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Big Spring Symphony 39th Season

By **NATALIE PERMENTER**
 Herald Contributing Writer

The Big Spring Symphony Association under the direction of Dr. Keith Graumann is thrilled to announce the impending kick-off of its 39th season, entitled The Versatile Big Spring Symphony. “After a wait of 364 days since the last Big Spring Symphony performance, we will FINALLY be performing again - fingers crossed!”, said Mark Watt, Big Spring Symphony Association President. “Our performance will be Saturday February 6th! I can hardly wait to hear LIVE music again! I know this has been a very difficult time for everyone. We hope that the Symphony performing again will help bring a modicum of normalcy for everybody!”

frey Lastrapes. The concert, entitled “Out of This World”, will include Elgar’s “Concerto for Violincello”, as well as “Dvorak’s 8th Symphony.”

John Read Giordano is a fan favorite of the Symphony and guest conducts yearly, usually in February. He is the Music Director Emeritus of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, where he served as Music Director and Conductor for 28 years. He is the founder of the Fort



Courtesy photo

Special Guest Cellist Jeffrey Lastrapes will be performing with the Big Spring Symphony and Orchestra.

Worth Chamber Orchestra and Jury Chairman of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition since 1973. He retired from Texas Christian University as a Distinguished Fellow in Music. He has a wide range of musical talents and has used them throughout the years from performances to conducting. His career has led him across the country and

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Upcoming Events

- Silver Wings Ball**
 The Club at Silver Hills
 Jan. 30
 5:30 p.m. cocktails
 6:45 p.m. Dinner
- Big Spring Chamber Banquet and Business Expo**
 Feb. 11
 1:30 p.m.
 Virtual event
- February 15**
 Thank a Veteran Day
 Take a moment to thank a service man or woman for their service.

Wash your hands, wear a mask, social distance when possible - help slow the spread.

Share your story ideas, suggestions, community events and more with us at editor@bigspringherald.com

Howard County Library: Serving the community as a hub for resources and knowledge...

By **IRIS RANGEL**
 Herald Staff Writer

Howard County Library offers the community a space for learning, knowledge, and recreational reading and resource finding. The library is able to bridge the gap between the digital world and those who have limited access to digital resources and technology.

“We are a place where lifelong learners can continue their quest for knowledge, where people can pursue leisure reading and checkout other recreational reading or materials.” Howard County Library Children’s Librarian Sandra Virdin said. “We strive to offer patrons up to date collections and materials that encourage literacy, child development, and family interaction.”

The Howard County Li-



HERALD file photo

The Howard County Library offers an array of resources for the community, from checking out books, computer use, digital resources and more.

brary brings a building full of resources to it’s community to help better the knowledge of its’ residents. The community is able to utilizes tools like computers, printers, fax and copy machines, mobile printing, free wifi, research help, coding classes for chil-

dren, storytimes, and many other children activities.

With various grants given to the library, soon residents will also be able to checkout Chromebooks and wifi hotspots in order to gain valuable resources and knowledge. Howard County

Library does offer meeting rooms and private meeting rooms, along with the equipment needed for virtual meetings. Online resources such as audiobooks, eBooks, TexShare Databases, and online assistance creating resumes is all available at the library. If you are looking to delve into a good audiobook or eBook, access can be gained through three different types of reading applications – Libby, Overdrive, and SimplyE. Other materials that are available for surrounding families include activity kits, which are themed kits that hold DVDs, books, and games and launchpads or educational tablets that require no access to the internet.

“Libraries are more than buildings with books. We encourage everyone to come

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Scenic Mountain Medical Center hosts virtual lecture by Dr. Rich focusing on prenatal care

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Scenic Mountain Medical Center invites the community to attend a virtual lecture to discuss Prenatal Care on Tuesday, Feb. 2 from Noon to 1 p.m. The lecture will be led and presented by Gabrielle Rich, D.O. in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

“We feel that it’s important to offer opportunities like this for the community to engage with our physicians and learn more about their practice and the services they provide,” Madison Tate, Director, Marketing and Community Relations, said. “With Covid-19, we’ve had to think a little outside of the box so the virtual aspect of this allows for an open line of communication while still practicing safe social distancing.” Prenatal care helps prevent complications and inform women about important steps they can take to protect their in-

fant and ensure a healthy pregnancy. Doctors can spot health problems early when they see mothers regularly. This allows for early treatment, which can cure many problems and prevent others. In the upcoming lecture, Dr. Rich will cover many important areas of Prenatal Care and offer answers to commonly asked questions.



Gabrielle Rich, D.O.

“Dr. Rich has a wealth of information to offer as it relates to women’s health. This is a great opportunity to engage with a physician from the comfort of the patient’s own home and learn some valuable information along the way,” she said.

Viewers can join the live stream and submit questions to be answered at the conclusion of the event using this Microsoft Team invite link below:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZGYzYjE4MmYtYTY4Mi00ZmY5LWE4M2EtMjI4Nj

liNjKxZGZk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22fc73d648-56fc-4b0e-90ec-2979f7571847%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229421638b-5955-4b2a-98e3-c7f6cac25c36%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d

This event is free and open to the public. Once the event is completed, those who are unable to attend the live stream may view the recording using the same link to watch at a later date.

According to Tate, SMMC would like to hold more virtual events and are considering the possibility of a monthly event. Each month would focus on a different topic presented by physicians and cover an array of topics in the lecture pipeline.

“In an era of Covid-19, we know that accidents and emergencies don’t stop. Babies are still born everyday, children still need regular pediatric care and elective surgeries are still crucial for the well being of much of our community,” she said. “We want the

See **SMMC**, Page 3



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Take Note

• The Big Spring Symphony Association has announced the kick off of the 39th Season which is set to begin Feb. 6. The concert will take place at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door, but patrons are strongly encouraged to purchase tickets in advance online at www.bigspringsymphony.org or local ticket vendors: H-E-B, Heritage Museum, The Karat Patch or the CVB office. Students are admitted free. Performance adjustments have been made due to Covid-19 to assure the health and safety of everyone. Patrons are asked to arrive early and ushers will seat them in six foot social distance format. Everyone needs to wear a mask upon entering the facility.

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

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

• West Texas Centers will be hosting the 2021 Mental Health First Aid training classes in February. Adult mental health virtual class will take place Feb. 17 from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.; in-person adult mental health first aid class will take place Feb. 23, at 3205 Hwy 87 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.; and the final class in the series will take place Feb. 25 from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. virtually.

• A GoFund me page for Ed Flores, who recently tested positive for coronavirus and was recently transferred to Lubbock. Donations are requested to help with medical bills and travel expenses so his wife can be close with him. Ed worked with Shroyer for about 25 years and 87 Auto Sale as a mechanic; he has always been willing to help out people even when they didn't have enough money to pay him. Donations can be made at GoFundMe by Monica Medina. For more information on how to help, e-mail jessemonica1234@gmail.com or call 432-517-7675.

• The Howard County Courthouse will only be open by appointment. All doors except the handicapped entrance located on the west side of the building will be locked. All who enter will be screened following Covid guidelines. Face masks are required for all who enter.

• Forsan Food Pantry will be open twice a month from 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Families who are 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.

• Cub Scouts meet Monday from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Naz Family Church, located at 1400 S. Lancaster.

• Howard County Republican Club meets the second Monday of each month in the Cactus Room at Howard College. The next meeting is Jan. 20 and 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.

