz emphasized that they like to hire local, and most of her staff are natives from Big

Spring. They take pride as a practice that they can provide jobs to locals and keep them in the community. She points out it takes a lot of dedication to train to do what her staff does on a daily basis.

"The face of this practice is that of my staff," says Sandy Hurwitz, DVM. "There is only one of me but a dozen of them. Most of my time is spent with the animals. They are the ones who talk to the clients for the most part; they're the ones who will answer the phone and let you know how your animal is doing; they get the emergency calls. Without them, I am helpless."

"Everyday we are working together as a team to work on our relationships with our clients and our fur babies," says Donna Balderas, Client Relations Specialist. "We are evolving, finding ways to improve, and learn-

ing from past to current generations always putting our clients and their babies first."

"Knowing that all the hard work we have done as a team from day one is showing to our clients is why I believe we earned the award," states Christina Balderas, Client Relations Specialist.

More information about all the exciting things going on at BVDH can be found in the February edition of Living The Crossroads Magazine. We'll also have some articles in the future featuring some of the amazing rescue stories and animals being helped by this state-of-the-art veterinary hospital.

Contact Staff Writer Anna Gutierrez at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

Weather



Today: A 50 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: A 50 percent chance of rain. Cloudy, with a low around 34. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. Northeast wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 47.

Friday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 37.

Saturday: A slight chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59.

Saturday Night: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 66.

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 39.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 68.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 60.

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

Take Note

• 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.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you.

• 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.

• 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. The next sacking event of this 2019-2020 school year will be Monday, March 2 and Tuesday March 3, and they will continue throughout the year on the first Monday and Tuesday of the month. To volunteer, just show up at Lakeview High School located at 1107 N.W. 7th St., at 5:30 p.m. You can follow their Facebook page for additional information <https://www.facebook.com/food2kids/>.

• Senior and/or mature adults are invited to come to a dance every first and third Friday each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Drive. Come two-step the evening away, or just mingle with old friends and make new friends. Dances are from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live entertainment. No alcohol or smoking permitted. Cost is \$5 per person.

• 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. More information can be obtained by calling 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon the first Monday of every month. We meet at Howard College in the Cactus Room. Our vision is that every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the most beautiful city in Texas. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Tammy at 432-935-0057.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies, as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

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Ricardo Rodriguez, 80, died Saturday. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Janella Williamson, 39, died Friday. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Shirley Parnell, 70, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Jury begins deliberating in Harvey Weinstein's rape trial Tuesday afternoon

NEW YORK (AP) — Jurors in Harvey Weinstein's rape trial started deliberating on Tuesday, weighing charges in the landmark #MeToo case that could put the once-powerful Hollywood mogul behind bars for the rest of his life.

The panel of seven men and five women heard instructions in the law from the judge before going behind closed doors to consider charges that Weinstein raped a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performed oral sex on another woman, TV and film production assistant Mimi Haley, in 2006.

Jurors will also be examining actress Annabella Sciorra's account of a mid-1990s rape in considering charges alleging Weinstein is a sexual predator, even though the allegation is too old to be charged on its own due to the statute of limitations in effect at the time.

About 40 minutes into deliberations, the jury sent a note asking for the legal definition of terms like consent and forcible compulsion, and sought clarity on why Weinstein wasn't charged with other crimes stemming from Sciorra's allegation.

Prosecutors built their case around graphic, of-

ten-harrowing testimony from those women, along with three other accusers who were not part of the criminal case but were allowed to take the witness stand because they say Weinstein used them same tactics on them.

Weinstein's lawyers contend the acts were consensual. They focused on friendly, flirtatious emails some of the women sent to Weinstein and further meetings some of them had with him after the alleged assaults.

A torrent of allegations against Weinstein in October 2017 spawned the #MeToo movement. His trial is seen as a watershed moment for the cause, but Judge James Burke has cautioned jurors that it is "not a referendum on the #MeToo movement."

Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno sent a similar message in a Newsweek essay over the weekend, drawing complaints from a prosecutor who said she appeared to be trying to influence the jury.

Rotunno wrote that Weinstein's jurors "have an obligation to themselves and their country, to base their verdict solely on the facts, testimony and evidence presented to them in the courtroom," not critical news stories, unflattering courtroom sketches

or other outside influences.

Confronted about the essay in court Tuesday, Rotunno said she was writing "about the jury system as a whole" and was not speaking to the jury in Weinstein's case.

Assistant District Attorney Joan Illuzzi-Orbon said Rotunno's essay was "100% inappropriate." She asked Burke to instruct the jury to ignore the piece and revoke Weinstein's bail and send him to jail because, she argued, it couldn't have been done without his permission.

Burke denied the prosecution's request, but told Weinstein: "I would caution you about the tentacles of your public relations juggernaut."

Two weeks ago, Rotunno was criticized in court and on social media for an interview she gave to The New York Times podcast The Daily in which she blamed victims for getting sexual assaulted.

"That was taped a long time ago," Rotunno explained after Illuzzi questioned the timing of the interview, which aired Feb. 7.

The Times said later that the interview was recorded on Jan. 28 — five days after opening statements and the start of testimony.

News Briefs

Texas man pleads not guilty to killing 2, including officer

MCKINNEY, Texas (AP) — A 28-year-old Texas man pleaded not guilty during the first day of his capital murder trial for the 2018 killings of a Dallas-area police officer and another man.

Brandon McCall entered the plea Monday to charges that he fatally shot of his friend, Rene Gamez II, and then killed Richardson police officer David Sherrard, KXAS-TV reports. If convicted, McCall could be sentenced to death or life in prison without parole.

Police have said McCall killed Gamez, 30, in an apartment complex in the suburb north of Dallas and then shot Sherrard in the chest as he entered the apartment after responding to reports of shooting. The 37-year-old officer was a married father of two daughters and later died at a hospital.

McCall barricaded himself in the apartment after the shooting and fired at random during an hours-long standoff before a officers arrested him.

Lawyers for McCall acknowledged he shot Sherrard but said it was unintentional, according to KXAS-TV. On Monday, jurors were shown body camera video of the moment the shooting.

Police have described the killing as an ambush. According to an affidavit McCall said during a phone call from jail that he "wanted to go to war with the police".

In addition to the murder charges, McCall is facing seven counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Pier 1 files for bankruptcy protection amid online challenge

Pier 1 Imports Inc. — the once-trendy supplier of home goods like

papasan chairs and throw pillows — filed for bankruptcy protection Monday after years of sliding sales.

