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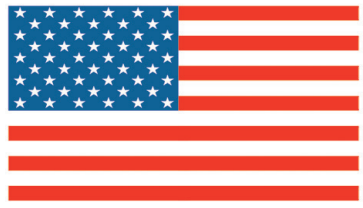
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County Commissioners discuss use of old Airport Driving Course

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

The Howard County Commissioners Court met for a routine agenda Monday afternoon. Leading the discussion at the meeting was the Memorandum of Understanding between Howard County and the Texas Department of Public Safety for use of County Airport Driving Track for Training Purposes.

Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker addressed the Court regarding the MOU. DPS would like to start using our driving track for training purposes and the MOU is a standard one which has been looked over by Attorney Josh Hamby.

"I don't know if you all know, but this is the only place to drive for hundreds of miles," Sheriff Parker said. "It is about 285 DPS officers that would be utilizing this from around the area."

While there is no fee to use the track, the economic impact that would be felt



HERALD photo/Anna Gutierrez

The Howard County Commissioners convened for a regular meeting Monday afternoon, at the Howard County Courthouse. The commissioners discussed a fairly routine agenda, with the use of the old airport driving course topping the agenda items.

by the rotating of the 280 plus officers would be a benefit to the Big Spring community. The County would not assume any liability while they are using the track according to the understanding and usage would be scheduled. The MOU would be good for 5 years with either party able to terminate the con-

tract if needed. Commissioner Long made a motion to approve with Commissioner Cline making a second; the Court passed the motion and allowed Sheriff Parker to sign the MOU.

Another main topic during the

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

Upcoming Event

March 12

Alive After 5
 C. Larson Realty

March 21

Big Spring Symphony
 Fashion Show
 Fundraiser
 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

April 4

Health Fair
 8 a.m. - Noon
 Dorothy Garrett
 Coliseum

Get your booth reserved
 today!
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Annual Trash Off
 9 a.m. - Noon
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 Coliseum parking lot

April 18

Master the Mountain
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 9 a.m.
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 permianbasinevents.com

AARP Tax-Aide
 Mondays
 Big Spring Senior Center

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 ideas to editor@
 bigspringherald.com.
 Help us to highlight the
 positive stories.
 in town.

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 www.bigspringherald.com



Fatality results from Friday night accident in Gardendale

Special to the Herald

DPS Report

A fatal accident occurred Friday, March 6 at 10:50 p.m. claiming the life of a 22-year-old, Big Spring resident, according to Texas Department of Public Safety. The accident which took place on FM 1788 in Gardendale involved a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by John Edward Fierro of Big Spring, Texas, and a 2015 Freightliner T-109 truck tractor, towing semi-trailer which was driven by Dustin Wade Willbanks, 48-years-old of Rowland Heights, California.

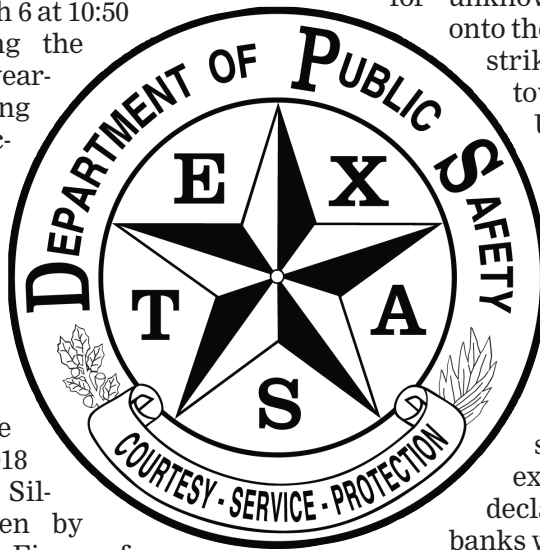
According to the DPS report, Willbanks was stopped on the shoulder

of FM 1788 facing south as Fierro was heading south on FM 1788 approached the rear of his vehicle and for unknown reasons traveled onto the shoulder of FM 1788 striking the trailer being towed by Willbanks.

Upon impact Fierro's vehicle overturned several times ejecting him from the vehicle and then caught on fire. He was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident.

Upon arrival on the scene, of the medical examiner, Fierro was declared deceased. Willbanks was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident and was treated and released at a nearby hospital for non-incapacitating injuries.

At the time the weather was clear and dry, according to the DPS report. The accident is still under investigation.



