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# BIG SPRING HERALD

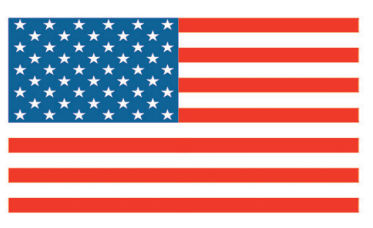
FRIDAY EDITION,  
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## Home is where the heart is

### BSSO Holiday Concert set for First United Methodist Church

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Herald Staff Writer

The title of the upcoming Big Spring Symphony Orchestra's annual Christmas concert this year is quite appropriate: "Home Is Where the Heart Is."

The orchestra's home – Big Spring's Municipal Auditorium – is undergoing repairs, and the venue won't be ready for the Christmas Concert, or even for the upcoming Jeans 'n' Classics collaboration on "Bohemian Rhapsody: The Music of Queen" in January, so faithful Symphony fans will need to follow their hearts to new temporary homes.

"The Dec. 18, 2021, concert will be held at the First United Methodist Church, located at 400 Scurry Street," said Symphony Conductor Dr. Keith Graumann. "The boiler is out at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium and cannot be repaired in time due to part short-

**THE MEISTERSINGERS & VOX ANIMA PERFORM DURING THE BIG SPRING SYMPHONY'S HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR!**  
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*Big Spring Symphony Association, Inc.*  
 Keith Graumann, Music Director and Conductor

ages beyond the city's control. The Big Spring Symphony Association is extremely grateful to FUMC for allowing us to perform in their wonderful facility." The show starts at 7:30 p.m. on that date.

Graumann said the concert will be full of traditional holiday favorites. "We celebrate the holiday season with our always popular 'variety show' spectacular," Graumann said. "Featuring our orchestra in favorites such as 'Sleigh Ride' and 'Little Drummer Boy,' add vocal soloists Tara Trowbridge and Lawrence Thibeault, audience Christmas Carol sing-alongs, Hannukah pieces and a youth choir, and we have an evening that can't be beat."

Graumann said the Symphony will be welcoming some special guests for the concert's conclusion.

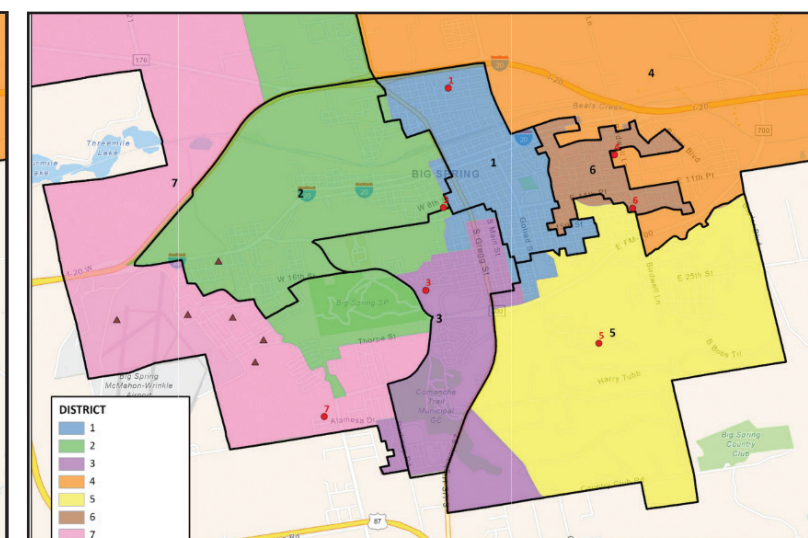
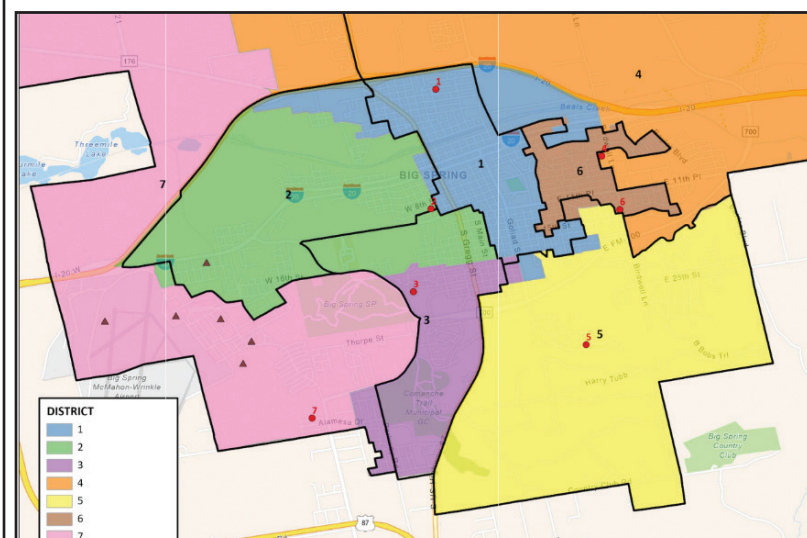
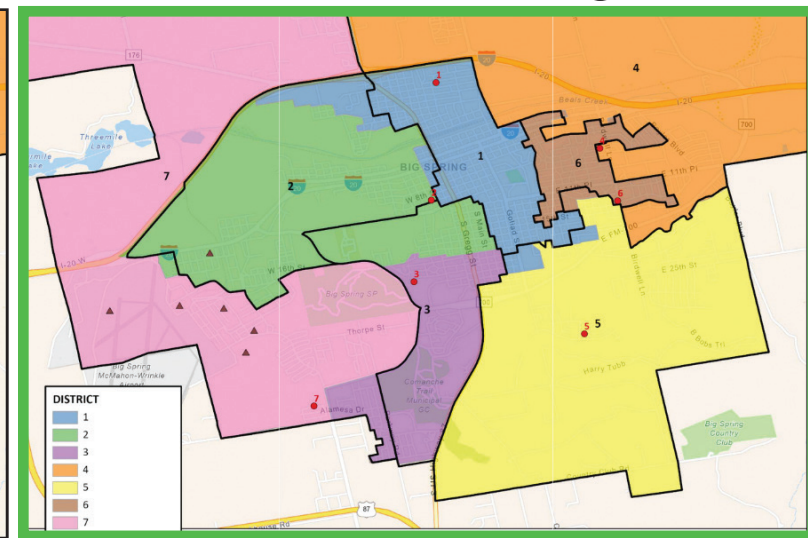
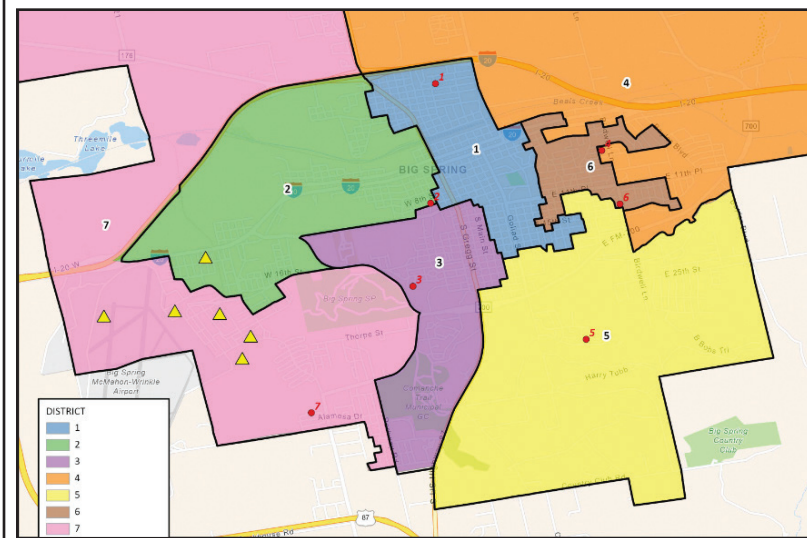
See **CONCERT**, Page 3

Upcoming Events

*Big Spring's annual Festival of Lights Christmas lighted display in Comanche Trail Park is open nightly from 6 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 25. Enter at the north entrance on U.S. Highway 87, across from Wal-Mart.*

*The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Concert, "Home is Where the Heart Is," will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at First United Methodist Church. The holiday event will feature soloists Tara Trowbridge and Lawrence Thibeault. Tickets are on sale now at www.bigspringssymphony.org.*

## BSISD's RAC hammers out redistricting plan



By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Herald Staff Writer

The Big Spring Independent School District's Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) met Thursday and consid-

ered three plans to meet state of Texas requirements to guarantee equal voter representation throughout the school district.