The Fort Worth, Texas-based company has been struggling with increased competition from budget-friendly online retailers like Wayfair and Amazon and discount stores like Home Goods. In a 2018 presentation to investors, the company acknowledged that shoppers thought its merchandise was outdated and expensive. It was also burdened by high sourcing and supply chain costs.

Pier 1 said it will pursue a sale, with a March 23 deadline to submit bids. A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

In the meantime, Pier 1 said lenders have committed approximately \$256 million in debtor-in-possession financing so it can continue its operations during the Chapter 11 proceedings.

"Today's actions are intended to provide Pier 1 with additional time and financial flexibility as we now work to unlock additional value for our stakeholders through a sale of the company," Pier 1 CEO and Chief Financial Officer Robert Riesbeck said in a statement. Riesbeck, an executive with previous corporate turnarounds, joined Pier 1 last summer.

Ted Gavin, a retail bankruptcy expert and managing partner of the consulting firm Gavin/Solmonese, said he hasn't shopped at Pier 1 in more than a decade.

"People have been talking about Pier 1 heading for bankruptcy for a few years now. They've closed stores, they've struggled to find a steady customer base, they've struggled with falling sales," Gavin said.

Pier 1 was founded in 1962 in California, where it made its name selling incense, beanbag chairs and love beads. The company moved to Texas in 1966 and went public in 1970.

But in recent years, it struggled to draw customers to its often cramped and cluttered stores. The company has been trying to streamline its merchandise, improve online sales and draw in younger customers, but it was an uphill climb. On Monday, Pier 1 was selling a tufted velvet armchair for a sale price of \$399 on its web site. Target was offering a similar one for \$214.

In its most recent fiscal year, which ended in February 2019, Pier 1 reported sales of \$1.55 billion. That was down 18% from 2015. Pier 1's sales tumbled 13% to \$358 million in its most recent quarter, which ended Nov. 30.

Last month, Pier 1 announced it would close 450 stores, including all of its stores in Canada. The company is also closing two distribution centers. Pier 1 wouldn't say how many jobs will be affected.

Pier 1's shares have fallen 45% since the start of the year. They closed at \$3.58 per share on Friday.

Refinery fire extinguished in south Texas, no injuries

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A Monday morning fire at a Citgo refinery in in Corpus Christi, Texas, has been extinguished with no injuries, according to the petroleum company.

The fire began in a pipeline owned by a third party shortly after 8:30 a.m. and was put out shortly before 11 a.m. with "no threat to the surrounding community," Citgo said in a statement.

The owner of the pipeline has not been identified.

Corpus Christi Fire Chief Robert Rocha says the fire forced the closure of Interstate 37 in the south Texas city, but that it has since reopened. People in nearby homes and businesses were ordered to shelter in place until air-quality monitoring found the air to be safe.

"We're still trying to figure out what happened," Rocha said. "We encountered heavy fire conditions coming from a buried pipeline," after responding to the blaze.

Rocha said no one was injured as a result of the fire.

Charge: Man strangled girlfriend, 2 girls, burned bodies

A Milwaukee man strangled his girlfriend then killed her two young daughters, kissing the girls and telling them their mother wanted them in heaven with her, prosecutors alleged Tuesday.

Arzel Ivery, 25, was charged in Milwaukee County with three counts of first-degree intentional homicide in the deaths of 26-year-old Amarah Banks, 5-year-old Zaniya Ivery and 4-year-old Camaria Banks. Police found their burned bodies in a Milwaukee garage on Sunday afternoon, about a week after Banks went missing.

Ivery told investigators that he killed his girlfriend and her daughters on Feb. 8 after a fight with Banks over his decision to go to work as a security guard after the Feb. 7 funeral of their 1-year-old son, Arzel Ivery Jr. Arzel had a history of asthma and died Jan. 24 from respiratory problems, according to autopsy reports.

Ivery said Banks yelled at him that he did not care about their son's death, picked up a knife and said she did not want to live, the complaint said. Ivery said Banks cut his left wrist. He then grabbed Banks, pushed her head into a wall twice and strangled her, according to the complaint.

"He stated that Ms. Banks was not fighting him, so he figured that she wanted to die. The Defendant claimed that he was helping her die," the complaint said.

Ivery said he then killed the children because he did not want them to live in a world without their mother, according to the complaint. He went into the children's bedroom, took Zaniya out of the room, kissed her and told her "Daddy loves you" and that her mother wanted her in heaven with her, the complaint said. He then strangled the girl, the complaint said.

Ivery then returned to the girls' bedroom, woke up Camaria, kissed her and told her her mother wanted her in heaven with her, then also strangled the 4-year-old, according to the complaint.



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KBYG Valentine's Staycation Winners



Courtesy Photos

Pictured above left are the KBYG Staycation winners, from left to right; Chance and Amber Nichols and James and Reneah Statham. Pictured above right of the Murder Mystery Party at Hotel Settles on Valentines Night.

Homeland Security waives contracting laws for border wall

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Trump administration said Tuesday that it will waive federal contracting laws to speed construction of a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Department of Homeland Security said waiving procurement regulations will allow 177 miles (283 kilometers) of wall to be built more quickly in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The 10 waived laws include requirements for having open competition, justifying selections and receiving all bonding from a contractor before any work can begin.

The acting Homeland Security secretary, Chad Wolf, is exercising authority under a 2005 law that gives him sweeping powers to waive laws for building border barriers.

"We hope that will accelerate some of the construction that's going along the Southwest border," Wolf told Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" on Tuesday.

Secretaries under President Donald Trump have issued 16 waivers, and President George W. Bush issued five, but Tuesday's announcement marks the first time that waivers have applied to federal procurement rules. Previously they were used to waive environmental impact reviews.

The Trump administration said it expects the waivers will allow 94 miles (150 kilometers) of wall to be built this year, bringing the Republican president closer to his pledge of about 450 miles (720 kilometers) since taking office and making it one of his top domestic priorities. It said the other 83 miles (133 kilometers) covered by the waivers may get built this year.

"Under the president's leadership, we are building more wall, faster than ever before," the department said in a statement.

The move is expected to spark criticism that the Trump administration is overstepping its authority, but legal challenges have failed. In 2018, a federal judge in San Diego rejected arguments by California and environmental advocacy groups that the secretary's broad powers should have an expiration date. An appeals court upheld the ruling last year.

Congress gave the secretary power to waive laws in areas of high illegal crossings in 2005 in a package of emergency spending for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and minimum standards for state-issued identification cards. The Senate approved it unanimously, with support from Joe Biden, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. The House passed it with strong bipartisan support; then-Rep. Bernie Sanders voted against it.