Structure fire claims life Friday night

Editor's Note:
 The following media release was issued by the Big Spring Fire Department on Monday morning. The release is in reference to a structure fire that took place Friday night.



Special to the Herald

BSFD Report

On Friday March 6, 2020, Big Spring Fire Department received a call for a structure fire at the 900 block of Northwest 2nd. At 9:01 p.m. several resources responded to the scene, Big Spring Fire Department had three fire trucks, an ambulance, Battalion 1 and the Fire Marshal. The Big Spring Police Department had a Sergeant, ID Tech respond as well.

When firefighters arrived on scene they began to extinguish the fire and in the

See **FIRE**, Page 3

Jaeger donates picnic table to Anderson Accelerated as part of Eagle Scout Project

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Students at Anderson Accelerated have a new picnic table to sit at while enjoying the warmer weather that is on the horizon as Spring draws near. As part of an Eagle Scout project, Justin Jaeger approached administration at Anderson Accelerated and proposed an idea that would help him achieve his Eagle Scout badge and that idea has come to fruition.

"The conversation to build this table came up at a Susan B. Komen Walk for Life race a few years ago," Heidi Wagner, Anderson/DAEP Principal at Big Spring ISD, said. "Mr. Jaeger and Justin talked about how he knew how to build picnic tables and that he was about to start working on his Eagle



HERALD photo/Anna Gutierrez

A short ceremony took place at Anderson Accelerated as Justin Jaeger presented a picnic table he built to the school as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

Scout award."

She continued, "The idea was sprung that Justin could build the campus a table to earn his scout award. He came

out to the school to visit with us and put together a plan of action."

This past week a special ceremony was held as Jaeger and his family presented the new picnic table to the school. The work on the table was completed off site and received its official placement on the Anderson campus on March 2. In addition to Jaeger, his father Bruce and his mother, along with his scout leader, Marshal Horn, and others who helped contribute to the project's completion were in attendance.

"Justin had to put together a detailed plan of action," Wagner said. "He worked with his scout master and a team to draft the plans, secure the materials, build the table, paint the table and all other things associated with the plan."

See **EAGLE**, Page 3

Obituaries

Joe N. Torres

Joe N. Torres, Jr. 65, of Big Spring went home with his heavenly Father on Monday, March 9, 2020. Vigil Service will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Sam Segundo officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.



Joe was born March 23, 1954, in Big Spring to Trinidad Torres and Joe A. Torres, Sr. He was a mechanic by profession and hobby. He loved working on cars and trucks. He loved family gathering, especially his grandkids and great grandkids. He loved date nights with Nora. He loved to go riding and dancing with her and he loved the band "Little Joe".

Joe is survived by his wife: Nora of Big Spring; six children: Joe "Chapo" Torres, Angel Torres and his wife Angelina, Stephanie Torres, Nathan Torres, Abel Torres, and Paul Torres and his wife Maggie, all of Big Spring; three step-children: Tiffany Yanez and Danielle, Stephanie Leos and her husband Albert, B. J. Yanez and his wife Melissa, all of Big Spring; three sisters: Lupe Lopez of Big Spring, Juanita Rubio and her husband Ernest of El Paso, and Sylvia Miramontes of Big Spring; one brother: Jesse Torres of Abilene; and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two great grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

Stanley Bogard

Stanley Bogard, 93, of Big Spring died Monday, March 9, 2020.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7

p.m. Monday Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Raymond Hall

Raymond Hall, 72, of Big Spring died Monday, March 9, 2020. 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 500 block of NE 9th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of W. I-20. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2300 block of S. Gregg. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 600 block of Ridgelea.

One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of E. 3rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the area of NW 11th and N. Gregg St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **AUSTIN RAY DARDEN**, 19, of 1313 Dixie Avenue, was arrested on charges of burglary of vehicles (x2), possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

• **RICARDO MIGUEL CARLOS**, 27, of 1613 Harding St., was arrested on theft of property less than \$100.

• **ALEXIS JADE BLAND**, 23, of 1614 Cardinal, was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear (x3), no drivers license when unlicensed, defective head lamp(s), safety seat system - child under age 8 or less than 4'9" tall and a charge of theft of property less than \$100.

• **CODY WAYNE ROBERT-**

SON, 36, of 3310 Bedford, Apt. A2 in Midland., was arrested on two warrants from other agency.

• **CLIFFARD ARVIN HART, JR.**, 56, of 507 Culp in Coahoma., was arrested on an outstanding warrant from another agency.

