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# BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY EDITION,  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2021

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VOLUME 116, NUMBER 129 COPYRIGHT 2021 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION



Upcoming Events

*Due to extreme weather and safety precautions Comanche Trail Park will be closed until further notice. We will notify the public when the park reopens. For any questions or concerns please contact the Community Services Office at 432-264-2516 or the City Managers Office at 432-264-2401.*

*As temperatures continue to remain low and repairs continue to be made please do your part to conserve energy and water. Together Big Spring and Howard County residents will get through this together.*

*Take a moment to thank a veteran for their service.*

## Oncor issues outage update to Howard County residents Wednesday

Special to the Herald  
 Oncor

There continues to be a lack of available generation, and as a result, controlled outages remain in place as directed by ERCOT. Due to lowered power demand overnight, Oncor and other utilities were able to restore some of the previously dropped power load and increase our capability to rotate some outages throughout the territory. Even with this increased capability, we still have many customers who continue to experience extended outages. We continue to strive toward providing any temporary relief that we can for those who have been without power the longest as soon as enough generation is available. However, as we saw yesterday, low temperatures of the early morning and increased power demand may result in direction from ERCOT to once again reduce additional load. We will continue to take their direction as we focus on ensuring the integrity of the electric grid. The second winter storm is also continuing to move through our service territory, potentially resulting in mul-

tiple inches of snow, significant ice and sleet accumulation. While weather impacts are ongoing, personnel and out of state mutual assistance contractors were staged across the territory before the storm and are now actively engaged in restoration efforts. These personnel are well experienced in working in extreme weather conditions and will be working around the clock to assess damages, clear debris and repair damaged equipment.

**FAQ's**  
**Q: Why is my power out?**  
 Customers have power outages for two primary reasons: First, controlled power outages in response to the shortage of generation. Oncor does not generate electricity or control or operate generation facilities – we deliver it. As a result of this generation shortage, ERCOT, which oversees the Texas electric grid, has directed transmission and distribution companies like Oncor to reduce load on the electrical grid through controlled outages. These controlled outages were intended to roll throughout the service territory, but the high amount of load dropped

from the grid prevented us and other utilities from performing regular rotations, leading to extended periods without power for many of our customers. We continue to strive toward providing any temporary relief that we can for those who have been without power the longest as soon as enough generation is available. Additionally, the second winter storm is also continuing to move through our service territory, potentially resulting in multiple inches of snow, significant ice and sleet accumulation. Personnel and out of state mutual assistance contractors are actively engaged in restoration efforts. **How does Oncor decide who is affected by controlled or rotating outages?** The location of controlled, or rotating, outages depends on a variety of load factors, including the amount ERCOT has directed us to drop and the amount available to be safely disconnected. These types of outages primarily occur in residential neighborhoods and commercial areas. We also strive to avoid dropping hospitals and other critical

See **ONCOR**, Page 3

## Scenic Mountain Medical Center hosts virtual lecture on Postpartum Depression



Dr. Erich Byerly, M.D.

Special to the Herald  
 SMMG  
 Scenic Mountain Medical Center invites the community to attend a virtual lecture to discuss Postpartum Depression on Thursday, February 25 from noon to 1:00 pm. The lecture will be led and presented by Erich Byerly, M.D. in Obstetrics and Gynecology. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 8 women report symptoms of depression after giving birth. Postpartum depression (Baby Blues), which can last months or years after giving birth, can affect a mother's ability to bond with and care for her baby. If left untreated, it can impact the mother's health and may cause sleeping, eating, and behavioral problems for the baby.

However, when maternal depression is effectively treated and managed, it benefits both mother and child. In this virtual lecture, Dr. Byerly will cover many important areas of Postpartum Depression and offer answers to commonly asked questions. Viewers may join the event using any PC, laptop or smart phone with this invite link: <https://bit.ly/2YLORYw> Attendees will also have the opportunity submit questions through the Q&A section of this platform for Dr. Byerly to address. This event is free and open to the public. This is the second of the virtual lectures that has been hosted by SMMG providers. A couple weeks ago, Dr. Gabrielle Rich held a virtual lecture on the importance of prenatal care.

## Community Report



Courtesy photo/Kelly Hankins  
 Before Howard County was pounded with power outages and frozen pipes, Kelly Hankins captured the beauty of the snowfall and ice on one of her trees in Howard County.

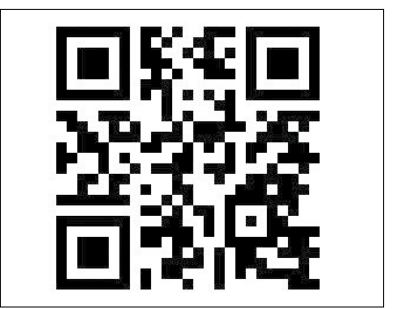
## BSISD Trustees call special meeting for this evening

By AMANDA DUFORAT  
 Managing Editor  
 The Big Spring ISD School Board of Trustees has called a special meeting to be held this evening at 5:15 in the High School Board Room, located at 707 E. 11th Place. The meeting will be called to order at the opening of the meeting, after the prayer and pledge takes place. There will be a moment for public comment held, which will allow time for those who are wishing to address the Trustees. As part of the Action Items agenda, the Board of Trustees will go into a closed session to discuss the Superintendent Annual Evaluation and Consider the Superintendent Contract under Texas Government Code 551.074; for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee. The Board will also be discussing and possibly approving the purchase of new freightliner buses for the district. Consideration will also be looked at for Budget Amendment and Expenditure over \$150,000 for the purchase of new buses. Before the meeting concludes, there will be discussion and possible action to approve TEA Waiver for inclement weather.

Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com)

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## Obituaries

## Sammy Ortega

Sammy Ortega, 61, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Sammy was born Aug. 3, 1959, in Big Spring to Paula and Jose Ortega.

