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VOLUME 115, NUMBER 124

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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

April 4

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



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Find us online at:
 www.bigspringherald.com



Howard County Elections office receives honorable mention

Howard County 1 of 5 recognized out of 254 counties

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Managing Editor

Facebook has become a source of information for many. As time progresses more and more businesses, organizations and even public entities are taking to Facebook and other social media platforms to spread information to clients, potential customers and community members. With the influx of information on Facebook it's important to become creative and relevant. Recently, the League of Women Voters recognized the Howard County Elections' Facebook page.

"We wouldn't look so good if it wasn't for the voters," Jodi Duck, Howard County Elections Administrator, said. The League of Women Voters gave an Honorable Mention - one of five given throughout the 254 counties that have a State's Election webpages. While the

Facebook page is gaining attention, currently sitting at 1,472 people, there is still a long way to go in order to keep the majority of the county informed.

"I want to see our numbers bigger on this page. The more followers we have on our page means the more people are able to see the information, which means that many more are getting informed regarding elections and other important election and voter registration information," Duck said.

According to Duck, the recognition from the creativity and humor that is displayed throughout the important, educational and informative posts that are shared on the page. The page was originally created in 2009, but has since been utilized more heavily as a way to communicate with voters and the community.

"Anyone who hasn't liked our page is encouraged to do so. It's a great way to get up to date information about upcoming

See **FB**, Page 3

Re-Elect Sheriff Stan Parker
Early Voting through Feb. 28
 Paid Political Ad
 Charlie Lewis, Treasurer

CVB partners with Bar-Z Mobile for community app

By **SAVANNAH GEER**

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council gave the green light at the Tuesday meeting, for an agreement with Bar Z mobile for a mobile app and software service.

We always hear "I didn't know that was happening" so my team and the administrators with the City of Big Spring are constantly trying to find new ways to reach more and more citizens and visitors with the information they need to make their lives better and easier. The Bar Z mobile app will be used as an app for the City of Big Spring as well as an app for Visit Big Spring.

Council member Raul Marquez met the owner of Bar Z, Lee Little, at the annual Texas Municipal Leagues conference and introduced administration to the idea of doing the app.

"We hope this will be one more avenue for that information to reach everyone," Hayley Herrera Community Services Director, said.

The app benefits the City by being one more platform that we are able to share information with the citizens of Big Spring. Citizens will be able to sign up for push notifications for weather alerts, calender alerts, road closures

See **APP**, Page 3

City Park valve replacements taking place on Feb. 21



Editor's Note: The City of Big Spring issued the following release, regarding upcoming City Park Valve replacements:

On Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, City crews will replace several water valves in Comanche Trail Park. This will require water service be shut down in the area that feeds the southwest side of Big Spring from FM 700 to Wasson Road, including the area around the park from Parkway Road to Bilger Road and from Wasson Road to Longshore Road.

Customers in this area will experience low pressure and/or total water interruption while crews shut off water service to complete valve replacements. To minimize the inconvenience to our citizens, the work will be done overnight beginning at 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, and continue until complete.

We apologize for any inconvenience and ask for your patience while this project is completed. Please direct any questions or concerns to the office of Shane Bowles, Public Works Director, at 432-264-2501.

Banks to host book signing at Heritage Museum

By **ANNA GUTIERREZ**

Staff Writer

Cary Banks is a Big Spring native. He attended Big Spring schools until high school when he moved down the road to Coahoma, from where he graduated. He's been a professional musician for 55 years, and he'll be back in Big Spring next week.

Banks will be at the Heritage Museum on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. for a signing of his new book, "Almost Like a Professional." The museum is located at 510 Scurry St. Free admission to all who attend, and refreshments will be served.

"I've written a book about my life as a West Texas musician," says Banks. "I was raised in the Church of Christ, who traditionally does not use instruments, so it was quite a conundrum wanting to be a musician."

Continues Banks, "I played in the band in high school



Courtesy photo

The Heritage Museum will be the site of a book signing event for Cary Banks, Big Spring native, on Feb. 22.

where I played with Jody Nix. I played with the Maines Brothers Band, and the leader of that band, Lloyd Maines, is the father of Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks. I was also a teacher at South Plains College in Llevelland for 23 years. I've had a few people comment to me that all young musicians should read my book to learn the ups and downs, and especially the truth, about the music industry."

Appearing with Banks will be his sister, Toya Dyess, and pianist Vanessa Burchett. Banks hints that there may also be a special appearance by a well-known Big Spring native musician.

"This book has traces of musical history, a sort of spiritual awakening, and provides information about the unique music in West

Texas," concludes Banks.

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

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Obituaries

Keagan Ray Earls

Keagan Ray Earls, 21, of Big Spring passed away Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Police Blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **ANTONIO FLORES**, 39, of 1309 Utah St., was arrested on warrant for federal hold.
- **AMANDA NICHOLE EDMONDSON**, 31, of 1501 Lincoln Ave., Apt. A, was arrested on an outstanding warrant from another agency.
- **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported on Wasson and Parkway, and the 2600 block of S. Gregg.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main St., and the 100 block of S. Main St., and the 600 block of S. Main St.

- **THEFT** was reported at the 4500 block of S. Hwy 87, and the 4200 block of Birch St.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1500 block of Mesquite St.
- **FOUND PROPERTY** was reported in the 3200 block of N. Hwy 87, and in the 3200 block of AV C.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Hwy 87, and the 1600 block of Martin Luther King.
- **IDENTITY THEFT** was reported in the 1000 block of Bluebonnet Ave.
- **RUNAWAY** was reported in the 4000 block of Vicky St.

Sheriff

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

- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 85 inmates at the time of this report.
- **SEVERIANO LAWRENCE CORDOVA**, 36, was arrested by HCSO on a warrants for wrong, altered, obscured license plate, and operating a unregistered motor vehicle, and failure to appear.
 - **AMANDA NICHOLE EDMONDSON**, 31, was

arrested by HCSO on a warrant for hindering secured creditors (less than \$500)

- **FRANKLIN RODRIGUEZ-DIAZ**, 41, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant for prohibited substances in a correctional facility.
- **CODY KYLE WITT**, 34, was arrested by HCSO on warrants for theft of property in between (\$20 and \$500) by check, and theft of property in between (\$500 and \$1,500).

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of S. Lancaster. No transportation was needed.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore. No transportation was needed.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to

Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of S. Birdwell. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 5200 block of Wasson Rd. 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 preparation 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. They understand that retirement or other life changes may mean your taxes are a little more complicated now. With the help of our team of IRS-certified volunteers, we make it easy for you.

AARP Tax-Aide Service will be available 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, and AARP membership is not required. Additional information can be found on the AARP website https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2004/about_aarp_taxaide.html

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. 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/>.

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.

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.

Support Groups

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 Veterans' 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. 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.



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MEMBER 2020



TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Weather



Today: Patchy drizzle with a chance of rain before 10 am, then patchy drizzle between 10 am and 11 am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42. Northeast wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 48. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 61.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Breezy.

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 39.