• **JONATHAN EMMANUEL TINDOL JR.**, 28, of 2002 S. Monticello St., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **BURLGARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 800 block of W. I-20.

• **IDENTITY THEFT** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80.

• **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80.

• **FOUND PROPERTY** was reported in the 900 block of Scurry and 400 block of S. Gregg.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 2300 block of Marshall Drive, 700 block E. I-20, 500 block of Todd, and 1300 block of Mulberry Ave.

• **HARASSMENT** was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore Street.

• **UNWANTED SUBJECT** was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.

• **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 600 block of NE Broadway (x2), 700 block of E. 16th Street, and 2500 Kelly Circle (x2).

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1000 block of Bluebonnet Ave.

• **FORGERY** was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700.

• **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the area of N. Gregg NW 11th.

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.

• **JACOB ATKINSON**, 17, was arrested by BSPD on grand jury indictment unauthorized use.

• **ALEXIS JADE BLAND**, 23, was arrested by BSPD on charges of theft of property less than \$100, failure to appear, no driver's license when unlicensed, violate promise to appear (x2), defective or no headlamps and safety seat system.

• **RICARDO MIGUEL CARLOS**, 27, was arrested by BSPD on a charge theft of property less than \$100.

• **AUSTIN RAY DARDEN**, 19, was arrested by BSPD for possession of a controlled substance less than one gram and burglary of vehicles (x2).

• **ALFREDO EDWARD GAR-**

ZA, 48, was arrested by HCSO on child support.

• **CLIFFORD ARVIN HART, JR.**, 56, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

• **GABRIEL ERIC JOHNSON**, 29, was arrested by DPS on charges of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, unlicensed possession of a firearm by felon, fail to identify fugitive, possession of a controlled substance between 1 gram and 4 grams (x2), and robbery.

• **ROXANNE CLARKE LOPEZ**, 31, was arrested by HCSO, on charges of fraud use/possession identifying info and credit card or debit card abuse.

• **ISAAC JAVIER MURILLO**, 18, was arrested by HCSO, on charge of harassment.

• **MYKAELA MICHALE NUNEZ**, 21, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of theft of property between \$100 and \$750.

• **CARSON BRADY PARRISH**, 19, was arrested by DPS on charges of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

• **ANGEL HILARIO RAMIREZ**, 27, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **CODY WAYNE ROBERTSON**, 36, by BSPD, on charges of bail jumping and fail to appear (x2) and driving while license invalid with previous conviction.

• **STEWART RYAN SHADE**, 30, was arrested by DPS on failure to display court order.

• **JONATHAN EMMANUEL TINDOL**, 28, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• **KEVIN LEE TOON**, 47, was arrested by DPS, on a charge of driving while intoxicated (2nd).

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinson's Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's Disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza, 180 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

• Caregivers Support Group, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are held at the Senior Citizens Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. These meetings are open for any caregiver, whether medical professional or family member. For more information, please call Becky Letz at 267-1628.

• Al-anon family group meets at 8 p.m. at 615 Settles.

• 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. The next session begins Sept. 3, 2019. 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.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 432-517-9207 for more information.

• Celebrate Recovery meets at First United Methodist Church Youth Hall, 400 Scurry, from 6-8 p.m. Hurts, habits and hang-ups. Leave message for Joyce Webb at 325-212-860

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.

HERALD

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MEMBER 2020

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

meeting circled around Pre-approval of County Travel. While the presentation of submissions was taking place Howard County Commissioner for Precinct 2 Craig Bailey brought up attention was needing to be focused on the amount of training being brought up for consideration.

"There are the mandated state training and classes that are beneficial but not mandated. It's that space in between that makes it hard to determine," Commissioner Bailey said. "We need to address this and pass on this for awhile until we can get something else figured out... We need to emphasize to those in the courthouse who are needing to do these that we have a restricted budget ..."

He continued, "We need to try and stay within the realm of the mandated classes until the state comes to their senses and

relives us..."

Howard County Judge Wiseman mentioned it is each elected official is expected to determine what is required and include it in their travel budget. A motion was made to discontinue the pre-approval of county travel by Commissioner Long and Commissioner Bailey made a second to the motion. The Court passed the suspension.