Sammy is survived by his wife: Irma Ortega of Big Spring three sons: Anthony Ortega of Big Spring, Angelo Garcia of Bermerton, Wash-

ington, and Julian Garcia of Lynnwood, Washington; two daughters: Jennifer Ortega Lozano of Big Spring and Rosalinda Ortega Saenz of Big Spring; two brothers: Rudy Ortega of Big Spring and Carlos Ortega of Phoenix, Arizona; one sister: Mary Puga of Big Spring; and 17 grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Sammy was preceded in death by one grandson; and four brothers: Albert Ortega, Johnny Ortega, Raymond Ortega, and Jose Ortega.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Mae Evelyn Neisler (Smith)

Mae Evelyn Neisler (Smith), 84, went to be with her Lord on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021, at her home of 57 years in Arlington, Texas.

Mae was born Nov. 14, 1936, in Energy, Texas, to Byron B. and Anna E. (Hall) Smith. She was a graduate of Big Spring High School, Big Spring, Texas, and a retired teaching assistant for the Arlington ISD, Medical Secretary, homemaker, and member of First Baptist

Church of Arlington.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband of 52 years, Robert B. Neisler; brother, Byron B. Smith Jr.; sisters, Letha Williams and Ann Huggins. She is survived by two sons, Bobby of Double Oak, Tx, Kenny of Eules, Tx and brother Farrel Smith and wife Sue of Katy Tx; three granddaughters, Lindsey, Haley, and Katie; as well as three great-granddaughters, Brooklynne, Bailee, and Maddie.

Funeral service will be held Monday Feb. 15, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Moore Funeral Home in Arlington, Texas with burial at DFW National Cemetery. Viewing will Sunday, Feb 14, 2-3:30 p.m.

*Paid Obituary*

## Take Note

The City of Big Spring has reopened all indoor rentable facilities as of Monday, February 1, 2021 for normal operations. We still request that individuals holding events and persons attending events adhere to the following: Please wear a mask when not eating or drinking anything; Make sure to wash and/or sanitize your hands regularly; If you are not feeling well, running a fever, or have been exposed please do not attend events.

All City of Big Spring offices have reopened to the

public effective January 19, 2021. We ask citizens to act responsibly and follow all health precautions and sanitizing guidelines. We strongly recommend that citizens continue to practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently, stay home if you're sick, and wear a mask when in public areas.

West Texas Centers will be hosting the 2021 Mental Health First Aid training classes in February. Adult mental health virtual class will take place Feb. 17 from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

## 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 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](mailto: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, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 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

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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OUR DOWNTOWN BIG SPRING OFFICE WILL BE OPEN SOON!

# Covid-19 updated provided by SMMC

## Herald Staff Report

Administration at Scenic Mountain Medical Center has announced that while there is an allocation for second doses this week, they have not shipped yet and likely won't arrive until later this week. Those who received their first dose at SMMC may get an automated email from the portal with a follow-up appointment, but patients are being asked to not come to the hospital for the second shot as there are currently no shots available. The staff is working to get the portal updated with new appointments for later in the week or the following week.

The CDC continues to recommend that people get their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine as close to the recommended interval as possible (3 weeks for Pfizer-BioNTech, and 4 weeks for Moderna). CDC's updated guidance was revised to allow for second dose administration up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first if it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval.

CDC is not advocating for people to delay getting their second dose, but the data from clinical trials support this range.

SMMC does not currently have any vaccine. When another allotment from DSHS or a re-allocation from regional partners becomes available, in-

formation will be issued to the community through media outlets, newspaper and through the hospital website. <https://www.scenicmountainmedical.org/> vaccine.

To date there have been 3,418 Covid-19 tests performed with 800 positives returned and no tests currently pending, for an overall positivity rate of 23.4%.

Since Dec. 1 there have been 1,482 tests performed with 290 positives returned, for a positivity rate of 19.6%.

There are currently two Covid-19 patients in house at Scenic Mountain Medical Center and no patients in ICU or on the vent.

## News Briefs

### NTSB to investigate fatal Texas crash of over 130 vehicles

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday that it would investigate a massive crash last week involving more than 130 vehicles on an icy Texas highway that killed six people and injured dozens more.

The NTSB said on Twitter that its safety investigation would focus on snow and ice treatment procedures used on the highway.

The crash last Thursday on Interstate 35-W north of downtown Fort Worth left a tangle of 133 semitrailers, cars and trucks smashed and tangled with one another, with some vehicles tossed onto others and drivers trapped.

The crash happened about 6 a.m. Thursday as many hospital and emergency workers were heading to and from work, so some of those involved were health care workers, police officers and other emergency responders, officials said.

The NTSB said it's coordinating with the North Tarrant Express and the Texas Department of Transportation on the investigation.

### Overnight fire kills 100 animals at Indianapolis pet store

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An estimated 100 animals died when an overnight fire filled an Indianapolis pet store with thick smoke and deadly gases, fire officials said.

It took firefighters about an hour to extinguish the blaze at Uncle Bill's Pet Center on Monday night because they had difficulty accessing the fire in the building's back roof area, the Indianapolis Fire Department said.

After dousing flames that had filled the building with thick, black smoke, crews discovered "what can only be described as a horrible tragedy" inside, with about 40 dogs, 25 parakeets, rabbits and other animals dead from smoke inhalation, Battalion Chief Rita Reith said in a news release.

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

John Roberts, 79, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sammy Ortega, 61, died Sunday. Vigil services will be at 7:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

## ONCOR

Continued from Page 1

loads and infrastructure.

Typically, Oncor's emergency operation plans spread these outages across the service territory on a rotating basis. Due to this unique widespread power emergency however, ERCOT has directed Oncor to drop a record amount of load over a much longer period of time. Therefore, we have had to drop all available, non-critical load and regular rotations have often been prevented. These outages are absolutely critical for ensuring the integrity of the grid and preventing cascading impacts such as a blackout. We will continue to rotate outages where possible and aim to provide any temporary relief that we can for those who have been without power the longest as soon as enough generation is available.