The waivers, to be published in the Federal Register, apply to projects that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will award in six of nine Border Patrol sectors on the Mexican border: San Diego and El Centro in California; Yuma and Tucson in Arizona; El Paso, which spans New Mexico and west Texas, and Del Rio, Texas.

The administration said the waivers will apply to contractors that have already been vetted. In May, the Army Corps named 12 companies to compete for Pentagon-funded contracts.

The Army Corps is tasked with awarding \$6.1 billion that the Department of Defense transferred for wall construction last year after Congress gave Trump only a fraction of the money. The administration has been able to spend that money during legal challenges.

Daughter of man accused of killing 8 describes his abuse

MAGNOLIA, Miss. (AP) — The daughter of a Mississippi man on trial in the shooting deaths of eight people testified Monday that he was abusive and beat her frequently.

My'Khyiah Godbolt took the stand at a courthouse in Magnolia, the Daily Leader newspaper reported, to testify against her father, Willie Cory Godbolt.

Godbolt, 37, is charged with capital murder, accused of fatally shooting eight people, including the deputy who arrived at his in-laws' home over the Memorial Day in 2017.

Godbolt's 12-year-old daughter told jurors that he "was very mean" and beat both her and her mother often.

The girl, nicknamed Bubble, didn't look at her father during her testimony but he kept his gaze on her.

Godbolt appeared agitated, shaking his head and pursing his lips together tightly when she described an attack on her with a plastic bat once when they were practicing baseball outside.

She testified that he became angry when she asked to take a break and beat her repeatedly with the bat. She called to relatives for help, and he responded by threatening her.

"If you ever embarrass me like that again, it's going to be worse," she quoted her father as saying.

Jurors also heard testimony from Tamayra May, the adult daughter of victim Toccara May, who hid with her 11-year-old sister in her mother's car when the shooting began. The jury listened to her 911 call, begging the dispatcher to send help, the Daily Leader reported.

Sheena May took the stand Sunday afternoon, announcing her divorce from Godbolt was final last

week.

She said she suffered his abuse for years, leaving when he beat her but coming back because he swore he'd change.

"He said, 'I love you and I won't do it no more,'" she said.

On the day of the shootings, she had been living at her mother's home for two months.

"I chose my life over my marriage" she said.

Godbolt has pleaded not guilty to four counts of capital murder, four counts of murder, one count of attempted murder, two counts of kidnapping and one count of armed robbery. He has remained in custody since his arrest on May 28, 2017, hours after the shootings.

The killings began after Godbolt entered the in-laws' home in Bogue Chitto and got into an argument with his estranged wife and her family over the couple's two children, a witness testified earlier at trial, according to The Daily Leader.

The witness, Vincent Mitchell, testified that Godbolt fatally shot the responding deputy and then killed Godbolt's mother-in-law and two other people. Godbolt then went to two other homes in south Mississippi's Lincoln County,

killing two of his teenage cousins and a husband and wife, investigators have said.

Because of pretrial publicity in south Mississippi, jury selection was conducted in north Mississippi's DeSoto County, 285 miles (460 kilometers) north of Lincoln County. The 12 jurors and three alternates were selected Friday. They are hearing the case in Magnolia, which is near Lincoln County.

The trial resumes Tuesday

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Lady Steers handled by Hirschi in bi-district playoff matchup



HERALD Photo/Shawn Moran

Mya Hernaldes makes her way to the basket by fighting through a Hirschi defender in Tuesday night's loss.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

ANSON — From the start of the season to the final buzzer of the bi-district playoff game on Tuesday night, the Big Spring Lady Steers showed tremendous progress.

Big Spring's 2020-21 season ended with a hard-fought 57-41 loss to the Hirschi Lady Huskies at Anson High School. The loss finished out the season for a young group that will return all but one senior next year. The team will need to be tougher mentally next season but put their continued improvement on display throughout the late phases of the season.

"We didn't come ready to go," Lady Steers coach Krystle Jim said. "We didn't have four complete quarters. I am proud of them for how far they have come but we just weren't the better team tonight."

A foul-filled first quarter set the tone for the first half. Both teams started off aggressive on defense and were bringing the pressure to the other. Hirschi center Niara Hightower was a shot-blocking force for the Lady Huskies and halted several Big Spring offensive possessions.

The Lady Steers were able to get to the free-throw line nine times through the first two quarters and converted on 9-of-17 shots. It was a tough night from the charity stripe as every made shot seemed to be directly followed by a missed one.

"It was a huge factor," Jim said. "Foul-wise as well we weren't disciplined as I hoped we would be."

Other than the troubles from the foul line, the Lady Steers were showing their depth and versatility on offense. Six players recorded

a made basket for Big Spring in the opening half. Senior forward Baylor Trevino led the team with six points in that timeframe and was trying to find her rhythm from the perimeter.

Hirschi held a 13-10 lead going into the second quarter and both times were fighting for control of the game's momentum.

There were several lead changes in the second quarter and the game was tied for the majority of the frame. Midway through the second, Hirschi's deep group of scorers took advantage of some lackadaisical defense from Big Spring. After being in a tight battle for most of the first half, the Lady Huskies finished the second quarter on a 10-1 run that put them ahead 32-23 at the break.

Coming out of the halftime break a new and determined Lady Huskies squad took the floor. Following their hot close to the first half, Hirschi had their foot on the gas the entire third quarter.

In a pace for the first half, Hirschi was the team to consistently find a way to the line in the third. The Lady Huskies outscored the Lady Steers 15-7 heading into the final stretch of the game. They had built their lead up to 17 points and looked to have firmly taken control of the contest.

"Turnovers killed us and we didn't box-out and gave them second chances. We just didn't finish," Jim said.

Big Spring continued to show fight in the fourth quarter but the Hirschi lead was too large to come back from. The Lady Steers finished the game with 14 trips to the free-throw line but only came up with 13 points on those shots.

Two Big Spring forwards, Madison Kuykendall and Daniah Wrighter, led the team with eight points apiece in the loss. Hirschi was led by their front court with two starting guards, Michinsi Montoya and Ashton Carter, both scoring 13 points in the opening round of the postseason.

Big Spring will get back in the gym after some time off and will be ready to take on the 2020-21 season when it comes around with a revamped knowledge of how to play the game.

UP NEXT: Offseason.

