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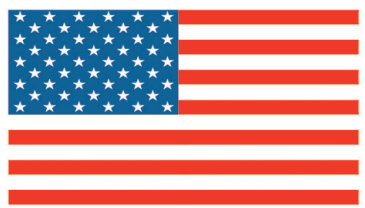
WEDNESDAY EDITION,
 APRIL 28, 2021

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City Council nixes rezoning plan

By **ROGER CLINE**

Herald Staff Writer

During the meeting Tuesday evening, the Big Spring City Council rejected a request to rezone more than 18 acres of land north of the Big Spring State Hospital on U.S. 87 from Light Industrial (LI) to Planned Development (PD).

The request, made at the council's previous meeting April 13 by Target Hospitality of The Woodlands, was tabled to give Big Spring Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Mark Willis time to compile an economic impact study on the proposed project, the creation of a "man camp" to provide short-term housing for itinerant workers.

"What you've got here is what the impact would be on the city alone, which does not address what it might do to other projects in the city or anything like this, this is straight income and cost to the city. Direct income from the camp, hotel and motel tax, is going to be about \$600,000. Working with data, I came up with a number, about 37 percent of those clients out there would be lost to local hotels, not the whole group, 37 percent - 37 1/2 percent is what I came up with - so

you lose \$250,000. So you end up \$350,000 ahead there."

Willis also estimated that camp's 30 employees would pay about \$60,000 in taxes, that the project would pay about \$35,000 in property tax to the city, that residents of the camp would pay about \$30,000 in sales tax, and that the city would spend about \$280,000 on services for the compound.

All told, Willis estimated the direct benefit to the city from the project would be about \$195,000 annually.

"What it doesn't do is take any peripheral things into account, because I can't address those," Willis said. "What other effects other than loss of some restaurant costs and sales tax, I can estimate that, but as far as coming projects, I feel uncomfortable trying to do that. So this is just exactly what this would do for the city directly. Indirectly, there may be other people here that can address that but this is what I felt comfortable putting out."

Members of the council wondered whether rezoning the area for the project would constitute illegal "spot zoning."

"Spot zoning is illegal in Texas," said City Attorney Andrew Hagen. "It means

that you are taking a zone and kind of cherry-picking something. But that being said, it's up to courts. It's kind of a judgement call."

Local hotel operator Roshni Patel said the cost to Big Spring through the loss of future hotel revenue would be much greater than \$190,000.

"Putting the hotel/motel tax and the restaurants together, the city would lose about \$1.9 million," said Patel. "We are here for development, but not for the man camps. If they want to put a hotel that's 400 units, we don't have anything against it, but man camps are just like slums. It has a lifetime of five years maximum. Big Spring is going down and not up, I would consider that."

The council voted against the measure 1-5, with District 1 Councilman Nick Ornelas dissenting.

In other business, the council unanimously approved a pair of ordinances lowering fees for facilities use at Comanche Trail Park and the Historic Spring.

The first ordinance lowers the cost of Marie Hall Plaza deposit from \$500 to \$200, while leaving the daily rental cost the same at \$200 per day. The ordinance

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

Upcoming Events

Election Day for Big Spring City Council Districts 2 and 4 seats, and for Coahoma Mayor is May 1. In the Big Spring race, voters whose precinct number ends with a 2 or a 4 can vote; in the Coahoma race, all voters in Precinct 207C can vote. Countywide voting locations are: Ryan Hall, Coahoma Community Center, First Baptist Church and Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Any voter may vote at any location. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The jury trial slated for May 12, 2021, at 9 a.m. in Judge Averette's court has been cancelled. Jury trials scheduled for other dates will proceed as planned.

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www.bigspringherald.com



SMMC gains state-of-the-art MRI machine



Courtesy photo

Big Spring's Scenic Mountain Medical Center has recently acquired the Philips Ingenia Ambition LSD MRI, a state-of-the-art magnetic resonance imager device.

Special to Herald

SMMC

Scenic Mountain Medical Center (SMMC) is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Philips Ingenia Ambition 1.5T magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Scenic Mountain Medical Center is pleased to offer the latest in MRI imaging technology to better serve the needs of our community.

"The new Philips Ingenia Ambition 1.5T offers cutting-edge MRI imaging techniques to help us excel clinically every day," said Demetrio Franco, director of diagnostic imaging & rehabilitation services at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. "Some of the new features include the BlueSeal magnet, which will help overcome potential helium-related issues of classic magnet design and eliminate our dependency on a scarce helium supply. What's more important, the system can achieve hours of continuous high-performance scanning and offers a leading field-of-view of 55cm for a wide bore 1.5T system."

Based on its new, revolutionary, fully sealed BlueSeal magnet, the solution lets you experience more productive helium-free MRI operations. The Ingenia Ambition delivers superb image quality even for challenging patients and performs MRI exams up to 50% faster with its Compressed SENSE

See **MRI**, Page 3

Charter Review Committee to meet tonight

By **ROGER CLINE**

Herald Staff Writer

The City of Big Spring's Charter Review Special Committee will meet Wednesday evening to discuss updates and revisions to the City's charter, which defines the organization and essential procedures of local city government.

The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. and members of the public may attend in person at the City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth St., or may watch on Local Channel 17 through Suddenlink or on the city's website at <http://mybigspring.com/224/Channel-17-Live>.

Members of the public wishing to offer public comment may do so either in person by filling out a form at the podium and turning it in to the City Secretary; or by calling 264-2411. Speakers should not exceed five minutes.

Before moving on to new business, the committee will discuss and vote on three items of old business during the meeting, labeled "Measure N," "Measure O," and "Measure P."

Measure N would require the city manager to designate a city employee to fill the role of acting city manager during his injury or absence. The proposal gives the city council the power to revoke the city manager's designation and appoint a different person to serve as acting city manager.

Measure O clarifies the City Council's power to remove Big Spring's municipal judge at will, and to appoint an associate judge to serve if the municipal judge is disabled or absent.

Measure P requires the council to periodically create a Charter Review Committee to review, update and improve Big Spring's charter.

In new business, the committee will

approve minutes of its April 7 and April 21 meetings before considering additional amendments to Measure A regarding the City Depository and Measure B regarding the Board of City Development.

The committee will also address four other measures, labeled "Measure M," "Measure Q," "Measure R," and "Measure S."

Measure M would further clarify the powers and responsibilities of the Mayor and the Mayor Pro-Tempore. The measure would recognize the city's Mayor as the head of city government for all ceremonial and emergency management purposes, as well as for purposes of military law; it would also recognize the Mayor's privilege to debate and discuss matters before the City Council, and to vote on all issues with

See **CHARTER**, Page 3

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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, 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.

Obituaries

Deedra Lynn Rice

Deedra Lynn Rice, 45, of Midland passed away April 23, 2021.

Celebration of Life will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, May 1, 2021 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring.

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

Barbara Dell Burnett

Barbara Dell Burnett, 81, of Big Spring, passed away Monday, April 26, 2021 at her residence. She will lie in state Wednesday, April 28, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Memorial Service will be at 1 p.m., Friday, April 30, 2021, at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Barbara was born Oct. 30, 1939, in Waco, Texas to Helen Killingsworth Monroe and Tom Monroe.