Q: Why are some homes out for hours and others not at all?

Controlled outages can affect customers differently based on the load reduction required by ERCOT. For example, customers near critical facilities, or those in limited areas where rolling outages cannot take place to maintain grid stability, may not experience outages, while those farther from these facilities or areas may experience multiple outages for longer periods of time.

Additionally, in case there are instances of substantial generation drop, safeguards are built into our system that drop customer loads automatically to prevent cascading widespread outages, or ultimately a blackout. These are designed to be short term drops that are reset quicker than controlled outages to prepare for the next response opportunity. As these limited areas must be energized in order to provide this grid protection, it could affect you but not your neighbor. Keeping these limited areas energized also helps stabilize the system, so when controlled outages are done, we can more easily get everything reconnected and turned back on. These are diverse geographical areas across the grid, based solely on the mathematical and engineering needs of the electric system.

Lastly, while these controlled outages were intended to roll throughout the service territory, the high amount of load dropped from the grid prevented us and other utilities from performing regular rotations, leading to extended periods without power for many of our customers. We continue to strive toward providing any temporary relief that we can for those who have been without power the longest as soon as enough generation is available.

Outages due to storm damage also affect different customers in dif-

ferent ways. A downed power line might affect your home but again, not your neighbor.

Q: When will my power be restored?

For controlled outages: ERCOT has been unable to predict when more generation will be available and when there will be enough electric supply to meet customer demand. We are doing all we can to ensure Oncor will be prepared to safely deliver electricity to our customers as soon as ERCOT allows.

For winter storm damage: Our crews and out of state mutual assistance contractors are now actively engaged in restoration efforts. Continued winter impacts such as extreme cold, treacherous road conditions and ice buildup may impact progress. However, these personnel are well experienced in working in extreme weather conditions and will be working around the clock to assess damages, clear debris and repair damaged equipment. Even then, power from ERCOT must be available for us to reenergize your home or business.

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yet tell us when power will be available, we continue asking all Oncor customers to be prepared to be without power for an extended period of time.

Q: When will power generation plants come back on-line?

Oncor does not own or operate generation facilities. The current cold weather has caused many of these generators to shut down and ERCOT has not told us when to expect them back on-line. We continue to strive toward providing any temporary relief that we can for those who have been without power the longest as soon as enough generation is available.

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**Help Wanted**

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**Public Notice**

ing discrimination, call the Texas Workforce Commission at (888) 452-4778 or (512) 463-2642 TTY: 512-371-7473.

**Help Wanted**

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Do you have a heart to share others' stories and the desire to be involved in your community? We want to hear from you!

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

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.

**Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability**

The City of Coahoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities. The City Secretary has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8).

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**Citizen Participation & Grievance Procedures Notice**

The City of Coahoma has adopted complaint and grievance procedures regarding its Texas Community Development Block Grant Programs (TxCDBG). Citizens may obtain a copy of these written procedures at 122 N. First Street Coahoma, TX, 79511 during regular business hours. Citizens may also request the procedures be mailed to them by calling the City Secretary, Civil Rights Officer at (432) 394-4287. These procedures outline the steps for a citizen to follow if s/he wishes to file a complaint or grievance about TxCDBG activities.

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Contact our Job Center  
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Or  
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<https://accessshr.hhsc.state.tx.us>

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The Big Spring Herald is looking for individuals to throw newspaper routes in the Big Spring area. If you have a reliable vehicle and valid automobile insurance, we would like to talk to you! Fill out an application at the Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry St. No phone calls please.

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**Public Notice**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is here given that the Commissioners' Court of Howard County, Texas, will receive bids until 10:00 A.M., March 12, 2021, in the Commissioners' Courtroom, Howard County Courthouse, Big Spring, Texas, for a County Depository.

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The County Treasurer will supply bid application forms.

The Commissioners' Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive all technicalities.

By order of the Commissioners' Court, Howard County, Texas.

/s/ Kathryn Wiseman  
Kathryn Wiseman,  
County Judge  
Howard County, Texas

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store Permit (Q) and Beer Retail Dealer's Off-Premises Permit (BF) by Baila Con Dinero LLC DBA Horseshoe #3 to be located at 3315 E MARCY DR, Howard County, Texas. Officers of said LLC is Dyllan Burns, Managing Member.

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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Rising to the occasion

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 8 5  
♥ 10 5 2  
♦ Q J 9 6  
♣ 8 4 3

**WEST**  
♠ —  
♥ A K Q J 9 7 6 3  
♦ 10 4  
♣ 10 7 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 7 2  
♥ 8 4  
♦ 8 7 5 3 2  
♣ K J 9

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q 9 6 4 3  
♥ —  
♦ A K  
♣ A Q 6 5

The bidding:  
West North East South  
4♥ Pass Pass 6♠

Opening lead — king of hearts.

South's blind shot at six spades certainly wasn't scientific, but all factors considered, it was a sensible bid that was likely to win most of the time.

Whenever your judgment says that you're more apt to gain points than to lose them by making a certain bid, you should not talk yourself out of doing so because your partner might have the wrong hand for you.

That's not the way to play winning bridge.

The slam ordinarily would have been easy to make, even with the relatively poor dummy South inherited. Had the opposing spades been divided 2-1, he would have scored at least 12 tricks by cashing the A-K of trump and A-K of diamonds, then crossing to dummy with a trump to discard his two low clubs on the Q-J of diamonds.

But when declarer ruffed the opening heart lead and played the ace of trump, West showed out, and South had to revise his plans. With no ready entry to dummy to utilize the Q-J of diamonds, he decided to force his way into the North hand by deliberately losing a trump trick.

So he next cashed the A-K of diamonds and then led a low trump to dummy's eight. East won with the jack but could do no better than return a heart.