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

APP

Continued from Page 1

and more. It will benefit Visitors of Big Spring because we will be able to update new information for our visitors and citizens.

"We have a wonderful visitors guide but after a few months, the information regarding restaurants and shopping is not current, so with the app we will be able to update that information immediately." Herrera continued, "The app also has the ability to add in more entities as we continue to

build it, we could add a partnership with the EDC, the Chamber of Commerce, the Big Spring school district, or even the newspaper."

Which in turn will help build and strengthen partnerships in the community. "The possibilities are endless on what we can do with this app to help make information more attainable for our citizens and visitors." The app is expected to launch before summer time, according to Herrera.

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

Take Note

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

- Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary is

looking for new members. If you have a heart for serving people, have at least four hours a week to spare, SMMC Auxiliary might be the fit for you.

Duties include working in the gift shop, delivering newspapers to inpatients, hospitality services, popcorn and more.

To find out more about opportunities available with the SMMC Auxiliary, contact Amy Miramontes at 268-4809 or April Arms at 268-4907.

- The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

- The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop mortgage foreclosure and are need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

- The Howard County Democrats meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Howard County Democratic Headquarters, 1408 Scurry, behind Prosperity Bank.

- The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

FB

Continued from Page 1

elections, registration deadlines and other important information to keep our voters informed," Duck said.

In addition of the utili-

zation of the Howard County Elections Facebook page, voters can also access information on the Howard County Elections website. The website is currently being updated; those wanting to visit and find County information can visit co.howard.tx.us.

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

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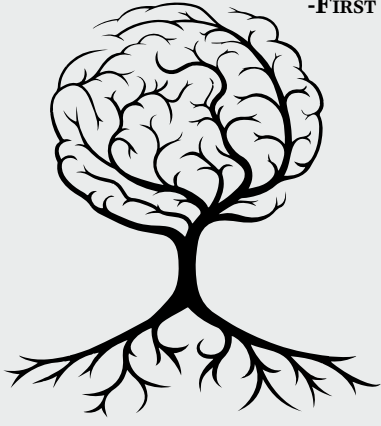
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Opinion

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

-FIRST AMENDMENT



Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

LETTERS POLICY

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Sign your letter.
 - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
 - We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
 - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
 - Form letters, letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
 - Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

CONTACT US

- The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:
- In person at 710 Scurry St.
 - By telephone at 263-7331
 - By e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.
 - By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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- Scott Emerson**
Phone: No phone number
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Phone: No phone number
- Brandon Iden**
Phone: No phone number
- TIFFANY SAYLES** - Tax Collector (non-voting member)
Phone: 432-264-2232

DAILY PRAYER

*May we get as much done as possible today, Lord, with Your help.
Amen*

Home Country: Double feature

Windy was at it again the other day ... Helping Day.

There aren't an awful lot of things a semi-retired half stoved-up cowboy and camp cook can contribute to make his community a better place. With Windy Wilson, it sure as sugar wasn't money. He couldn't put a down payment on a free lunch. So he helped someone, about once a week, depending on weather.

Part of the fun of it was not saying anything to his vic ... er, recipient of his largesse, that is. Just go do something nice for a day.

Today, the lucky recipient of his Herculean labors was old Dan Gurule. Windy knew through the grapevine that he hadn't been well, so he drove over to Dan's place and shoveled the sidewalk and his porch steps free of snow. When he finished, Windy threw the snow shovel in his pickup and prepared to leave.

No sign of Dan, which was unusual, because there was almost always a cup of coffee for Windy on Helping Day. He drove down to the Mule Barn, waved an empty cup at Loretta and turned to the guys.

"Wellsir, went over to Dan Gu-



SLIM RANGLES

rule's house, boys," Windy said. "You know, did a little snow shovelin'."

"Helping Day, Windy?"

"Right you are, Doc. Never did see ol' Dan, though. Musta been asleep."

The guys looked at each other. "Windy," said Doc, "Dan passed away last week."

Windy shook his head. "Sorry to hear 'bout that. Prolly why I didn't exasperate a cup of coffee off him today."

Steve was out in the Mule Barn truck stop parking lot the other day, tightening something with his wrenches under the hood of his pickup truck. The rest of us stood around looking wise.

"You sure it ain't the solenoid?" said Bert.

"I don't think they make them anymore," said Doc.

"It's usually the solenoid," Bert said, with finality.

Out of self defense, Steve emerged from his cavern of wires and metal long enough to say, "Didn't I see you have a goat now, Bert?"

Bert nodded. "That's why I hate allergies."

We waited. We stared.

"Well you see, Maizie's allergic to cow's milk, so we bought Ernestine for her."

"And Ernestine is ...?"

"The goat ... right. So what happens is somehow I have to

milk Ernestine. Twice a day. We wanted to go overnight to the city last week. Ever try to find someone who will babysit and milk a goat?"

"I won't do it," said Dud.

"Neither will anyone else," said Bert, sadly. "So either we stay home, or take the goat with us. Ever try to find a motel that takes goats?"

"Not recently," Doc said.

"So we stayed home. Oh, it wouldn't be so bad if she liked me..."

"Maizie?"

"Ernestine. See, she waits until I have her almost milked out, then she'll stick her foot in the bucket and kick it all over me. The other day, I was standing in her pen and talking with Mrs. Gonzales next door, and Ernestine came running up behind me and ran right between my legs."

"Did you fall?"

"Of course. And Mrs. Gonzales tried not to laugh, but it didn't work."