She is survived by her daughter Kathleen Epley and husband J.; son Terry Fryar and wife Karon and daughter Debra Calobreves and husband Bill; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren and a niece Cheri Reibe.

She was preceded in death by her husband Dr. Josh Burnett, her mother, grandmother and a sister.

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

Carmen Harbour

Carmen Harbour, 71, of Big Spring, died Monday, April 26, 2021. Viewing and visitation will be at Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel on Thursday, April 29, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a vigil at 6 p.m. Funeral mass will be at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at 10 a.m. Friday, April 30, 2021. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Take Note

• Interim HealthCare is looking for volunteers. Those who would like to find out more about becoming a volunteer can call 432-263-5999.

• The Howard County Democrats meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Cactus Room located in the Student Union Building of Howard College.

• Early voting has begun for the May Election. Early voting will take place in the Howard County Courthouse until April 23 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. with extended hours on April 26 and 27 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Election Day is May 1 with polls open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. a may vote at Ryan Hall, First Baptist Church, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and Coahoma Community Center. The May Election in-

cludes City of Big Spring District 2 seat; District 4 seat; City of Coahoma Mayor.

• Howard College is offering Microsoft Excel I and II courses. The final Excel I class is set for April 22. Microsoft Excel II classes are set for April 27, 29, May 4 and 6. Questions can be answered by contacting Dee Lindsey at 432-264-5641 or by e-mail at dlindsey@howardcollege.edu.

• Uplift Big Spring Resource Fair will be taking place April 24 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at First Church of the Nazarene, located at 1400 S. Lancaster. The Permian Basin Oil & Energy Ministry will be there for the monthly food pantry.

• Complex Community FCU in Big

Spring will be hosting Community Shred Day on April 26 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Complex Community is located at 503 E. Farm to Market 700.

• April Mental Health First Aid classes will be taking place: April 26 - Youth Mental Health First Aid; April 28 - Adult Mental Health First Aid; April 29 - Youth Mental Health First Aid

• Dylan Marquez Memorial Scholarship applications are now being accepted. The deadline to apply is set at May 1, 2021. Applications can be submitted to laverette@bsisd.esc18.net.

The scholarship was created to honor high school seniors from the Howard County area who are set to continue their education after graduating. This scholarship will be awarded annually to two students: one enrolled in an accredited university and one enrolled in a technical/vocational school.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of Hearn Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of MM 167 I-20. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of N. Goliad. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block

of Vines. No transport was required.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3300 block of W. Hwy 80. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1100 block of Lloyd Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity: Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 84 inmates at the time of this report.

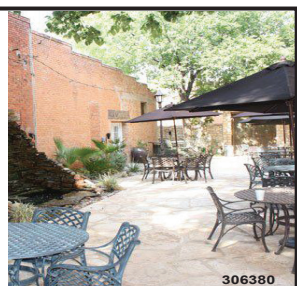
• **CHRIS RAY BALLARD JR.**, 38, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of unlawful possession firearm by felon and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

• **BRANDEE LEANN CASTILLO**, 23, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of theft of property between \$100 and \$750, bail jumping and fail to appear (x3), ride not secured by safety belt, violate promise to appear, criminal trespass.

• **DONALD JOHN-SON**, 32, was arrested by OTHLE on a charge of evading arrest detention with vehicle, driving while intoxicated third or more, tamper/fabricate physical evidence with intent, resist arrest search or transport.

• **ANGEL HILARIO RAMIREZ**, 28, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of assault causes bodily injury family.

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MEMBER 2021
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

MRI

Continued from Page 1

acceleration flagship software for all anatomies in both 2D and 3D scanning. Fast overall exam-time is also achieved by simplifying patient handling at the bore with the touchless guided patient setup. Furthermore, the Ingenia Ambition offers an immersive audio-visual experience to calm patients and guide them through MRI exams.

An MRI study can be a challenge for patients young and old. Inconclusive image quality due to patient motion is a constant issue, making it difficult for clinicians to obtain accurate results in their first attempt. At the same time, one repeat exam can throw an entire day's schedule off by two or three hours, impacting a facility's throughput and patient satisfaction. The Ingenia Ambition 1.5T is designed for "First Time Right" imaging and addresses the issue in a holistic way.

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Clear patient instructions are provided by the AutoVoice component of the system, which coaches the patient through their examination while scanner noise is reduced through the ComforTone scan techniques portion of the system.

"I am incredibly excited to announce the acquisition of this high-end technology to the Big Spring and surrounding communities," said Stacey Brown, president of Scenic Mountain Medical Center. "This MRI is yet another example of Steward Health Care's investment into our community. With a total cost of \$2.8M, this MRI is also now housed inside the hospital adjacent to our Emergency Department which will provide easier access for our patients and our staff. We will also now be able to perform inpatient and outpatient exams."

CHARTER

Continued from Page 1

the City Council; and to sign official document Measure M also establishes the Mayor Pro-Tempore's power to act as Mayor during the Mayor's absence or disability, or when the Mayor's post is vacant due to death, resignation, or removal from office until the Mayor's office is filled. Measure Q amends the Charter's provisions providing for notice of claim against the city for damage or injury. The measure requires people bringing action against the city for personal injury or

death, or injury or damage to personal property, to file a notice in writing with the City Manager within 90 days.

The provisions make exceptions for cases in which the city has "actual notice" of the death, damage, or injury; and those in which the claimant can provide good cause for failure to comply with the deadline.

Measure R deletes the Charter's current process for recall of council members, replacing it with a process for initiative — giving city voters the power to propose ordinances to the Council, referendum — giving city voters the power to require the Council to reconsider any adopted ordinance, and

recall — replacing the original recall process and clarifying the city voters' power to petition for the recall of the Mayor or Council Members.

Measure S would set four Council members as the required quorum for the transaction of council business.

Also in New Business, the committee will consider recommendations of other amendments to the Charter, all articles and related law; and discuss calling future meetings and possible agenda items.

Following the New Business portion of the meeting, the committee will consider input from the City Manager and city staff, and input from committee members prior to adjourning.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

and creates a "Special Event Package."

"So you can rent the Marie Hall Plaza performance stage, the SM Energy Pavilion, and our portable ADA restroom trailer, and the rental fee for that would be \$350 per day. We would require a refundable deposit of \$300 per day, and also a \$150 non-refundable restroom fee. So it does make it a little more attainable to be able to host large parties without having to rent port-a-potties, etc."

The second ordinance reduces the cost of renting the SM Energy Pavilion from \$200 to \$100 per day, and those who rent the pavilion can also rent the restroom trailer for \$25 per hour; or for events longer than four hours, \$100 per half-day or \$200 per full day. Restroom trailer rental also requires a \$100 refundable deposit and a \$150 non-refundable cleaning fee.

The council nominated Jordan Partee to fill a spot on the Howard County Appraisal District's board of directors vacated when Sandy Smith resigned earlier this year. The vote to nominate Partee was 3-2; the other potential nominee was Bobby Barber. The city's nod is only a nomination; the remaining members of the HCAD board will elect Smith's replacement at a future meeting from a pool of nominees put forward by the district's member taxing entities.