Commissioner also heard from Judge Fitzgibbons regarding the interlocal cooperation contract for the Failure to Appear (FTA) program. Through the program the Texas Department of Public Safety may deny the renewal of a driver license one has failed to appear for a citation or failed to satisfy a judgment ordering the payment of a fine. The driver's license may be denied renewal until the reported citations or violations are cleared and reported by the court to the Department. The rate was changed from \$30 to \$10 on Jan. 1, with the county still receiving the same amount of the fee. Commissioner John Cline made a motion to approve the interlocal contract. The

court passed the interlocal contract.

Other agenda items approved by the Commissioners Court included the following items:

- Treasurer's Monthly Report
- Clerk's Monthly Report
- Invoices presented by the County Auditor
- Contracts with Emergency Services Chaplain Corp., Howard County Council on Aging and Victim Services
- Approval of fire alarm system, presented by the County Auditor
- Budget amendments
- Roadway Maintenance updates were provided by Brian Klinksiek, Road Administrator

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

Weather



Today: Patchy fog before noon. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 79. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. South wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 77. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northwest in the morning.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 80. West wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Showers likely, mainly after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday: Periods of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 1pm. High near 59. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Friday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.

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

Take Note

• Big Spring High School will be recognizing the football team, band members and cheerleaders who participated in the first game at Memorial Stadium in the fall of 1956. The recognition will take place Friday, Sept. 4, 2020 at Memorial Stadium. If you are a member of these groups, or know of a member of these groups, and would like to participate, please contact Edward Slate at 432-270-1995, or at 813 Vista Ridge, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

• The Alzheimer's Association West Texas Chapter will host the Big Spring Community Forum on March 26, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Big Spring Senior Center, located at 100 Whipkey. The event is free, but space is limited. RSVP to WestTexas@alz.org, call 1-800-272-3900, or go to the link at bit.ly/ConfBS20. More information can also be found at www.alz.org/westtexas.

• Scenic Volunteers will be having their annual jewelry sale April 7 and 8, 2020, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Medical Plaza, right next door to the hospital.

• Kindred at Home will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Vitalant Bloodmobile will be on site. See Nicole Doose to sign up. The Sponsor Code is BSKindred. Eat a good meal, drink plenty of water, and bring a picture ID.

• AARP Driver Safety Course will be taking place on Thursday, March 12, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The course is \$15 for AARP

members and \$20 for non-members. Class takes place at the Big Spring Senior Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. Why take the AARP Smart Driver Course? Because driving has changed since you first got your license and doing so could save you money. Please call 267-1628 for more information.

• AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation help to anyone, and if you're 50 and older, and can't afford a tax preparation service, AARP Tax-Aide was made especially for you. They understand that retirement or other life changes may mean your taxes are a little more complicated now. With the help of our team of IRS-certified volunteers, we make it easy for you. AARP Tax-Aide Service will be available at the Big Spring Senior Center every Monday, beginning on Feb. 3, 2020, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. There's no fee and no sales pitch. For other services, and AARP membership is not required. Additional information can be found on the AARP web site https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2004/about_aarp_taxaide.html

• 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?

EAGLE

Continued from Page 1

According to Anderson Principal Wagner, the students will be able to utilize the table at lunch and while doing their school work once the warmer weather arrives.



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

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

process discovered an individual that had passed away inside of the structure. The Justice of the Peace pronounced Arthur Jackson, at the scene, and he was identified as the only occupant.

The family was notified that night. An autopsy has been ordered. The fire has been ruled as a generator inside of the structure as the cause of the fire.

Our deepest condolences to the family.

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Celebrating National Oreo Day and having a little game day competition and fun



Courtesy photos

Oreos are a fun treat whether you are 5, 50, or 100 and every age in between. National Oreo Day was enough reason to celebrate at Parkview with residents enjoying a few different Oreo recipes. In addition to some tasty desserts, a new game was introduced to the residents with a jumbo version of Connect Four. Friendly competition took place amongst residents as they each tried their hand at playing a round and seeing who would come out victorious. The activities abound as the residents stay active inside and out at the facility.

ASA recognizes exceptional soy leaders at 2020 annual awards banquet

Special to the Herald

The American Soybean Association (ASA) recognized outstanding volunteers and leaders at its annual awards banquet in San Antonio on Feb. 28, honoring individuals for state association volunteerism, distinguished leadership achievements and long-term, significant contributions to the soybean industry.

Congratulations to the 2020 winners:

ASA Pinnacle Award Winner Kenlon Johannes, Kansas

ASA's ultimate honor, the Pinnacle Award, is an industry-wide recognition of individuals who have demonstrated the highest level of contribution and leadership within the soybean family and industry, through work involving a significant amount of their lifetime.