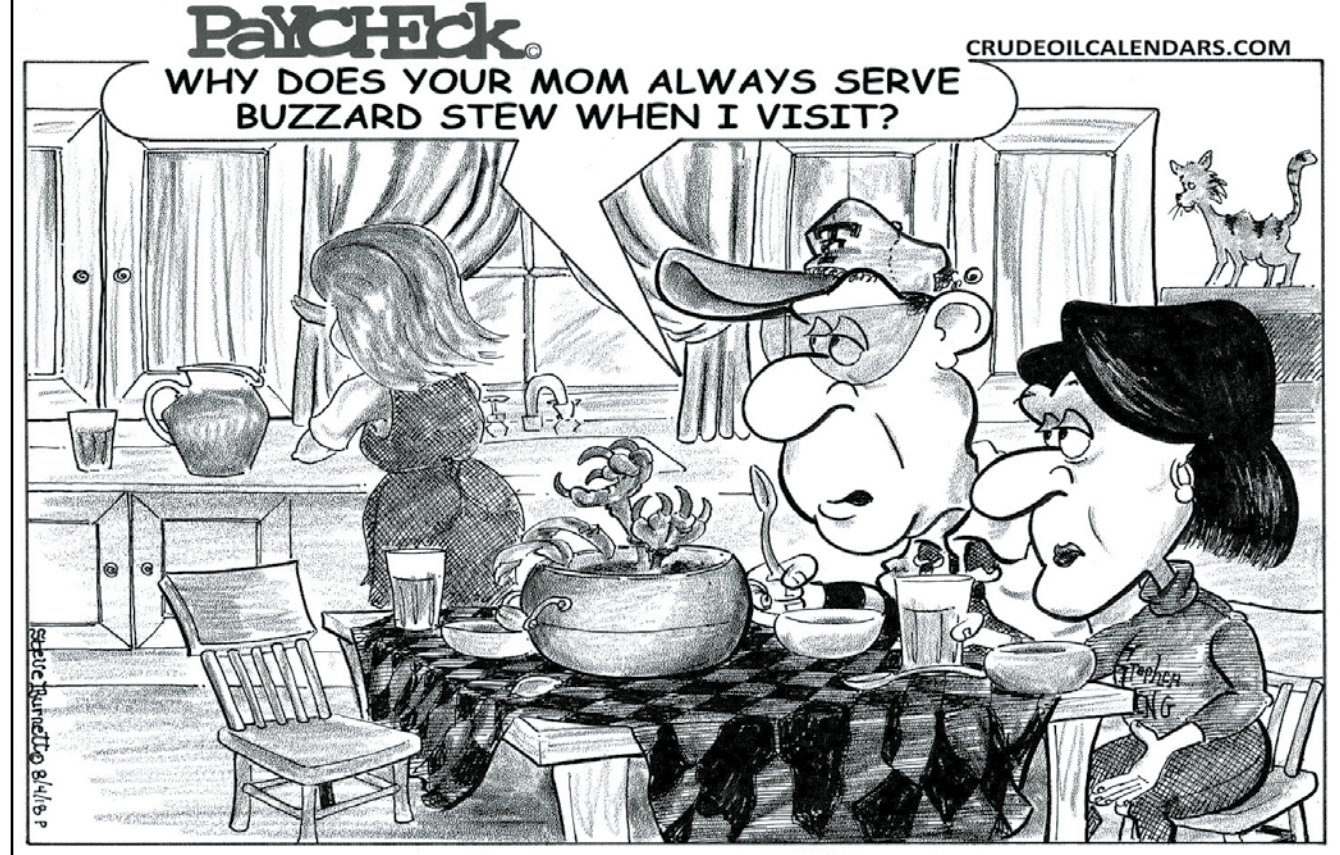
"Bert," said Doc, "why don't you just buy goat's milk at the store?"

"Maizie says she needs it fresh, because it's better. You guys ever notice how a goat has horns and cloven hooves?"

We nodded.

Then Bert said, "I don't think I need to add anything to that."

Brought to you by Ol' Jimmy Dollar, Slim's children's book about a happy hounddog man and his "kids." See it at riograndebooks.com.



The Postscript: Raising the Roof

The roof fell in on the church I started attending

The collapse occurred after I'd been coming only a couple of weeks. While I have not always been a regular churchgoer, I thought this was kind of an over-the-top response to my unexpected appearance in church.

The collapse was pretty serious, as it turned out. Several roof joists snapped and the rest were badly compromised and we were not permitted to return to the sanctuary. So, services had to be held in the basement (which was not directly underneath). The roof came down in January—of last year—we are still in the basement.

"What's our word for the year?" one of the church's two pastors would ask at the start of every service.

"Flexibility!" the congregation would reply, in unison.

It might have been my imagination but I sensed that a fair portion of the parishioners felt that yoga class would be a better place to practice this than church.

The first few weeks were a bit disorienting. The basement is long and narrow so it was hard to know how to set up the folding chairs. One arrangement was tried the first week but when

we arrived the second week, the chairs were in an entirely new set-up. Older parishioners would enter the room and stand for several long moments, surveying the landscape, to get their bearings.

When the formation of the building committee was announced, there were plenty of eager volunteers. The thing about church committees is that they almost always involve:

- 1) cooking something,
- 2) visiting very sick people or,
- 3) asking people for money.

No one actually likes going to the hospital or asking for money and going to battle with an insurance company beats making a tuna noodle casserole any day of the week. But, as the months went by, I began to worry that this committee was, perhaps, having just a little too much fun.

They spent months going back and forth with the insurance adjustors and the committee chairman became a minor celebrity. He'd announce who'd won the latest round in church and folks would cheer as if it were some new kind of competitive sport.

Apparently, we are now getting close.

The project grew, as projects like this almost always do. The pews were in need of refinishing and the radiators needed an up-

grade and the lighting was pretty badly damaged when the roof dropped down like the underside of a boat.

"I think we'll be in for Easter!" the chairman announced. That will be sixteen months after the collapse, and far longer, I am sure, than anyone imagined it would be.

On the way out last Sunday, I looked at the pews, lined up in the narthex with a new coat of stain and brand-new cushions on them. It's going to be nice, no question.

But I wondered if I would be the only one to feel a little nostalgic for our year of "flexibility." I wondered if joining this new church would have been as rich an experience if I'd been comfortably sitting in a pew the whole time.

Every week, we've had to move and adapt to change. Every week, the church has faced the challenge of how it can fit everyone in and still accomplish its many other functions the other six days of the week. Every week the congregation has had to work together in ways they never have before.

While I'm certainly not wishing for the roof to fall in on anyone, I'm not sure it's been such a bad thing.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.



CARRIE CLASSON

US border clampdown forces Venezuelan teen into Mexico alone

HOUSTON (AP) — A Venezuelan teenager has been forced back to Mexico by U.S. government authorities who denied her claims that she was fleeing political repression and violence, even after they accepted the same claims from her father.

The teenager, who is being identified by only her first name, Branyerly, is living alone in Matamoros, Mexico, across from Brownsville. According to her attorney, U.S. border agentson Monday and Tuesday denied her request-snot to be sent back under the Trump administration's so-called "Remain in Mexico" program for migrants.

Branyerly and her father could not request asylum under another Trump policy, a ban on most asylum claims at the southern border for people who came through a "third country." But in January, an immigration judge allowed her father, Branly, into the U.S. by granting what's called withholding of removal, which requires meeting a higher legal standard.

That same judge denied withholding for Branyerly, who was 17 when she originally arrived at the border and is now 18. Both she and her fathersay the immigration judge, Monica Thompson Guidry, asked him most questions during the hearing and asked her relatively few. The final result came as a shock to both of them.

She tried to request parole Monday at one of the bridges connecting Brownsville and Matamoros. She was taken into an office on the U.S. side briefly, then told to return to Mexico.

"I already lived one nightmare in Venezuela and another here," Branyerly said.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has overseen an economic collapse and political turmoil that's led to hundreds of thousands of people seeking refuge in the United States and elsewhere.

President Donald Trump in his State of the Union address this month called

Maduro a "socialist dictator" and said "all Americans are united with the Venezuelan people in their righteous struggle for freedom." But many Venezuelans seeking refuge in the U.S. have been barred by a series of Trump administration policies clamping down on asylum.

"It's not only ironic but it smacks of speaking out of both sides of your mouth," said Jodi Goodwin, Branyerly's attorney.

Branly says his political problems began when he rejected a job that would have required him to support the ruling party. After he turned down the job, Branly says, he started receiving threatening calls at his home, saying his wife and daughter would be kidnapped.