The council awarded a bid on a seal coat project to the low bidder of four bids received. The bid was awarded to Cox Paving Co. of Midland, in the amount of \$550,020.67, or about \$2.24 per square yard.

"This is actually the lowest price we've received in five years," said Public Works Director Shane Bowles. "They are the company that did our seal coat last year. We've already talked to them and they are planning to correct the loose rock that came up in last year's project, and them being here will help us ensure that. With this bid coming in so low, city staff is already discussing

actually hiring an inspector full-time on this project to ensure this year's seal coat project goes properly without any rock coming up, as well as last year's issue."

The council voted to extend the current weather-related emergency declaration for 30 days.

"The reason for this is, FEMA has extended the deadline so that individuals and public entities can file for reimbursement under the federal disaster," said Mayor Shannon Thomason.

The item on the agenda originally would have extended the declaration for 60 days, but Councilman Ornelas suggested amending the item to 30 days, expiring June 1. Ornelas said the item could be re-evaluated and extended if necessary.

The amended motion, on the agenda as an emergency item meaning it will not have to be approved a second time at a later meeting, passed unanimously.

At the start of the meeting, Mayor Thomason presented two proclamations, the first declaring May "Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month," and the second recognizing May 2-8 as "National Travel and Tourism Week."

During the meeting, Big Spring resident T.J. Stewart was recognized to address the council, but stopped because he wasn't speaking during the Public Comment section of the meeting and wasn't addressing the current agenda item. Stewart was escorted from the speaker's stand by a Big Spring Police officer on duty at the meeting.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

David Luera, 58, of Big Spring, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Carmen Harbour, 71, of Big Spring, died Monday. Viewing and visitation will be at Myers & Smith Funeral Home Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM with a vigil at 6:00 PM. Funeral mass will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 10:00 AM on Friday. Burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Marlin Roberson, 93, of Big Spring, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• Howard College is offering License to Carry Course on May 15. There is a maximum of 10 students per class; handgun and ammo not provided. Participants must be at least 21 years old and have valid ID. Participants will need 50 rounds of ammo and a handgun. Questions can be addressed to Dee Lindsey at 432-264-5641 or dlindsey@howardcollege.edu.

• Forsan Food Pantry will be open twice a month from 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Families in need can pull up to the front doors of the Junior High/High School and receive a free box of pre-packed meals. If you have any questions or need to pick up a box at a different time, contact Kaci Wash at 432-457-2223 ext 821 or Jenny Sayles at jennysales@yahoo.com.

• Howard County Republican Club meets the second Monday of each month in the Cactus Room at Howard College. The next meeting will be held in the newly renovated Cactus Room. Everyone is welcome. The meeting takes place at Noon. For more information call 432-213-7628.

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Texas Court to hear an appeal for Dallas Police Officer who killed neighbor

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas court is scheduled to hear arguments Tuesday on overturning the conviction of a former Dallas police officer who was sentenced to prison for fatally shooting her neighbor in his home.

An attorney for Amber Guyger and prosecutors are set to clash before an appeals court over whether the evidence was sufficient to prove that her 2018 shooting of Botham Jean was murder.

The hearing before a panel of judges will examine a Dallas County jury's 2019 decision to sentence Guyger to 10 years in prison for murder. It follows the recent conviction of a former Minneapolis police officer who was found guilty of murdering George Floyd, again focusing national attention on police killings and racial injustice.

Guyger is not expected to appear in court Tuesday and the appeals panel will hand down a decision at an un-

specified later date.

More than two years before Floyd's death set off protests across the country, Guyger's killing of Jean drew national attention because of the strange circumstances and because it was one in a string of shootings of Black men by white police officers.

The basic facts of the case were not in dispute. Guyger, returning home from a long shift, mistook Jean's apartment for her own, which was on the floor directly below his. Finding the door ajar, she entered and shot him, later testifying that she thought he was a burglar.

Jean, a 26-year-old accountant, had been eating a bowl of ice cream before Guyger shot him. She was later fired from the Dallas Police Department.

The appeal from Guyger, now 32, hangs on the contention that her mistaking Jean's apartment for her own was reasonable and, therefore, so too

was the shooting. Her lawyers have asked the appeals court to acquit her of murder or to substitute in a conviction for criminally negligent homicide, which carries a lesser sentence.

In court filings, Dallas County prosecutors countered that Guyger's error doesn't negate "her culpable mental state." They wrote, "murder is a result-oriented offense."

Jean's mother, Allison Jean, told the Dallas Morning News that the appeal has delayed her family's healing.

"I know everyone has a right of appeal, and I believe she's utilizing that right," Jean said. "But on the other hand, there is one person who cannot utilize any more rights because she took him away."

"So having gotten 10 years, only 10, for killing someone who was in the prime of his life and doing no wrong in the comfort of his home, I believe that she ought to accept, take account-

ability for it and move on," she said.

Guyger could have been sentenced to up to life in prison or as little as two years. Prosecutors had requested a 28-year sentence — Botham Jean would have been 28 if he were still alive during the trial.

Under her current sentence, Guyger will become eligible for parole in 2024, according to state prison records.

Following the trial, two members of the jury said the diverse panel tried to consider what the victim would have wanted when they settled on a 10-year prison sentence.

Jean — who went by "Bo" — sang in a church choir in Dallas and grew up in a devout family on the island nation of St. Lucia. After sentencing, Brandt Jean embraced Guyger in court and told her his older brother would have wanted her to turn her life over to Christ. He said if she asked God for forgiveness, she would get it.

Dallas lawyer takes up mission to help people avoid eviction

By JAMIE STENGLE and MICHAEL CASEY

Associated Press

DALLAS — Not long after he began posting advice last year for people facing eviction during the pandemic, Mark Melton found himself inundated with phone calls and messages.

"It became apparent really quickly that this was going to be too much of a job for one person," said Melton, a Dallas tax attorney who decided to study up on eviction law as COVID-19 began taking an economic toll on Texas residents.

Since then, Melton has recruited over 175 attorneys who have assisted more than 6,000 people. His team has helped renters understand the protections put in place to temporarily stop evictions and how to access government funds to pay rent. They've found themselves doing everything from negotiating with landlords to representing renters in court to helping them get groceries.

Melton's efforts come as more than 4 million people in the U.S. said they faced eviction or foreclosure in the next two months, according to the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey. In Texas, that number is more than 250,000.

A federal moratorium on evictions that was extended through June by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention aims to protect most tenants but is being interpreted in different ways from state to state. Additionally, tenant advocates say landlords are still finding ways to evict tenants,

and many renters often show up in court without any legal representation or sometimes unaware of their rights.

"Without representation, the majority of tenants lose their cases and ultimately are evicted," said Diane Yentel, president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

In Dallas, Marcus Douglas, 26, was one of the tenants who turned to Melton.

He'd been just settling in to his \$1,700-a-month downtown apartment when his real estate business began drying up due to the pandemic. As the months wore on, he worked a side job delivering food, began draining his savings and turned to family for help making ends meet.

Eventually, he ended up representing himself in court during eviction proceedings. The judge suggested he call Melton.

"It kind of felt like it was a weight lifted off my back," Douglas said. He now can stay in his place till July and he's applied for rental assistance.

A review of data from over 20 cities and states found that about 81 percent of landlords had attorneys while only 3 percent of tenants did, according to the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel.