South ruffed and led another low trump to dummy's ten. He then cashed the Q-J of diamonds and on that one deposited the 6-5 of clubs.

Only one more hurdle — a club finesse — remained to be surmounted, and when it succeeded, the slam was home.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

### If Wishes Were Fishes

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Since body language accounts for the majority of all communication, it only makes sense to prioritize physical education and to learn and experiment with movement in the same way you grow and update vocabulary.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You can and will get over a fear. You will prevail because you're willing to put in the time, make the mistakes and ride with the ups and downs of an awkward process.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Resistance takes many forms. It can come on as tiredness or arrogance, anxiety or apathy. Recognize its basis in fear and decide to be brave and move through it, not letting it stop you from what you want.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You have a talent for acknowledging the traits of others without judging them, and this makes you an extremely desirable friend to have. The real progress comes when you point the same nonjudgmental spirit inwardly.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You may start with the intention of being cool and laissez-faire, but, of course, once you see an opportunity to guide the situation in a direction you deem best for all you can't help but invest, care and be very much in the mess of it.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** If you needed permission to be keenly aware of the

best within you and even to celebrate it openly, cut out this horoscope, sign it and give it to yourself while boarding the bus of self-appreciation.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Your main contract is with yourself. It plays out with other people, and you wouldn't be able to learn without them. But at the end of the day, and for every hour within, you're the one you get to live.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Small events happen throughout the day, moving your mood up and down the scale of 1-10; it's a crude measurement to be sure, but you need art, not math, to account for the colors and depths.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Here comes a wave of accelerated growth in your area of recent concentration. Because a focus is so natural and instinctive for you, you don't even consider this a learning progress, and it's free of growing pains.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** True, you favor certain people and relationships. And if the value of a relationship were strictly calculated on the improvements reflected

### BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



in you because you participated, it would be an entirely different list.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You are compelled to expand your horizons. It's not done by singing optimistic songs whilst dancing toward the sun. Go toward the sun, but stay aware and curious about the unshakeable shadow that walks with you.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're trying to keep it easy breezy and what happens? Someone comes at you with an intensity that slows the process but also grounds it in some realities that need to be dealt with sooner or later.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 18).** The more you give, the more people expect of you -- a cycle you alternately celebrate and interrupt this year. You'll love lavishing someone with attention and care; it fulfills you! Then it's your turn to accept heaps of love, which is not as comfortable for you, but you will get plenty of practice and soon be used to it. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 10, 4, 44 and 18.

### COSMIC QUES-

**TION:** This response is a continuation of the reader question of yesterday and Tuesday: "I experience crushing anxiety on occasion. My thoughts not being my own is a primal fear. My actions are dictated by responsibility, duty, care and accordingly are a partnership. My thoughts though, if not beginning and ending within me, then where? And why does it bother me when you suggest that thoughts can be in my head that do not originate there?"

I admire your sense of duty, so strong that it leaves no room for choice in matters that pertain to, I'm guessing, the care and protection of your family, loved ones, country, community, ideals and more. I do wonder if the anxiety is a symptom of not recognizing that this ironclad deal you've made with responsibility is actually a personal choice. There are plenty who do not choose to live or die by their responsibilities. When you claim your sense of duty as a choice, recognizing that you really don't have to do anything at all, you can then reacquire yourself with the reasons you've made that choice. Not because you have to. Because you're awesome. Because "strong" is your brand. Because you enjoy the pride and results that come with being the sort of person your family can depend on and look up to. The reframing could have the effect of reminding you that you "get to" do these things, not that that you "have to."

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis.com](mailto:HolidayMathis.com).

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## Annie's Mailbox

### Tossing Out Grandma's Gifts

**Dear Annie:** My grandchildren are not allowed to receive gifts from me. I crocheted a scarf, and it was tossed in a dumpster. I bought earrings, and the post was broken. You get the picture. So, I have been putting money in the bank instead. Problem solved? No!

Now when a passbook indicates that my grandchild has \$7,000 in the bank, there is a sarcastic comment that it won't even be enough to buy a book in college. I ignore the statements because I know where they come from, and there is no reason for me to upset my son. Problem solved? No.

Now, I understand that the problem is that he feels ignored in my company. It's not that we don't speak to one another. We do. I think that the attention-getting tactics are frustrating for my son because they no longer warrant a reaction from me. They're predictable after so many years. Why bother

addressing such behavior? It only reinforces it. -- Hurt Grandma

**Dear Hurt:** You keep addressing the problem because it is just that -- a problem behavior. Without tackling it head-on, it will continue to be a problem. Being so rude, dismissive and ungrateful as your son sounds can't make him feel good about himself. The way he is speaking to you, or how he treats your gifts, is unacceptable. If he can't stop making rude comments about your gifts, then you might stop your generosity. But if you do that, the ones who would be hurt are your grandchildren.

Try to have a serious and noncritical conversation with your son, and make sure that your attention is focused solely on him. He might open up. If he remains cold and hostile, then encourage him to seek professional help or offer to go to family counseling. If he refuses to go, seek therapy yourself as a way to sort out what's really going on between you and your son.

**Dear Annie:** I am 60 and share an office with a 20-something. Both of us are women. She is an assistant director of the department we work in, which means she is in upper management. She used to ask my advice but usually chose not to take it, so I stopped responding to her questions and instead referred her to the director of our department. I'm trying to set the scene for you.

The problem is that she burps and belches often. She says, "Excuse me." I've stopped responding. I have tried to tell her it's not acceptable to burp like that at work. She said it's her office, which I understand. I asked if she has some sort of problem with her stomach. She said no.

Is it me? I was raised to believe that such things as burping are kind of rude and not good office etiquette. Are younger kids not taught this?