He and his wife left Venezuela for the U.S. in early 2019, leaving their daughter with a family friend. But she was soon threatened as well. So Branly returned to Venezuela to find Branyerly, then traveled with her through Mexico to the southern U.S. border. They arrived in July, shortly before her 18th birthday, and were placed into the "Remain in Mexico" program until their January hearing.

Goodwin said Branyerly was in a "particularly vulnerable situation" as the daughter of a known political activist.

"She is vulnerable as a migrant. She is vulnerable as a child. She is vulnerable as a woman," Goodwin wrote in her request to U.S. Customs and Border Protection that Branyerly be allowed into the U.S. while her immigration case continues. "In other words, there are any number of categories within which it is easy to tell that she is vulnerable being alone in Mexico."

CBP declined to comment Tuesday.

As Branly spoke about his daughter's plight in Mexico and the guilt he feels, he began to weep. His voice choked up.

"What I care about is my daughter," he said. "How did they do it for me but not my daughter? I don't understand. I don't understand."

Woman who got pardon push by Kardashian West helps friend

DALLAS (AP) — A 40-year-old Texas woman was among nearly a dozen people granted clemency Wednesday by President Donald Trump after her case was championed by a woman who herself got clemency at the urging of reality TV star Kim Kardashian West.

Crystal Munoz, who spent the last 12 years in prison after being convicted on marijuana charges, found an effective advocate in former federal prisoner Alice Marie Johnson.

Johnson, who the president granted clemency in June 2018 and who was featured in one of Trump's campaign ads during this year's Super Bowl, spent years with Munoz at a federal prison in Fort Worth, Texas.

They were in the same housing unit and attended church together. Johnson told The Associated Press she came to think of the younger woman as "one of my prison daughters."

"We did a lot of crying and a lot of praying together for things to change for us," Johnson said.

Munoz was sentenced to nearly 20 years in prison after being convicted in 2007 of conspiring to distribute marijuana. But she contends her only role was drawing a map others allegedly used in moving the drugs from Mexico to Texas. Her lawyer failed

to adequately defend her at trial, Munoz said in court filings.

Munoz gave birth while in federal custody and was shackled during her delivery, according to Amy Ralston Povah, the founder and president of the non-profit Clemency for All Non-Violent Drug Offenders Foundation, which advocated for Munoz's release. The bipartisan criminal justice bill known as the First Step Act, which Trump signed into law in 2018, banned the shackling of pregnant women.

Johnson said that after she was released she could not stop thinking about how to help Munoz, and other women in prison.

The chance came in October when, Johnson said, Trump asked her for a list of others deserving clemency during a criminal justice conference at historically black Benedict College in South Carolina.

"Kim made a difference going to the White House fighting for me," Johnson said, "so if I can fight for something I definitely wasn't going to turn that opportunity down."

Man kept driving with body of person he hit

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A driver has been arrested after police said he fatally struck a pedestrian in Austin, Texas, kept driving for about half a mile with the mangled body in the car and then went to a beer garden.

Paul Joseph Garcia, 24, remained in jail Tuesday on charges of intoxication man-

slaughter and accident involving injury. An arrest affidavit says witnesses told officers Saturday night that they saw a Ford Focus hit a person who was on foot and then keep driving.

The affidavit says the body of the pedestrian, who has not been named, went through the windshield and was found in the passenger

seat. The affidavit said the pedestrian had extreme injuries to the head and some body parts were detached.

The affidavit said that after getting out of the car, Garcia walked barefoot into a beer garden.

Garcia was being held on \$110,000 bond. Jail records don't list an attorney for him.

Man stabs child at random in McDonald's

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A 25-year-old man was arrested Tuesday afternoon after authorities said he randomly stabbed a child while she was in the play area at a McDonald's restaurant in El Paso, Texas.

Police say the girl — who is about 4 or 5 years old — was in stable condition at a hospital after undergoing surgery.

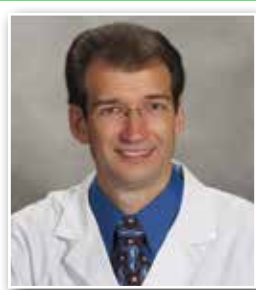
The suspect fled on foot but was found hiding in nearby motel room and was arrested, police said. Police have not yet released the suspect's name.

No further information was immediately available.

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The Education Page

The Buffalo Bulletin



Courtesy photo

Forsan ISD is in its first full year being recognized as a permanent FFA Charter. The FFA program is a rewarding program that provides great opportunities for each of its members.

Currently, new fences and pens are being built in order to house the Forsan ISD FFA members' projects. At the present time, the FFA members are caring for several animals that are being housed at the FFA farm. The current animals at the FFA farm has provided the students and the community members the opportunity to come and feed and see the animals living at the Forsan FFA farm.

I am blessed to have each one of my current members. This program would not be successful without their efforts and willingness to grow and learn. I am honored to be part of this great program and community.

-Mr. Short



Little Buffs



Courtesy photos

In second grade, February is the month for hearts and love AND math facts. In Mrs. Jones' class, students used their creativity to water-color designs on heart shaped Valentine card containers. On Valentine's Day the students enjoyed passing out

Valentine cards and filling up the container. Students have also been engaged in a variety of learning activities that focus on subtraction math facts. Dice and spinner games are their favorite.

Academic Star Student of the Week Big Spring High School, Joe Loya

This week's Star Student from Big Spring High is Joe Loya. He's a Big Spring native and is in the class of 2023. Joe is the son of Joe Anthony Loya and the grandson of Jesus Loya.

Joe is one of those fine young men who already has a burning desire for his future and he knows how he's going to get there too. If he's not paying attention in class or asking good questions, he's learning more about photography and listening to the Beatles. "My grandfather influenced me a great deal when it comes to music," claims Joe. While most people's taste in music starts to go backwards in the mid to late 20s, Joe's has already started.

Joe is easy to pick out in the high school crowd too, he's the one packing a camera. "I want to continue to get better with photography," claims Joe. "Many people don't realize it but it's extremely fun, and you're also committing a moment to eternity. That frame is never going to change. You can look back at that photo when time has passed and get sentimental."

"My favorite quote is by William Eggleston 'Often people ask what I'm photographing, which is a hard question to answer. And the best I've come up with is: Life today'"

According to Joe's history teacher, Rick Liles, "My dealings with Joe indicate that he is a very respectful, conscious young man who will most likely make a very positive contribution to society." And Joe's English teacher, Becky Valbuena, said, "I love that Joe is very witty and has a great sense of humor."

Joe has had the opportunity to work with local professional photographers and Bruce Scholer of Red Barn Studios said, "I have really enjoyed getting to know Joe. He has a passion for photography and I enjoy encouraging him in his passion. His knowledge of photography is amazing for someone so young. Not many young people know what ISO, aperture and depth of field mean but Joe does and he loves learning about the art of photography. Joe is also mature beyond his years and it shows in his communication skills and his work ethic. I know Joe will work hard and be successful not only in his photography but in everything he pursues."