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

NJCAA Baseball Top 20

Ranking	Team	Overall	Points	Prev
1	Chipola	9-2	197	2
2	Cowley	8-0	187	5
3	McLennan	9-2	175	3
4	Iowa Western	3-1	172	4
5	Wabash Valley	5-1	158	6
6	Central Arizona	9-4	141	1
7	Pima	13-0	129	12
8	Crowder	4-0	124	11
9	NW Florida State	8-3	119	7
10	Central Florida	9-3	107	10
11	Walters State	7-4	100	9
12	Yavapai	7-2	85	14
13	Johnson County	5-1	72	15
14	Odessa	9-1	68	18
15	Santa Fe	12-3	58	20
16	Weatherford	9-2	54	17
17	John A. Logan	7-0	47	19
18	Chattahoochee Valley	5-4	34	8
19	Miami Dade	10-1	30	NR
20	Grayson	5-1	15	NR

RECEIVING VOTES:

Arizona Western (10), San Jacinto-North (6), Butler (5), Salt Lake (4), Barton (1), Dyersburg State (1), Monroe College (1)

DROPPED FROM RANKINGS:

Arizona Western (13), Navarro (16)

NJCAA Softball Top 20

Ranking	Team	Overall	Points	Prev
1	Seminole State (OK)	6-0	140	1
2	Central Florida	15-0	133	2
3	Florida SW State	8-1	126	3
4	Chipola	9-1	119	4
5	Howard (TX)	12-2	112	5
6	Arizona Western	11-2	105	6
7	Indian Hills	3-1	98	11
8	Indian Hills	3-1	91	8
9	Indian River State	16-0	84	14
10	Salt Lake	6-4	77	10
11	Butler	5-3	70	7
12	Central Alabama	10-2	63	12
13	Seminole State (FL)	12-1	56	20
14	Lake Land	8-3	49	15
15	Crowder	4-0	42	17
16	Yavapai	9-6	35	16
17	McLennan	11-2	28	NR
18	San Jacinto-South	10-3	21	NR
19	Pensacola State	13-2	14	NR
20	Walters State	7-3	7	19

RECEIVING VOTES:

Trinity Valley (6), Otero (5), Wabash Valley (4), Western Oklahoma State (3), Vernon (2), Southern Idaho (1)

DROPPED FROM RANKINGS:

Wallace-Dothan (9), Trinity Valley (13), Chattanooga State (18)

NJCAA Men's Basketball Top 25

Ranking	Team	Overall	Points	Prev
1	Florida SW St.	27-1	397	1
2	Pearl River	20-0	381	2
3	Ranger	25-2	356	3
4	Indian Hills	26-3	346	4
5	Cowley	25-3	327	6
6	Mineral Area	26-1	322	5
7	Tyler	22-1	316	7
8	Salt Lake	24-4	282	9
9	Tallahassee	24-4	274	10
10	Murray State	21-3	236	12
11	Clarendon	22-3	201	14
12	N. OK Tonka	23-3	198	13
13	John A. Logan	21-5	194	15
14	Vincennes	22-4	185	8
15	USC Salkehatchie	22-4	164	17
16	Colby	24-4	159	16
17	W. Wyoming	24-4	142	11
18	Central FL	24-5	134	22
19	Triton	24-5	112	18
20	NE Mississipp.	20-1	110	21
21	Dyersburg St.	22-3	68	25
22	Olney Central	22-4	62	NR
23	Moberly Area	22-6	54	24
24	S. Georgia St.	23-4	25	NR
25	New Mexico	20-7	23	NR

RECEIVING VOTES:

Casper (19), Caldwell Tech (16), Gulf Coast State (16), Butler (11), Harcum (10), Kilgore (9), Georgia Highlands (8), Indian River State (7), Southeastern (6), Angelina (5), South Plains (5), Otero (4), =Barton (3), Cochise (3), Coffeyville (1), Northeastern (1), Snow (1)

DROPPED FROM RANKINGS:

Gulf Coast State (19), South Plains (20), Caldwell Tech (23)

Athletic Support:

"At what age should sports stop being fun?"

Dear Athletic Support:

These days it takes dedication by the whole family, 365 days a year, for kids to play sports. It's all about travel teams and exclusivity. And we wonder why kids sit in front of electronics for hours on end. At what age, in your opinion, should sports change from a fun game for kids to a serious college-prep activity? —Pay To Play?

Dear Pay: Recreational sports should always be fun. Period. The best athletes know this. They find ways to make all the grueling practices enjoyable. Otherwise, they'd never stick it out long enough to become the "best."

Judging by the letters I receive each week, I've come to believe that grandparents are some of my most devoted readers. So if you're a grandparent, and you're watching your grandkids burn out on sports, there's good news—you can still save them.



Eli Cranor

"Poppy," my grandfather on my mother's side, taught me how to throw a spiral. He also taught me how to tackle: "You got to get 'em by the ankles, E, and spin like a gator." The thing about Poppy's training—it was always fun.

Dear Athletic Support: My dad constantly yells at referees while I'm playing basketball. There was a college

scout at my last game, and every time my dad started screaming at the officials, I was even more embarrassed than normal. I couldn't help but wonder if his poor display of sportsmanship could somehow cost me a chance at a college scholarship. Have you ever heard of this happening? — A Good Sport

See **ATHLETIC SUPPORT**, Page 11

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from persons who can show
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tion concerning any aspect of
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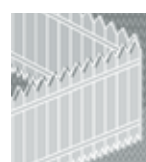
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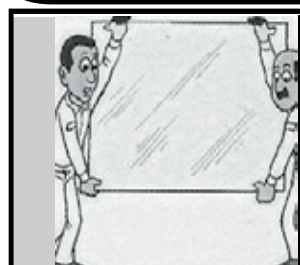
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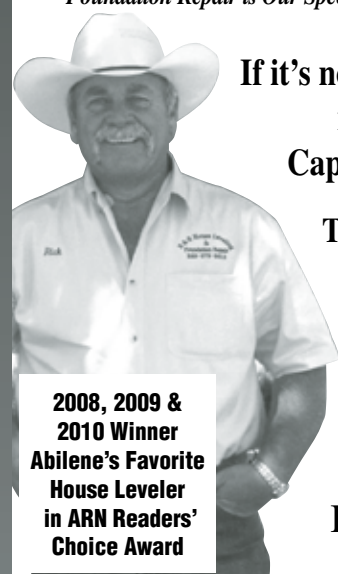
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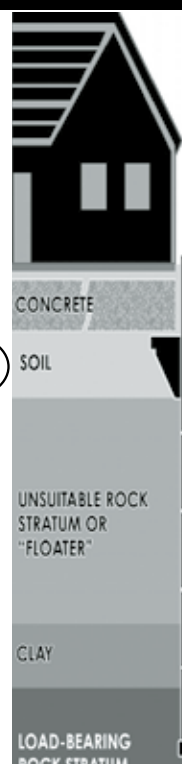
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Annie's Mailbox

Only a FaceTime Away

Dear Annie: I have never written to a columnist in my 70 years, but "Sad and Somewhat Angry Granny," whose daughter-in-law wouldn't allow her kids to open any of the Christmas gifts Granny brought them overseas before Christmas Day, really struck a chord with me.