The 14-member committee, comprised

of Nati Saldivar, Patsy Garza, Ashley Phinney Brown, Aaron Olague, Juanita Marquez, James Scott, Jay McWilliams,

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## Steer E-Sports team state semi-finalists

### Public invited to tournament Saturday



Courtesy photo

BSHS's Tristan LeBarre, Toby Phillips and Morgan Griffith advanced to state semi-finals this month in the game Smash Ultimate.

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Herald Staff Writer

Fun things are afoot...not at the Circle K, but at Big Spring High School.

The Steers are participating in e-sports now, and one particular team, the Steer Ultimate team consisting of Tristan LeBarre, Toby Phillips and Morgan Griffith, recently qualified for the semi-final round in the state

See **E-SPORTS**, Page 3

**8 Days Til' Christmas!**

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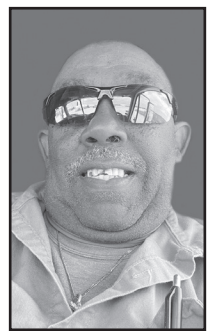


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[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)



## Obituaries

## Danny Ray Crosby



Danny Ray Crosby, 62, of Big Spring, passed away Tuesday, December 14, 2021. The family will receive friends from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Saturday, December 18, 2021 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He was born October 5, 1959 in Big Spring.

Survivors include one sister,

Autry Crosby Watson; one brother, Harry Crosby; six children, Joey Lewis, Terrance Lewis, Daniel Lewis, Mobey Lewis Christopher Lewis and Kori Lewis.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harry Dooley; and his mother, Estelle Newton Crosby.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

## Mary E. Vasquez



Mary E. Vasquez, 91, of Big Spring, passed away Thursday, December 16, 2021. Vigil services will be 9:30 AM Saturday, December 18, 2021 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will follow at 10:00 AM. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born March 6, 1930 in Big Spring.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Casimiro Vasquez and Maria Hernandez Vasquez; one brother, Louis Vasquez; and one sister, Catalina Vasquez.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

## Alepholia Velasquez,

Alepholia Velasquez, 69, of Big Spring died Saturday, December 11, 2021. Visitation will be 9 AM until 9 PM Sunday with a prayer service at 7 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Alepholia was born on June 9, 1952 in Muskingum, MI to Maria & Jesus Velasquez. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring.

Alepholia was a homemaker, she loved babysit-

ting, cooking, and her phone. She raised 2 nephews and 6 nieces.

Alepholia is survived by 1 brother: Rey Velasquez of Big Wells, TX; 7 nieces & nephews.

Alepholia was preceded in death by her parents and several brothers & sisters.

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

## Penny Elaine

Penny Elaine ("Pen Pen") Athas passed away on December 9, 2021, at the age of 64. She died way too

on from Covid, just before she was set to retire and enjoy the fruits of her many years of tireless work.

Penny Elaine never had children of her own, but she was a mother to many. To know Penny was to love her and to know beyond doubt that she loved you. Despite working full time on her feet day after day at the TA truck stop in Big Spring, Texas (which was her beloved "work family") and being the full time caretaker for her elderly parents, she always had time for everyone in her life. Time to talk to them, love them and make them laugh. Penny was larger than life in every sense of the word. You couldn't spend much time with Penny without falling into laughter together. But she was also the person for many with whom they could share their greatest sorrows. She was also that person with whom you could share your deepest secrets. Even if a person found it hard to love themselves from time to time, Penny's love never faltered.

Penny is survived by her parents Pete and Eleanor Athas who were devastated by the loss of their "little girl." Sadly, her mother also succumbed to death as result of Covid six days after Penny's death. Penny is also survived by her sisters Phyllis

Schultz and Wanda Wright and many nieces, nephews, grand nieces and grand nephews as follows: Lisa Calero, Soraja Lucinda Davis, Amber Alyson Train, Aaron Brandon Schultz, Joshua Michael Schultz, Morgan Calero, Brandon Isaac Schultz, Ivory Elizabeth Schultz, Joshua Michael Schultz II, Lisa Schultz, Lucas Alexander Schultz, and Michael Ian Schultz.

And this is just her biological family. It would take a book to name the rest of those she considered and whom considered her family in this world. Penny grew up in Pikesville, Maryland and also lived in Delta, Pennsylvania and Marfa, Texas before settling in Big Spring. Although she died in Texas, her heart has always been at the ocean, where her remains will be scattered.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held on Sunday, December 19, 2021, 2 PM at the Outdoor Pavilion behind the Dora Roberts Community Center located in the Comanche Trail Park, Big Spring, Texas. Those who wish to attend virtually can join via Zoom using the following information: Zoom ID 896 1364 2445 Password 841175.

In lieu of flowers please honor Penny's love of the ocean and animals by making a donation to "Sea of Change" at [SeaOfChange.com](http://SeaOfChange.com).

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

*Paid Obituary*

## Victoria Reyes,

Victoria Reyes, 47, of Big Spring died Thursday,

December 16, 2021. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

•**SHANNON JOHN MULLIN**, 43, of Bogata, Tx was arrested on a charge of warrant form another agency.

•**EDNA LERMA**, 53, of 410 E 18th St was arrested on a charge of MAN DEL controlled substance more than 4G less than 200G, possession of marijuana less than 2oz, possession of controlled substance less than 1G.

•**KIARA DANELY OROZCO**, of Mexico, was arrested on a charge of theft of property more than \$100 less than \$750 shoplifting.

•**GILBERT BUSTAMANTE GONZALES**, 32, of 607 W 9th St was arrested on a charge of war-

rant from another agency x4, driving while license invalid, bail jumping/failure to appear/fine only.

•**MARK ANTHONY CHAVERA**, 33, of 1108 W 6th St was arrested on a charge of possession of controlled substance less than 1g, possession of marijuana less than 2oz, warrant from another agency.

•**ROSENDO RODRIQUEZ DE-ANDA**, 32, of 614 Ridgelea Dr was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 2oz, warrant from another agency.

•**SHANNON DARRELL BEDFORD**, 42, of 203 Providence Rd was arrested on a charge of warrant form another agency.

•**UNWANTED SUBJECT** was reported in the 200 block of Provi-

dence.

•**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1200 block of W 6th.

•**DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2500 block of Gunter Cr.

•**FORGERY** was reported in the 1800 block of S Gregg St.

•**ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.

•**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 500 block of Westover Rd.

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Wednesday Night Supper: 5:30pm  
Bible Study: 6:30pm

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## Mrs. Judy Laverne



Mrs. Judy Laverne Irwin, 66 of Big Spring, TX died on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 in Big Spring.