• A new group named Taking Care of Business has started in Howard County. It is made up of people of all ages and genders who want to be better than they are. The focus of the fledgling or-

ganization is to engage in meaningful discussions that promote personal growth. Additionally, the organization will plan and execute worthwhile activities within the community. There is no membership fee and attendance is not taken. The only requirements are that you be positive or want to be more positive than you are, consider yourself to be a good person but want to be better than you are, and that you have a desire to help others be better too. Childcare is available during the discussion time if you let us know. Topics to be avoided include Religion and Politics, though we can dance around them.

Taking Care of Business is being sponsored by the local Masons and it meets in the Masonic Lodge on the court square. It is not necessary that you have any masonic affiliation to participate in this Growth Group. All Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed as defined by local, state, and federal authorities. At this time refreshments will not be served but you are welcome to bring your own and not share. The meetings take place at 219 South Main Big Spring, Texas. For more information write to Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com or just come to the meeting.

• The Life Center in Big Spring is helping moms and dads with a Diaper Day Giveaway! Call for a five minute phone appointment and a pickup time for free diapers, wipes and formula. 432-606-5041.

• The Howard County Library meeting rooms will be opening up – at limited capacity – on Feb. 1. There will only be five people allowed in the small room and 15 in the large room and can only be used by appointment only by community organizations. No parties or social gatherings will be allowed at this time. For more information, call the Howard County Library.

• The Senior Supper Club has come out of hibernation to resume its normal Tuesday evening dinners.

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 free-

dom 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

Ronald Shannon

Ronald Shannon, 70, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Carlos Leal

Carlos Leal, 69, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3000 block of Duke. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. 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 2700 block of Coronado Avenue. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Fordham. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3300 block of W. Highway 80. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of State Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of NE Main. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1500 block of Main Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson. 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 89 inmates at the time of this report.

• **RYAN ROBERT MOORE**, 30, was arrested by HCSO on charges of aggravated assault with deadly weapon and criminal mischief (\$750 to \$2,500).

• **RICHARD LEONARD MOYA**, 46, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of criminal mischief (\$100 to \$750).

• **VERONICA MARIE ORTIZ**, 38, was arrested by BSPD on charges of manufacture delivery of controlled substance penalty group one (greater than or equal to one gram less than four grams), driving while license invalid (DWLI), and escape while arrested/confined.

• **ZACHARY CAMERON VELA**, 17, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of assault family violence.

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Texas takes on Biden but Republicans keep distance from AG

By PAUL J. WEBER and JAKE BLEIBERG

Associated Press

AUSTIN — As President Joe Biden's agenda is dealt an early blow in Texas, the embattled Republican attorney general promising more fights ahead with the new administration is getting little public support from members of his party, even as they cheer the results.

Nearly all of the more than 100 GOP lawmakers in the Texas Legislature did not respond when asked by The Associated Press if they had confidence in Attorney General Ken Paxton, who for months has been beset by an FBI investigation over bribery and abuse-of-office accusations.

At the same time, Republicans are showing no intention of using their overwhelming majority and legislative powers to confront Paxton over the coming months in the state Capitol, where lawmakers are back at work for the first time since eight top deputies for the attorney general leveled accusations against him. All eight have resigned or were fired since October.

Since then, Paxton has baselessly challenged Biden's victory, including asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the election. And on Tuesday, he won a court order halting Biden's 100-day moratorium on deportations, in a lawsuit filed just two days after the president was sworn in.

Now, with America's biggest red state ready to resume the role of foil to a Democratic administration, the atmosphere surrounding Paxton in some

ways resembles the peace that privately weary Republicans made with Donald Trump's bombastic presidency — applauding the work while mostly staying silent about the surrounding turmoil.

"That's the real measurement. That's the real litmus test," said Republican state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, who pointed toward the deportation lawsuit and challenges last year to mail-in ballot applications around his Houston district. "Because I already know, in my case, in my county, the AG's office made a major difference."

The AP contacted the offices of every GOP lawmaker in the Legislature, asking if they had confidence in Paxton and whether the Legislature should act on his deputies' accusations. Only two, Bettencourt and Rep. John Smithee, responded, both saying they had no reason to question the attorney general's job performance and that they were waiting for the results of outside investigations.

Paxton's budget requests may yet force Republican lawmakers to consider the exodus from his office. But so far, members of his party — who control of every lever of state government — haven't rushed to put one of their top elected officials under a microscope. The ranks of Texas' GOP legislators include Paxton's wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, who joined her husband on stage at Trump's Jan. 6 rally that proceeded a deadly riot in the U.S. Capitol.

Whether the attorney general who in December led a failed lawsuit supported by Trump that asked

the Supreme Court to subvert the will of voters avoids a hard look from lawmakers is also a test of the insulating effect that loyalty to the former president continues to hold in the GOP.

Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick batted away a question about Paxton at an event with Houston firefighters last week, calling it a "fair question" but one for another time.

Spokespersons for Republican Gov. Greg Abbott — who has previously said the accusations raise "serious concerns" — and Paxton did not respond to questions. Meanwhile, Abbott on Thursday instructed state agencies to begin identifying "potential litigation" over the energy sector to aim at the Biden administration — lawsuits that Paxton's office would likely handle.

The extent of legislative pressure on Paxton so far came shortly after the accusations surfaced in October, when the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee urged the attorney general to resign if there was "any truth whatsoever" to the claims.

Since then, more details have emerged, including in a whistleblower lawsuit. Four Paxton accusers claimed he ousted them as retribution and laid out four ways in which Paxton used his office to help Austin real estate developer Nate Paul, who is fending off his own FBI investigation and employs a woman with whom Paxton allegedly had an extramarital affair.

"The allegations from his own staff are pretty serious," said Democratic state Rep. Chris Turner, who has called on lawmakers to investigate Paxton.

BSSO

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around the world. He has conducted in many countries from Mexico to Taiwan.

Cellist Jeffrey Noel Lastrapes is an active soloist, chamber musician and teacher having performed and taught in Europe, South America, Asia, and in every region of the US. He holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School where he studied with Orlando Cole and Harvey Shapiro respectively. In 2009, Mr. Lastrapes gave his New York Debut at Merkin Hall to critical acclaim.

He has recorded for New World Records and Centaur Records. In 2020, Mr. Lastrapes released a video production of the Complete Suites for Solo Cello by JS Bach. Recordings of sonatas by Rachmaninoff and Chopin, and Duos for violin and cello by Ravel and Kodaly, both on Centaur, have also recently been released as well as his print edition of the Six Suites for Solo Cello by Bach (BCMP Ltd).

Mr. Lastrapes is a past recipient of the Texas Tech Alumni Association "New Faculty Award" and in 2017 was honored to be the August commencement speaker. He shared his journey as a visually impaired musician.

Mr. Lastrapes has participated in major summer festivals around the world including the Evian, Hot Springs, Peninsula (WI), Bay View (MI), and Bellingham (WA) and concert series such as BachFest in Cochabamba, Bolivia, Bach in Buffalo, sponsored by the Buffalo Philharmonic (NY), FebruaryFest, (WI) and Music at the Russell House (CT), among many others.

He is currently Associate Professor of Cello at Texas Tech University and has been on the faculty of the Interlochen Center for the Arts since 1996. In 2019, he co-founded the Montenegro Cello Festival and Course which takes place during June each year.