For nearly 50 years, Kenlon Johannes has focused on broadening relationships to strengthen the soybean industry. After college and a few years teaching grade school, he returned to his family farm in Nebraska in the mid-1970s and joined the Nebraska Soybean Association and American Soybean Association. Now the CEO of the Kansas Soybean Association and administrator of the Kansas Soybean Commission, in the past he served as the top executive for soybean associations in Wisconsin and Missouri. During the early 1990s, recognizing the untapped potential of surplus soybean oil, Johannes worked with farmer leaders and university researchers to promote and identify new uses for

soybean oil—resulting in biodiesel.

In 1992, Johannes' biodiesel passion led him to become the first executive director of the newly formed National SoyDiesel Development Board, which later became the National Biodiesel Board. Johannes' commitment and skills as an educator and organizer, particularly around biodiesel, have made the U.S. soybean industry stronger for all soybean farmers.

Johannes' commitment and skills as an educator and organizer, particularly around biodiesel, have made the U.S. soybean industry stronger for all soybean farmers.

ASA Distinguished Leadership Award Winner Steve Wellman, Nebraska

The Distinguished Leadership Award recognizes a soybean grower or association staff leader whose leadership has strengthened the national or state association, enhanced soy-related policy efforts and increased farmer education or engagement.

Steve Wellman was a strong leader for both his state organization and ASA. He served as an ASA director for nine years and spent many of those years on the executive committee, including a term as ASA president and a two-year chairmanship of ASA's Strategic Planning Committee, which created a new and strengthened path forward for ASA.

Engaging with and helping educate soybean farmers has always been important to Wellman, as has participating in international marketing missions to help grow U.S. soybean exports. His wide-ranging ASA experience in leadership and extensive in-

volvement with agriculture policy has provided a strong foundation for his current role as director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Wellman continues to serve as a leader in agriculture who achieves goals and inspires others.

ASA Outstanding State Volunteer Award Winner Neal Bredehoeft, Missouri

The Outstanding State Volunteer Award recognizes the dedication and contributions of individuals who have given at least three-years of volunteer service in any area of their state soybean association operation.

Neal Bredehoeft served on the Missouri Soybean Association Board in all the state's executive leadership positions and on the ASA board for nine years, including time on the ASA executive committee and a term as ASA president.

Bredehoeft was an early advocate for biodiesel in Missouri and throughout the U.S. and he continues that advocacy through involvement with his state association's Biodiesel Working Group and support of biodiesel production in Missouri. He's also represented Missouri soybean farmers during international marketing missions and welcomed numerous visiting trade delegations to his farm in western Missouri.

The soybean industry has benefited from Bredehoeft's many hours of volunteer service in all areas and his long-term strategic thinking, commitment to maintaining a strong state organization, and focus on making a difference that will outlast his service.

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Forsan students bring storybooks to life



Courtesy photos

Jeanette Lindsey, Forsan Elementary teacher had her classes read a biography and to wrap up the project, they had to write a report about their person. They had to also dress up like their person for the character parade which was held on Friday, March 6, and present their report.

Alzheimer's Association hosts Big Spring community forum

Special to the Herald

The Alzheimer's Association West Texas Chapter will host the Big Spring Community Forum on March 26 from 9:30 am - 11:30 am at the Big Spring Senior Center, 100 Whipkey, Big Spring, TX.

"Attendees at this community-focused listening session will learn about Alzheimer's, dementia and memory loss," says Janet Cross, Program Coordinator for the Alzheimer's West Texas Chapter. "We'll review the basics of these conditions, services of the Alzheimer's Association and how we can expand the reach of local programs and services. Bring a friend and share your thoughts about how the Alzheimer's Association can help more people in your community."

The event is free, but space is limited. RSVP to WestTexas@alz.org, call 800-272-3900 or go the link at bit.ly/ConfBS20

Big Spring Senior Center is a sponsor for this event.

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia. For more information, visit alz.org or call 800-272-3900.

As one of 75 chapters of the Alzheimer's Association, the West Texas Chapter provides information, education and support to people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, their families and caregivers. www.alz.org/westtexas



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Bowie student nabs spelling bee slot

By Ruth Campbell

Odessa American writer

Sixth-grade Bowie Middle School student Shijay Sivakumar is heading to the Scripps National Spelling Bee for the second time in his 12 years.