Services for Mrs. Irwin will be held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 2:00 PM at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home with Reverend Ron Davis officiating. Internment will follow at Hillside Memorial Gardens. Services are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Irwin was born on May 14, 1955 in Midland, TX to Robert and Hattie Laverne (Washburn) Tilley. She married Ronald on July 20, 1980 in Big Spring, Texas. They celebrated 41 years of marriage. Her life long career was grooming animals.

She is survived by Husband Ronald Irwin, Big Spring, TX; Daughter Jennifer Eason, Big Spring, TX; Sons William Smith, Big Spring, TX; Richard Irwin, Big Spring, TX; Brothers William Grambling, Big Spring, TX; Tommy Tilley, Big Spring, TX.

She was preceded in death by her Parents Robert Gremlin and Hattie Tilley; Daughter Christy Norris; Sister Trudy Sherrill.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, December 21 from 1 PM to 2 PM at Bell Cypert Seale Funeral Home.

Online Condolences may be posted at [www.bell-cypertseale.com](http://www.bell-cypertseale.com)

*Paid Obituary*

## Eleanor Hope Athas

Eleanor Hope Athas passed away on the morning of December 15th, 2021 at the age of 90 years young. For many years her home has been Big Spring, TX but she spent much of her life on the east coast in Maryland and Pennsylvania. She was born in Catonsville, Maryland in 1931 to Esther Henrietta Whitecotton and Cyril Thomas Whitecotton. She survived her parents and three siblings Cyril Thomas Whitecotton, Robert Irvin Whitecotton and Betty Eileen Parent.

Hope was survived by the love of her life and husband, Pete Athas. They were married almost 64 years to the day and still told each other they loved one another every day. She was always proud of the large family that she had and talked about them until the time of her death. This included her three beautiful daughters Phyllis Ann Schultz, Wanda Lee Wright and Penny Elaine Athas (predeceased). She is also survived by five grandchildren Amber Alyson Train, Lisa Calero, Soraja Davis, Aaron Schultz, and Joshua Schultz and many great grandchildren.

Hope spent most of her life reading, learning and understanding the bible and God's word so she could share her knowledge through ministry. Her other passions included knitting, reading and watching westerns, puzzles and singing kingdom hall songs. Many people were blessed to receive a shawl or blanket that she would knit especially for them.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held on Sunday, December 19, 2021, at 2:00 the Outdoor Pavilion behind the Dora Roberts Community Center located in the Comanche Trail Park, Big Spring, Texas. Those who wish to attend virtually can join via Zoom using the following information: Zoom ID 896 1364 2445 Password 841175.

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

*paid obituary*

**BIG SPRING HERALD**  
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# Support Groups

## 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. Con-

tact 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.
- Alanon family group meets at 8 p.m. at 615 Settles.
- DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors.

Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible? There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

# E-SPORTS

Continued from Page 1

of Texas in the "Play Vs." League after defeating Oak Ridge High School's team "The Planets" on Dec. 7. Although the team lost to the team "Alpha Eagles" in the semi-final round Dec. 9 at Richardson High School, team sponsor Amber Griffith said the team is already practicing hard for the Spring season, and have their eyes on the finals. The Steer team is already pretty good, she said. "Before playoffs began, they had to qualify by making the top 32 teams in Texas...we were in the Top 10," she said. Ms. Griffith also announced that Big Spring High School will be hosting a local tournament Saturday in Steer Gym...and anyone can participate. "People can play against (the BSHS teams) and each other," she said. "People can also watch and have the opportunity to win door prizes, on top of prizes for placing in the 'student' and 'community' tournament brackets. The games will be Smash Ultimate (singles and doubles), Rocket League, and Splatoon. Registration starts at 11 a.m., and games begin at 1 p.m."

Griffith said anyone currently in fifth grade or older – including adults – are welcome to participate, although fifth and sixth grade students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Admission to the event is \$5, which includes one bracket entry, if the person wants to play.

Most games will have two brackets available, she said, one for students only, and another open to community members as well. "Students can play in both, but adults cannot play in student brackets," Ms. Griffith said.

Ms. Griffith said the tournament could last as late as 9 p.m., depending on length of the games and how the brackets pan out. Concession stands and food from Chick-Fil-A will be available for purchase.

"There will be cash prizes for most games, as well as door prizes, including gift cards from the local area, various gamer gear, eSteer merch, and more," she said. "Our local Game Stop donated some small gifts as well as 30 baseball caps, and Prosperity Bank (who also gave us our original seed money) has promised to donate at least \$500 to go toward our tournament!"

Congratulations to the Steer Ultimate team, and have fun at the tournament Saturday!

# BSISD

Continued from Page 1

Jeff Perez, R. Gabriel Martinez, Georgia Molina, Tabitha Barbee, George Bancroft, Elisha McMeans, and Debby Valverde, were guided by attorney Fred Stormer of Amarillo's Underwood Law Firm.

The process was prompted by unusually large shifts in population residency throughout the district. According to information provided by Stormer, between the 2010 and 2020 censuses, the school district's population increased from 23,813 to 25,447; the district's Anglo population decreased from 11,846 to 10,668; and the area's Hispanic population increased from 10,032 to 12,385. Most strikingly, the area's total population deviation between the school district's seven representation districts had climbed to 68.47 percent...the maximum deviation allowed following each Census year is 10 percent.

Stormer said the Underwood Law Firm prepared three new plans, each of which would adjust the district boundaries to shift the BSISD population into an alignment complying with the 10 percent deviation requirement.

Plan A adjusted the deviation to 3.05 percent; Plan B to 3.13 percent; and Plan C to 4.37 percent.

Other factors than deviation alone had the potential to affect the committee's decision about which plan to pick. Stormer provided guidelines to the committee that also asserted that districts should be contiguous and compact, attempt to use easily identifiable geographic features as boundaries, should maintain communities of interest, should contain their currently elected trustees' residences, should take minority voting strength into account and avoid retrogression of racial and/or language minorities, and should not diminish the opportunity of protected minorities to elect representatives of their choice if

they have sufficient numbers to make up a district.

During the meeting, the committee members quickly eliminated Plan C from consideration, as its population deviation was the highest of the three plans presented. Additionally, committee member Jeff Perez pointed out that Plan C would have caused District 2 to divide Districts 4 and 7.

Looking over the differences between Plans A and B, committee member Gabe Martinez noted that Plan B would shift the Limestone Ridge apartment complex from District 7 into District 4. Combined with the lower deviation percentage in Plan A, these factors were enough for the committee to select Plan A as their recommendation.

Committee member Nati Saldivar moved to recommend Plan A, and committee member George Bancroft seconded her motion. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

"I think the process went great. We had a lot of participation from the community members. We had 100 percent participation from the RAC committee," Stormer said. "They all showed up. They brought up some great issues as far as preserving neighborhoods, preserving districts, and they really fulfilled the purpose of why we created the redistricting committee in the first place."

Saldivar said she believes Plan A involves the least amount of disruption to the current voter districts.

"I believe it was less disruptive to what our voters already live in, and it had the smallest deviation," she said. "And the way the lines were cut clearly, I think this is something that the voters will accept."

Stormer said the next step is to present the plans, along with the committee's recommendation, at the first school board meeting of 2022, scheduled Jan. 13.

"The next step is, we will have a public

hearing at the next board meeting and solicit input from any other interested parties," he said. "Following the public hearing, the RAC Committee Chairman will officially present their recommendation to the Board of Trustees, and the board will vote on which plan they would like to approve until we have the 2030 Census."

BSISD Superintendent Jay McWilliams said he felt the process, as led by Stormer, went smoothly.