The concert will take place at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium February 6 at 7:30 PM. Though there will be tickets sold at the door, patrons are strongly encouraged to purchase tickets in advance for this exciting event

online at www.bigspringsymphony.org or at one of local ticket vendors:

@H-E-B, Heritage Museum, The Karat Patch or the Visit Big Spring (CVB) Office. Concert Tickets are \$20 for Adults, \$15 for Senior Adults (55+) and Students (college or younger) are admitted for FREE.

Performance adjustments have been made due to the COVID-19 pandemic to assure the health and safety of the patrons, staff and volunteers. "We will be following strict Covid - 19 guidelines set by the State of Texas for indoor events.", Watt said. "Please wear a mask when you are not in your seat and, keep social distancing." Patrons are asked to arrive early and ushers will seat them in 6 foot social distance format by individuals or friend/family groups. There are hand sanitizing stations in the facility and everything will be handled as contactless as possible. The public needs to consider the very limited restroom facilities with a capacity of only 2.

The Big Spring Symphony Guild will not be hosting receptions this season but will have contactless bottled water sells for a donation to the music student scholarship program.

There will be other COVID-19 precautions taken, as deemed necessary, to assure that every attendee stays healthy, so future live performances can be enjoyed by all. "I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support for our Symphony, and we hope to see you on Saturday, February 6th", Watt said.

There are two other concerts planned for this season. "Bohemian Rhapsody" is hopefully going to take place on March 20th. This is the April Pops concert from last season that has had to be rescheduled three times due to the pandemic. It will feature guest artists, "Jeans 'N Classics" performing "The Music of Queen". There are still concerns of Canadian travel restrictions interfering with this date. The final concert of the season, "Pops Extravaganza" will be on April 21 and will feature "The Texas Tenors". The three "Texas Tenors" are each well known artists in their own genres and include pop, country and operatic repertory.

RESOURCE

Continued from Page 1

visit the library and check out materials, as well as check out our online collection and resources on our website," Verdin said.

Any digital collection of eBooks and audiobooks can be checked out simply with a library card. The Howard County Library also posts resources on their website and Facebook page regularly in order to keep the community updates on news and events. Libraries in today's world are able to offer more than just a physical copy of a book. At the Howard County Library, patrons can enjoy an expansive number of learning and research resources like audiobooks, movies, DVD series, newspapers, microfilm, and a genealogy collection to browse through.

"We are always looking to expand on services and offer quality service. Your visits, whether virtually or in-person show the importance of the library to the community."

The library is one of the few places in town that offers a place to make copies, print documents, and send faxes all in one building. Although the library offers these services, it also offers reference help. Reference help is help beyond a simple Google search, according to Virdin. Reference help goes beyond a simple search and

is available by phone, email, or in person.

The Howard County Library has received a few grants recently that make it a Family Place Library. This allows the library to be a resources for parents and children through workshops, programs, materials, and a space for caregivers and children. However, according to Virdin, some of those opportunities have been delayed due to COVID-19.

"We are looking forward to adding more resources that we receive through grants," she said.

Currently, due to the pandemic, the library had to move towards more remote services like eBooks, curbside pickup and remote printing. However, since reopening, services like computer use, printing, fax, browsing and checking out materials are now available.

"While all these new items and services are exciting, what we are most looking forward to is opening the library back to 100% once the pandemic has subsided. We miss seeing our patrons participating in our activities, browsing for books, sitting and reading, and attending groups meetings."

Virdin also noted that the Howard County Library is always in need of volunteers. Volunteers can help with the library's summer reading programs, shelving materials, and helping maintain the upkeeps and organization of the collection. Library

volunteers also have the opportunity to help in creating science-based children's activities. Interested individuals can contact the library for more details.

"The library is a community space with many resources for people to take advantage of. It is a trusted source for knowledge, information, technology, and a place where people know they will be helped."

The Howard County Library is an expansive resource location for all of Howard County to enjoy and take part in. If you're studying for an important exam, need to find out more about a specific subject, or are simply looking for a good book to read, you can find it at the Howard County Library.

"We strive to be an open and an inclusive place for everyone, and we encourage you to visit the library to use our resources in person or online," Virdin said. "Come checkout what's going on in the library."

The Howard County Library is located at 500 S. Main Street. For more information, call 432-264-2260 or visit their website at howardcounty.ploud.net or Facebook page.

Iris Rangel is a Staff Writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, email reporter@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

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Melva Jean Swinney (Allen), 87, died Wednesday. Graveside service will be 10:00 AM Saturday at the Coahoma Cemetery.

Ronald Shannon, 70, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Estevan Valencia, 61, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Carlos Leal, 69, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Bible Study: 6:30pm

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SMMC

Continued from Page 1

community to know that we are safe and ready for all their healthcare needs and hope that by providing more resources such as these lectures that their health stays top of mind."

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

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You began your life in Christ by the Spirit. Now you are trying to make it complete by your own power? That is foolish. (Galatians 3:3)

Faith

Love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us. 1 John 4:18

EXPERIENCE THE
POWER OF PRAYER

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee teaching in the synagogues, preaching everywhere the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed people who had every kind of sickness and disease. Matthew 4:23

PATIENCE

QUIETLY

The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them. I will satisfy them with a long life and give them my salvation. Psalm 91: 14-16

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Count Your Blessings



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If you aren't convinced of God's love, how can you love others?

LET LOVE SHINE

As a glove responds to the strength of the hand, so you will respond to the leading of Christ to the point where you say, "I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Galatians 2:20

PROVERBS 23:7

Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem! Rejoice in the Lord your God! For the rains he sends are an expression of his grace. Once more the autumn rains will come, as well as the rains of spring. (Joel 2:23)

Pray for our Nation

God's love supply is never empty. "For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth." (Psalm 103:11)

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Thankful
GRATEFUL
Blessed

Church News

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 31, 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 or the church office, please call 432-264-7818, or e-mail us at 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.

The readings for this Sunday are Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, and Mark 1:21-28. The psalm is Psalm 111.

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study is back. A meal is served at 5:30 and our bible study begins at 6:00. We are studying Lutheranism 101. Please come and join us.

Judy Roevert 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.

NazFamily Church

This Sunday

In 1967 a little British band released a simple single that is still played today, “All You Need is Love.” Maybe you’ve heard it? Of course, we need more than “love” to live. We need air, water, food, and shelter to survive, but I think Lennon was pointing to something at the core of our human existence.

Without authentic love life becomes meaningless and empty. Join us this Sunday as we dig deeper into First John and discover a Living Love.

Men’s Breakfast

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14) Our Men’s Ministry will have a special Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 6 at 9 a.m.

We will meet at Howard Callender’s property for a time of food, fellowship, and faith building. We have several “manly” activities planned for those who would like to stick around after breakfast.

Rekindled

Do you want to rekindle your faith? Rekindle your relationship? Rekindle your love? You won’t want to miss our upcoming Rekindled Retreat on February 12 & 13 with special speakers Cal & Ceresa Callender and music by Amanda Kleeb. Contact Howard Callendar for more information or to sign up: howard@callenderinc.com or (661) 549-6801.

Food Boxes

Every Tuesday & Thursday we make food boxes available in our church office from 10am - 12pm for anyone in need.

If you know someone who needs an extra blessing they can come by the office at that time or contact us at 432-267-7015.

Connect

If you would like to begin a vibrant relationship with God as a follower of Jesus, or if you would like to learn more about how you can get involved at NazFamily Church, one of our pastors would love to talk to you.

Please contact us at church@nazfamily.org.

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.