According to Billy Morgan who helps students learn Science and Robotics at Big Spring Junior High, "I'm sure I could just reply with the standard remarks about how good of a student he was (and he was), but my fondest memories of having Joe in class were our conversations about music. While never one to judge another's taste in music as it is such a subjective subject, I would have to say that he had the best taste in music, at least in how much it aligned with my own. I enjoyed talking about the Foo Fighters with him and sharing or receiving new music recommendations. It was always something that I looked forward to."

Joe's uncle Jesse Loya passed away last year, but before he did, he gave one of the greatest gifts that an uncle can give; he spent time with Joe and left a positive influence on him. "He taught me how to play guitar and come up with riffs," said Joe. "I wouldn't know what I know if it weren't for him. I like music, from Wynonie Harris to Black Sabbath, to Queen, to Cheap Trick. There's a ton of bands I could mention but I'm not since it's a bit much. I'm not sure where my love of photography came from, I still think it's insane that I'm recording light with the click of a button, but I think that's why I like it so much; I'm freezing moments."

Like many successful individuals who have gone before him, Joe is in the middle of that period of his life where he's putting fuel in his tanks and getting ready to launch.

Congratulations Joe!

THE BULLDOG REPORT



Courtesy photo

Congratulations to Nash Wegner, a fourth grader at Coahoma ISD's Academy program, who was named the Howard County Sheriff's Star Student of the Month. Nash is pictured with Sheriff Stan Parker.

Howard softball moving up polls to No. 6



Courtesy Photo/Tony Claxton (claxtonphotography.com)

Pictured above left: A Howard base-runner slides into second base during an early-season game against Cisco. Pictured above right: Defending National Player of the Year Amanda Gonzalez looks on as her teammate tags out a Cisco player.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

Softball season is now in full swing with teams across the nation starting up their schedules. Howard has begun their 2020 season on a hot streak that includes only one loss in their first 12 games. They have jumped up the polls through the first two weeks and are currently the sixth-ranked team in the nation.

“All-around I’m proud of how we’ve performed,” Howard Manager Kelly Raines said.

There are many things to like about this Howard Hawks softball team. They have the 2019 National Player of the Year returning and still slugging away from her shortstop position. There are also nine more sophomores comprising the roster who have plenty of big-game experience.

Howard has also been lighting up the scoreboards through their first dozen games. The Hawks have played five games where they have recorded double-digit runs scored and have a season-high of 18. Three players for the Hawks have hit six home runs through the first 12 games.

“Our hitting is pretty much our strength and we came out showing that,” Raines said. “We play some tough teams and to beat those teams is good.”

One of those players is freshman second baseman Barbora Saviola. In a team-leading 45 at-bats, Saviola has 19 hits and has scored 20 runs while also leading her squad in RBIs (23).

Gonzalez currently has a batting average of .622 with 23 hits in 37 at-bats. She has also added six steals to her resume in the early part of the season. Last season’s NJCAA Player of the Year has picked up where she left off and is looking to be on the verge of another stellar season.

“Everybody is excited to see her play and it makes everyone else do better also,” Raines said. “She’s a great player and so far she’s off to a great start.”

Four pitchers have thrown for the Hawks this season. Marin Musicant is the sophomore veteran of the bunch and has an ERA of 2.60 through 35 innings pitched. Her freshman counterpart, Kirsten Martinez, has thrown 34 innings with an ERA of 3.71 and a perfect 6-0 record with four complete games pitched.

Even with the confidence and swagger that the Hawks pitching staff is playing with right now, Raines would like to continue to see improvement from the mound.

“You’ve always got to have your pitching be better,” Raines said. “I think we have a pitching staff. We definitely need to have a pitching staff instead of one player.”

A dozen games have been played and the Hawks seem to be even more confident than they were during last year’s 46-11 campaign. With Raines at the helm, Howard has a strong skipper who can put her players in the best position to win.

With four games coming up this weekend, it will be a good test for the Hawks to get back on-track after their first loss of the season to Western Nebraska. With a solid showing, Howard could find themselves shooting up the polls even farther.

UP NEXT: Howard plays a pair of games at Weatherford on Friday afternoon (2:00/4:00) and will host Ranger on Saturday (2:00/4:00).

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

Texas Tech baseball ranked No. 1 for first time since 1997

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

After starting the season as the No. 3-ranked team in all the land, the Texas Tech Red Raiders have quickly shot up the polls and are the new top-ranked team in the nation in two separate polls: the National Collegiate Baseball Writer’s Association (NCBWA) and Collegiate Baseball Newspaper.

The Red Raiders have dominated their first four outings. They opened up the season with a visit from Houston Baptist and outscored them by a total of 29-4. In the first game of the season, Texas Tech was able to pick up their 32nd opening day win since 1985 and held Houston Baptist to only two hits in a 5-1 win. Texas Tech sent out a freshman-laden lineup that showed their strengths through the season’s opening weekend. Clayton Beeter was the starting pitcher who made his first collegiate start for the Red Raiders and also picked up his first career win. Team stalwart Brian Klein notched his 46th multi-hit game of his career and the Red Raiders appeared to be clicking on all cylinders.

The second game between the two squads was cut short after seven innings of utter brilliance from each aspect of the Texas Tech lineup in a 24-3 win. The Red Raiders were on fire at the plate and launched seven home runs in the contest. That was

their highest total of single-game home runs since they also rocketed seven home runs into the stands in a game against Missouri way back in 1997. Three pitchers made their Red Raider debuts and combined to allow only three runs from the mound. Division I National Player of the Week Nate Rombach is a freshman who hit a staggering three homers in this game and was the first to accomplish that feat since Michael Mask did it in 2004. Transfer pitcher Austin Becker picked up his first career win after notching only a few innings of playing time at Vanderbilt. He struck out four batters and helped his team head into their second series of the season with a ton of confidence.

After controlling the game against Houston Baptist, the Red Raiders faced-off against Northern Colorado a few hours later last Saturday afternoon. Texas Tech’s offense kept the heat on the starting pitcher and bullpen as they continued their dominance against their second opponent of the year. Between the second game against HBU and the first contest with Northern Colorado, the Red Raiders combined for 46 homers scored on 45 hits. They launched four more home runs against the Bears and the slugger Rombach was not done for the day. He sent another ball into the bleachers and finished his day with four home runs and five extra-base hits. Freshman shortstop Cal Conley hit an inside-

the-park home run in the dismantling and also recorded a home run in consecutive games. On the mound, Bryce Bonnin had eight strikeouts and picked up his first win of the season.

In the final game of the weekend, the Red Raiders run-ruled their opponent for the second time in four games as they came out of Sunday with a 14-3 win. Texas Tech stole four bases and had six players record an RBI. Rombach once again hit another home run, his third straight game with at least one, and finished the weekend with a total of five. Mason Montgomery earned his first win of the season and did not walk a single batter in his four innings pitched.

The Red Raiders outscored their opponents 65-11 over opening weekend and launched themselves into the top spot in the nation. They showed excellent play on both offense and defense and had 24 shutout innings of baseball across the four games.