"I thought it went great," he said. "You put together 14 people from the community, from the school district. All of them, as far as sitting down as a group and talking about three different plans, this was the first time they had ever done it, as a group. We had sent them the information to look at as individuals, but when you come together and bring that many people, I was wondering how many different opinions we were going to have. The best part about it was how serious they took it. They know this is a serious issue."

McWilliams said all three of the plans as developed by Underwood Law Firm were legal, but the committee was focused on choosing the best plan.

"Give credit to the committee for taking their job seriously and talking it out," he said. "Several of the members pointing out things, and all of the committee members going, 'Oooh, that's a good point.'"

More information about the redistricting process, as well as clearer images of the maps show here, are available at on the school district's website at [www.bsisd.esc18.net/domain/481](http://www.bsisd.esc18.net/domain/481).

# CONCERT

Continued from Page 1

"We'll end with a grand finale featuring Gershon Garcia's wonderful choral students joining the orchestra in Robert Shaw's first set of the 'Many Moods of Christmas.'" The Shaw work combines multiple choral settings of Christmas caroles such as "Good Christian Men, Rejoice," "Silent Night,"

"Pat-a-Pan," and "Adeste Fidelis (O, Come All Ye Faithful)."

Tickets for the Christmas concert are on sale at [www.bigspringsymphony.org](http://www.bigspringsymphony.org), and at H-E-B, the Heritage Museum of Big Spring, and Karat Patch. For further details, call or text 432-816-5196.

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Beatrice "Betty" Perry, 81, died Tuesday. Private service will be at a later date.

Penny Athas, 64, died Thursday. Memorial will be Sunday 2 p.m. Outdoor Pavilion behind the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Eleanor Athas, 90, died Wednesday. Memorial will be Sunday 2 p.m. Outdoor Pavilion behind the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Alepholia Velasquez, 69, died Saturday. Visitation will be Sunday 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. with prayer service at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Charles Evans, 85, died Thurs. Nov. 25, 2021. Memorial service will be Friday at 10 a.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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# Praise & Worship Guide

We invite you to visit the featured church this week, or find a new church home in the listings below.

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**CRESTVIEW BAPTIST**  
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**FIRST BAPTIST**  
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267-8223

**FIRST BAPTIST OF KNOTT**  
Knott

**FORSAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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457-2342  
Forsan, TX



706 E. 12th.

(432) 264-0015

## BAPTIST

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267-3396

**IGLESIA BAUTISTA LA FE**  
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thebigspringchurch.com

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# Church News

## NazFamily Church

As we journey through the wilderness together, may this be a season of preparation as we walk by faith into the promise. And may we with one voice call out in the wilderness – prepare the way for the Lord.

This Sunday: Prepare the Way

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

“In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.” ~ Jeremiah 33:14-16

“I promise...” It is not easy waiting for a promise to be fulfilled, just ask my children. And yet, there is also a building sense of excitement and anticipation in the waiting. Join us this Sunday as we explore Prophecy & Promise we find fulfilled in Christ.

### Kids Christmas Program

There is something significant about hearing the Christmas story from a child’s perspective. They remind us of the wonder and mystery of the amazing moment that Almighty God entered this world as a child. New Hope’s Preschool Program will be on Wednesday, December 15th and NCA’s program will be on Thursday December 16th. Come hear our children share the greatest story ever told.

### Annual Ornament Exchange

December 18th is our NazLadies Annual Ornament Exchange at 6:00pm. It will be a great time of food, fun, and fellowship. Don’t miss it!

### Christmas Eve

On December 24th @ 6:30pm we will have a special Christmas Eve Service. It will be a simple service of story and song focused on the true reason for the season. We hope you will invite your friends and family to join us as we celebrate together.

Blessings ~ Pastor Richard

## College Baptist Church

The Christmas season is upon us. 2021 is closing its doors and opening up a whole new year to 2022. Time is fleeting as our “Gathering” church body, welcomes you as old and new members through salvation and baptism! Come see what God is doing at the corner of 11th and Birdwell Lane. Join us at College Baptist Church--We are open:

\*Sunday morning -- 9:15 for Bible Study for all ages.

\*Worship time is at 10:45 a.m.

\*Girl’s

Missions meet on Sunday at 5 p.m.

\* Wednesday with our praying Youth groups starts at 6 p.m.

Fellowship meal between 6 and 6:45

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m.

Children meet for King’s Kids and Krafts.

Nursery and extended care is as needed for all services.

Come join in the fun as we celebrate our winter season, serving our Lord. Services for December 19, 2021, is a great time for families to gather and celebrate our God together. Our services are in the building, live streaming, and on our Face Book page as well. Catch up on God’s perfect plan! Visitors, it was a such a joy to welcome you on Sunday. Come join us again—it is always a joy to welcome new faces. Our services are lively and worshipful.

We definitely enjoy the worship time as our ministry team leads us in songs of praise, and where our pastor, Bro. Ken McMeans, inspires us as we delve into God’s Word. Come and study with us as to what it takes to really know God cares for us so much He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to save us. Focus on growth in Jesus as we continue to the end of this year and into 2022, as our pastor reminds us every Sunday, Jesus is coming SOON! Please call: 432-267-7429, for more information concerning Men’s, Ladies’ and youth meetings at this great and friendly church. Pray that lives are changed by the power of our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Cornerstone!

## Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church (aka - CCC) is a unified, spirit-led, purpose-driven church, which cultivates an atmosphere of faith so that lives can be transformed by Jesus Christ.

We would love the opportunity to Connect with YOU! You can expect biblical teaching & preaching, genuine loving fellowship and live spirit filled praise & worship on Sunday’s (onsite) @9:30AM & (onsite & online) 11:00AM.

Please join us this week at one of the following events:

Sunday, December 19th –We would like to take a moment to invite you and your family to Experience Christmas @ Cornerstone at either our 9:30am or 11:00am worship service. This is a time for fami-

lies to celebrate the season of hope, peace, love and joy. Come and enjoy the biblical teaching from the word of God and let’s share a cup of hot chocolate and cookies together.

Following 11:00 service we would love for our Community Family of Big Spring to join us for Operation Zoe’ at 1:00pm in the ARC. This will be an exciting time of Christmas giving from CCC to our Community. Come on out and let us participate in the excitement of your child and/or children picking out that special gift.

CCC is located at 706 East 12th Street. For office hours or other questions please contact our Administrative Office at 432-264-0015, email us at info@cccbigspring.org. You can also find us at www.ccbigspring.org if you would like more information.

“Loving God, Loving People, Loving Communities and Changing the world!”  
-Pastor Michael Willard

## Crestview Baptist Church

At Crestview Baptist Church, we believe the most fulfilling pursuit is not entertainment, gimmicks, or programs. The most fulfilling pursuit for a follower of Christ is to know Christ and His Word, so that we may live for Him. If you believe that, please come and worship with us! Sunday School starts at 10 AM, Worship begins at 11 AM, and our Sunday and Wednesday night meetings are at 6:30 PM. We are studying Biblical Doctrine. Come and be with us at 2305 Gatesville Rd., Big Spring.

### First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

First Presbyterian Church is presenting a Christmas music event in the sanctuary this Thursday evening, December 16th at 7:30 p.m.

This event, The Music of This Season is open to the public. There will be familiar organ and piano music as well as bell choir and performances by student musicians. You won’t want to miss this Christmas event so come to first Presbyterian Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. on runnels between 7th and 8th.