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

Sunday, January 31st – Join us this Sunday at

11:00AM for our onsite & online worship service.. You can find our CCC Live Worship Experience online at [facebook.com/CCCBigSpring](https://www.facebook.com/CCCBigSpring) or at Cornerstone Covenant Church Live on YouTube (look for the CCC logo).

Wednesday, February 3rd – Join us ONSITE & ON-LINE this Wednesday at our 7:00PM worship/bible study service. We love seeing what happens in people’s lives when they discover God through the study of His Word. Let us explore the Bible together and see what it tells us about the God who has woven His story through history and is present with us now.

Transportation Ministry – You need a ride to church? CCC offers pick-up services on Sundays for our 11:00AM worship service. If you are needing a ride for Sunday please contact the church office.

Cornerstone Covenant Church (CCC) is a unified, spirit-led, purpose-driven church, which cultivates an atmosphere of faith so that lives can be transformed by Jesus Christ. Please join us every Sunday at 9:00AM (onsite) 11:00AM (onsite & online) and Wednesday at 7:00PM (onsite) for worship services.

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

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 social gathering outside the church in the Courtyard & Bennett Garden.

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.

Facebook – Live Streaming

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m., St. Mary’s will be Live Streaming their service on Facebook, website – www.facebook.com/StMarysBigSpring/. What a great way to listen OR participate in the service at the comforts of your home or wherever you may be at that time of day.

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 17 - On Wednesday, Feb. 17 we start the Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday service. We have a service on Wednesday at 6 p.m. From that day until Easter we will be into 40 days of Lent.

This service is open to everybody in the community and we hope and pray you will join us as we begin the Lenten Journey.

College Baptist Church

Last day of the first month of 2021! What an opportunity to serve Him! Just praising God at College Baptist Church, as we welcome new members through salvation and baptism! Come see what God is doing at the corner of 11th and Birdwell Lane. We are open on Sunday morning at 9:15 for Bible Study for all ages.

Worship time is at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Youth activities start at 6 p.m. and meal between 6-6:45 with families. We meet for Bible Study and Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m. with children meeting for King’s Kids and Krafts.

Girl’s Missions meet on Sunday at 5 p.m. Come join in the fun as we are celebrating a New Year in serving our Lord.

Services for January 31, 2021, are in the building. We are live streaming and on our Face Book page as well. Catch up on God’s perfect plan! We have face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer available, and we are practicing social distancing. Families are sitting together. Visitors, it was a joy to welcome you on Sunday.

Come join us again—it will be exciting to welcome new faces and old alike. Our services are lively and worshipful.

College Baptist Church has almost reached our Lottie Moon Christmas offering goal. This goal is a challenging one where every dollar given will reach to the foreign mission field as we continue on mission for our Lord.

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, leading us as Jesus lives through us.

Come study what it takes to “Cast your burdens on the Lord,” knowing He cares for us so much He sent His only begotten Son to save us.

Focus on Jesus as we enter into the New Year, as our pastor reminds us every Sunday, Jesus is coming SOON!

Take a part in these joyful activities, and exciting worship, praising the Mighty God we serve. Please call: 432-267-7429, for more information concerning Men’s, Ladies’ and youth meetings at this great and friendly church.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

Last Sunday First Presbyterian Church in Big Spring installed and welcomed Class of 2023 Elders, Jim Little, Vicki Miller, and Ken Schaedel.

First Presbyterian Church now has a two iTunes podcasts: The Daily Prayer Podcast and The Sermon Podcast. The sermon from last week may be found at www.fpcbigspring.com/Sermons.

For anyone wishing to join in a daily prayer, one may go to www.fpcbigspring.com and select Daily Prayers. Rev. Allen Cross also posts a Weekly Devotional each Wednesday at that website, which may provide food for thought or help during time of stress or feelings of isolation. He often broadcasts from various sites around the church or around West Texas.

Wednesday Lectionary Bible Study meets at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to join in the study by Zoom can find the link to the meeting in Faith Notes or online at the First Presbyterian Fellowship group or on the Calendar on the church website on Facebook.

The Thursday Lunch Bunch meets in Fellowship Hall at 11:30.

The Session meets Thursday, January 28, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Presbyterian Women met at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26 for a business meeting and Bible study. The study was Lessons 4 and 5 from the book Into the Light: Hope through Prayers of Lamentation by P, Lynn Miller.

The Discovery Class began a study by Margaret Feinburg entitled Taste and See: Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers, and Fresh Food Makers, a culinary exploration that puts scripture in terms of everyday activities. Helen Glass led the first lesson, “You’re Invited to the Table.” Vicki Miller is leading Lesson Two “Delighting in the Sweetness of Fruitfulness.”

The Youth Bible Study, led by Tom Koger, meets in the Youth Room.

The Children’s Class continues with lessons from the Children’s Bible.

The Sunday morning Take Ten fellowship in the parlor between Sunday School and worship has resumed. Sarah Salinas is host for this week.

Lectionary passages for the Fourth Sunday in Epiphany are: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13.

Rev. Allen Cross will lead the worship service. The sermon topic is “Idols in the Cupboard.”

Organist/music director Gabe Martinez leads the music on the organ and piano. The Noisy Offering will be collected during the Children’s Moment.

Anyone who is not attending worship physically may hear the service on KBST 1490 AM at 11:00 a.m. as usual or online at www.fpcbigspring.com by selecting the SERMONS tab and the correct date. A copy of the liturgy for the service may be downloaded from the website or by receiving a copy by calling the church office

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.

Reflections: Comfort For Those Who Grieve

Most of us first experience grief as a child with the death of a pet who shared our childhood.

Many dogs, cats and birds have been buried beneath carefully turned soil moistened with childhood tears.

Grief eventually comes more forcefully with the death of a parent, a brother, sister, or friend. If we live long enough, it will come to each of us when we part with those we love most.

David, who wrote the Psalms, was famous for his grief over the death of his son Absalom.

Even though Absalom led a rebellion against him seeking to unseat him from the throne of Israel, when David heard that Absalom was dead, he was inconsolable. He wept and cried, ““O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died in-

stead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!” (2 Samuel 18:33). On another occasion, when David grieved over the death of another child, he said, “I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” (2 Sam. 12:23).

Confidence in Heaven and the resurrection does not eliminate grief, but it takes away the sting.

That is why the Apostle Paul writes, “But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O death where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’” (1 Corinthians 15:54).

My father died when I was 29. My mother when I was 64. I preached my grandfather’s funeral, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends.

Last week my family buried my mother’s sister in Texas. Next week our daughter and grandchildren will bury our son-in-law’s mother in Georgia. We must all face the loss of loved ones.

A few years ago, I visited a cemetery in old Boston where the tombstones date back to some of the earliest residents of the Colonies.

I discovered an interesting pattern. Those grave makers erected before 1730 bore skulls and cross bones. They were the picture of death and despair. The markers erected after 1740 bore the images of angels and cherubim and were often inscribed with verses about heaven.

The only event that could have made such a difference in the Boston markers is the Great Awakening that swept the Colonies in the 1730s and 1740s. Benjamin Franklin wrote of the Awakening that there was a “wonderful...change soon made in

the manners of our inhabitants. ... so that one could not walk thro’ the town in an evening without hearing psalms sung in different families of every street.”

Grief as a believer in Jesus Christ is deep and real, but it is not a grief without hope. Even Jesus grieved when he stood outside the tomb of his friend Lazarus. Although he knew he would call Lazarus from the grave and raise him from the dead, the Bible says, “Jesus wept.”