The option of getting a different office is not fea-

sible. Is my only option just to accept? -- More Room on the Outside Than Inside

**Dear More Room on the Outside:** Most people would find this behavior disgusting. Hopefully, for the sake of society, younger kids are taught that burping or passing gas should be done in the bathroom, and they should excuse yourself. Just because she says "excuse me" makes it no less gross. One time, fine, maybe even two, but belching often is unprofessional. Is it possible that she is doing this to get on your nerves -- a passive-aggressive move of using her bodily functions to bully you?

Go to your supervisor and say enough is enough. Either she stops belching, or you move offices. No one should have to work in a toxic environment.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### 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!

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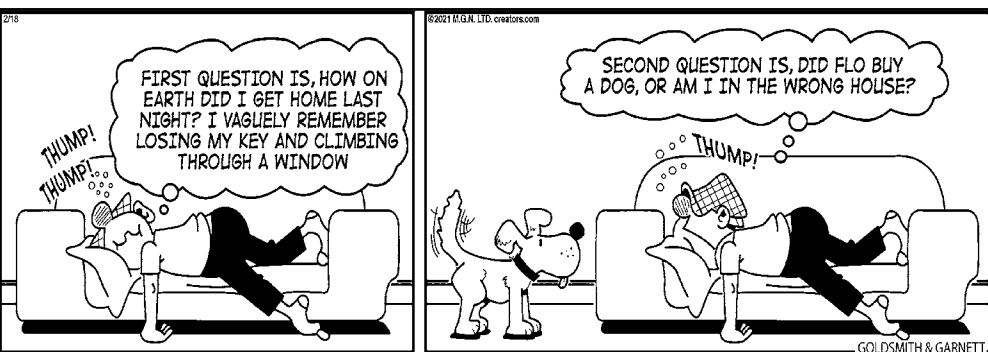
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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

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

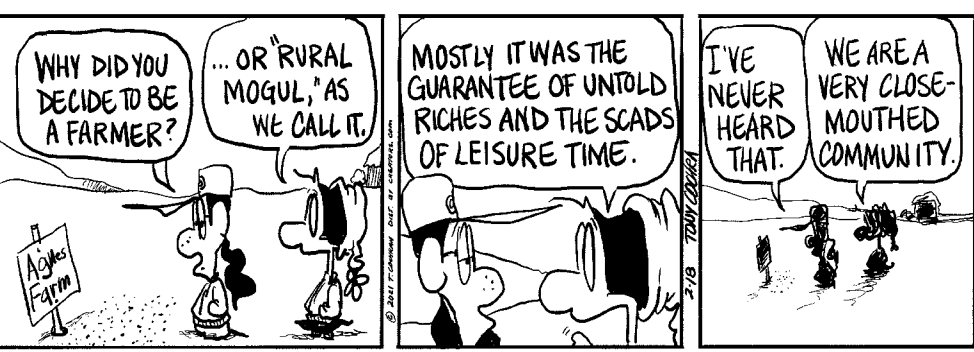
ANSWER:

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	FamFeud	CBS 7	Tele	News	The	Wild Kratt	King	Burgers	Big Bang	Bones	SportsCenter		Sports	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	BattleBots
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	FamFeud	CBS	Noticias	News	Behind	Wild Kratt	King	Burgers	Big Bang				High School Player	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	BattleBots
6:PM	News	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Exatlón Estados Unidos (SS)	News	HaYesod	Xavier	Last Man	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	The	College Basketball: Iowa at Wisconsin.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	Stars In.	Chrisley	The First 48	BattleBots
6:30	Wheel		Big Bang	ET		News	House	Molly	Last Man	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Raptors at Bucks			Stars Pre.	Chrisley	The First 48	BattleBots
7:PM	Celebrity Wheel	Te doy la vida	Hell's Kitchen	Sheldon B Positive		Mr. Mayor	Master	Hero	Dateline	Walker	Big Bang				NHL Hockey: Tampa Bay Lightning at Dallas Stars.	Chrisley	The First 48	
7:30	The Chase	Amor eterno	Kat	(:01) Mom	La suerte de Loli	Rock	The Is	Odd			Big Bang					Chrisley		
8:PM	The Hustler	Como tú no hay dos	FOX 24 News at 9	Clarice	Buscando a Frida	Dateline NBC	Light of Southwest	Cyber	Mike	Seinfeld	Wipeout	NBA Basketball: Nets at Lakers				Chrisley	(:01) Killer Cases	The Vaccine: Conquering
8:30																		
9:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Noticias	News	Zion	Pink	Friends	Creek	Conan					Chrisley	I Survived	Locations
9:30	ABC	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS	Noticias	News	Zion	Pink	Friends	Creek	Conan					Chrisley	I Survived	Locations
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	Contacto	Mod Fam	Late Show- Colbert	Caso cerrado (SS)	Tonight Show	Words of Hidden	Elinor	Friends	Creek	Go-Big Show					Chrisley	The First 48	BattleBots
10:30																Chrisley	The First 48	BattleBots
11:PM	Nightline	deportivo	Funny	James Corden	Sin Senos Si	Seth Meyers	Freedom	Tiger	Jokers	Gold	Conan	Inside the NBA				Chrisley		
11:30																Chrisley		
12:AM	Extra	Inocente de ti	Two Men	Simpsons	Drew Barrymore	Late-Lilly	Behind	Nature	Forensic	Show	Wipeout	NBA Basketball: Nets at Lakers				Chrisley	(12:03) The First 48	
12:30	DailyMail	Papá a toda madre	Pawn	Paid Prg.	Programa	News	Light of Southwest	Wild Kratt	Jerry Springer	Vitamin D						Chrisley	(:04) Killer Cases	The Vaccine: Conquering
1:PM	Healthy Easy															Chrisley		