The 93rd Scripps National Spelling Bee runs from May 24 through May 29 in Washington, D.C. Sivakumar got his shot to go to nationals by winning the 41st Annual Spelling Bee at Odessa High School last month.

Sivakumar is the son of Sivakumar Subramani and Joyanthi Naidu. Shijay. Sivakumar said his mother is a banker and his father is an engineer.

When he's not spelling, he enjoys playing basketball, playing the piano and watching football. His favorite subjects at school are band and math. He plays the clarinet.

"I've been spelling now for three years," Sivakumar said.

"When I was about 8, I started watching the Scripps National Spelling Bee, so then I got interested and starting studying. The words were like really cool and they were so obscure," he added.

A former St. John's Episcopal School student, Sivakumar also has competed in spelling bees in Dallas and Boston. Sivakumar said he found out about other bees around the country from the national bee.

The winning word at the local bee was vervain. According to www.drugs.com, "vervain is a slender perennial plant with small, pale lilac flowers borne on leafless spikes. It is indigenous to the Mediterranean, but has been cultivated widely throughout Eastern Europe, North Africa, China,

and Japan."

"I was ecstatic and I was in shock because I couldn't believe it," Sivakumar said of his win.

To prepare for the local event, he said he studied about 4,000 words and used additional resources to study other words. His last bee outside of the area was about two months ago and he said doing this helps to keep him sharp.

He said there aren't more competitors at the bees, but "it's a lot tougher and the words just get harder and harder every round."

For the national bee, Sivakumar said he also is reading additional resources and reading root words and language patterns.

As of now, he said, his family is coming with him. He also has a younger sister who competed with him in the local bee.

"She was really excited and she wasn't really disappointed that she lost because it was her first year. It was an experience," Sivakumar said.

He added that he thinks she will keep competing.

They also helped each other study for the event. He said they will get to sightsee after the bee is over in Washington and school will be over by then, as well.

Sivakumar said he feels his preparation has improved for the national bee and that he has "a lot better chance" this year.

Bowie Principal Brian Ellington said they are proud to see all the hard work that Sivakumar has put in to going to the national bee.

"He's representing Bowie and representing Odessa in the Scripps National Spelling Bee."

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Dow drops 1,500 points as oil price plunge and brings shock to markets

By STAN CHOE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fear bludgeoned financial markets around the world Monday, and stocks, bond yields and oil plunged on metastasizing worries about the effects of the new coronavirus.

The most violent drops came from the oil markets, where prices cratered more than 20%. But moves in stocks and bond yields were nearly as breathtaking. In the United States, the S&P 500 plunged as much as 7.4% in the first few minutes of trading, and losses were so sharp that trading was temporarily halted. Stocks trimmed their losses following the halt, and the index was down 5.5%, as of 10:25 a.m. Eastern time.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 1,442 points, or 5.5% to 24,434 after briefly being down more than 2,000. The Nasdaq gave up 5.3%.

The carnage in the energy sector was particularly arresting. Occidental Petroleum, Marathon Oil, Apache Corp. and Diamondback Energy each sank more than 40%. Exxon Mobil and Chevron were on track for their worst days since 2008.

European stocks dropped more than 6%. Treasury yields careened to more record lows as investors dove into anything that seems safe, even if it pays closer to nothing each day.

All the selling is the result of fear of the unknown. As COVID-19 spreads around the world, many investors feel helpless in trying to estimate how much it will hurt the economy and corporate profits, and the easiest response to such uncertainty may be to get out. After initially taking an optimistic view on the virus — hoping that it would remain confined mostly in China and cause just a short-term disruption — investors are realizing they likely woefully underestimated it.

The virus has infected more than 110,000 worldwide, and Italy on Sunday followed China's lead in quarantining a big swath of its country in hopes of corralling the spread. That sparked more fears, as quarantines would snarl supply chains for companies even more than they already have.

The new coronavirus is now spreading on every continent except Antarctica and hurting consumer spending, industrial production, and travel.

The S&P 500 has lost 17% since setting a record last month. If it hits a 20% drop, it would mean the death of what's become the longest-running bull market for U.S. stocks in history. Monday actually marks the 11th anniversary of the market hitting bottom after the 2008 financial crisis.

The circuit breaker tripped in the U.S. stock market is meant to slow things down and give investors a chance to breathe before trading more.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note plunged to 0.54%, down sharply from 0.70% late Friday. Early last week, it had never been below 1%.