What a wonderful opportunity her daughter-in-law missed to model flexibility, kindness and care. Those grandchildren, ages 3, 6 and 9, are perfectly capable of understanding the situation.

Perhaps next time they could FaceTime on Christmas morning, or Christmas Eve, depending on the time difference.

Granny was most gracious in not pressing the issue. She is a great model for her grandchildren. -- FL Grandma With Grandkids in CA, MI, NY and NC

Dear Grandma: I am printing your letter to highlight these wonderful character traits that we should teach our children -- and practice ourselves. Flexibility, kindness and care go a long way in leading a happier life.

Your suggestion to video conference with the grandkids is great, and several other readers, such as the next one, wrote to offer it as well.

Dear Annie: This is a suggestion for "Sad and Somewhat Angry Granny." I also have grandchildren overseas. My daughter has me on FaceTime when her children open presents or even just boxes of stuff that I have sent them.

It's not the same as being there, but I still get to see and share their joy and excitement. My 4-year-old grandson says, "This box is from you, Grandma," and my heart melts. In this day of technology, there is no reason to miss these special events. -- Grandma G

Dear Grandma G: Quality time is priceless for grandparents and grandchildren alike. You reminded us that nowadays, we're all just a FaceTime away, no matter the distance.

Dear Annie: It means a lot to me that you printed my tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King in your column, "Reflecting on King's Legacy." Thank

you very much for allowing me to share my sentiments with your readers. I hope it interested others in learning more about Dr. King's legacy. -- John H.

Dear John H.: And thank you for giving us all the opportunity to reflect on motivating and powerful contribution of Dr. King.

Dear Annie: I want to thank you again for printing my letter, "Grieving Mom of a Vet." I just thought it was the perfect time to have it printed. If it helps someone, wow. Suicide cannot be swept under the carpet.

I love your column. Your advice is spot on -- so much common sense and compassion. I like you better than Ann Landers. Way to go! -- Grieving Mom of a Vet

Dear Grieving Mom of a Vet: Thank you for your follow-up letter. Your kind words mean a great deal to me. Again, I am so sorry for your loss. Best wishes.

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Your life is filled with different story lines, and you know where you are in each one. Certain things feel like the start; others feel like the beginning of an end. A lagging middle could use an enlivening dance number.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To take them very seriously, listen closely to the nuances, and act accordingly -- this is a gift from you to them. Later you'll realize it's also a gift from you to you, an attention investment that can't help but pay off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The stumbling, bumbling, dropping and spilling -- that's the way of the living. It's foolish to worry or be embarrassed by the knock around and knock it over; this is the

privilege of life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are things in life that are not about the context in which they live -- most things,

actually. The ability to extract yourself from context will make you the sovereign of your own attitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A family matter will settle favorably. When things go this smoothly in the personal realm, everything else feels good to you -- simply breathing, for instance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Here you are making money, teaching what you know and being a person of influence. This is what you've been headed toward for a very long time, so pause and let yourself really feel what's going on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is the moment of production you've been waiting for. Once you start, you will quickly fall into a rhythm and make excellent use of a stretch of uninterrupted flow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Maybe you'll call out the untruth when you hear it -- you always hear it. And then again, you might let it slide. People need their defenses. The lie is so small next to your big heart.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 19). Your ability to make others feel comfortable is epic and will be the reason for so many big wins. The next three weeks will bring a training of sorts. April is your chance at a prize, and you'll have two more shots for a similar win. A real trajectory is forming here, momentum gathering, your inner drive fortifying. Cancer and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 44, 35, 11 and 4.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Improving your chances

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ 8 3
- ♥ J 6 5
- ♦ A 8 5
- ♣ J 7 4 3 2

EAST

- ♠ K 7 6 4
- ♥ A 9 8 4
- ♦ 7 3
- ♣ Q 9 5

WEST

- ♠ 5 2
- ♥ K Q 10 3
- ♦ 9 6 4 2
- ♣ 10 8 6

SOUTH

- ♠ A Q J 10 9
- ♥ 7 2
- ♦ K Q J 10
- ♣ A K

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠			

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Let's say you're declarer at four spades and East-West start off with three rounds of hearts. You ruff the third heart, but what would you do next? You could play the A-Q of spades, hoping the trumps are divided 3-3, in which case you'd coast home with 10 tricks.

You also would make the contract with these plays if the trumps were divided 4-2 and the player with the

king of trump did not have a heart to return. Your only losers in that case would be one spade and two hearts.

However, leading the A-Q of spades at this point is not the best way to play the hand. This is because there is a way to guard against a 4-2 trump break if East has the king, even if he has another heart to return.

Accordingly, you should lead the queen of spades at trick four, not the ace. You hope someone will take the king, in which event the contract would be secure even if the trumps were divided 4-2. A further heart lead by either opponent could be ruffed with dummy's eight without shortening your own trumps, while any other lead would make the rest of the play academic.

Unfortunately — assuming best defense — the queen holds the trick, and you're right back where you were before. Now you must hope that East is the one who refused to take the king. So you lead a diamond to the ace, take a successful trump finesse and then cash the ace of trump.

All of this delicate maneuvering pays off handsomely when you next start leading out your high-card winners. East can ruff with the king whenever he pleases, but that is the last trick for the defense.

Tomorrow: An unnecessary finesse.

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Lunar Productivity High

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The first secret to being a fantastic conversationalist is to choose a topic that will bear fruit. What would they love to talk about? This is hard to deliver on, but get good at learning what people want to talk about and you're golden.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Know who has your back, and who will go out of the way to promote and help you. Rule out anyone too jealous to be truly supportive. Seek alliances with people who have complementary strengths.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're so often controlled and careful about giving the thing that's appropriate and necessary to the moment. That's why when you do give a show of emotion, it's totally irresistible.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People like people who they are like. Can they be blamed? Who doesn't want their opinions validated with living proof such as another nodding head can provide?

SUDOKU

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

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Level: Intermediate

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

ANSWER:

Table with 20 columns (KMGD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, KWES2, WTBS, TNT, ESPN, ESPN2, FSN, USA, A&E, DISC) and 24 rows of TV listings.