Their new No. 1-ranking is the highest the Red Raiders have been ranked since 1997. The competition will get tougher quickly with games against Stanford, Tennessee, and Houston awaiting this upcoming weekend.

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

Coahoma softball opens season with loss to Lamesa

Special to the Herald

LAMESA — The Coahoma Bulldogettes softball team dropped their season opener against the Lamesa Golden Tornadoes 4-3 on Tuesday.

Coahoma got on the scoreboard first when MaKynlee Overton belted a hard ground ball and made it to first base on an error. That allowed Ashley Romero enough time to hike it from second base to home for the run in the first inning.

Cailey Glover scored in the fourth inning from a ground out by Kenzi Canales, and Jocelyn Olivarez brought in Romero for the Bulldogettes third run of the game when she singled on a hard ground ball to center field in the fifth inning.

Olivarez and Romero both went 1-for-3 at bat. Christian Everett took the loss for Coahoma. She allowed three runs on two hits and struck out four over three innings. Overton stepped into the circle in the fourth inning. The Coahoma High School junior allowed one run on no hits and struck out four.

Coahoma	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
Madison Rodgers	4	0	0	0	0
Ashley Romero	3	2	1	0	1
Jocelyn Olivarez	3	0	1	1	0
MaKynlee Overton	1	0	0	0	2
Caitlyn Corley	3	3	0	0	0
Christian Everett	3	0	0	0	0

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 12

NCAA Baseball Top 25 (Collegiate Baseball)

Ranking	Team	Overall	Points	Prev
1	Texas Tech	4-0	496	3
2	Miami (FL)	3-0	495	4
3	Michigan	3-1	492	10
4	Louisville	1-2	489	1
5	Vanderbilt	1-2	486	2
6	Mississippi St.	3-0	483	6
7	Georgia	3-0	481	7
8	Auburn	4-0	478	8
9	Arkansas	3-0	475	9
10	UCLA	3-0	473	12
11	Arizona State	2-2	471	5
12	LSU	2-1	469	11
13	N. Carolina	3-0	466	13
14	Florida	3-0	463	14
15	Florida State	2-1	460	15
16	NC State	3-0	457	16
17	Wake Forest	3-1	454	17
18	Arizona	3-0	452	18
19	Ole Miss	2-1	451	NR
20	TCU	3-0	449	20
21	Texas A&M	3-0	446	21
22	Texas	3-0	444	22
23	East Carolina	3-0	442	NR
24	C. Michigan	3-1	439	NR
25	Cal St. Fullert.	2-1	437	NR

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The Wood Group is hiring Mental Health Aides for Residential facility. Weekends Sat & Sun (8am to 8pm), (8pm to 8am) and PRN shifts available. This is an entry level position no certifications required. To apply visit our website www.thewoodgroup.us and fax application to 432-264-2773. For questions call 432-263-7331.

We are looking for an ambitious, creative, self-starter, to fill a staff writer role at the Big Spring Herald. Do you have a heart to share others stories and the desire to be involved in your community? We want to hear from you!

Responsibilities and Duties: This individual would provide news coverage, build pages, and update social media accounts/website.

Qualifications and Skills; Indesign and Photoshop are a plus, but will train the right person. We are looking for a creative, outgoing individual familiar with social media. Must be a self-starter, and be able to meet deadlines.

Individual will be responsible for several areas of coverage, from feature stories to hard news. Must have a flexible schedule.

Contact Amanda Duforat 432-263-7331 Ext. 230 or email editor@bigspringherald.com for questions or to submit your resume.

Job Type: Full Time

Public Notice

Notice of Public Sale Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code Reliable Self Storage which is located at 1908 Wasson Rd., Big Spring, Tx 79720, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Sale will be held at 10 am on March 7, 2020 at Reliable Self

Public Notice

Storage 1908 Wasson Rd., Big Spring, Tx 79720. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants:

- Christopher Mims #538
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Wind Down on Lunar Lunacy

ARIES (March 21-April 19). None will question your ability to lead. The thing is that you're not yet sure about where, why and how you want them to go. Get clear on that and the expedition will be a given.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's a mystery to solve, and you'll love getting to the bottom of it. You're equipped with all the right tools for the job, namely diplomacy and curiosity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've a solid feel for one part of a deal, and then there are other parts in which you're not so surefooted. With study and repetition, you will master every aspect of the interaction. Keep at it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Remember the time reality was better than your dreams? It happens rarely, but that's only because of the amazing

breadth of your imagination. Rest assured, it will happen again. You're due.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you can't find what you need, what does it matter if it's inside of you or outside of you? The point is that it's not in your hand. There's someone who can help you with this. Start asking around.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You think you know what enough love is, but you're already loved so much more than that. You are loved beyond what you could measure. What will you get busy on, knowing that love is already covered?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be dealing with people who are great in different ways. It makes no sense to value one way more than another. Assume there is merit across the board and look for ways to bring people together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You see the

problem that is standing in your way but what you might not see is that this problem is the way. Right now it looks like an obstacle instead of the grand opportunity it really is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being an excellent team member is a useful skill and one you should be quite proud of now. What you accomplish in the group will be more satisfying and meaningful than what you accomplish alone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Joy is not

some-thing to guard or hoard, rather it's something to participate in. This joy you feel is not your own. It belongs to the larger body of joy, as ocean spray belongs to the ocean.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It takes the same amount of energy to do a very positive thing as it does to do a very negative thing. People generally do the thing that is most readily available to the moment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just because yours is a spiritual

sign doesn't mean you're always inclined to meditate, pray and the like. Practical action can do just as much to put you in a beautiful mindset and expand your spirit.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 20). Your cosmic birthday gift is an attitude you can wear like an outfit -- an easy approach to life that naturally balances, puts things in an order that makes sense, gives you the space to create in a rhythm that feels good to you. The key thing here is to remove excess, incorporate silence and leave room for felicity. Aries and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 50, 17, 2 and 8.

HOW TO PLAN A DATE BY THE MOON: One way to keep your personal life tracking with the cosmic tides is to plan your dates by the moon. To find out where the moon is, type into a search engine the question, "What sign is the moon in?" What will come up is a wealth of lunar cal-

endars. When the moon is in Aries, the best dates will involve action. Sweat is a bonus. War games are the ultimate, think: video game date, laser tag, racquetball, football, archery lessons, a shooting range, ax throwing and the like.

A Taurus moon is the moon of appetite and therefore an ideal time to indulge the senses, which will be especially attuned to quality and luxury. This is the lunar moment for fine dining, shopping and satisfying whatever cravings have built up over the last four weeks.