The pandemic has shone a spotlight on this legal disparity, and more cities and states are trying to address it.

States like Michigan have set aside millions to provide legal assistance, and as many as eight cit-

ies now have passed laws requiring a right to counsel — moves driven by studies that show greater legal representation saves cities and states tens of millions of dollars on homeless shelters.

Melton's project, now a nonprofit named the Dallas Eviction Advocacy Center, doesn't turn away anyone based on their income level.

"The more people that we have that are helping these tenants from being evicted, the better," said K'Lisha Rutledge, a Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas attorney whose caseloads have jumped in the pandemic.

Melton said he can identify with the helplessness those facing eviction feel: He's been there himself.

Melton, who grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, said he went straight to work after high school, married and had kids. He'd worked his way up to being a manager at a large collection agency when he found himself without a job after the company filed for bankruptcy. The bank foreclosed on his house and, thinking a bigger city would offer more opportunities, he moved to Dallas.

He started putting himself through college while working often two jobs at a time, and eventually graduated with a law degree from Southern Methodist University. He said his success was possible because of the help he got along the way.

"I relate to that sense of just complete and utter desperation and the necessity to rely on the charity of others just to get the most basic of things," Melton said. "It truly breaks my heart."

Black man killed by deputies shot 5 times

By BEN FINLEY and JONATHAN DREW

Associated Press

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. (AP) — Andrew Brown Jr., a Black man killed by deputies in North Carolina, was shot five times, including in the back of the head, according to an independent autopsy report released Tuesday by his family's attorneys.

The details about Brown's wounds emerged amid increasing calls for the public release of body camera footage of last week's shooting. A court hearing on access to the video was scheduled for Wednesday.

The autopsy was performed Sunday by a pathologist hired by Brown's family. The exam noted four wounds to the right arm and one to the head. The state's autopsy has not been released yet.

Brown's death certificate lists the cause of death as a "penetrating gunshot wound of the head." It describes the death as a homicide.

Brown was shot Wednesday by deputies serving drug-related search and arrest warrants in Elizabeth City,

N.C., about 160 miles northeast of Raleigh.

The autopsy results come a day after Brown's relatives were shown some body camera footage. Another family lawyer, Chantel Cherry-Lassiter, who viewed a 20-second portion of the video, said Monday that officers opened fire on Brown while he had his hands on the steering wheel of a car. She said she lost count of the numerous gunshots while viewing the footage.

Brown's son Khalil Ferebee questioned why deputies had to shoot so many times at a man who, he said, posed no threat.

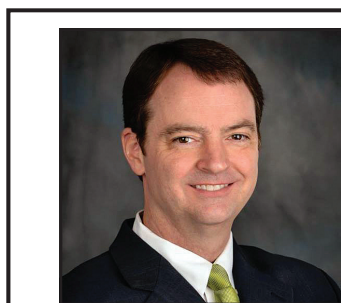
"Yesterday I said he was executed. This autopsy report shows me that was correct," he said Tuesday at a news conference. "It's obvious he was trying to get away. It's obvious."

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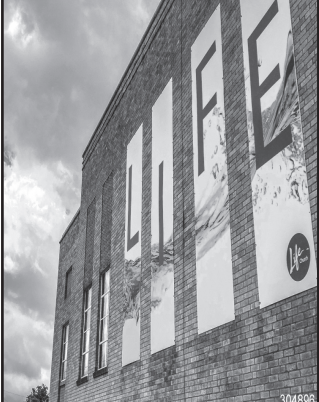
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Braxton Pearson wins trip to State Track Meet in Discus for the Big Spring Steers



Courtesy Photos
Top Right: Region 1 Class 4A Discus Champion! Big Spring High School Junior Braxton Pearson to earn a trip to the UIL State track meet in May. Braxton competed against 23 other athletes at Lowery Field in Lubbock Saturday morning. He follows in the footsteps of his dad who was also a track star at BSBS and Wayland Baptist. Top Left: Braxton celebrating his Class 4A Region 1 first place finish at the Region 1's Track and Field meet Saturday Morning with Big Spring High School's coaches who work with both boys and girls throwers of the discus and shot. From left to right BSBS grad Sawyer Robert's, Junior Braxton Pearson, and Walker Hargrove.

Gallo HR ends power drought, Rangers quiet Angels' bats, 6-1

By SCHUYLER DIXON
 AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Joey Gallo circled the bases after the hardest hit of the season for the Texas slugger ended the longest home run drought of his career at 20 games.

"I forgot what to do, honestly," Gallo said. "I was going to hit the bases, I don't even know. Do I high-five people? I forgot all my signature moves."

Maybe he should teach a few to Nick Solak, who went deep twice to join a logjam for the AL lead in homers at seven. Gallo's two-run shot was the early tiebreaking blow in the Rangers' 6-1 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday night.

"He's got pop," Gallo said of Solak after the Rangers stopped a second four-game losing streak, their longest of the season. "It's good to see him finally using it and hitting it out of the ballpark."

Shohei Ohtani was 0 for 4 with a strikeout as the LA designated hitter a day after getting the win, scoring three runs and driving in two while becoming the first home run leader to start as a pitcher since Babe Ruth a century ago.

Gallo extended the longest current on-base streak in the major leagues to 23 games with a first-inning walk. It's

the deepest season-opening run for Texas since Ian Kinsler reached in the first 25 games of 2008.

But the 2019 All-Star's power slump had reached 88 plate appearances without even one extra-base hit before Gallo pulled a 114.3 mph liner down the line in right field off José Quintana to break a 1-1 tie in the third.

"You could see the relief," manager Chris Woodward said. "You could see the kind of ... finally, not only an extra-base hit but a homer. I feel like he's done a really good job, even though he hasn't hit homers. It was really nice to get him some results."

Mike Trout, who entered the game leading the majors in on-base and slugging percentage, had was 2 for 4 with a double to raise his batting average to .431.

Ohtani and Trout didn't go deep against Texas starter Mike Foltynewicz, who had allowed a majors-leading eight home runs in his first four starts but didn't surrender one against the team that started the day leading the AL in long balls.

Foltynewicz (1-3) allowed eight hits and one run with four strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings for the right-hander's first win with the Rangers, six days after giving up three solo homers in six innings in a no-decision at the Angels.

He signed as a free agent in the offseason.

"Against a lineup like this, back-to-back games, a little more chess match-type stuff out there," Foltynewicz said. "Just going out there and attacking guys and letting them hit the ball, getting back to where in my mind I'm not trying to strike everybody out."

Albert Pujols drove in the only LA run with a single in the second. The 41-year-old has 2,112 RBIs, second to Hank Aaron on the career list.

Solak had a pair of solo shots in his first career multihomer game, starting in the first against Quintana (0-2). The LA left-hander allowed six hits and five runs in 3 1/3 innings. Solak connected again in the seventh.

"They hit some balls hard," Angels manager Joe Maddon said. "The kid Solak's got some real raw strength and power. The pitch you'd like to have back is the pitch to Gallo. That was the one that kind of changed the momentum of the game."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Angels: Maddon said the blister on Ohtani's pitching hand that ended the right-hander's night after five innings wasn't a big concern. "We were just trying to stay ahead of it a little bit," Maddon said. "Just one of those

things that we will have to continue to monitor it." ... Maddon said C Max Stassi (left thumb sprain) and OF Juan Lagares (left calf strain) were close to returning.