When Jesus wept, he demonstrated to us that God not only knows our grief, he feels it. We do not grieve alone or in isolation nor do we grieve without hope.

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. His books are available at www.tinsleycenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com.



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The Goodness of God



TOM SLOAN

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Romans 2:4

The Law (ten commandments) is harsh. It curses sinners as it hunts them down and kills them. And every human is worthy of this curse and death because we are all guilty of sin. Howev-

er, there is this thing called the goodness of God.

I'm going to be as honest as I can and say that the wrath of God has never made me want to do right. As a matter of fact, I find it difficult, if not impossible, to believe, trust and obey a God who is constantly mad at me. I have learned that God's anger is not the appropriate motivational tool to get me to do the right thing. I am a very responsive person - if someone is mad at me, I will probably be angry at them. Just being honest here. If God is angry at me, what is to keep me from being angry at Him, or at the

very least, reject Him? I say this because my anger is no match for God's. But if God is not mad at me (and He isn't), if He is not waiting behind the scenes to kick my world to pieces (and He isn't), I can relax and approach His throne of grace.

Paul says that the goodness of God leads us to repentance. Ceasing from sin is a very good and healthy thing, but I do not believe that the repentance Paul is talking about is in reference to sin, but acceptance.

The goodness of God leads us to accept His goodness, and thus, repent of our rejection of Him. 1 John 4:16 says:

"and we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him".

To know and believe the love that God has to us is true, biblical, godly repentance. The purpose of God's goodness is to lead us to that tender and easy place where we feel safe enough to believe and accept God's love for us.

Why?

Because God is love, and if we live in His love, we live in Him, and He in us.

Have a good day.

Something to think about...

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" ~ 1 John 3:1

Reflecting on our real identity this morning made me think of a story Dr. Fred Craddock once shared about an experience he had many years ago. He and his wife were coming back to Oklahoma after giving a lecture at Yale University.

On the way, they stopped to eat at a small restaurant in Tennessee. While they were waiting for their food they noticed an older, distinguished looking gentleman moving from table to table, visiting guests. Craddock whispered to his wife, "I hope he doesn't come over here." He was peopled out at this point and didn't want to chat. But the stranger made eye contact and walked right over to their table.

"Where you folks from?" he asked amicably.

"Oklahoma."

"Splendid state, I hear, although I've never been there. What do you do for a living?"

"I teach at a seminary."

"Oh, so you teach preachers, do you. Well, I've got a story to tell you." And with that he pulled up a chair and sat down at the table. Dr. Craddock groaned inwardly:

Oh no, here comes another preacher story.

The man stuck out his hand. "I'm Ben Hooper. I was born not far from here in a small community across the mountains. My mother wasn't married when I was born so back then I had a really hard time.

When I started school my classmates had a name for me, and it wasn't a very nice one. I used to go off by myself at recess and lunchtime because the

taunts cut so deep. What was even worse was going downtown on Saturday afternoon and feeling every eye burning a hole through you. They were all wondering who my real father was."

"When I was about 12 years old a new preacher came to our church. I would always go in late and slip out early. I couldn't deal with the comments and stares.

But one day the preacher said the benediction so fast I got caught in the crowd. I could feel every eye in church on me. Just about the time I got to the door I felt a big hand on my shoulder. I looked up and the preacher was looking right at me."

"Who are you, son? Whose boy are you?"

"I felt the old weight come on me. It was like a big black cloud. Even the preacher was putting me down. But as he looked down at me, studying my face, he began to smile."

"Wait a minute," he said, "I know who you are. I see the family resemblance. You are a child of God." With that he slapped me across the rear and said, "Boy you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it."

This old man looked across the table at Fred Craddock and said,

"That was the most important single sentence ever said to me." With that he smiled, shook their hands, and moved on to another table to greet old friends. Suddenly, Craddock remembered many years prior the people of Tennessee had elected an illegitimate son to be their governor. His name was Ben Hooper. He received his real identity that day and it changed his life.

Do you know who you are? Who your Father is? Are you experiencing your inheritance through Him?

Knowing your true identity will change your life trajectory! May we know and show our ID this week!

Johnny on the Spot

"Johnny on the Spot" used to mean to be on time. Kind of like "right on the money." When we were growing up, it meant to be where we needed to be on time in the exact place we were supposed to be. Don't be late!

How do we run a business right by showing up late all the time? We don't. How do we expect to keep someone who is always late, on target? We shouldn't. The world runs by the world clock. Sometimes we have to adjust to fit in the seasons by having a daylight savings time, or February 29th. But the world clock itself doesn't change to fit the world it governs.

My daddy's clock was somewhat like the world's clock. We had better be Johnny on the spot when he said to be on time from a date, or party, or church function. That was excellent training, because when we got our first job, we learned to be on time and made a great impression on our bosses.

God's clock is so different than our timing. He created time when He set the sun and moon and stars to govern seasons in our lives. His eternity has no time limit like we do here on earth. When Jesus told His disciples He was coming back to take them Home, He didn't give them a specific time. He just told them to be ready.

So how do we get ready? We ask Jesus to be our Saviour from our sins. That gets us ready. Then we follow His will for our lives. That keeps us in touch with our Time-Maker. Then we look for His Coming!

Wonder what it will be like to be always on time? Wonder what it will be like to be in eternity where there is time no longer. Well, at least we will always be Johnny on the spot. Can't wait!



LILLIAN BOHANNAN

Arab Spring exiles look back 10 years after Egypt uprising

By SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The Egyptians who took to the streets on Jan. 25, 2011, knew what they were doing. They knew they risked arrest and worse. But as their numbers swelled in Cairo's central Tahrir Square, they tasted success.

Police forces backed off, and within days, former President Hosni Mubarak agreed to demands to step down.

But events didn't turn out the way many of the protesters envisioned. A decade later, thousands are estimated to have fled abroad to escape the government of President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi that is considered even more oppressive. The significant loss of academics, artists, journalists and other intellectuals has, along with a climate of fear, hobbled any political opposition.

Dr. Mohamed Aboelgheit was among those jailed in the southern city of Assiut in 2011 after joining calls for revolt against police brutality and Mubarak. He spent part of the uprising in a cramped cell.

Released amid the chaos, he reveled in the atmosphere of political freedom in the Arab world's most populous country — protesting, working as a journalist and joining a campaign for a moderate presidential candidate. But it did not last.

Interim military rulers followed Mubarak. In 2012, Mohamed Morsi, a member of Egypt's most powerful Islamist group, the Muslim Brotherhood, was elected as the first civilian president in the country's history. But his tenure proved divisive. Amid massive protests, the military — led by then-Defense Minister el-Sissi — removed Morsi in 2013, dissolved parliament and eventually banned the Brotherhood as a "terrorist group." A crackdown on dissent ensued, and el-Sissi won two terms in elections that human rights groups criticized as undemocratic.

"I began to feel, by degree, more fear and threats," Aboelgheit said. Friends were jailed, his writings critical of the government drew attention, and "I wasn't going to wait until it happened to me," he added.

After el-Sissi came to power, Aboelgheit left for London, where he's published investigative reports on other parts of the Arab world.

At his former home in Egypt, national security agents asked about him. When Aboelgheit's wife last returned to visit relatives, she was summoned for questioning about his activities. The message was clear.

No one knows exactly how many Egyptians like Aboelgheit have fled political persecution.

Data from the World Bank shows an increase in emigres from Egypt since 2011. A total of 3,444,832 left in 2017 — nearly 60,000 more than in 2013, the years for which figures are available. But it's im-

possible to tell economic migrants from political exiles.