People will be drawn to groups when the moon is in Gemini, and the need to communicate, flirt and make a match will be strong. Fun happens at mixers, parties, bowling, softball, dances and anything that involves making a toast.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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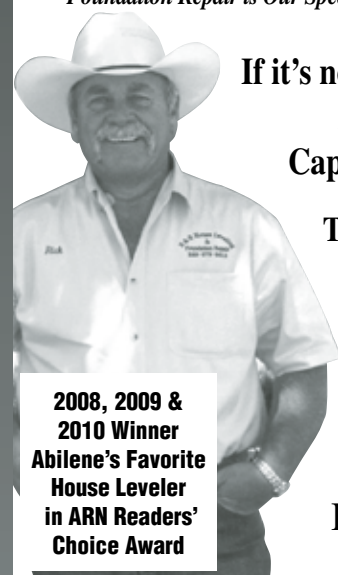
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Annie's Mailbox

Eyes on the Clock

Dear Annie: I've had my current job for four years. I work at a small company of about 20 employees. My co-worker, "Beth," has been here about a year longer than me. She joined my department about six months ago. One thing I appreciate about my department is our work-life balance. We care about our work, but we also care about having time for our families and other interests outside of work. I will, of course, stay late when there's something urgent or important that I need to get done or if a co-worker needs help with something. But that only happens maybe once a month. Even then, I rarely stay more than an hour later.

Beth previously worked in a department of self-professed workaholics. They pride themselves on regularly working 11-hour days. She's brought that attitude with her to my little department, and it's upsetting the rea-

sonable dynamics.

I leave work around 6:05 p.m. or 6:10 p.m. (My day ends at 6 p.m.) We work in an open office, so my co-workers can see when I'm taking off for the day. Every day, without fail, I see Beth looking up at the clock in the corner of her computer screen or glancing down at her watch. It drives me bonkers. I hate feeling like she's judging me.

I've thought about casually mentioning all I've accomplished throughout the day as I get ready to head out, but then I realize that would be silly. It's not as though she's my boss. (My boss, by the way, leaves around the same time as me, though from her separate office.)

How would you handle this? -- I Like My Evenings, Thanks

Dear ILMET: It's time for you to stop caring about whatever Beth may think about you -- which you really don't know one way or the other. Perhaps she always looks at the

clock when you get up to leave because she's thinking, "Wow, I can't believe it's already 6." Working late does not necessarily mean working hard. If you can get all your work done within normal hours, that means you're efficient. If Beth enjoys staying late at work every night, let her knock herself out.

Dear Annie: We have been living in our house for more than 30 years and have always had pets. We've never had a mouse problem in the house -- until now. This has been a very cold winter, and I saw a tiny mouse in the kitchen sink several weeks ago. I turned the water on and didn't see the mouse for weeks, but this week I have heard mouse noises and seen evidence of cat treat bags bitten or scratched open, and our cat's food and treats tampered with. Is there anything I can do to get rid of the mouse (or mice) without endangering our cat? -- Karen in Kansas City,

MO
Dear Karen in Kansas City: When nature comes inside, there are natural ways to show it the door. For mice, deterrents include the wonderful-smelling peppermint oil and the not-so-wonderful-smelling bobcat urine. (You can find predator urine at home improvement stores and online.) Some also have reported success with Tabasco sauce.

Be sure to keep your house extra clean. Store pet food in airtight plastic containers. Plug any holes that might be mouse entryways with steel wool, the one material that they cannot chew through.

See the Humane Society's "Humane Rodent Solutions" page for more tips on nontoxic methods of mouse removal (<https://www.hsi.org/news-media/humane-rodent-solutions>).

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

An unnecessary finesse

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

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

EAST

- ♠ Q 9 7 2
- ♥ 5
- ♦ A 10 7 6
- ♣ K 10 5 3

SOUTH

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

The bidding:
East Pass South 2♥ West Pass North 4♥
Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

One of the great rewards in bridge derives from salvaging a hand where all the key cards appear to be badly placed for declarer.

Take this case where West leads the queen of diamonds against South's four-heart contract. West is unlikely to have the ace, so South ducks the queen as well as the J-9 when West continues the suit.

Declarer ruffs East's ten and

notes the possibility of losing two club tricks if he finesses the queen. Unwilling to rely exclusively on the club finesse succeeding, South draws three rounds of trump and plays the K-6 of spades, finessing the jack. If West has the queen, South gains his 10th trick; if West doesn't have it, the club finesse is still available.

In the actual case, the spade finesse loses, and South ruffs the diamond return. Down to his last chance, South tries the club finesse, but this too goes awry, and the contract fails.

Admittedly, it is very unlucky to find three cards — the ace of diamonds, queen of spades and king of clubs — all badly placed, but even so the unsatisfactory outcome is essentially declarer's fault, as he missed the surest line of play.

After ruffing the diamond ten at trick three, South should draw three rounds of trump, ending in dummy, and then lead the king of diamonds.

When East produces the ace, declarer discards a club — a loser-on-loser play. This forces East to return a spade or a club, either of which hands South his 10th trick. The luck element is totally eliminated by this method of play.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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Clyde holds off Coahoma's 4th quarter rally in season's final game

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — Clyde held off a serious rally by Coahoma in the waning minutes of the fourth quarter to earn a 56-51 victory on Tuesday night for the last game of the season.

Clyde went on an early 11-point run within the first two minutes of the opening quarter forcing Coahoma to play catch-up all evening. The first points on the scoreboard came from Gaige Hill, who gave Coahoma a much-needed wake up call by nailing a 3-point goal at the 5:08 mark.

It was Hill's shooting that kept his team in the game. He sank six 3-Point Goals, four in the third quarter alone, and had a team high of 20 points.

By the middle of the fourth quarter, Clyde had an 11-point lead on Coahoma when Brayden Smith sank a basket from behind the arc and led his team to a late-in-the-game rally. Coahoma earned five points from a field goal by Smith and a 3-pointer by Garrett Anderson to bring their team within four of tying.

With 36 seconds left, Smith buried a 3-point shot and then another field goal and suddenly Coahoma was within two points of Clyde. Clyde answered back at the charity stripe then Smith charged down the court and buried his third 3-point shot of the night to bring Coahoma within one, 52-51.

However, Clyde was able to capitalize on a couple of Coahoma fouls to save the game. Coahoma ends the 2019-2020 season with a 2-10 district record.



Courtesy Photo

Gaige Hill muscles his way around a Clyde defender during the game on Tuesday. Hill had a team high of 20 points.

Coahoma: 9, 8, 16, 18 -- 51

Clyde — J. Roberts 16, T. Patton 19, B. Brashear 3, M. Burlison 7, C. Moseley 9, D. Porter 2.

Coahoma — Tony Hagins 2, Zack Schneider 7, Brayden Smith 15, Gaige Hill 20, Kolt Redden 2, Garrett Anderson 5.

Free Throws — Clyde 19-29, Coahoma 7-8; 3-Point Goals — Clyde 5 (Roberts 2, Patton, Brashear, Moseley), Coahoma 10 (Hill 6, Smith 3, Anderson); Fouls — Clyde 11, Coahoma 22, Fouled Out — Isaiah Martin, Braxton Chandler, Schneider.

JV Bulldogs fall to Clyde

COAHOMA — The JV Bulldogs ended their season with a 49-27 loss to Clyde on Tuesday. D'Kota Harrison led the Bulldogs on points. He collected 14 followed by Brysen Kerby with 9.