GALLO'S TRUE OUTCOMES

Gallo, whose only other extra-base hit was a homer in Kansas City in the second game, struck out with the bases loaded in the fourth. It was the 11th consecutive game with at least one K for the AL leader in walks (23) and strikeouts (34).

TROUT ON A ROLL

Since going 0 for 4 with three strikeouts in his first game against the Rangers on April 19, Trout is 11 of 17 with two homers, three doubles and four RBIs in four games.

UP NEXT

RHP Alex Cobb (1-1, 6.28 ERA) is set for Wednesday's finale of the three-game series against Texas RHP Dane Dunning (1-0, 3.06). Cobb has a 2.90 ERA in six career starts against the Rangers and is facing them for the first time since July 2018 with Baltimore. Dunning extended his scoreless streak to 16 innings in his previous start at the White Sox before allowing a career-high five earned runs without escaping the third. Dunning had a no-decision in Chicago's 9-7 victory.

Javier pitches Astros past Mariners 2-0, back over .500

HOUSTON (AP) — Cristian Javier combined with two relievers on a two-hitter, and the Houston Astros beat the Seattle Mariners 2-0 on Tuesday night to get above .500 as they bounced back from a long skid.

Javier (3-0) allowed two hits in a career-high seven innings — both by Kyle Seager — struck out six and walked three.

"He showed me he's in shape," Houston manager Dusty Baker said. "Even though his velocity went down in the one inning, and then, he reached back and went back up to 93 (mph). He had a good breaking ball, a good fastball. ... He gave us what we wanted. He gave us seven innings."

Javier extended his scoreless streak to 17 innings over three starts and lowered his season ERA to 0.87.

"I'm really just going out there to have fun," he said through a translator. "That's the first thing I am focused on is to have fun and do my job, letting things fall how they may."

Houston catcher Martín Maldonado said Javier was able to mix his pitches well.

"He looked really good," Maldonado said. "His fastball command wasn't

there like it normally is. I think we mixed different pitches where we got them guessing second or third time through the lineup."

Brooks Raley and Ryan Pressly each pitched a perfect inning, with Pressly getting his third save.

Seattle did not move a runner past second.

Houston has won five of six to reach 12-11, a spurt that followed nine losses in 10 games.

"We'll take these victories," Baker said. "Back over .500, it's been a good home-tand. We want to close out strong before we go on the road."

Seattle has lost three in a row.

Yordan Álvarez had a sacrifice fly and Kyle Tucker an RBI single in a two-run fourth off Marco Gonzales (1-3), who allowed five hits in six innings with four strikeouts. Gonzales has allowed

two runs or fewer in each of his last three starts.

"His fastball command leads the way with everything," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "I thought his curveball was good and his changeup was coming into play. He's doing a good job of reading batters and knowing whether to speed them up or slow them down."

UP NEXT

Houston RHP Zack Greinke (2-1, 2.76 ERA) will pitch against Seattle RHP Justin Dunn (1-0, 3.68) in the third game of the four-game series on Wednesday night.

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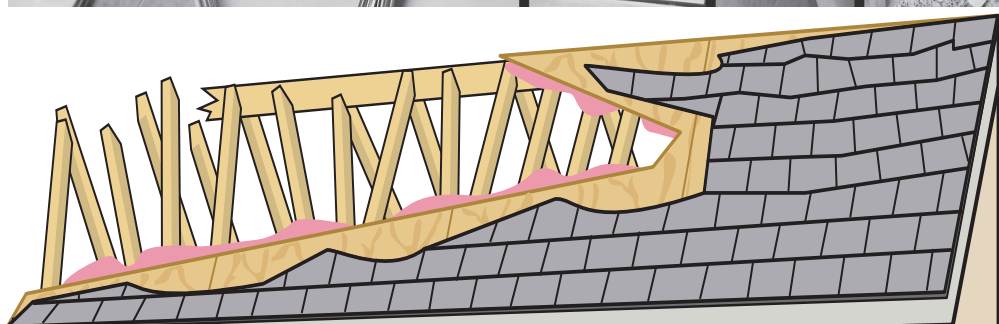
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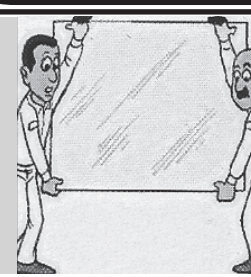
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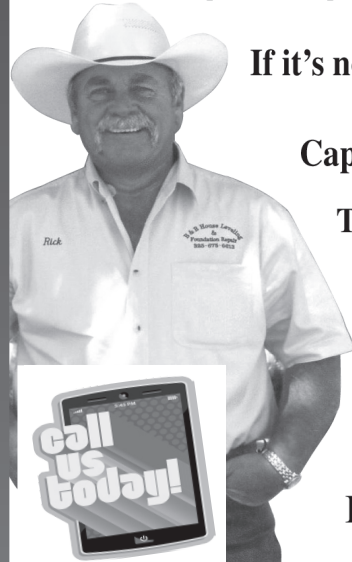
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Help Wanted

**Maintenance Tech IV –
REQ# 2100425**

Falcon Power Operating
Company, Big Spring, TX

**Primary Job Duties and
Responsibilities (Essential
Job Function)**

The maintenance technician is responsible for the safe, proper, and efficient installation, maintenance and repair of all types of valves and valve actuators. Overtime and shift work may be required. Work is performed under supervision and direction from the maintenance supervisor.

Qualifications – External

High school diploma or general education degree; minimum of two to five years related maintenance experience; or certification program or equivalent education and experience.

Knowledge of PC software application, including spreadsheet, word processing and database.

Ability to read and interpret documents such as periodicals, regulations and piping and instrumentation dia-

Help Wanted

grams. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence accurately. Ability to communicate orally, including the use of a radio and group presentations. Ability to calculate figures and amounts, including percentages, area, circumference and volume. Ability to apply concepts of basic algebra and geometry.

Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts and draw valid conclusions. Ability to interpret an extensive variety of technical instructions in mathematical or diagram form and deal with several abstract and concrete variables.

A valid driver's license is required.

Ability to prioritize and handle multiple tasks and projects concurrently.

Employees must be able to perform the essential functions of the position, with or without an accommodation.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, dis-

Help Wanted

ability or veteran status.

For additional details related to performance expectations, position requirements and other duties, interested applicants can apply at: <https://midamerican.taleo.net/careersection/rnew+external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2100425&language=en>

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Legals

JoAnna Gonzales, District Clerk 312 Scurry Street Big Spring, Texas, 79720

Derek Cook 300 North Marienfeld, Suite 700 Midland, Texas 79701

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE OF DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorneys do not file a written answer with the

Legals

clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

To: Robert Eugene Thomas and Unknown Surviving Spouses, If Any, And Any Unknown Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives Of Any Deceased Spouse,

Defendant, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday 05/31/2021, before the Honorable 118th District Court of Howard County, at 312 Scurry Street in said County in Big Spring, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 24th day of March 2021, cause number 54861 in the entitled cause styled.