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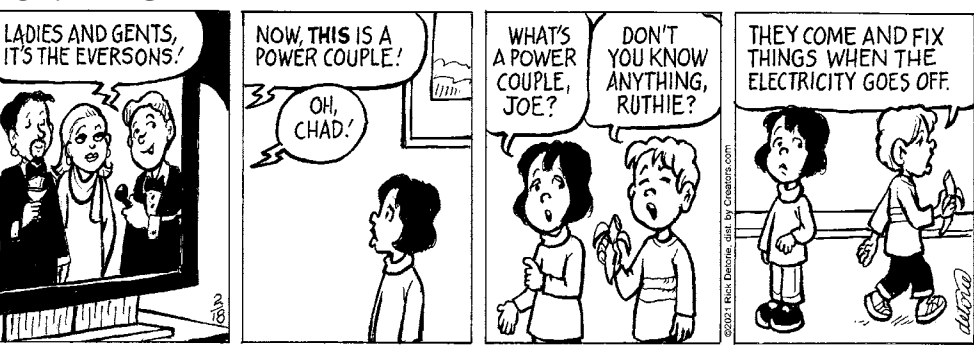
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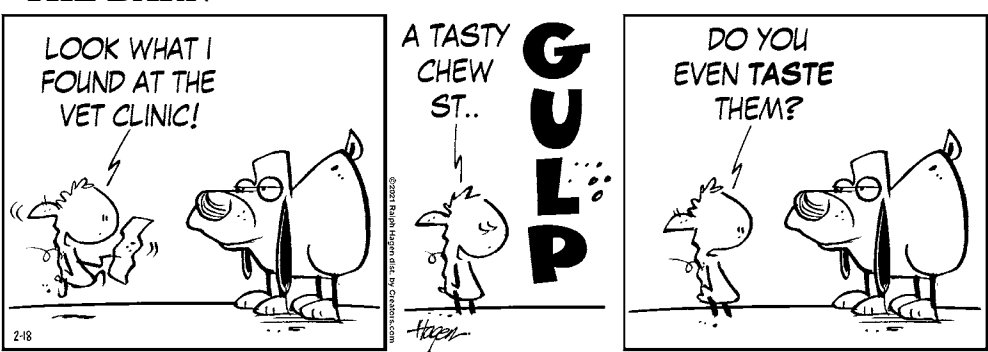
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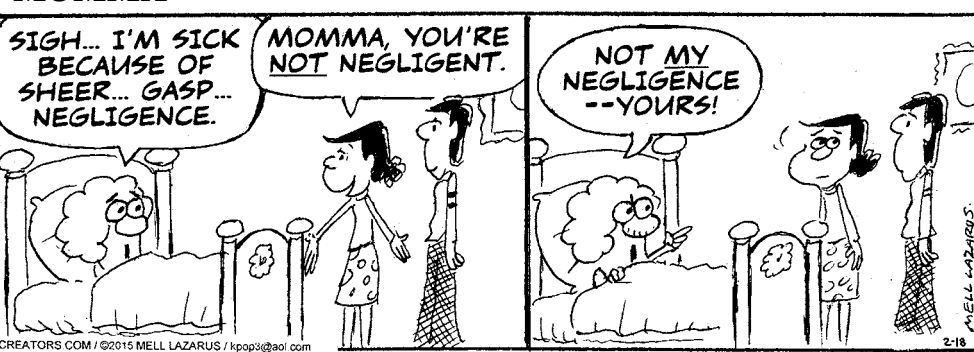
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This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 2021. There are 316 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 18, 1970, the "Chicago Seven" defendants were found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic national convention; five were convicted of violating the Anti-Riot Act of 1968 (those convictions were later reversed).

On this date:

In 1546, Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, died in Eisleben.

In 1564, artist Michelangelo died in Rome.

In 1930, photographic evidence of Pluto (now designated a "dwarf planet") was discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona.

In 1943, Madame Chiang Kai-shek (chang ky-shehk), wife of the Chinese leader, addressed members of the Senate and then the House, becoming the first Chinese national to address both houses of the U.S. Congress.

In 1960, the 8th Winter Olympic Games were formally opened in Squaw Valley, California, by Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

In 1967, American theoretical physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer died in Princeton, New Jersey, at age 62.

In 1972, the California Supreme Court struck down the state's death penalty.

In 1983, 13 people were shot to death at a gambling club in Seattle's Chinatown in what became known as the Wah Mee Massacre. (Two men were convicted of the killings and are serving life sentences; a third was found guilty of robbery and assault.)

In 1988, Anthony M. Kennedy was sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1997, astronauts on the space shuttle Discovery completed their tune-up of the Hubble Space Telescope after 33 hours of spacewalking; the Hubble was then released using the shuttle's crane.

In 2001, veteran FBI agent Robert Philip Hanssen was arrested, accused of spying for Russia. (Hanssen later pleaded guilty to espionage and attempted espionage and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.) Auto racing star Dale Earnhardt Sr. died in a crash at the Daytona 500; he was 49.

In 2003, an arson attack involving two South Korean subway trains in the city of Daegu claimed 198 lives. (The arsonist was sentenced to life in prison, where he died in 2004.)

Ten years ago: The United States vetoed a U.N. resolution that would have condemned Israeli settlements as illegal and called for a halt in all settlement building; the 14 other Security Council members voted in favor of the measure.

Five years ago: In what was seen as a criticism of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, Pope Francis said that a person who advocated building walls was "not Christian"; Trump quickly retorted it was "disgraceful" to question a person's faith. (A Vatican spokesman said the next day that the pope's comment was not intended as a "personal attack" on Trump.) Dallas-based Heritage Auctions said a rare copy of a comic book featuring the first appearance of Spider-Man had been sold to an anonymous collector for \$454,100.