Short-term yields sank as traders placed increasing bets that the Federal Reserve will cut rates deeper to do what it can to help the economy. The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations of Fed action, fell to 0.33% from 0.46%.

The Federal Reserve and other central banks around the world have provided the ultimate backstop in the past during this bull market, supporting markets with rate cuts and other measures of stimulus. But doubts are rising about how effective lower rates can be this time. They can encourage people and companies to borrow, but they can't restart factories, restaurants or theme parks shut down because people are quarantined.

Brent crude, the international standard, lost \$8.60, or 19%, to \$36.67 per barrel. Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$7.16 to \$34.12.

Investors were already knocking oil down because of worries that a virus-weakened global economy will burn less fuel. But concerns about supply dropped the latest scythe on the market Monday. Reports that Saudi Arabia may increase production of oil to grab market share led to worries that the world may soon be awash in too much oil.

'Several' lawmakers had contact with person who got COVID-19

By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL and ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Capitol's attending physician said Monday that "several" members of Congress had contact with a person who attended a recent political conference and who subsequently developed COVID-19, the illness caused by the new coronavirus. They "remain in good health," the physician's office said.

In a note to lawmakers, the attending physician's office said the ill individual had recalled "specific names of people he had contact with during the meeting."

"Several of these individuals, Members of the Congress, were identified and were contacted on the evening of March 7" by the physician's office, the note said.

Their symptoms were reviewed, and the individuals were considered to be at "low risk" of contracting the disease, the statement said. It said all of the lawmakers the physician's office was monitoring "remain in good health."

On Sunday, two members of Congress, Sen. Ted Cruz and Rep. Paul Gosar, said they are isolating themselves after determining they had contact with the person at the conference.

Cruz, R-Texas, said Sunday he had brief contact with the man at the Conservative Political Action Conference nearly two weeks ago and would spend the next few days at his home in Texas until a full 14 days had passed since their interaction.

Gosar, R-Ariz., said that he had made contact with the man at CPAC and that he and three members of his senior staff were under self-quarantine. His office will be closed for the week, he said in a tweet Sunday.

President Donald Trump also attended the CPAC meeting.

Besides Cruz and Gosar, the CPAC schedule listed three other senators and 12 House members who were scheduled to speak. They included No. 2 House GOP leader Steve Scalise of Louisiana, No. 3 Republican leader Liz Cheney of Wyoming and congressman Mark Meadows of North Carolina, who has since become the White House chief of staff. Also on the schedule was Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, the wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Cheney has been told by CPAC that she was not exposed to the convention attendee who has tested positive for the coronavirus, a Cheney spokesman said.

Both President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence spoke at CPAC, but the White House said there was no indication that either had met or been in "close proximity" to the infected attendee.

Cruz said he met the man being treated for coronavirus 10 days ago at the conference in Oxon Hill, Maryland. The Texas Republican said he's not experiencing any symptoms, feels fine and has been advised by medical authorities that the odds of transmission were extremely low.

Yet, Cruz said, out of an abundance of caution he will remain at home. He said medical authorities advised him that those who have interacted with him in the last 10 days should not be concerned about potential transmission.

David Popp, spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Sunday evening that no changes had been made in the chamber's schedule in the wake of Cruz's decision to remain in Texas. McConnell had spoken with Cruz, Popp said.

The Senate has a vote scheduled Monday evening and plans to be in session this week considering energy and possibly other legislation. The Senate and the House are set for a one-week recess the week of March 16.

Thousands prepare to get off ship hit by virus in California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Federal and state officials in California prepared to receive thousands of people Monday from a cruise ship that has been idling off the coast of San Francisco with at least 21 people aboard infected with the coronavirus.

Personnel covered head to toe in protective gear woke up passengers on the Grand Princess to check whether they were sick.

Michele Smith, of Paradise, California, said a doctor knocked on her and her husband's cabin before dawn and asked if they had a fever or a cough. The couple who went on the cruise to celebrate their wedding anniversary are healthy and, like the rest of the 2,400 passengers aboard, have been isolating in their cabins since Thursday.

On land, fences were installed at an 11-acre site at the Port of Oakland as authorities readied flights and buses to whisk the passengers aboard the ship to military bases or their home countries for a 14-day quarantine. The more than 3,500 passengers and staff on the ship hail from 54 countries.

"We're making every effort to get them off the ship as safely and quickly as possible," said Dr. John Redd of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who urged passengers to remain in their rooms.