Sabalo Energy, LLC vs Robert Thomas And Unknown Surviving Spouses, If Any, And Any Unknown Heirs, Devises and Legal Representatives Of Any Deceased Spouse

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Real Property - Other as is more fully shown by the Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand seal of said court at office on this the 13th day of April, 2021.

JOANNA GONZALES District Clerk of Howard County, Texas By: /s/ , Deputy

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Famous Hand

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q J 9
♥ A K J 7
♦ —
♣ K Q 9 5 4

WEST
♠ 7
♥ 6 5 4 3
♦ A J 4 3
♣ A 7 6 3

EAST
♠ 8
♥ 10 9 2
♦ Q 10 9 7 6 5
♣ J 10 8

SOUTH
♠ A 10 6 5 4 3 2
♥ Q 8
♦ K 8 2
♣ 2

The bidding:
East South West North
3♦ Pass 5♦ 5NT
Pass 6♥

Opening lead — ace of diamonds. This astonishing deal occurred during a match in the 1997 Vanderbilt Teams and had a direct effect not only on the outcome of that match, but also in determining the ultimate winners of the event. The serendipitous result on the deal grew out of a bidding misunderstanding between Bobby Goldman and Paul Soloway, a longstanding partnership comprised of two of the best players in the United States. After Fred Stewart and Steve Weinstein, East-West, had quickly arrived at five diamonds, Soloway elected to bid five notrump, which he intended as a takeout for the three

unbid suits. He apparently felt a double at this level would have been construed as primarily for penalties. However, Goldman read the five-notrump bid as "unusual notrump," asking him to choose between clubs and hearts, the two lower-ranking unbid suits. He therefore bid six hearts, and everyone passed, leaving North-South in their 4-2 heart fit rather than their 11-card spade fit! Weinstein led the diamond ace, and Goldman could see that if he ruffed in dummy, whichever defender held four trumps would then have a trump trick. So instead of ruffing, Goldman discarded a spade! Now, as anyone can plainly see, all Weinstein had to do to beat the slam was to cash the club ace. But he reasoned that if South had no clubs, leading the ace might help declarer make the slam, while if South had a club, he would have to lose a trick to the ace eventually. So at trick two, Weinstein led another diamond, a play that no doubt has caused him many sleepless nights since. Goldman won the diamond with the king, drew trump in four rounds and then ran seven spades to score the rest of the tricks! At the other table, six spades was duly bid and made by Weinstein's teammates to achieve a tie. But if Weinstein had cashed the club ace at trick two, his team would have won the match and eliminated the team that went on to win the Vanderbilt.

Tomorrow: Anticipatory defense.
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SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

Lessons from the Frozen Distance

ARIES (March 21-April 19). After an interaction, you feel charged, drained or neutral. Whether you decide to keep moving forward with a person has a lot to do with which category you most consistently fall into after being around them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The same person who asks terrific questions and helps you along can also miss your point from time to time and/or be unavailable when you need them. It's why you need lots of people on your team. Keep adding.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Embrace your inner juvenile delinquent. And if you don't think such a person exists, all the more reason to discover and celebrate that naive rebel who holds the key to your creative genius.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are still discovering how to best project your talents. Right now, this is not about trying new things out. Rather, it's a process of stripping away the excess to reveal the pure essence of what you do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Crude resources and tools will force you to reckon with the soundness of an idea. The concept will have to be very strong to shine through. Indeed, when you have a wonderful idea, it doesn't take much to convey it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The important thing

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



sticks. You may not know why it's important, but the picture that lingers in your mind after the situation has long passed is there for a reason. All will be revealed in time.

LI-BRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While it is pleasant to spend time with that cheerful and even-tempered someone, you must admit that the troublemaker in your life has an irreplaceable role. To interact with both people in the same day is heavenly!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's a danger of getting too stuffy in your approach. What if you were to take things in a direction quite casual, whimsical and anti-intellectual? In a weird way, the scene can be elevated by the seemingly low brow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're not always in an environment that is conducive to influence, so don't expect yourself to just know what's current. Observation and research will freshen your perspective and get you thinking ahead of the curve.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Relationships aren't always about the sort of connections that

can be fallen into. Often these bonds must be created.

ittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 22, 1 and 40.

COSMIC QUESTION: "I am in a relationship with a man who sometimes is really great and sometimes childish and seemingly not into our relationship at all. What do you see for the two of us? My birthday is Jan. 22, 1976, and his birthday is Sept. 17, 1974. Thanks!"

There is plenty of signage on the freeway of love, but if you're going too fast, they're too blurred to read. Slow down and consider what these signs are telling you. If he's playing games, keeping his affections close to his chest and withholding his heart from truly being touched you'd be wise to heed those signals and cut your losses. With your love goddess in amorous Sagittarius, you get so excited by the thrill of romance with naming all the possibilities and potentials you miss the signs saying: turn around, yield or stop.

Practice looking for reliability and maturity in others. Qualify loving partnership with a list of qualities. Look to long-term couples you admire to see the difference between a child and a man. There's much to look forward to. In spite of the current social climate, you'll have occasion to get to know many new people this year. Ready to date someone decidedly different? This time, watch for signs.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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	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	For Such	Wild Kratt	King	Burgers	Fam. Guy	SportsCenter	Daily Wager	NDSQB	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Expedition Unknown	
:30	ABC	Noticiero	FamFeud	CBS	Noticias	News	Freedom	Wild Kratt	King	Burgers	Big Trick							
6 :PM	News	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Exatlón Estados Unidos (SS)	News	Cowgirl	Xavier	Last Man	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	SportsCenter	SportsCenter Special	Rangers	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Expedition Unknown	
:30	Wheel	Price Is Right	The Masked Singer	Price Is Right		Chicago Med	Israel	Molly	Last Man	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Wizards	Rookie	MLB Baseball: Los Angeles Angels at Texas Rangers	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Expedition Unknown	
7 :PM	Gold	Diseñando tu amor	Game of Talents	Presidential Address to Congress	La suerte de Loli	Presidential Address to Congress	Truth	Odd		Nancy Drew	Big Bang	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite	Rookie	Queen of the South	I Survived			
:30	Home E.	Te acuerdas de mí	FOX 24 News at 9		Buscando a Frida		Light of Southwest	Cyber	Mike	Seinfeld	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Clippers at Suns	NFL Live	Queen of the South	I Survived			
8 :PM	Presidential Address to Congress	La hija					Light of Southwest	Molly	Mike	Seinfeld	Full			Queen of the South	I Survived			
9 :PM	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Pink	Friends	Creek	Conan	Movie: You Don't Mess With the Zohan (DVS)	SportsCenter	Postgame	Law & Order: SVU	(:04) The First 48	Expedition Unknown	
:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show- Colbert	Noticias	Tonight Show	Words of Dr. Wil	Sesame	Friends	Creek	Full		SportCir	World Poker	Law & Order: SVU	(:03) The First 48	Expedition Unknown	
10 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	Contacto deportivo	Funny	James Corden	Caso cerrado (SS)	Seth Meyers	Issues4	Tiger	Jokers	Gold	Conan	SportsCenter	SportsCenter Spec.	MLB Baseball: Los Angeles Angels at Texas Rangers	Queen of the South	The First 48	Expedition X	
:30	Nightline	Un gancho al	Two Men	Simpsons	Drew Barrymore		Late-Lilly	Jesus IS	Nature	Forensic		SportsCenter	NFL	NFL	NCIS: Los Angeles	I Survived		
11 :AM	Extra	Un gancho al	Simpsons	Drew Barrymore			Late-Lilly	Jesus IS	Nature	Forensic		SportsCenter	NFL	NFL	NCIS: Los Angeles	I Survived		
:30	DailyMail	Mañana es	Pawn	Dr. Carras			Programa	News	Light of Southwest	Wild Kratt	Jerry Springer	Short List	Wipeout	NCIS: New Orleans				
1 :AM	PyWo Wor.	Mañana es	Pawn	Dr. Carras			Programa	News	Light of Southwest	Wild Kratt	Jerry Springer	Short List	Wipeout	NCIS: New Orleans				

ANDY CAPP

IT'LL JUST BE THE SAME OLD SERMON ABOUT WRONGDOING AND BEING GOOD, FLO.