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



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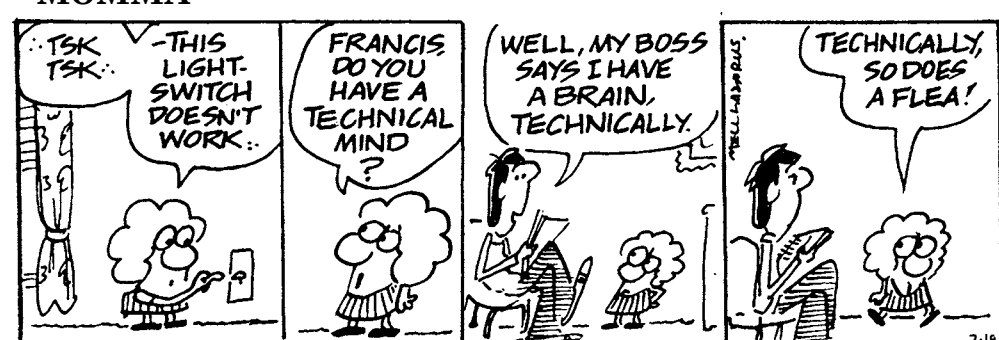
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History Today is Wednesday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2020. There are 316 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 19, 1945, Operation Detachment began during World War II as some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful month-long battle to seize control of the island from Japanese forces. On this date: In 1803, Congress voted to accept Ohio's borders and constitution. In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr, accused of treason, was arrested in the Mississippi Territory, in present-day Alabama. (Burr was acquitted at trial.) In 1846, the Texas state government was formally installed in Austin, with J. Pinckney Henderson taking the oath of office as governor. In 1878, Thomas Edison received a U.S. patent for "an improvement in phonograph or speaking machines." In 1934, the U.S. Army Air Corps began delivering mail after President Franklin D. Roosevelt canceled private contracts that had come under suspicion. (The hastily arranged, ill-equipped military flights claimed the lives of a dozen pilots, sparking a public outcry before they were dropped several months later.) In 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the relocation and internment of people of Japanese ancestry, including U.S.-born citizens. Imperial Japanese warplanes raided the Australian city of Darwin; at least 243 people were killed. In 1968, the children's program "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," created by and starring Fred Rogers, made its network debut on National Educational Television, a forerunner of PBS, beginning a 31-season run. In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved, 83-11, the Genocide Convention, an international treaty outlawing "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group," nearly 37 years after the pact was first submitted for ratification. In 1997, Deng Xiaoping (dung shah-oh-ping), the

last of China's major Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92. In 2003, an Iranian military plane carrying 275 members of the elite Revolutionary Guards crashed in southeastern Iran, killing all on board. In 2006, Israel halted the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars in tax money to the Palestinians after Hamas took control of the Palestinian parliament. In 2008, an ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power; his brother Raul was later named to succeed him. Ten years ago: In a televised 13-minute statement, golfer Tiger Woods admitted infidelity and acknowledged receiving therapy. The FBI concluded that Army scientist Bruce Ivins acted alone in the 2001 anthrax mailings that killed five people, and formally closed the case. Pope Benedict XVI approved sainthood for Mother Mary MacKillop, who became Australia's first saint. Five years ago: President Barack Obama urged delegates from 63 countries at a summit on violent extremism to "confront the warped ideology" espoused by terror groups, particularly using Islam to justify violence. One year ago: Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders said he would again seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020. President Donald Trump directed the Pentagon to develop plans for a new Space Force within the Air Force, accepting less than the full-fledged department he had wanted. Designer Karl Lagerfeld, whose creations at Chanel and Fendi had an unprecedented impact on the entire fashion industry, died in Paris. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg returned to the Supreme Court bench, eight weeks after surgery for lung cancer. Former Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Don Newcombe, who was one of the first black players in the major leagues and went on to win the Rookie of the Year, MVP and Cy Yong

awards, died at 92 after a long illness. Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 80. Actress Carlin Glynn is 80. Former Sony Corp. Chairman Howard Stringer is 78. Singer Lou Christie is 77. Actor Michael Nader is 75. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath, Heaven and Hell) is 72. Actor Stephen Nichols is 69. Author Amy

Tan is 68. Actor Jeff Daniels is 65. Rock singer-musician Dave Wakeling is 64. Talk show host Lorraine Crook is 63. Actor Ray Winstone is 63. Actor Leslie David Baker is 62. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is 61. Britain's Prince Andrew is 60. Tennis Hall of Famer Hana Mandlikova is 58. Singer Seal is 57. Actress Jessica Tuck is 57. Country musician Ralph Mc-

Cauley (Wild Horses) is 56. Rock musician Jon Fishman (Phish) is 55. Actress Justine Bateman is 54. Actor Benicio Del Toro is 53. Actress Bellamy Young is 50. Rock musician Daniel Adair is 45. Pop singer-actress Haylie Duff is 35. Actress Arielle Kebbel is 35. Christian rock musician Seth Morrison (Skillet) is 32. Actor Luke Pasqualino is 30. Actress Victoria Justice is 27.

Actor David (dah-VEED) Mazouz (TV: "Gotham") is 19. Actress Millie Bobby Brown is 16. Thought for Today: "Passion and prejudice govern the world; only under the name of reason." — John Wesley, English theologian (1703-1791).