They relocated to Berlin, Paris and London. Egyptians also have settled in Turkey, Qatar, Sudan and even Asian countries like Malaysia and South Korea.

Human Rights Watch estimated in 2019 that there were 60,000 political prisoners in Egypt. The Committee to Protect Journalists ranks Egypt third, behind China and Turkey, in detaining journalists.

El-Sissi maintains Egypt has no political prisoners. The arrest of a journalist or a rights worker makes news roughly every month. Many people have been imprisoned on terrorism charges, for breaking a ban on protests or for disseminating false news. Others remain in indefinite pretrial detentions.

El-Sissi maintains Egypt is holding back Islamic extremism so it doesn't descend into chaos like its neighbors.

"Sissi wants not only to abrogate the rights of the opposition and to prevent any critical voice from being uttered, Sissi doesn't actually believe, not only in the opposition, but he doesn't believe in politics," said Khaled Fahmy, an Egyptian professor of modern Middle Eastern History at Cambridge University.

Fahmy believes this is the worst period in Egypt's modern history for personal rights.

"It's much more serious, it's much deeper and much darker, what Sissi has in mind," he said.

Those abroad who could challenge el-Sissi have chosen to not return.

Taqadum al-Khatib, an academic who also worked in the nascent political scene after 2011, was researching Egypt's former Jewish community in Germany when he learned that returning to his homeland was no longer an option.

The Egyptian cultural attaché in Berlin summoned al-Khatib for a meeting, and an official questioned him about his articles, social media posts and research. He was asked to hand over his passport but refused. Shortly thereafter, he was fired from his job at an Egyptian university. He feels lucky to be able to work toward his doctorate in Germany but misses Cairo's bustle.

"It's a very difficult situation. I couldn't go back to my home," al-Khatib said.

Fahmy said he's seen outspoken expatriates have their Egyptian citizenship revoked.

A government press officer did not respond to a request for comment on targeting and intimidating Egyptians — either abroad or at home — based on their work as journalists, activists or academics, or for expressing political opinions.

Journalist Asma Khatib, 29, remembers the heady days of 2011, when young people thought they could bring change.

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QB Watson requests trade from Houston Texans

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Star quarterback Deshaun Watson has requested a trade from the Houston Texans, a person familiar with the move told The Associated Press.

The person was not authorized to speak publicly about the request and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity Thursday.

Watson has a no-trade clause in his four-year, \$156 million contract, so he could have some control over where he might be dealt.

A source told The Associated Press on Wednesday night that the Texans had hired David Culley as their new coach to replace Bill O'Brien, who was fired after an 0-4 start and replaced by interim head coach Romeo Crennel.

The same source told The AP about the trade request said Watson made the ask before Culley's hire. He has been unhappy with the direction of the team for some time and Sports Illustrated reported weeks ago that Watson was upset the team didn't initially request to interview Kansas City offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy for its coaching vacancy.

The Texans eventually interviewed Bieniemy, as well as Indianapolis defensive coordinator Matt Eberflus, Buffalo assistant head coach/defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier, Detroit coach Jim Caldwell, former Cincinnati coach Marvin Lewis and Carolina offensive coordinator Joe Brady before landing on Culley — the only African American among the seven head coaches hired this offseason. The only other minority candidate who was hired as a head coach this offseason was the New York Jets'

Robert Saleh, the league's first Muslim American head coach.

Watson, a three-time Pro Bowler, wasn't just disconcerted about the way Houston went about its coaching search. He was also upset that owner Cal McNair did not take his opinion into account when hiring general manager Nick Caserio, according to reports from ESPN and the NFL Network.

The Texans, who had years of woes at quarterback before drafting Watson, don't want to part with the talented 25-year-old who led the NFL in yards passing this season. But so far they have been unable to change his mind about his desire to leave.

They traded up to select Watson with the 12th overall pick in the 2017 draft after he led Clemson to its first national title since 1981. Houston was desperate to find a franchise quarterback after starting eight players at the position in the three seasons before he was drafted.

Watson started the season as the backup to Tom Savage but took over at halftime of the opener and started the next six games before sustaining a season-ending knee injury in practice.

He was healthy for the start of the 2018 season and has started all but one game in the three seasons since, developing into one of the league's most dynamic quarterbacks. He was one of the only bright spots for the Texans this season as they finished with a 4-12 record after winning the AFC South the previous two years.

Watson finished with the best numbers of his career despite losing superstar receiver DeAndre Hopkins in an offseason trade and playing without Will Fuller for the last five games when the receiver was suspended for using performance enhancers.

His 4,823 yards passing and 33 touchdown passes

both set franchise records. He also set a team mark by completing 70.2 percent of his passes. He had 10 300-yard passing games to give him 20 in his career.

Watson ranked second on the team with 444 yards rushing, the first quarterback in NFL history with at least 4,800 yards passing and 400 yards rushing in a season.

Watson has found support from many players around the league in recent weeks concerning his desire to be traded, including from one of the greatest players in franchise history.

Just after the season, former Texans receiver Andre Johnson, who was drafted in the franchise's second year and had 13,597 yards receiving in 12 seasons in Houston, tweeted his support for Watson. Johnson criticized Jack Easterby, the team's executive vice president of football operations. Johnson is the only player in Houston's Ring of Honor and worked as a special adviser to the team before stepping away from that role before this season.

Some believe that Easterby, a former chaplain for the Patriots, has gained too much power since O'Brien, who was also the team's general manager, was fired in October.

"If I'm @deshaunwatson I will stand my ground," Johnson tweeted on Jan. 12. "The Texans organization is known for wasting players careers. Since Jack Easterby has walk into the building nothing good has happened in/for the organization and for some reason someone can't seem to see what's going on. Pathetic!!!"

If the Texans can't repair their relationship with Watson they'll be faced with an even more massive rebuilding process.

Jazz beat Mavericks 116-104 for 10th straight victory

By JOHN COON

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Playing without leading scorer Donovan Mitchell didn't slow down the Utah Jazz.

Utah never trailed in a 116-104 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday night. The Jazz overwhelmed the Mavericks on both ends of the court on their way to their 10th straight victory and the NBA overall lead.

Rudy Gobert led the way with his best all-around performance of the season. He finished with 29 points and 20 rebounds — both season highs — and had three blocks and three steals.

Gobert's dominance around the basket took Dallas out of it early and the Mavericks could never get back on track. His effort ultimately helped Utah pass the Lakers — losers in Philadelphia on Wednesday — for the NBA's best record at 14-4.

"It's probably the first time since I've been here that I've seen that much focus from everyone in this locker room," Gobert said. "I really feel like we're playing for something bigger and we're on a mission."

Jordan Clarkson added a season-high 31 points off the bench. Joe Ingles chipped in a season-high 21 points — on seven 3-pointers — and eight assists for Utah. He matched his career high with the seven 3s, falling one shy of tying the franchise record.

Mitchell was sidelined for the first time this season after he entered the NBA concussion protocol. Ingles made his first start of the season in Mitchell's place.

The Jazz shot 53.7% from the floor and made 14 3-pointers through the first three quarters.

"It's just a really fun group to play with," Ingles said. "We play for each other. There's no egos involved. It's not as unsalvagable as people think."

Luka Doncic scored 30 points for the Mavericks. Tim Hardaway, Jr. added 19 points and Kristaps Porzingis 18. Dallas lost its third straight game.