AND WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT?

HE ALWAYS STARES STRAIGHT AT ME WHEN HE DELIVERS IT

AGNES

YOU CAN QUIT WORRYING. I HAVE FIXED THE PROBLEM.

WHAT PROBLEM?

THE AGONY OF MY FINGER.

YOU'RE SUFFOCATING IT?

SEEMED WASTEFUL NOT TO USE THE WHOLE ACE BANDAGE.

LOOKS LIKE A CATCHER'S MITT.

ARCHIE

ARCHIE'S WORRIED! HE FELL ASLEEP WHILE STUDYING FOR THIS TEST!

I'VE GRADED YOUR PAPERS!

OH, THIS IS TERRIBLE!

ARCHIE, NINETY-SIX IS A WONDERFUL GRADE!

I'M THINKING OF ALL THOSE NIGHTS I STAYED AWAKE STUDYING!

ONE BIG HAPPY

CYLENE, DID YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE SKELETONS INSIDE OF US?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, RUTHIE.

BUT IT'S TRUE!

WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE...

I'LL CERTAINLY HAVE MINE REMOVED!

THE BARN

"TAG, YOU'RE IT!"

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M UP FOR A GAME OF AT LEAST "BOTTLE TAG." HE'S NOT PLAYING "MARCO POLO" ANY-MORE.

MOMMA

I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME A FILM CRITIC!

REALLY? DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CINEMATOGRAPHY?

NO, BUT I KNOW A LOT ABOUT POPCORN AND GOOBERS...

This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, April 28, the 118th day of 2021. There are 247 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 28, 1967, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali was stripped of his title after he refused to be inducted into the armed forces.

On this date:

In 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

In 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.

In 1952, war with Japan officially ended as a treaty signed in San Francisco the year before took effect. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as Supreme Allied commander in Europe; he was succeeded by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway.

In 1958, the United States conducted the first of 35 nuclear test explosions in the Pacific Proving Ground as part of Operation Hardtack I. Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, began a goodwill tour of Latin America that was marred by hostile mobs in Lima, Peru, and Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter accepted the resignation of Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, who had opposed the failed rescue mission aimed at freeing American hostages in Iran. (Vance was succeeded by Edmund Muskie.)

In 1986, the Soviet Union informed the world of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl.

In 1988, a flight attendant was killed and more than 60 persons injured when part of the roof of an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 tore off during a flight from Hilo (HEE'loh) to Honolulu.

In 1994, former CIA official Aldrich Ames, who had passed U.S. secrets to the Soviet Union and then Russia, pleaded guilty to espionage and tax evasion, and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In 2001, a Russian rocket lifted off from Central Asia bearing the first space tourist, California businessman Dennis Tito, and two cosmonauts on a journey to the international space station.

In 2010, Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry said a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was worse than officials had believed, and that the federal government was offering to help industry giant BP contain the slick threatening the U.S. shoreline.

In 2015, urging Americans to "do some soul-searching," President Barack Obama expressed deep frustration over recurring black deaths at the hands of police, rioters who responded with senseless violence and a society that would only "feign concern" without addressing the root causes.

In 2019, former Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, a leading voice on foreign policy during his 36 years in the Senate, died at a hospital in Virginia at the age of 87. "Avengers: Endgame" shattered the record for biggest opening weekend with an estimated \$350 million in ticket sales domestically and \$1.2 billion globally.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama reshuffled his national security team, with CIA Director Leon Panetta succeeding Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Gen. David Petraeus replacing Panetta at the CIA. Convicted sex offender Phillip Garrido and his wife, Nancy, pleaded guilty to kidnapping and raping a California girl, Jaycee Dugard, who was abducted in 1991 at the age of 11 and rescued 18 years later. (Phillip Garrido was sentenced to 431 years to life in prison; Nancy Garrido was sentenced to 36 years to life in prison.) Canada's Patrick Chan won the world figure skating championships in Moscow.

Five years ago: Vice President Joe Biden pressed Iraq during an unannounced visit not to let its crippling political crisis upend hard-fought gains against the Islamic State group.

One year ago: President Donald

Trump signed an executive order under the Defense Production Act to keep meat packing plants open; it classified meat processing as critical infrastructure. The Navy said the number of sailors aboard the USS Kidd who had tested positive for the coronavirus had risen to 64, or about one-fifth of the destroyer's crew. Joe Biden won Ohio's presidential primary, the first major test of statewide

elections via mail amid the virus outbreak. Hillary Clinton became the latest Democrat to endorse Biden as the party continued its unification efforts. Democrat Kweisi Mfume easily won a special election to complete the term of the late Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State James A. Baker

III is 91. Actor-singer Ann-Margret is 80. Actor Paul Guilfoyle is 72. Former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is 71. Rock musician Chuck Leavell is 69. Actor Mary McDonnell is 69. Rock singer-musician Kim Gordon (Sonic Youth) is 68. Actor Nancy Lee Grahn is 65. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan is 61. Rapper Too Short is 55. Actor Bridget Moynahan is 50. Actor Chris

Young is 50. Rapper Big Gipp is 49. Actor Jorge Garcia is 48. Actor Elisabeth Rohm is 48. Actor Penelope Cruz is 47. Actor Nate Richert is 43. TV personalities Drew and Jonathan Scott are 43. Actor Jessica Alba is 40. Actor Harry Shum Jr. is 39. Actor Jenna Ushkowitz is 35. Actor Aleisha Allen is 30.