One year ago: Japanese health authorities confirmed 88 more cases of the coronavirus aboard the quarantined cruise ship Diamond Princess, bringing the number of cases on board to 542; U.S. officials said Americans who chose to remain on board could not return home for at least two weeks after coming ashore. Health officials in the Chinese city of Wuhan announced that a hospital director who mobilized the hospital's resources to deal with the thousands of sick people arriving daily had died from the virus. President Donald Trump commuted the 14-year prison sentence of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich for political corruption; Blagojevich left prison hours later and returned home to Chicago. (Trump also issued pardons or clemency to former New York City police commissioner Bernie Kerik, financier Michael Milken, and a long list of others.) The Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy protection in the first step toward creating a huge compensation fund for men who were molested as youngsters decades ago by scoutmasters or other leaders; the organization urged victims to come forward.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. John Warner, R-Va., is 94. Singer Yoko Ono is 88. Singer-songwriter Bobby Hart is 82. Singer Irma Thomas is 80. Singer Herman Santiago (Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers) is 80. Actor Jess Walton is 75. Singer Dennis DeYoung is 74. Actor Sinead Cusack is 73. Actor Cybill Shepherd is 71. Singer Randy Crawford is 69. Rock musician

Robbie Bachman is 68. Actor John Travolta is 67. Actor John Pankow is 66. Game show host Vanna White is 64. Actor Jayne Atkinson is 62. Actor Greta Scacchi (SKAH'-kee) is 61. Actor Matt Dillon is 57. Rock musician Tommy Scott (Space) is 57. Rapper Dr. Dre is 56. Actor Molly Ringwald is 53. Actor Sarah Brown is 46. Country musician Trevor Rosen (Old Dominion) is 46. Actor Ike Barinholtz is 44.

Actor Kristoffer Polaha is 44. Singer-musician Sean Watkins (Nickel Creek) is 44. Rock-singer musician Regina Spektor is 41. Opera singer Isabel Leonard is 39. Roots rock musician Zac Cockrell (Alabama Shakes) is 33. Actor Shane Lyons is 33. Actor Sarah Sutherland is 33. Actor Maiara Walsh is 33.

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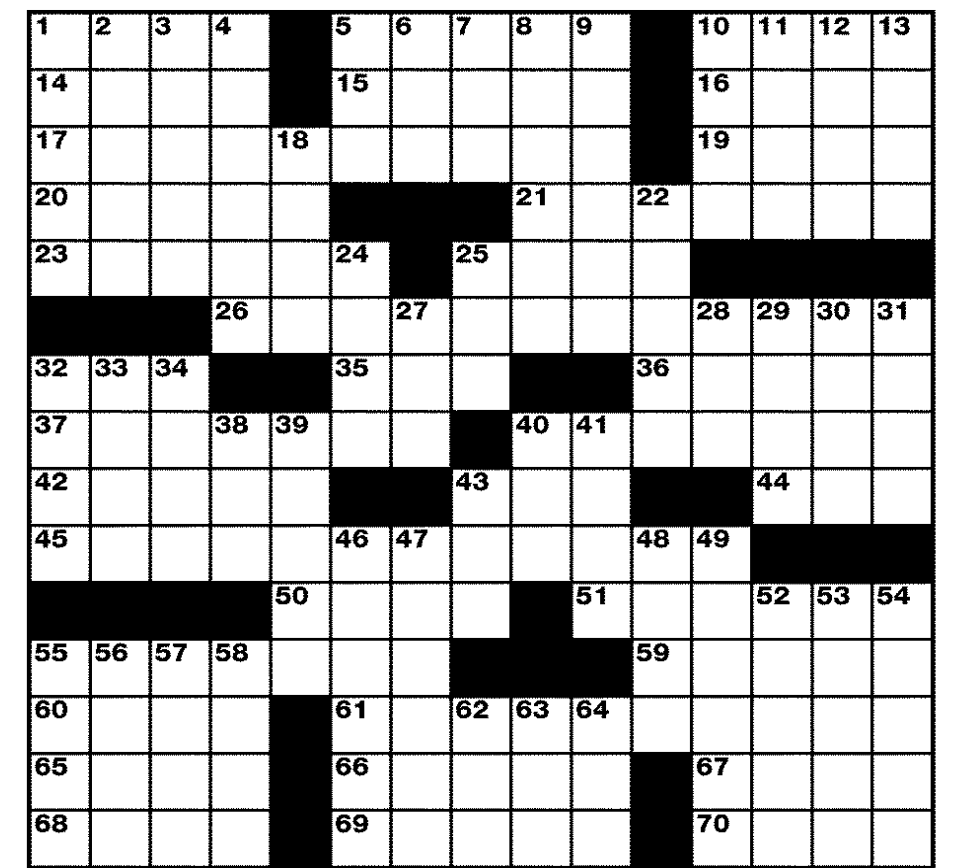
Newsday Crossword

FOUR FOR A FAN by Steve Faiella  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Misstep
  - 5 Mexican marinade
  - 10 "Knock it off!"
  - 14 Yeam (for)
  - 15 TV host O'Brien
  - 16 Hemingway nickname
  - 17 Outlandish, as an idea
  - 19 Big bovines
  - 20 Agribusiness giant
  - 21 Workout activity
  - 23 Missteps
  - 25 \_\_\_ fides (credentials)
  - 26 Minimum historical level
  - 32 What to call a clipper
  - 35 Ultimate goal
  - 36 Something to stream
  - 37 Birth of a notion
  - 40 Swear to what you saw
  - 42 Celebrity elite
  - 43 One's thing
  - 44 \_\_\_ Moines
  - 45 5'4" or so, for women
  - 50 Canadian singing superstar
  - 51 Searched for
  - 55 Remorseful feeling
  - 59 Up \_\_\_ (stuck)
  - 60 Wind-quartet member
  - 61 Ethically superior position
  - 65 "And another thing..."
  - 66 Eagle nest
  - 67 Pull apart
- DOWN**
- 1 Wedgwood rival
  - 2 Career soldier
  - 3 Deduce from evidence
  - 4 Lorry fuel
  - 5 Highly skilled
  - 6 Industrial Average name
  - 7 Off \_\_\_ tangent
  - 8 Something to cast
  - 9 Surfing the Net, say
  - 10 Catch sight of
  - 11 Urban transport
  - 12 Shop window sign
  - 13 Guilty feeling
  - 18 Medal earner
  - 22 Raises cash crops
  - 24 Equal exchange
  - 25 Slangy sound of impact
  - 27 Humorist's talent
  - 28 Word: Fr.
  - 29 Highly devoted
  - 30 Plentiful
  - 31 Alicia once of The Voice
  - 32 Swindler's plan
  - 33 Tunnel, essentially
  - 34 Oklahoma city
  - 38 CBS police franchise
  - 39 Chopin practice piece
  - 40 Mai \_\_\_ cocktail
  - 41 Seuss' green stuff
  - 43 Jerry's partner
  - 46 Unfortunate event
  - 47 Sock merchant
  - 48 Wintry coating
  - 49 Instructs privately
  - 52 Oliver Twist meal
  - 53 Dye for temporary tattoos
  - 54 Bear with a ribbon
  - 55 Drench
  - 56 Up to it
  - 57 Prescribed amount
  - 58 Vividly colored
  - 62 Cultivation, in product names
  - 63 \_\_\_ Majesty the King
  - 64 "Imagine that!"