Worship services this Sunday begin at 10:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary at 8th and Runnels. Sunday December 19th is the third Sunday of Advent. Our Advent Candle lighting scripture will be Luke 3:46-55, which is the Magnificat of Mary, mother of Jesus. Our sermon scripture will be John 1:1-18 which is the very familiar opening of John’s gospel. Rev. Allen Cross will be preaching a sermon entitled: All the Light We Need Right Now. Organist/music director Gabe Martinez provides music for the service.

Sunday School begins at 9:45. Rev. Cross teaches the Children’s Class. Tom Koger leads the Youth Class. The Discovery Class is starting a new 5 week DVD study by Adam Hamilton called “Not a Silent Night- Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem.” Mary considers the life of Jesus from the cross backwards to the nativity. Vicki Miller and Helen Glass are leading the study.

Sunday morning Take Ten fellowship is in the parlor between Sunday School and worship.

Members and non-members alike are invited to take advantage of the spiritual resources available on our website and Facebook page. They include a six day each week prayer podcast, a weekly scripture reading and commentary, a weekly video devotional, and a video release of each Sunday’s sermon. All these tools and resources prepare us for the coming Sunday worship.

### DIGITAL SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

- Church Calendar
- Daily Prayer Podcast (Monday-Saturday)
- Scripture Commentary (Tuesdays)
- Video Devotional (Wednesdays)
- Video Preview of this week’s bulletin (Fridays)
- Sunday Sermon Podcast & Video (Sundays)

Website: fpcbigspring.com  
Facebook Page: FPC of Big Spring  
YouTube Channel: FPC of Big Spring

The following weekly events are open to the community:

WEDNESDAY  
The Women’s Bible Study meets at 10 a.m.  
The History Lectures meets at noon.  
The Lectionary Bible Study, meets at 5:00 p.m.

THURSDAY  
Everyone is invited to join the Lunch Bunch at 11:30 a.m.

All our worship services can be heard live on KBST 1490 AM at 11:00 a.m. as usual or seen recorded online at www.fpcbigspring.com by selecting the SERMONS tab and the correct date.

Please call the church office at 263-4211 for other information. We would be pleased for you to Like us on Facebook. Although the physical address of First Presbyterian Church is 701 Runnels, the mailing address is P. O. Box 2222, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

## Life Church

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. for an experience in the Word and in Worship.

Everyone is invited to join us for our 2021 Fall Fire Conference November 7th-9th. Jonathan Surber will be ministering on Sunday, November 7th at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Bobby Rivera will be ministering on Monday, November 8th and Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 7pm on both evenings.

Ladies, you are invited to join us every Wednesday at noon for our Seek Prayer Group. The Zoom meeting information for Seek can be found on our One Sisterhood Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/onesisterhoodbigspringtx/

YOUTH of Life will meet on Wednesdays from 7:00pm-8:30pm on the Life Church Campus. For more information about YOUTH of Life follow their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/youthofLifeChurch

Life Kids will have their classes this Sunday. Our Nursery is available for those ages newborn to 2. Our Toddlers class serve those ages 3 & 4. Our Elementary class serves those ages 5-8. Our Pre-Teen class serves those ages 9-12. Visit and

See **CHURCH**, page 6

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*At a time when loved ones lost are especially missed, we wish all of our friends and neighbors here comfort and peace.*

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# We would see Jesus

By Tom Sloan

"The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus." John 12:21

There is a saying in Spanish, and it goes like this: "nos están dando la sopa con el dedo". The translation is – they are feeding us soup with their finger. The difference between Jesus and religion is so vast, that when we see Him, we don't even recognize who He is because of what religion has taught us about God. You see, religion has shown us God through the window of rules, laws, rituals, traditions, prohibitions, regulations and a heapin' helpin' of wrath. But God speaks to us through His own dear Son, Jesus. Religion teaches us how to draw God to us by the power of our own "good works", but God draws us to

Himself by the power of His Son, Jesus, who is full of grace and truth. This is that same Jesus, who said to the woman caught in adultery – neither do I condemn thee.

We would not see the Pharisees in the temple; we would see Jesus. We would not see preachers behind their pulpits in their white shirts and ties, demanding our tithes; we would see Jesus. For the love of God, please don't preach to us about your purity and faithfulness; we would see Jesus. We are weary of religious formalism; we would see Jesus. The condemnation of the Law has exhausted us; we would see Jesus.

Religion actually limits the amount of Jesus we are allowed to consume; it feeds us soup with its finger. But God has given us full and unconditional access to Him. Religion has a bad habit of feeding us "Jesus crumbs". But Song of Solomon 2:4 says: "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love". When Jesus died on the cross, He became the end of every Law, rule, prohibition, ritual and tradition which could possibly limit our access to Him and all of His benefits. And because of Jesus, God now invites us to His banqueting house, where we can "pig out" on the most exquisitely delicious platters of His love, mercy, grace, forgiveness, blessings and acceptance. And the best part is that all of this is completely free...nothing in exchange. If you are hungry, Jesus is the Bread of life.

## REFLECTIONS

beginning and end. But, like the universe, Jesus is more than we can comprehend.

That is why, when Moses met God in the desert and asked His name, God answered, "I Am That I Am."

And that is the reason Jesus spoke of Himself in the same terms. Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I Am." These words change all our concepts about existence and time. About who we are and who God is. About the meaning of life.

The religious leaders of the first century failed to recognize Jesus because they were conditioned to think in linear terms, past and present, a coming King. Like them we miss Him as well when we think in such terms. He is more than we imagine. He is past, present and future.

John attempted to capture His mystery in more symbolic language: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ... The

Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory." (John 1:1-5,14).

We have limited our understanding of Jesus Christ to a mere mortal man who was born, lived and died at a particular time in history. While He was born in Bethlehem, lived in Galilee and was crucified outside Jerusalem, He was far more than anyone understood. We must chip away all the religious brick and mortar of 2,000 years, remove all the plaster and paint. We must look beyond the dusty pages of theology and church history to discover the miracle and the mystery of that moment in time when all that is eternal entered into our narrow frame of existence, calling to us from beyond, calling us to be more than we ever imagined, to be better than we believed we could be, to link our lives with the eternal, to enter, literally, eis aionos, "into the age."

When Jesus was born, God touched the earth.

*Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. His books are available at [www.tinsleycenter.com](http://www.tinsleycenter.com). Email [bill@tinsleycenter.com](mailto:bill@tinsleycenter.com)*

By Bill Tinsley

Jesus' birth: The Mystery and the Majesty

For the last four years astronomers have been studying a massive black hole with a total mass greater than 800 million suns. Scientists estimate the black hole is over 13 billion light years away. Such dimensions of time, space and mass boggle the mind.

These dimensions give us a clue to the majesty of our Christmas celebration. The Apostle Paul tried to capture that majesty with these words: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:15-17).

Our understanding of God is too small, too limited. We think in simple terms of time and space,



BILL  
TINSLEY

## Something to think about...

By RICHARD SCHNEGERGER

Have you ever found yourself deep in the wilderness? Or at least felt like you were wandering around in a wild place where dangers seemed to lurk around every corner? That's about how I feel when I attempt to go shopping this time of year. Seriously, we live in a wild and often chaotic world. And yet, it seems that wandering through the wilderness is a part of the journey for God's people.

When God liberated Israel from Egypt, God didn't bring the people straight from slavery into the promised land. They first had to pass through the wilderness. It wasn't the way they wanted to go, and they ended up stuck there longer than scheduled, but God doesn't waste the wilderness time. It is an important, though uncomfortable, part of the journey. It was a time that God used to prepare His people to receive His promise. It is in the dry and difficult places of life that we learn to truly trust and follow Him.