"We're just not ourselves right now," Doncic said. "We're gonna have to pick it up and be way better than this."

Dorian Finney-Smith and Josh Richardson returned to the Mavericks' starting lineup after both players missed nine games apiece due to COVID-19 healthy and safety protocols. Dwight Powell also returned after an eight-game absence.

Utah got an early boost on offense from Ingles and Gobert. Ingles made a pair of 3-pointers and assisted on two other baskets to help the Jazz stake out a 23-12 lead. Both assists were on baskets from Gobert, who had 10 points in the first quarter.

The Jazz expanded their lead to 32-17 late in the first quarter following three straight baskets from Clarkson that capped a 9-0 run. Then, Clarkson scored 13 of Utah's first 16 points in the second quarter. His final basket in that stretch put the Jazz up 48-27.

"The first half was the was the killer," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "We didn't come out with enough force, enough disposition, enough energy. They were great and we did not play well."

Utah led by as many as 25 points in the third quarter, going up 98-73 on a step-back 3-pointer from Clarkson.

The Jazz never let the Mavericks draw closer than 12 points the rest of the way. Utah coach Quin Snyder credited the team's success to playing with energy and communicating well on both ends of the court from the opening tip.

"We want to be unselfish, help each other on both ends of the floor," Snyder said. "The game can be simple if you let it be."

The teams will complete a two-game set in Utah on Friday night.

TIP INS

Mavericks: Hardaway needs to make two 3-pointers to reach 1,000 career made 3-pointers. He made four 3s against the Jazz. ... James Johnson had a

Surprising Cavs quickly climbing back into NBA contention

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James could be considered something of a history buff on the Cavaliers. After all, he's responsible for making — and altering — the franchise for more than a decade.

So after scorching his former team on Monday night with a 46-point, tour-de-force performance he said was fueled by seeing a member of Cleveland's front office overreact to one of his few missed shots, the Lakers superstar admitted keeping an eye on the Cavs.

He's impressed.

"You can tell that team is improving," James said.

No doubt, the Cavs, who were left in shambles when James bolted as a free agent three seasons ago, are ahead of schedule.

Led by All-Star-in-the-making guard Collin Sexton, center Andre Drummond, and boasting unexpected depth and defense under coach J.B. Bickerstaff, the Cavs are 9-9 and currently holding a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference as they prepare to visit the New York Knicks on Friday.

season-high four blocked shots. ... Dallas went 0 of 6 from 3-point range in the first quarter.

Jazz: Derrick Favors sat out with lower back soreness. ... Seven of Ingles' eight assists were on Gobert's baskets. ... Gobert scored his most points in an NBA game since getting 35 points in a 108-101 victory over New York in March 2017.

FINISHING STRONG

During their 10-game winning streak, the Jazz have trailed for a total of 57 seconds in the fourth quarter. New York held a one-point lead to start the fourth in its 108-94 loss on Tuesday before Clarkson helped Utah take the lead for good with his first basket of the quarter.

QUOTABLE

"It's just a crazy feeling and crazy vibe that we have and that we preach here. The ball doesn't stick. We're all just playing off energy and synergy." — Clarkson on what has driven Utah's rise to the top of the Western Conference after a 4-4 start.

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Legals

ception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 8, Bk. 31 T2N, T&P RR CO/GROVES, J N Survey, A-1050, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, HOWARD County, being 15 miles NE direction from BIG SPRING, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at (512)463-6751. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to

Legals

prove the need for an exception. A Protester should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Feb 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICA-

Legals

TION
The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name : URSULA BIG DADDY C
Lease/Unit Well No. : 1528LS
Lease/Unit Acres : 1282.01
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : null
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 101.0

Lease Lines : 1283.0 F NE L, 4130.0 F NW L
Survey Lines : 1283.0 F NE L, 1172.0 F SE L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1

Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 788.0 F NE L 3919.0 F NW L

Terminus Location
BH County: HOWARD
Section: 25 Block: 31 T2N
Abstract: 188
Survey: T&P RR CO
Lease Lines: 120.0 F SE L 840.0 F NE L

Survey Lines: 120.0 F SE L 840.0 F NE L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.

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If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Lisa Hunt, at (432)8484833.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Pre-Retrograde Advice

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To learn fast, first forget what you know. Clean the slate and begin anew. You'll absorb your environment better once you lose all preexisting ideas about the place.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've made efforts to fit in with people and now those are starting to pay off. They feel like they know, like and trust you. For these reasons, you'll have influence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Time has one job -- to march forward. When done well, this tends to keep everything from happening at once. Today, it's like time got distracted, stood still, and now there's a cluster of events vying for the same slot.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're often inspired to contribute, and sometimes you feel driven to contribute even when uninspired. But when the situation stirs neither inspiration nor drive, that's a message, too. Maybe it's just not a match.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The lunar position has you quite literally mooning, heart full of love, body swept into the swoon and your mind a bright projection into the fog of possible next moves and an array of potential futures.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's so much within your control that it would be a terrible waste to worry about anything that is not. Dive in and play hard with the multitude of resources you have.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It will enliven you to connect with your environment. Where you are doesn't have to be particularly appealing either, but it helps if it's new or if for some reason you are now noticing new things about it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Life is a buffet, and you're a pro. You know better than to start loading up your plate at the start

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



of the display. Give it a walk through first. You won't be able to eat it all. What's the delicious priority?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The same pursuit that should, theoretically, be avoided at all costs is also too seductive to resist. Consider how you might be able to use this very human response to the forbidden.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What keeps you from mixing it up right now? Do you think eventually this imperfection will get fixed and all will be different? What if this is it? You may as well tussle and play in this imperfect moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Challenging scenarios and novel victories have their place, but that is a strategy for a different time. Right now, focus on the battle you know you can win.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The seasoned sailor tests the water, not out of fear but intelligence. The information-gathering makes for better decisions and smoother sailing. It's also a sign of respect to the sea.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan.29). You'll give up three things to gain one crucial ingredient to your success. The year is still young when you succeed at your purpose with loving eyes on you -- what could be better. Even as you cross the finish line on your own, you know you the truth -- that you sail on the invisible wings of your team. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 10, 5, 33 and 48.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES:

A smooth sail into happiness is nothing to aim for, as it would not bring much pleasure. There is no romance without tension. **TAURUS:** Getting on the same page will mean both of you leaving a current page. **GEMINI:** Communication is easiest today and gets progressively more confusing over the next few weeks. **CANCER:** Life is for the ravishing. Ravishing is for the gutsy. **LEO:** From a very stable and orderly place, the most interesting and exotic things always seem chaotic, and vice versa. **VIRGO:** You will feel what you most want to give and then give it. No waiting. **LIBRA:** If you had to choose between your purpose and an intimate relationship, your purpose would win out. It's best to be in relationships that don't, in some way, ask you to make that choice. **SCORPIO:** Fear around love will sharpen you and teach you who you are so there's no good reason to run away from it. **SAGITTARIUS:** Is it a date or a behavioral experiment? **CAPRICORN:** A reminder: All are connected. This is far too much to go alone. **AQUARIUS:** Do not get sucked into the moods of others. Instead, see them as a challenge and an amusement. **PISCES:** They say they want one thing when they would actually be enthralled by an adventure, created and imposed by you.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Virgo and Aquarius both love a checklist and crossing things off as they go. They impress one another with their drive while stoking romantic fires with the spirit of competition and the hot engine of shared dreams. Aquarius wants to take things in the untried direction while Virgo prefers plans grounded in the tried and true. Soft and clear communication produces the blended ideas both can get behind.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.
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By Steve Becker
Bidding quiz

You are declarer and bid One Club. Partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠AJ♥AQ73♦J8♣AQJ62
- ♠A984♥—♦AJ6♣AK9754
- ♠AKJ2♥96♦AQ♣AQ832
- ♠10♥K95♦AQ83♣AK876

1. Four hearts. You should not risk losing a game by raising to only three hearts, an encouraging but nonforcing bid that shows about 16-18 points. You'd feel pretty silly if partner passed, since even if he has only six points he will probably make four hearts.