Answer to previous puzzle

ATOP MAST BONES  
GONE ALOE AROMA  
OUTS MIRA LIVID  
ROOTBEER FLOAT  
EON RAN  
MAPLES MAID ERA  
ALLOT CAME IVES  
CAUGHTONESDRIFT  
AMMO WREN RACER  
WOE BEEB CASTRO  
BEEB SIN  
ATLANTICCOAST  
FLOOR IDEA VOID  
ALIKE FOND OSLO  
TYLER FLEA NOTE



# Spurs have 4 players positive, Atlanta has All-Star concerns

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Basketball Writer

The San Antonio Spurs are dealing with a coronavirus outbreak among four players, the NBA said Tuesday, meaning the team will not play until the middle of next week at the earliest.

Meanwhile, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms — whose city was picked to play host to the NBA All-Star Game and skills competitions on March 7 — raised major concerns about the notion of fans coming to the city for the events.

"People should not travel to Atlanta to party," she said.

The NBA on Tuesday postponed five more games: the next three for the Spurs — at Cleveland on Wednesday, at New York on Saturday and at Indiana on Monday — as well as the next two for the Charlotte Hornets while contact tracing is completed.

The Hornets were scheduled to play host to Chicago on Wednesday and Denver on Friday. Their games are halted because they were the last team to play the Spurs, losing to them on Sunday. The league is reviewing data to see if any Hornets may have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, a process that takes time.

Charlotte's next possible game is now Saturday at home against Golden State, in what would be Warriors guard Stephen Curry's annual return to North Carolina, where he grew up. San Antonio's next planned game is Feb. 24 at Oklahoma City, meaning the Spurs will have more than a week between contests — as Washington and Memphis did

earlier this season when affected by the virus.

Charlotte coach James Borrego said "there's no indication that anybody" on the Hornets' roster is positive for COVID-19. But the Hornets finished their game with the Spurs with just eight available players, and Borrego confessed that he doesn't know what his roster will look like if Saturday's game goes on as scheduled.

"The league is doing everything they can to gather information and even more information," Borrego said. "They're going to watch us over this next week and make sure we're OK. I think that's really where it starts."

The postponements announced Tuesday push the total of games that have been moved back this season because of positive tests or contact tracing issues to 29, including the Spurs' game at Detroit that was to have been played Tuesday night. The NBA called that game off on Monday.

Also postponed: Detroit at Dallas, scheduled for Wednesday, now off because of the severe winter weather that has hit Texas — where more than 4 million homes and businesses were without power Tuesday in subfreezing temperatures. The Mavericks had to call off practice Tuesday because of a power outage, and Dallas guard Josh Richardson said he didn't have power at his home.

A pair of games were added to this week's slate: Detroit will go to Chicago on Wednesday and Denver will now play at Cleveland on Friday. Those games were originally targeted for the second half of the season. The NBA has said it will shuffle some games, when possible, to accommodate the need to reschedule postponed games in the second half.

The NBA does not reveal which players tested positive, but its announcement of the latest postponements said the Spurs had positive tests among players — and did not mention coaches. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich announced last month, on his 72nd birthday, that he has received the vaccine that protects against the effects of COVID-19.

The Spurs were without just one player — guard Quinndary Weatherspoon — for their game Sunday against Charlotte because of the league's COVID-19 protocols.

Spurs Sports and Entertainment CEO RC Buford said "basketball is secondary" right now given the situation in Texas with the storm and outages.

"Our team is responsibly handling our health and safety situation and will return to playing games as soon as it is safe to do so," Buford said.

The NBA will announce All-Star starters on Thursday. Four-time NBA MVP LeBron James, two-time reigning NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks, two-time NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard of the Los Angeles Clippers and others have spoken out in recent days to express their unhappiness about the idea of playing an All-Star Game during a pandemic — and wedging it into an already jam-packed season.

The NBA told teams Monday that strict protocols will be in place for the All-Star events; players will be allowed a very limited number of guests, all participants must travel to Atlanta by private car or plane, and for the most part players will be allowed to leave their hotels only for All-Star events at the arena.



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### Planning a Wedding Checklist

- Choose a Date
- Set Budget
- Choose a Venue
- Shop for Rings
- Send Invitations
- Find Officiant
- Bridesmaids
- Plan Honeymoon
- Best man
- Wedding Dress
- Reception Dress
- Reserve Tuxedos
- Get Marriage License
- Schedule Rehearsal Dinner
- Photographer
- Choose a Ring Bearer
- Entertainment
- Choose Flower Girls
- Catering
- Register For Gifts
- Florist
- Plan Reception
- Transportation
- Hair and Beauty
- Bridesmaid's attire
- Wedding Cake
- Decorations and favours
- Guest list

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