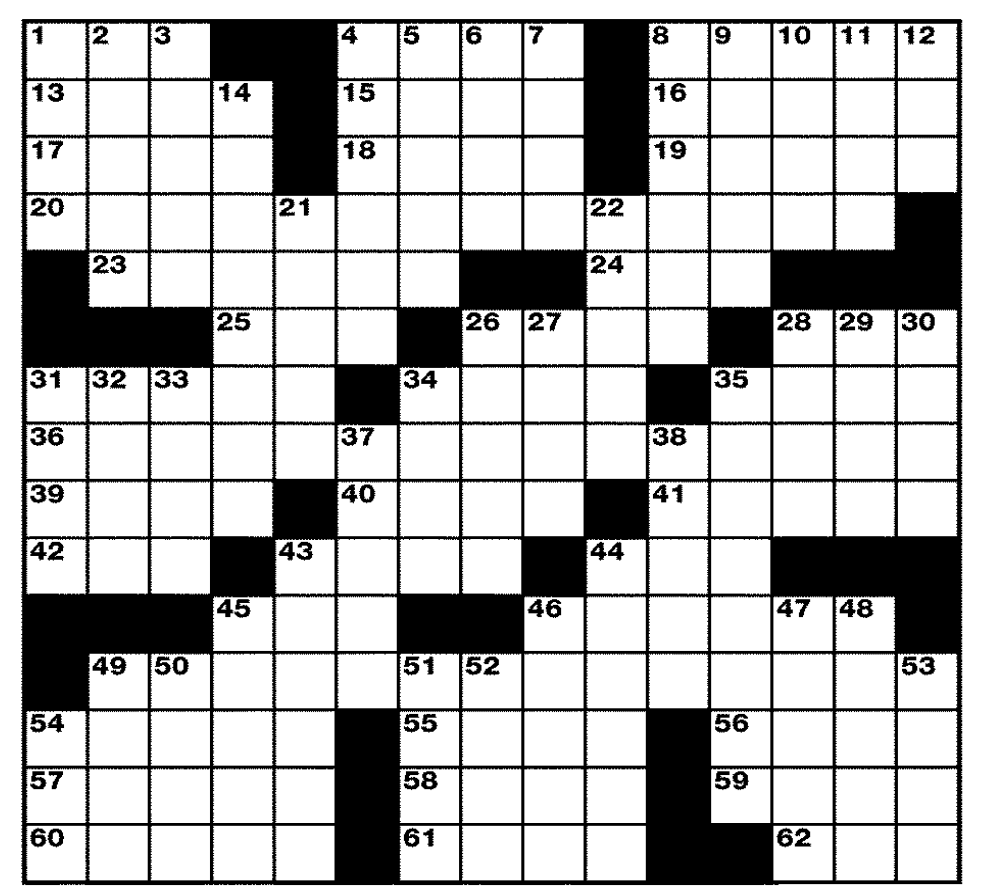
Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Portion of corn 4 Resorts with hot springs 8 Fragrance 13 Stop up 15 Complain incessantly 16 All-weather, as stadiums 17 Be optimistic 18 All at (suddenly) 19 Things to avoid 20 Tenacious person 23 Donations from foundations 24 ER staffers 25 Soldiers at a USO show 26 Bikini tops 28 Center of a peach 31 '70s veep Agnew 34 Corkscrew's shape 35 Very uncommon 36 Being forced to apologize 39 Get ready, for short 40 Granola tidbits 41 "No bid" 42 President pro 43 Build-it-yourself buys 44 NL city on the Mississippi 45 Light brown 46 Garden pests 49 Attractive enhancement 54 Catches sight of 55 High wind 56 Vicinity

- 57 Bearlike Aussie beast 58 Deceitful person 59 Catches sight of 60 Doesn't do anything 61 Besides that 62 Home for hogs DOWN 1 Sonic bounce 2 Go for the ride 3 Lasso thrower 4 Baseball talent seekers 5 Feelings of hunger 6 Part of the foot 7 Proposal detail, for short 8 They cost extra 9 Chess castles

SWEET STUFF by Pam Klawitter Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 10 Prefix meaning "everything" 11 Ration (out) 12 Words from the sponsor 14 "Calm down!" 21 Slice on a burger 22 Colgate competitor 26 Ring matches 27 Frames of eyeglasses 28 Dad 29 Part of the eye 30 Golf pegs 31 First mo. of fall 32 Remove rind from 33 Line on a shopping list 34 Casual conversation 35 Facsimiles 37 About to leave 38 Thin and graceful 43 State south of Nebraska 44 Shape of a globe 45 Name of a book 46 Book of cartography 47 Shows courage 48 Clay pigeon sport 49 Digital player brand 50 Fuel for an old furnace 51 Stare at 52 Hammer's target 53 "Nothing to it!" 54 Glide down snow



Answer to previous puzzle DRAMA ROAR STAG REBUS UPTO POSE SPILL BEAD ATOM STEERS CLEAR A TOM SEE LOL EBB PAST SINBAD NORA RTES CELLO DRIVES UPTHE WALL INDIA BEAU SHOE NEED TO ERRS ISTS EYE RAP TURNS AWAY FROM DANE TRIP EUROS ACTS ELSE SNEAK BOOT RYIES TESTY 2/19/20

Wade Warms, CGCS receives the 2019 Sonny Dubose Memorial Distinguished Service Award from the South Texas Chapter of GCSAA

Special to the Herald

Cypress, TX – Wade Warms, a Certified Golf Course Superintendent at Cypress Lakes Golf Club in Cypress, TX has been selected to receive the 2019 Sonny Dubose Memorial Distinguished Service Award by the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Warms, a 23-year member, officially received the award on February 11 at Cypress Lakes Golf Club.

The Sonny Dubose Memorial Distinguished Service Award is an annual award presented to a member who has shown outstanding service and prolonged dedication to the success of the South Texas GCSA. It is named after one of the Association's founding fathers and 3-time President.

"Our Sonny DuBose recipient served on our STGCSEA Board from Director to President to Past President; and then after only a few years off, he didn't get enough the first time, so he selflessly volunteered his time again for service when the board needed him the most. He continues to serve on the board as a Director today. He is an active and engaged member and we have all had the opportunity to enjoy outstanding course conditions at the many

events he has hosted for our association. He is a proponent of turf education. He graduated from Texas A&M in 1997 and earned his GCSAA Certification in 2006. After maintaining that designation though continuing education classes he remains one of only 1300 active Certified Superintendents today. He has been a member of STGCSEA for 23 years and is a devoted husband to a lovely wife. He has two wonderful kids who are growing up faster than he could have imagined. He is always very involved and supportive of his family's activities. It is with an honor that I present the Sonny DuBose Memorial Distinguished Service Award for 2019 to Wade Warms. Congratulations!"

"I am truly honored to receive the Sonny Dubose Award," said Warms. "I want to thank all the members of STGCSEA for the support and opportunity to serve in an Association that I will always cherish. This award means everything to me."



Courtesy Photo
Wade Warms poses for a picture after receiving his award.

ATHLETIC SUPPORT

Continued from Page 6

Dear Sport: First off, I think it's high time you had a talk with your dad. Sit him down and explain how his berating of the officials makes you feel.

This won't be easy, but here are few talking points that might help: Tell him his over-the-top methods are actually hindering your game. Many times, I think parents fool themselves into thinking they're actually helping when they let loose on a referee. Like, somehow, if they scream loud enough, they can impact the next call. This couldn't be farther from the truth.

Officials are human. They're prone to anger and resentment, just like the rest of us. To make matters worse, they're giving up a substantial amount of time to come and officiate games while barely getting paid enough to cover their travel expenses. So, when some unruly parent starts heckling them from the stands, there's a good chance a ref might try to retaliate.

If that doesn't get through to your father, tell him he really could be hurting your chances at earning a scholarship. These days, college coaches scour social media pages, looking for any warning signs regarding an athlete's off-the-court life. This also extends to their family.