By jumping to four hearts, you indicate about 20 points, which in turn shows interest in slam. Note that this sequence, where the opener leaps to game in responder's suit, is altogether different from that where a player opens the bidding with one of a major and responder raises directly to four. In the latter case, responder's jump to game is pre-emptive rather than forward-going.

2. One spade. Partner's heart response adds nothing to the value of your hand. Had partner responded in diamonds or spades, the outlook would have been much more promising. The heart response warns of a

possible misfit, and until a suit fit is discovered, you should tread very gingerly. A rebid of three clubs (16-18 points) over one heart might result in missing a game in spades, and two clubs would run the same risk while severely understating your values.

3. Two spades. Here you have adequate high-card strength for a leap to three notrump, showing at least 20 points. However, the hand might play better in spades at either a game or slam, so it is wiser to show your spades en route. Partner is required to respond to the jump-shift, even with minimum values for his first response.

4. Two diamonds. Bidding one club first and following up with two diamonds constitutes a "reverse." Reverses show hands that contain at least 17 points, including distributional features. They also guarantee holding greater length in the first suit mentioned.

Here, after bidding two diamonds, you plan to support hearts on the next round and in that way identify your 1-3-4-5 distribution. This projected series of bids is more desirable than any other sequence because your hand is too good for a simple raise to two hearts, and you lack the four-card trump support needed for a jump-raise to three hearts.

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

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

ANSWER:

Big Spring Steer Powerlifting making strides

Courtesy photos/Irene Richardson

The Big Spring Steers and Lady Steers Powerlifters have been claiming top spots as the powerlifting season kicks off. The teams will be competing again this coming weekend in Andrews.



Kansas City trying for first Big Game repeat win in 16 years

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

Do it again?

Not in the NFL, at least not lately.

On Feb. 7, the Kansas City Chiefs will be the latest franchise to attempt winning successive Super Bowls when they take on the Buccaneers. In Tampa, of all places. Against Tom Brady, of all people.

It's an achievement simply to get this far once again.

"The thing I can see as a positive is the record, that we've persevered through some tough games," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said, "and so the mental toughness to do that individually each week was important, knowing that you're going to get people's best shot, and there's the respect factor.

"They didn't question each other, they didn't question the coaches, they stayed focused and delivered. However, that falls in, I'm not sure how to categorize that, but I just think that might have been the biggest challenge. You've seen that with teams, when things aren't going right, they just kind of fall apart there. Our guys have not done that, they all stuck together and trusted."

Only twice since the Patriots pulled off the most recent repeat in the 2003 and 2004 seasons has a champion gotten back to the big game. Seattle failed in the 2014 season — against New England, no less; remember Malcolm Butler's goal-line interception? — and the Patriots in the 2017 season, the Super Bowl featuring the Philly Special.

Super Bowl repeats once were relatively common. The first two went to the Lombardi Packers. Don Shula's Dolphins soon replicated the feat, even throwing in a perfect season for 1972. And Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain not only went back to back in the 1974 and '75 seasons, they did so again in 1978 and '79.

We're not done. The Bill Walsh/Joe Montana 49ers were the 1988 and '89 champions; Dallas and its Hall of Fame Triplets of Emmitt Smith, Troy Aikman and Michael Irvin pulled off the double in 1992 and '93; then John Elway finished off his illustrious Broncos career with two straight NFL titles in 1997 and '98.

But since Tom Brady took New England to the top 2003 and '04, nothing.

"It's hard, you know?" Brady has said — and he is

heading to his record 10th Super Bowl.

Brady led New England to its first NFL title in the 2001 season, a second-year backup until Drew Bledsoe suffered a chest injury in the second game of the schedule. After missing the playoffs entirely in 2002, the Patriots were primed for another championship challenge the next year. They put together a league-best 14-2 record sparked by the defense (238 points allowed, an NFL low) at a time when Brady was not yet an offensive force.

That defense featured one Pro Football Hall of Famer, cornerback Ty Law; a 2021 finalist for the hall, lineman Richard Seymour, and such other notables as Tedy Bruschi, Rodney Harrison, Willie McGinest and Mike Vrabel.

But Brady was the man in a weird Super Bowl in Houston, when no points were scored in the opening or third quarter. But 61 points were packed into the other two periods, and Brady went 32 for 48 for 354 yards with three touchdowns and one interception.

After the Panthers tied it 29-29, John Kasay kicked off out of bounds. From there, Brady led the winning drive to Adam Vinatieri's 41-yard field goal.

"I don't know how I do it," Brady said then, with a laugh. "We just were trying to keep our poise. You realize in games like this you've got to play for 60 minutes. We made enough plays toward the end to win it. ... That's what happens in Super Bowls."

As it did against the Rams a couple of seasons before.

"Maybe it was a little deja vu of two years ago," Vinatieri said then. "Tom did it again, he's amazing. This supporting cast did it again and gave me a chance."

After winning the 2001 title, New England faltered and failed to make the postseason the next year. Applying lessons they learned from that disappointment, the Patriots again went 14-2 in 2004. Brady was becoming more of a presence as a passer, though his targets weren't standouts; Randy Moss, Rob Gronkowski and Julian Edelman weren't yet aboard.

Corey Dillon rushed for 1,635 yards and 12 touchdowns in support, and the defense again was stout. Unlike in the previous postseason when the playoff games were close, the Patriots weren't challenged in the AFC chase to the Super Bowl, not even by a Steelers team that went 15-1 in the regular season.

They were tested by the Eagles in the championship match, though. Philadelphia, coached by Reid, had lost three consecutive NFC title games before beating Atlanta to advance to the Super Bowl in Jacksonville.

Brady did not win a third MVP in this Super Bowl — that would have to wait 10 years for that to happen. He finished 23 for 33 for 236 yards with two touchdowns, one to linebacker Vrabel. Deion Branch, coming off a mediocre season, had 11 receptions for 133 yards to earn MVP honors.

"We're champions now. That's it," Harrison said. "I don't know about dynasty."

Pretty much everyone else knew.

So now, the man mainly responsible for the previous repeat will try to prevent the next one, and perhaps the next NFL dynasty. Against the same coach he secured the most recent double.

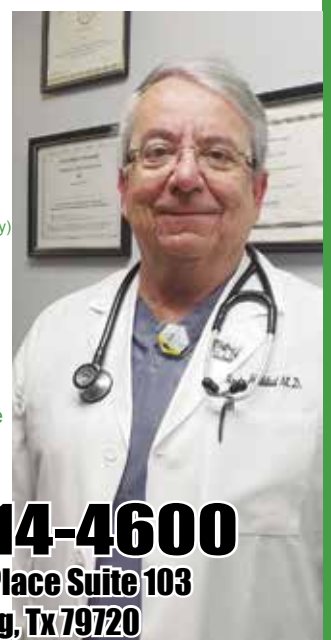
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