This has been on my heart and mind lately because it seems that we are entering into a wilderness season. And I'm reminded that wilderness time is not wasted time. It is a time of deep growth as we prepare to live into the promise and more importantly to be filled again with His Presence.

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"

~ Matthew 3:1-3

As we journey through the wilderness together, may this be a season of preparation as we walk by faith into the promise. And may we with one voice call out in the wilderness – prepare the way for the Lord.

## CHURCH

Continued from page 5

follow the Life Kids Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Life-Kids-Life-Church-Big-Spring-TX-1654730487977488/> for more information.

For more information about our events or groups please visit our website [www.golifechurch.net](http://www.golifechurch.net) or <https://www.facebook.com/bigspringlife>

### First Christian Church

First Christian Church is located at 911 Goliad. To contact the church office or Pastor Brian Michaelz, call 432-517-4821.

We are an open, welcoming and compassionate church, pursuing a joyful relationship with Jesus.

This year of the pandemic has been one none of us will soon forget.

We have reopened for in person worship. We are taking proactive steps to maintain the health and safety of all who attend services.

Join us at First Christian Church, to find out more information about First Christian Church or to see the online service, join Facebook Group at [www.facebook.com/group/fccbigspring](http://www.facebook.com/group/fccbigspring)

If you or someone you know would like to be placed on the FCC prayer list, please contact the church office or tell one of the members.

We invite you to come as you are to give thanks for everything in a fresh way. If that sounds good to you, we would enjoy meeting you.

Sunday morning Social Time - pre-Worship Service - starts approximately 9:30 a.m. in the Sitting Room by the office. Donuts, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Hot Tea and Bottled Water Worship Service starts at 10:50 a.m. Hope to see you there!

A new brick program has been started. Those who would like to know more information about the thankful brick program can contact Pastor Brian at 469-978-7547.

### Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Dec. 19, 2021

"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love and Grace in our lives".

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood Neighborhood in Big Spring. If you would like to reach Pastor Kohl, Vicar Roever or the church office, please call (432) 264-7818, or e-mail us at [aliveinchristtx@gmail.com](mailto:aliveinchristtx@gmail.com).

Bible Study and Sunday School begin at 9:30 am and we are having class each Sunday morning. Our Sunday Service begins at 10:30 a.m. You can catch us on Facebook Live on our Facebook page. If you are new to the area or haven't been to church before or in a while, please accept this as an invitation to join us this Sunday.

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study is back. A meal is served at 5:30 and our bible study begins at 6:00. We are beginning a new bible study.

We will be having a Christmas Eve Service

on Dec. 24 at 7pm. Please come and join us.

The readings for this Sunday are Micah 5: 2-5a, Hebrews 10: 5-10, and Luke 1:39-45 (46-56). The psalm is Psalm 80:1-7.

Dolline Budke will present the scripture readings this week.

Tune in to KBYG every morning for a devotional sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for these wonderful devotions: "Morning Meditation Thoughts". Also tune in every Sunday morning at 8:30 to listen to the Lutheran Hour.

### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's Episcopal Church welcomes all to participate in our services. We are located North of the High School on Goliad Street (1001 S. Goliad), and would love to have you visit. Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by brunch in the Parish Hall. On Wednesday's we have Bible study and coffee in the morning at 10:30 a.m. and evening we have Evening prayer and book study starting at 5:30 p.m. What a great opportunity to have meaningful fellowship and develop relationships with people who have a common interest, following the steps of Christ. Please come and join us for a time of worship and fellowship in a place that welcomes all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

\*\*Christmas Eve service will be on Friday, December 24 at 10:30 p.m.

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### Hawk Softball Coach Steps Down



Courtesy Photos

Kelly Rains looks on with the Lady Hawks softball team.

#### Special to the Herald

BIG SPRING – Howard College Hawk Head Softball Coach, Kelly Rains, has resigned her position to accept the Head Coach and Athletic Director position with Galveston College. The resignation is effective immediately and assistant coach Ashley

regional championships and 8 nods as Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJCAC) Coach of the Year.

“Howard College has a very special place in my history, and this was a difficult decision to make,” said Rains. “The people here at the college

and in the community have embraced me from day one and are a part of who I am as a coach. Although I am excited about the next steps for me and my family, I will miss Howard College and the Howard County community.”

Rains will be coaching the Galveston College Whitecaps in Region XIV of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). “Kelly has been a pillar in our athletic department for many years and she leaves some big shoes to fill,” said Dr. Cheryl Sparks, President. “When we say ‘Making Dreams Real,’ she took that very seriously for students and pushed them all to be the best they could be. She will be missed, and we wish her and her family nothing but the best in their continued journey.”

Rains’ husband, Scott Rains, who serves in the role of Head Men’s Basketball Coach for the Hawks, will continue in his role through the spring 2022 semester.

The head softball coach position is being posted and recruitment for Rains’ replacement will begin immediately.

For more information about Howard College and Hawk Athletics visit howardcollege.edu or hchawk.com. Sports Information contact: Cindy Smith csmith@howardcollege.edu or 432-264-5034.

### Kelce’s OT touchdown gives Chiefs 34-28 win over Chargers

By JOE REEDY

AP Sports Writer

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Travis Kelce, Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs have faced their share of challenges this season. The two-time defending AFC champions are peaking at the right time for another playoff push.

Kelce had a career-high 191 receiving yards and scored on a 34-yard pass from Mahomes in overtime as the Chiefs rallied for a 34-28 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers on Thursday night.

Kelce caught a tying 7-yard touchdown pass with 1:16 left in the fourth quarter, then ended the game with his catch-and-run in overtime. On first-and-10, Kelce pulled in Mahomes’ pass at the 30 and eluded two tackles en route to the end zone, where he was swarmed by teammates.

“I don’t think I’ve ever been part of a walk-off touchdown or anything like that, so to be in that moment, find him underneath and him making such a dynamic play where, I mean, he cut back, ran by people,” said Mahomes, who completed 31 of 47 for a season-high 410 yards with three touchdowns and an interception. “You think he’s old. He can’t run by people. But he’s still running by people. And he got in the end zone.”

The Chiefs were 3-4 at the end of October but have won seven straight to improve to 10-4 and go up by two games in the AFC West.

Kelce had been held to six total receptions the past two games, but he broke out in a big way. He had five of his 10 catches for 142 yards in the fourth quarter and overtime. He also had a 69-yard reception that led to Tyreek Hill’s 1-yard touchdown and a 2-point conversion that tied it at 21.

“Everybody is talking about him losing a step, he looked fast to me,” Chiefs coach Andy Reid said after the 32-year-old Kelce had his sixth career game with at least 10 catches. “His endurance down the stretch for an elder statesman — he’s not over the hill — his acceleration is something.”

Mahomes bounced back after a costly fourth-quarter interception led to Austin Ekeler’s touchdown and gave the Chargers a 21-13 advantage. He was 10 of 16 for 197 yards and three TDs after the turnover.

“Obviously it (stinks) in the moment. I mean, I promise you I felt as bad as anyone about that throw and that situation, and knew how bad it looked. But you will get another chance and you better be ready for that moment,” Mahomes said.

Justin Herbert gave the Chargers a 28-21 lead with 2:19 remaining on a 8-yard TD pass to Keenan Allen, but couldn’t make it hold up. It is the second straight season the Chiefs have come to the Chargers’ Hollywood Park home and won in overtime.

“The goal is always to score. We needed to put up points, and we got in the end zone, and that was our mission,” Herbert said. “We would have loved to have been able to run the clock down and not have any time, but this is the NFL, and you have to get in the end zone.”