Newsday Crossword

THAT'S NO ANSWER by S.N.
 Edited by Stanley Newman
 www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 British bloke
- 5 Up to the job
- 9 Stiffly proper
- 14 Ill-at-___ (edgy)
- 15 Cutlet meat
- 16 Mark in *señor*
- 17 Skilled at avoiding answering
- 20 Throwing softly
- 21 Sensibly thought out
- 22 Luxuriously furnished
- 24 Service charge
- 25 River-crossing structure
- 29 ___ in (agree to participate)
- 31 Make over, as a kitchen
- 35 Cruise ship
- 36 Direct a car
- 38 Turkey drumstick
- 39 Tactic to avoid answering
- 42 ___ Antonio, TX
- 43 Digs for gold, say
- 44 Glowing with flames
- 45 Whole bunch
- 47 Auto res.
- 48 Ends a speech
- 49 Enjoy a feast
- 51 Number in a spreadsheet
- 53 Ties, as a score
- 57 Period when metalworking began
- 62 Be a victim of answer avoidance
- 64 Aladdin's helpful pal

DOWN

- 1 "___ la vie!"
- 2 Angelic ring
- 3 With no warranty
- 4 Invigorates, with "up"
- 5 Broad urban street
- 6 Icy arctic hazards
- 7 Get the ___ of the land
- 8 Israeli airline
- 9 Theater platform
- 10 Much smaller
- 11 Actor Baldwin
- 12 Brainstorm
- 13 Farmer's place, in a kids' song
- 18 Mayflower passenger
- 19 Tone down
- 23 "Flaming" confusion
- 25 Bestow good upon
- 26 Business competitor
- 27 Silly
- 28 ___ Moines, IA
- 30 Veggies in pods
- 32 Music legend
- 33 Big name in farm machinery
- 34 Fairy tale monsters
- 36 Drop in the mail
- 37 Home-selling pro
- 40 Selling point
- 41 ET's vehicle
- 46 Entered a building
- 48 Gem weights
- 50 Campfire residue
- 52 Sounding like a toy piano
- 53 Much of an omelet
- 54 Successful running mate, for short
- 55 Sicilian volcano
- 56 Stiffly proper
- 58 Silent assents
- 59 Mystical glow
- 60 Small pesky fly
- 61 Competitive advantage
- 63 Nation s. of Canada

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17			18					19					
20							21						
			22			23		24					
25	26	27	28			29	30		31	32	33	34	
35						36			37		38		
39						40							
42				43					44				
45				46		47			48				
				49	50			51	52				
53	54	55				56		57		58	59	60	61
62							63						
64						65				66			
67						68				69			

Answer to previous puzzle

DUB	SHELL	JARS
GENE	PIXIE	ARIA
ABIT	ATILT	MEOW
BUTTERFLY	BATS	
STEELTOE	TKO	
	MAR	DOGRUNS
SOPHS	BARBECUE	
OHIO	CRIME	ELLA
UNENDING	PSALM	
RODENTS	SAO	
	YAY	PETNAMES
SCAM	JELLYFISH	
NONO	TESLA	INTO
ALTO	DATES	REED
GAIN	SNORT	ERE

Unorthodox offseason means unusual, unpredictable NFL draft

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**

AP Pro Football Writer

About the only certainty in the confounding 2021 NFL draft is Trevor Lawrence going to the Jaguars with the first overall pick.

Beyond that, it's really anybody's guess following the most unorthodox of run-ups to the league's annual parade of prospects.

COVID-19 opt-outs and shortened or shelved seasons in the fall were followed by the combine cancellation and the elimination of in-person interviews this spring because of the pandemic.

Teams had to rely on Zoom calls to get to know players.

"I've said this before: what we're doing is educated guessing," Giants general manager Dave Gettleman said. "So, this makes us a little more uneducated, not having this personal touch with these players."

Although all 32 teams received the videos from all 103 pro days, the lack of uniform, electronic timing resulted in suspect 40-yard dashes on fast surfaces clocked by hand.

"It's hard to compare apples to oranges. You'd like to have everybody run on the same surface," Chargers GM Tom Telesco said. "That's the biggest part of the Indianapolis combine when the players go in and get their physicals done."

Only 150 players went to Indy this month for physicals, leaving spotty medical reports on many of the athletes heading into the 259-pick draft.

All of this should result in a wild weekend of buildup for the 2021 season, when the NFL hopes sellouts replace opt-outs and normalcy returns in sports and society alike.

"It's a very complicated draft," ESPN analyst Mel Kiper Jr. said. "I always say, 'mysterious/complicated' draft" because teams didn't have uniform 40-yard dash times and other measurements and didn't get to poke and prod the prospects themselves.

"The opt-outs complicate things even more," added Kiper.

"It's a year like no other," agreed Bengals player personnel director Duke Tobin. "There are players in this draft who have really only played one year of college football. You're projecting."

More so than ever.

"There are guys in this draft that (come) August it'll be the first time in 20 months they'll have put pads on," Gettleman marveled. "And some of those guys are very, very highly rated."

Hall of Fame executive Bill Polian called this year's draft a throwback to a bygone era before technology changed the scouting world.

"I think it will probably be less homogenous than it's been in the past — which is not a bad thing," Polian said.

NFL Network analyst Daniel Jeremiah said consensus this year was as elusive as Tyreek Hill is in man coverage.

"Look, group think is a real thing," Jeremiah said. "When you get scouts that pal around together, we go to the same schools and you'd be at the same places watching the same players. Everybody ends up talking and and you kind of end up getting some consensus on some players."

Same thing at the combine.

"So there's just been less gathering. I think in some ways it's better because you get individual evaluations," Jeremiah said. "But I can't remember more variance just talking to buddies around the league about specific players where the (evaluations) are so wildly different."

Jeremiah also considers this shakeup a positive development.

"That makes it fun," he said. "I think a lot of teams that I've talked to have really tried to shrink their draft board more so than in years past."

You know what else has dwindled?

The entire pool of candidates.

With the NCAA granting an extra year of eligibility because of the pandemic, a crush of players stayed in school. By mid-April, fewer than 700 players had signed a standard representation agreement with an NFL agent, about one-third the usual number.

That left this thinnest of draft classes with their college pro day performances to replace the one-stop scouting combine — unless they were lucky enough to get invited to the Senior Bowl, where every team got 15 minutes of face time with them.

The result of all these factors is a puzzling draft loaded at the top but blindfolded at the bottom.

"We had so many kids go back to school. That's what's going to impact the bottom half of the draft," Jeremiah said. "That's why ev-

erybody that I talk to around the league just says, 'We don't know what the heck we're going to do with the sixth- and seventh-round picks. If I can get rid of them I'm going to get rid of them' just because next year's class, with those sixth- and seventh-round picks, are going to be really valuable."

Risk-takers might find gems this year, but the temptation will be to load up on 2022 picks when the pool of prospects will be much deeper — and, the hope is, better vetted.

This weekend, "there's going to be less to know about the character of a person because you just haven't spent time around them," ex-NFL executive Mark Dominik said.

"The Senior Bowl was 15 minutes, and a lot of GMs didn't even go to the Senior Bowl. So, they haven't really met the players."

Teams were allowed up to five one-hour video-conferences with prospects this spring, so that softened the blow of not getting to fly them in or interview them at the combine.

Still, team doctors couldn't get their hands on them.

Last year things didn't shut down until after the combine, so teams had good medical reports on the top 330 or so prospects. This year, it's less than half that.

"You've got incomplete medical information on these guys, and nothing scares a general manager more," said Jeremiah, who added that teams "aren't freaked out about the football side of the evaluation. (They're) majorly freaked out about the medical stuff."

However it all shakes out, Kansas State tight end Briley Moore has a bold prediction for this year's draft class that had to navigate such an unusual path to the pros.

"Ten years from now," Moore said, "this class is going to be special just because of the mental toughness that everyone has built to go through to play a full season and offseason with the climate of the world right now."



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