CLYDE 49, JV COAHOMA 27

Clyde: 12, 7, 22, 8 -- 49
Coahoma: 7, 8, 4, 8 -- 27

Clyde — Cantu 10, Fish 4, Long 2, Zeigler 2, Laughlin 9, Hawk 5, Messina 11, Porter 6.

Coahoma — Brysen Kerby 9, Ashford 4, D'Kota Harrison 14.

Free Throws — Clyde 5-5, Coahoma 5-14; 3-Point Goals — Clyde 4; Foul — Clyde 15, Coahoma 4.

CLYDE 56, COAHOMA 51

Clyde: 18, 10, 13, 15 -- 56

Mills scores 27, No. 22 Houston beats Tulsa, 76-43

HOUSTON (AP) — Caleb Mills came to life at the right time, sparking a huge second half by Houston.

Mills scored 22 of his 27 points in the second half to lead No. 22 Houston to a 76-43 win over Tulsa on Wednesday night.

"I came into the game, and I didn't want to settle for three's because it's been off," said Mills, who made 9 of his 16 shot, including five 3-pointers. "I started getting my shots, and it started coming to me."

Mills, who is a redshirt freshman, had scored 10 points combined over his previous two games on 3 of 21 shooting and 0 for 8 on 3-pointers.

"Freshman hit that wall a little bit," Houston coach Kelvin Sampson said.

"They haven't played basketball this long, this intense, this many games. The youngster over here (Mills) was hitting that wall a little bit. He struggled here lately. I told him at shoot-around, he needed to start mixing some makes with his misses."

Nate Hinton added 15 points for Houston (21-6, 11-3 American), which shot 41%.

The Cougars moved into sole possession of first place in the American with the win combined with Cincinnati's loss to Central Florida on Wednesday. The Cougars rebounded after losing to SMU, 73-72, in overtime on Saturday and avenged a 63-61 loss at Tulsa on Jan. 11.

Martins Igbanu had 15 points, and

Jeriah Horne added 12 points and seven rebounds for Tulsa (17-9, 9-4). The Golden Hurricane shot 35% but were 4 of 20 on 3-pointers.

"We didn't shoot the ball well," Tulsa coach Frank Haith said. "We didn't make shots when we needed to, and we had the chance. We had some good looks. You got to give Houston credit. They started making shots and got going. That freshman kid, Mills, is really good."

Houston opened the second half by outscoring Tulsa, 30-8, to take a 56-28 lead with 11½ minutes remaining behind Mills, who scored 20 points in the run.

"At halftime, we tweaked one thing with Caleb, making him a baseline

runner," Sampson said. "We told him to attack."

With just under 13 minutes remaining in the game, Tulsa's frustrations and tensions between the two teams heated up.

Haith was ejected with 12:50 left in the second half after receiving two technical fouls within two seconds.

After Igbanu was called for traveling on the ensuing possession, Igbanu shoved his shoulder into Fabian White Jr, who fell to the ground. The two teams had to be separated, and Igbanu and White were issued technical fouls on the play, while Elijah Joiner was ejected for an unsportsmanlike flagrant two technical foul for running up on to the play.

Newman released from hospital; Chastain to race Las Vegas

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Ryan Newman was released from a Florida hospital Wednesday, about 42 hours after his frightening crash on the final lap of the Daytona 500.

Roush Fenway Racing released a photo of Newman leaving a Daytona Beach hospital holding the hands of his two young daughters. The announcement came just a few hours after the team said he was fully alert and walking around the hospital.

The 42-year-old Indiana native was taken by ambulance directly from the track in serious condition following the crash Monday night. Doctors said two hours after the accident that Newman's injuries were not life-threatening, but no details have been released.

His release from the hospital was rapid. Roush Fenway said earlier Wednesday that Newman "continues to show great improvement." The team added that "true to his jovial nature, he has also been joking around with staff, friends and family while playing with his two daughters" and included a photo of Newman standing in a hospital gown, smiling with his arms around the girls.

Two hours later, he was leaving the hospital in jeans, a T-shirt and socks, holding hands with his girls. The team released a third photo of Newman and his daughters with the staff that treated him following his crash.

"First and foremost, our focus remains with Ryan and his family as he continues to recover," Roush Fenway president Steve Newmark said. "We also want to express our sincere gratitude to all of those who have offered support and taken the time to send their thoughts and prayers to Ryan, his family and everyone at Roush Fenway Racing."

"The NASCAR community has long prided itself

on being a close-knit family. That is never more evident than during these types of moments."

Added team principal owner John W. Henry: "All of us at Fenway Sports Group are thankful for the wonderful news about Ryan's progress, and his release from the hospital today. Ryan is one tough hombre and we wish him a full recovery. We look forward to seeing Ryan and his family at the track again soon."

Roush Fenway said Ross Chastain will pilot the No. 6 Ford beginning this weekend at Las Vegas Motor Speedway and that a timetable for Newman's return has yet to be determined.

Chastain is running for the Xfinity Series championship this year for Kaulig Racing, but drove in the Daytona 500 last weekend for Spire Motorsports in a car fielded by Chip Ganassi.

"We want to express our appreciation to everyone at Chip Ganassi Racing as well as Kaulig Racing for allowing Ross to fill in for Ryan in the No. 6 on such short notice," Newmark said.

Chastain, an eighth-generation watermelon farmer, is gradually trying to move into NASCAR's top Cup Series. He's got 72 career Cup starts for small teams but has been waiting for a break in competitive equipment.

Chastain has won three times in the Truck Series and twice in the Xfinity Series, including a win at Las Vegas in 2018.

"No one could ever take the place of Ryan Newman on the track, and I can't wait to have him back," Chastain tweeted. "As we continue to pray for a full and speedy recovery, I'll do my best to make him and everyone at Roush Fenway Racing proud."

Newman was injured when he crashed while leading NASCAR's biggest race. Contact from Ryan Blaney sent Newman spinning into the wall and his Ford went airborne, where it was then hit by

Corey LaJoie in the driver side door.

The car landed on its roof, slid across Daytona International Speedway and came to a rest upside down and on fire, with gasoline pouring out of the vehicle. It took a safety team nearly 20 minutes to remove Newman from the car and he was taken directly to the hospital.

Blaney and LaJoie have stepped back from racing to process their roles in the accident. LaJoie climbed from his own burning car and dropped to his knees on the track, learning only after he was checked at the care center that Newman was injured.

Blaney seemed distraught as he paced beside his car following his second-place finish to Denny Hamlin. Fellow driver Bubba Wallace, one of Blaney's best friends, said he spent time with Blaney on Tuesday and advised him to stay off social media for a few days.

"He's holding up, of course devastated and bummed about the situation," Wallace posted on Twitter. "Had to sit there and explain to him could've happened to him or any of us in the field."

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SOFTBALL

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Kenzi Canales	2	0	0	1	1
Macee Grant	3	0	0	0	0
Shae Lang	2	0	0	0	0
Sydney Rinard	1	0	0	0	0
Pitches-Strikes:	Everett 48-29,	Overton 55-28,	Merrill 130-82		
Batters Faced:	Everett 16,	Overton 13,	Merrill 29		

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