Los Angeles’ defeat came after a terrifying injury to tight end Donald Parham. The 24-year-old appeared to lose consciousness after slamming his head on the turf in the first quarter. He was helped off on a

stretcher and taken to a hospital, where the team said he is in stable condition.

Herbert threw two touchdowns and ran for another score, but the Chargers (8-6) came up empty on three red-zone drives. Herbert completed 22 of 38 passes for 236 yards and an interception.

“I really liked the way we managed the entire game tonight. It didn’t go down for us today, but we gave ourselves an opportunity. We just didn’t finish the game off defensively,” Chargers coach Brandon Staley said.

The Chargers fell behind 10-0 early in the second quarter before scoring on two straight drives to take a 14-10 lead at halftime. Herbert scored on a 1-yard keeper off left end and then connected with Jalen Guyton for a 4-yard TD on the next drive.

The Chiefs benefited off Chargers’ mistakes for their first 10 points. After Los Angeles turned it over on downs, Kansas City went 95 yards in 11 plays, culminating in Michael Burton’s 7-yard run up the middle.

The Chiefs then turned Anthony Hitchens’ interception of Herbert into points on Harrison Butker’s 30-yard field goal.

#### BIG NIGHT FOR HILL

Hill had 12 receptions for 148 yards and a TD. It is his fourth game this season with at least 11 catches.

#### SIX STRAIGHT FOR EKELER

Ekeler scored a touchdown for the sixth straight game with a 2-yard run off left end to extend the lead to 21-13 early in the fourth quarter. The TD came after Uchenna Nwosu tipped Mahomes’ screen pass intended for Clyde Edwards-Helaire at the KC 4 and returned it 2 yards.

It is the third time since 1994 a Chargers player has reached the end zone in at least six consecutive games. LaDainian Tomlinson had a seven-game streak in 2004 and Natrone Means had a six-game run in 1994.

#### RED ZONE WOES

The Chargers could have had at least a 20-10 lead at halftime had Staley opted for a field goal instead of going for it on fourth down. Andre Roberts took the opening kickoff 75 yards and Los Angeles drove to the 5 before turning it over on downs on four straight incompletions by Herbert.

The Chargers could have kicked a field goal on the last play of the first half, but Herbert couldn’t connect with Allen on fourth-and-goal from the 1.

Early in the fourth quarter, Los Angeles had second-and-goal, but Ben Niemann recovered Joshua Kelley’s fumble at the 2.

The Chiefs also were not immune to red-zone failures. They were down 14-13 and had fourth-and-goal at the 2 when Mahomes’ pass to Mecole Hardman was incomplete.

#### INJURIES

Chargers: S Derwin James aggravated a hamstring injury during the third quarter.

#### UP NEXT

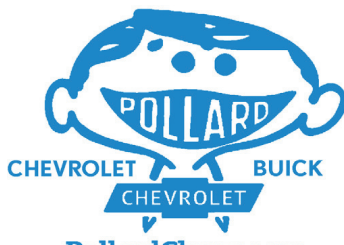
Chiefs: Host the Pittsburgh Steelers on Dec. 26.

Chargers: Travel to the Houston Texans on Dec. 26.



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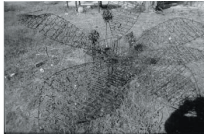
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Wednesday 12/22 by 9am Monday 12/20  
Thursday 12/23 by Noon(12pm) Monday 12/20  
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Barrett Daffin Frappier  
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To: The Unknown Heirs At  
Law Of Joyce Lightner,  
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You are hereby commanded  
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answer to the Plaintiff's  
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o'clock A.M. on the Monday  
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days after the date of issu-  
ance of this citation the same  
being Monday 01/24/2022,  
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 15th day of October,  
2021, cause number 55181  
in the entitled cause styled

Longbridge Financial, LLC  
vs  
The Unknown Heirs At Law  
Of Joyce Lightner, Deceased

A brief statement of the  
nature of this suit is as

### Legals

follows, to wit:

Plaintiff Longbridge Financial,  
LLC, its successors in  
interest or assigns, by and  
through its attorney of record  
Joseph M. Vacek of  
Robertson, Anschutz,  
Schneid, Crane & Partners,  
PLLC, 5601 Executive Dr.,  
Suite 400, Irving, Texas  
75038, brought suit against  
The Unknown Heirs of Joyce  
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FRIDAY

DEC. 17

Table with 30 columns representing TV channels (KMGD 3, UNI 4, KPEJ 5, KOSA 7, KTLT 8, KWES 9, KMLM 12, KPBT 13, KWWT 14, KOSA2 16, WTBS 33, TNT 34, ESPN 35, ESPN2 36, FSN 38, USA 55, A&E 58, DISC 60) and rows listing various programs and their schedules.

Contract Bridge Bidding quiz. Includes an illustration of bridge cards and a text section with a quiz by Steve Becker. Questions involve bidding scenarios with specific card hands and partner actions.

kids' corner HEALTH FACT: THESE ARE MICROSCOPIC ORGANISMS THAT ARE FOUND IN THE AIR, ON VARIOUS SURFACES, AND IN SOIL AND WATER. THEY SOMETIMES CAN MAKE YOU SICK. Includes an illustration of capsules and germs.

Crossword Puzzle. A grid with 6 rows and 6 columns. Includes Across and Down clues: 1. Treats an illness; 4. Heating device; 5. Another name for stomach; 6. Clean and hygienic; 1. Germs; 2. Something that starts an event; 3. Strength and vitality.

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY. Includes a calendar icon for Dec 16 and historical events: 1773: THE BOSTON TEA PARTY TAKES PLACE; 1920: ONE OF THE DEADLIEST EARTHQUAKES IN HISTORY HITS THE GANGSU PROVINCE IN CHINA; 1944: THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE DURING WORLD WAR II BEGINS IN BELGIUM.

New word ILLNESS. A period of sickness. Includes an illustration of a person lying down.

Did You Know? THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 ARRIVED IN THE WINTER OF 2019 AND HAS BEEN A HEALTH CONCERN FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS. Includes illustrations of coronavirus particles.

GET THE PICTURE? Can you guess what the bigger picture is? Includes an illustration of a large object wrapped in plastic.

Tomorrow: Try the impossible. ©2021 King Features Syndicate Inc.

How they SAY that in... ENGLISH: Bacteria SPANISH: Bacterias ITALIAN: Batteri FRENCH: Bactéries GERMAN: Bakterien

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Annie's Mailbox

Is It Just a Game? Dear Annie: My wife is borderline addicted to "Words With Friends" (an app game similar to Scrabble), and it's causing me concern, in addition to creating some strife within our marriage. It would be one thing if she were only playing with other female players, but she also has an ongoing game with a former male classmate, which I consider to be a form of online flirting. Would you agree, or am I overreacting? I still work, and my wife is retired, so when I'm ready for bed because I have to get up early, she is wide-

awake and ready for late-night games with friends (one in particular). I have suggested repeatedly that she go to bed when I go, but she says she isn't sleepy and is a late-night person, so she stays up until 1 or 2 a.m. playing "Words With Friends." This continues to cause disharmony in our marriage, and it's something I have a hard time accepting as permissible. Please let me know how you and your readers feel about this issue. -- Concerned Husband Dear Concerned Husband: Unless she's exchanging flirty

messages with this old classmate or spelling out inappropriate words on the board, I wouldn't worry about the fact that she's playing with him. There's nothing wrong with connecting with old friends to play games online. There is, however, something wrong with allowing anything to consume your life -- be it alcohol, drugs, work, television or even "Words With Friends." Ask her whether she's game for a challenge: She uninstalls the app for two weeks; you commit to getting home from work on time and planning a few date nights during that period. If she's unwilling to give up an app for two