In a sport like basketball, where there are usually fewer than twenty players on a roster, a coach gets to know his players intimately. This also means the coach will get to know his players' families. If your dad treats the refs like this, how will he treat the coach? Coaches, like officials, are not perfect. They too are going to make the wrong call, and when this happens, how will your dad respond?

These are all questions a college coach will consider before offering you a scholarship. If you're serious about playing at the next level, make sure your dad is too.

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

Manfred apologizes for calling WS trophy a 'piece of metal'

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Baseball Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred apologized Tuesday for what he called a disrespectful reference to the World Series trophy as a "piece of metal."

Even before being asked about it, Manfred said he made a mistake with those comments while trying to deliver a rhetorical point in an interview two days earlier.

"I referred to the World Series trophy in a disrespectful way, and I want to apologize for it," Manfred said. "There's no excuse for it. ... It was a mistake to say what I said."

MLB players, already upset with Manfred's handling of the Houston Astros' sign-stealing scandal and some of his comments in trying to explain it, became further infuriated by his "piece of metal" comment during a lengthy interview with ESPN on Sunday, the same day he spoke in Florida.

Even NBA superstar LeBron James joined the anti-Astros chorus, voicing his anger on social media Tuesday.

While speaking at the Cactus League media day in the Arizona desert, Manfred also pledged Tuesday to protect Oakland right-hander Mike Fiers, the ex-Astros pitcher who became the whistleblower when he went public in November to The Athletic.

"We will take every possible step to protect Mike Fiers wherever he's playing, whether it's in Houston or somewhere else," Manfred said. "Mike did the industry a service."

The Astros play their first road game of the regular season March 30 at the A's, who won 97 games each of the past two years to finish second to Houston in the AL West both times.

Cubs lefty Jon Lester, a three-time World Series champion — with the Boston Red Sox in 2007 and 2013, and Chicago in 2016 — had some choice words for the commissioner earlier Tuesday.

"That's somebody that has never played our game. You play for a reason, you play for that piece of

metal. I'm very proud of the three that I have," Lester said at Cubs camp in Mesa, Arizona. "If that's the way he feels, then he needs to take his name off the trophy."

Lester said the first thing he shows visitors at his house is the displayed trophies he has won.

"I'm proud of them. That's a lot of years, a lot of hard work. You can't just bring it down like that," the five-time All-Star said.

Manfred, after meeting with the general managers and managers of teams that train in Arizona, said he has taken great pleasure in presenting the past five World Series championship trophies since he became the commissioner.

James sent a two-part tweet Tuesday imploring Manfred to listen to the upset players. The three-time NBA champion and four-time MVP said he would be irate and uncontrollable if he found out he had been cheated out of a championship, punctuating his comment with an asterisk-filled expletive, and adding the hashtag #JustMyThoughtsComingFromASportsJunkieRegardlessMyOwnSportPlay.

"Listen here baseball commissioner listen to your.....players speaking today about how disgusted, mad, hurt, broken, etc etc about this," James wrote in part, adding, "you need to fix this for the sake of Sports!"

Atlanta Braves outfielder Nick Markakis spoke out earlier Tuesday, saying he believed the commissioner had completely mishandled the situation with the Astros and that "every single guy over there deserves a beating."

Manfred suspended Houston manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow for one season for the team's actions in using video to steal catcher's signs in 2017 and 2018, and the pair were fired by Astros owner Jim Crane. Manfred fined the Astros \$5 million and stripped them of their next two first- and second-round draft picks.

Players were not disciplined and their 2017 World Series title remained intact.

Dozens of big leaguers have criticized the penal-

ties as being too lax, including Los Angeles Angels star Mike Trout, NL MVP Cody Bellinger, and All-Star pitchers Yu Darvish of the Cubs and Trevor Bauer of the Reds.

Manfred said he's never seen so much "commentary from players about other players."

The commissioner said MLB reached out to the players' association for player cooperation after early efforts in making progress in the investigation were unsuccessful. Manfred said that cooperation came in exchange for blanket immunity for players, an agreement reached to end a stalemate.

"One of the principal complaints seems to be that the Houston players were not disciplined," Manfred said. "And that lack of discipline immunity was negotiated with the union that represents the players."

Union head Tony Clark said in a statement Tuesday night that "any suggestion that the association failed to cooperate with the commissioner's investigation, obstructed the investigation, or otherwise took positions which led to a stalemate in the investigation is completely untrue. We acted to protect the rights of our members, as is our obligation under the law."

The players' association also said it has been working with MLB for the past two weeks on potential rules changes regarding "sign stealing, in-game technology and video, data access and usage, club audits and disclosures, player education, and enforcement — including the potential for player discipline."

"We have made it clear to MLB that no issue is off the table, including player discipline," the statement added.

As for not stripping the Astros of the 2017 World Series title, Manfred said he was "very concerned about opening the door to altering results that took place on the field. There are a lot of things that have happened in the history of the game that arguably could be corrected. And I just think it's an impossible task for an institution to undertake."

Saints' Brees announces intention to return for 2020 season

By **BRETT MARTEL**

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Quarterback Drew Brees' record-setting NFL career is on track for a 20th season — and a 15th with the New Orleans Saints.

The 41-year-old Brees announced his intention to return for what would be his 20th NFL season in a social media post on Tuesday.

"My feelings about the 2020 season! I look forward to the grind and the journey, for the reward at the end will be worth it," Brees wrote in his announcement. "Love you #WhoDatNation. Let's make another run at it!"

Brees missed five games with a throwing hand injury that required surgery but was still productive last season while leading New Orleans to a third straight playoff appearance. Brees' 74.3% completion rate ranked second in NFL history behind only his 2018 record of 74.4%.

He also passed for 27 touchdowns while throwing just four interceptions and was selected to a fourth straight Pro Bowl, the 13th of his career.

His decision to return will set in motion negotiations on a new contract. His last contract voids

automatically at the end of the current league year that concludes March 18.

A person familiar with the situation says new contract negotiations have yet to begin and there is no immediate timetable for reaching a deal. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither Brees nor the Saints have publicly discussed the matter.

Saints coach Sean Payton and general manager Mickey Loomis both have stated an interest in bringing Brees back if the quarterback, who turned 41 on Jan. 15, still wanted to play.

If recent history is a guide, negotiations should not be problematic. Twice since 2016, Brees has accepted two-year deals that, while still generous, were geared more toward providing the Saints a measure of salary cap flexibility than pushing the limits of the NFL QB market. Last season, Brees contract was worth nearly \$23 million.

Brees is the NFL's all-time leader in completions with 6,867, yards passing with 77,416, and touchdowns with 547. His career touchdowns mark is most vulnerable, just six ahead of 20-year Patriots veteran Tom Brady.

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