weeks for the health of her marriage, then this is a deeper problem that requires the help of a counselor. Dear Annie: I never proposed marriage to my wife, and if you think it's worthy of printing, I will correct that in your column. We're both faithful readers, so I'm sure she'll see it. Here's our story. My family moved to our city during Christmas break of the fifth grade. Though my future wife and I lived within a mile of each other and could both walk to school, we had no classes together and never met. In junior high, we rode different school buses

and shared no classes together. In high school, the 10th and 11th grades brought no classes together, and still we never crossed paths. Our senior year, in preparation of college, we both took typing. That's the one class we ever shared. We started dating. We spent the first two years of college apart, but when we were home, we dated and spent a small fortune on stamps and envelopes to stay in touch. We spent the last two years of college together at the same university, and we dated each other exclusively. On a trip home during that last two years, we went to a jewelry

store and put matching wedding bands on layaway. There was no engagement ring, nor was there a proposal. We just knew we were going to marry. So, now I'd like to ask: Teresa, will you marry me -- again? -- Bill Dear Bill: This is certainly a first, but your letter gave me such a smile I couldn't not print it. I hope she says yes. "Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book -- featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2021 CREATORS.COM



# Cowboys rookie Parsons focuses on next steps as praise grows

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas — After a sixth consecutive game with a sack, Dallas Cowboys rookie linebacker Micah Parsons started the next day with a text to one of his coaches.

"What do we got this week?" Parsons asked defensive coordinator Dan Quinn.

The question fits with the philosophy of the former Penn State player who skipped college football's shortened COVID-19 year before getting drafted 12th overall. Parsons is always thinking about what's next, not what's done.

"That drive I have inside of me, wanting to be great, wanting to do more, wanting more on my plate just comes with wanting to do this," Parsons said. "I don't think nobody can become something by sitting back and watch and waiting for something to happen. I am trying to initiate it to happen."

So what's next? How about the first player in 40 years to sweep the NFL's two biggest defensive awards, player and rookie of the year?

The last to do that was Pro Football Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor in 1981. The Cowboys (9-4) are playing Taylor's team, the New York Giants (4-9), on Sunday.

Yes, people are already dropping that name while watching Parsons get within range of two rookie sacks records and calling him the best player on the Dallas roster — offense or defense.

"It's really too early," Parsons said. "I could see the similarities. But LT was completely different. It's an honor that people are doing that. But to be compared to a Hall of Famer so early on, I mean it's not ready to be in the conversation yet. I still have a long way to go."

Parsons had already started the LT talk before last week's 27-20 victory over Washington, when his strip sack on Taylor Heinicke led to Dallas' second consecutive game with a defensive touchdown, on Dorance Armstrong's 37-yard fumble return.

That was one of two sacks for Parsons, the third time he has done that during a six-game run with at least one sack. That streak is two games shy of Jevon Kearse's rookie record with Tennessee in 1999.

After the game, fellow rookie Simi Fehoko, a receiver, tweeted, "Just trying to find my seat on the plane and was sacked by Micah. ... Nobody is safe."

Then came Parsons' text to Quinn.

"So that tells me that he's down for a challenge and what we got to get done," Quinn said. "I said, 'Hey man, I'm still grading this game, so I'll get back to you. Give me a minute.' It's 9:30 in the morning."

The Cowboys were without both their starting defensive ends, DeMarcus Lawrence and Randy Gregory, for Parsons' second game as a pro. News of their absences came during the week, which meant the Cowboys had to toss Parsons into the pass rushing group. Almost every snap he played in a win at the Los Angeles Chargers was at defensive end.

With Lawrence, Gregory and other previously missing pieces all back, Parsons can play anywhere. And he does. Sometimes, it's as a linebacker. Sometimes, it's at end. Sometimes, it's over the center.

This was all part of the vision Quinn had when coming to Dallas after getting fired midseason as coach in Atlanta last year. But Quinn, and the rest of the coaches and personnel people, can't say they thought he'd be the first rookie in 15 years with 12 sacks and three forced fumbles — with four games

remaining.

Parsons needs three sacks to beat Kearse's rookie record of 14½. He has a chance for the rare combination of double-digit sacks and triple-digit tackles.

"I will say it's hard to have expected what No. 11 is doing in terms of doing all the things that he's asked to do, whether it's make great plays in coverage, whether it's make plays on the quarterback from the blitzing spot, whether it's a natural pass rusher, whether it's just running plays down sideline to sideline," executive vice president of personnel Stephen Jones said on his radio show. "Who could have ever thought that he could digest all of that and be able to line up at all those different positions and get it done?"

Parsons would have said he could, even all the way back when the Cowboys moved down two spots in the draft and still got him after the cornerbacks they targeted were gone.

There were some early glimpses of his eagerness during HBO's "Hard Knocks" series from training camp.

Parsons begged to get back into preseason games, and wasn't happy when he didn't. He told an assistant coach, "The lion is always hungry," and has since trademarked that unexpected catchphrase. It helps that Penn State is his alma mater, and don't think his former coach, James Franklin, and others haven't noticed what Parsons is doing.

"Coach Franklin preached it a lot: the great ones always figure it out," Parsons said. "Whether it's just small details in your routine that you may have to change, or you've got to add things to your game that you've got to get comfortable with. And if you figure it out, it's always going to be a lot of success for yourself. Hopefully, I'm figuring it out and I just keep adding on to it."

## MSU RB Walker, Pitt QB Pickett skipping Peach Bowl

By WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — The Peach Bowl will go on without Kenneth Walker and Kenny Pickett.

Walker, an All-America running back at Michigan State, and Pickett, a record-setting quarterback for Pittsburgh, both announced Thursday they are skipping the bowl game to focus on the NFL draft.

Walker and Pickett both revealed their respective decisions in social media posts on Thursday, leaving the 11th-ranked Spartans (10-2) and 13th-ranked Panthers (11-2) without their biggest stars for the Dec. 30 game in Atlanta.

Pickett, the ACC Player of the Year and third-place finisher in the Heisman Trophy voting, thanked the university, head coach Pat Narduzzi, offensive coordinator Mark Whipple, his teammates and the fans in a lengthy Twitter post. Pickett called the celebration after the Panthers won their first ACC title with a win over Wake Forest earlier this month "one of the best moments of my career."

It's a moment few saw coming entering the fall before Pickett started re-writing the Pitt record book. He set new school marks for touchdown passes in a season (42) and yards passing in a season (4,319) while guiding the Panthers to 11 wins for the first time since 1981. He captured the Johnny Unitas Award last week and was named a second-team All-American by The Associated Press.

"From the time you arrived as a freshman five years ago, right up until the moment you walked off the field in Charlotte as ACC Champion, you gave the University of Pittsburgh absolutely everything you had," Narduzzi wrote to Pickett in a Twitter post.

Pickett's breakout season has rocketed him up NFL draft boards. He is expected to be among the first quarterbacks selected in April.

His decision means the Panthers will be without their starting quarterback

and offensive coordinator for the Peach Bowl after Mark Whipple resigned last week to take the same position at Nebraska. Narduzzi has not said who will call the plays against Michigan State. Nick Patti figures to get the nod at quarterback after spending the season as Pickett's primary backup.

Hours before Pickett said he was heading to the NFL, Walker did the same, a decision Michigan State coach Mel Tucker supported.

"I want to congratulate Ken for all his success and thank him for taking a chance on us," Tucker posted.

Walker, a Tennessee native, transferred from Wake Forest after his sophomore season and helped Tucker's turnaround. The Spartans won two games in Tucker's debut season last year that was shortened by the pandemic.



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