As the U.S. death toll from the virus reached at least 21 and the number of cases worldwide soared above 110,000, California Gov. Gavin Newsom and the mayor of Oakland sought to reassure the public that none of the Grand Princess passengers would be exposed to the U.S. public before completing the quarantine. The number of infections in the United States climbed above 500 as testing for the virus increased.

The Port of Oakland was chosen for docking because of its proximity to an airport and a military base, Newsom said. U.S. passengers will be transported to military bases in California, Texas and Georgia, where they'll be tested for the COVID-19 virus and quarantined.

About 1,100 crew on the ship, 19 of whom have tested positive for the new virus, will be quarantined and treated aboard the ship, which will dock elsewhere, Newsom said.

"That ship will turn around — and they are currently assessing appropriate places to bring that quarantined ship — but it will not be here in the San Francisco Bay," he said.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the National Institutes of Health's infectious diseases chief, said Sunday that widespread closure of a city or region, as Italy has done, is "possible." U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams said communities will need to start thinking about canceling large gatherings, closing schools and letting more employees work from home, as many companies have done in the Seattle, Washington, area amid an outbreak at a care home that has killed 17.

Seeking trial delay, sheriff makes false COVID-19 claim

ATHENS, Ala. (AP) — Lawyers for a longtime Alabama sheriff seeking a delay in his Monday theft trial wrongly claimed the officer was being tested for the illness caused by a new coronavirus.

With Limestone County Sheriff Mike Blakely set to go on trial on felony charges, his attorneys told a judge in a court document filed Friday he was hospitalized and being tested for COVID-19.

But testimony during a rare Saturday hearing showed the 69-year-old Blakely wasn't being tested for the illness, and Circuit Judge Judge Pride Tompkins criticized the defense for making claims that could cause a public panic, The News Courier of Athens reported.

"I don't know what your tactic is, but it's condemned by the court," Tompkins said. "And the court won't tolerate it."

Defense lawyer Robert Tuten said he was simply mistaken about the sheriff's health problem and wasn't "trying to pull a fast one." Records indicated Blakely was hospitalized with a respiratory problem, but a doctor testified there was no indication it was COVID-19 and such testing wasn't needed.

"There are apparently several different kinds of coronaviruses, but all we had to go on was what we knew at that moment," Tuten said.



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Howard wins four games against Laredo



Pictured above left: Laela Minnich launches one of her three home runs against Laredo. Pictured above right: Second baseman Barbora Saviola tags out a runner at second base.

Courtesy Photos/Tony Claxton (claxtonphotography.com)

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

The No. 9-ranked Howard Lady Hawks (18-4) dismantled the Laredo Palominos in a four-game series at home over the weekend.

In the first game, the Lady Hawks launched six home runs and won the contest 14-0. Right fielder Laela Minnich went 3-for-3 in the game and drove in four runs in the process.

Minnich is currently first in the nation with a staggering 11 home runs hit through the first month of the season. The utility player from Vista, California, is currently sitting pretty with a .493 batting average and is one of the top players at the plate in all of junior college softball.

On the mound, Marin Musicant threw her second complete game shutout of the season. Musicant currently has a 9-1 overall record on the mound and is a key cog in the Lady Hawks' outstanding start to the 2020 season.

Following the first shutout of the day, the Lady Hawks once again dominated Laredo and came away with an 8-0 win after six innings.

Howard sent two more home runs past the outfield wall and had the Laredo batters frustrated all day long.

Sunday's games told the same story as the Lady Hawks outscored Laredo 24-3 over two more games. The Lady Hawks homered six more times across both games and have proven themselves time and time again that they are one of the best hitting teams in the nation.

The first four batters of the Howard rotation have gaudy batting averages and do not seem to be slowing down anytime soon.

Defending National Player of the Year shortstop Amanda Gonzalez (.467) has knocked home nine home runs and collected 24 RBI so far this season. Second baseman Barbora Saviola (.394) has 10 home runs and 30 RBI. Minnich (.493) is leading the team and also has crossed home plate for 23 runs scored. Finally, Bailey Martinez (.359) bats clean-up and has also had a solid season at the plate with five home runs and 12 RBI so far.

With a little over a month of the season played, Howard continues to stay steady inside the Top 10 of the polls. If they can continue their offensive domi-

nance, they will be a team that other teams will want to avoid late in the season. If the Howard sluggers can keep up their momentum, it will be difficult for any school at the junior college level to defeat them.

UP NEXT: Howard will host McCook (6-12) on March 25 for a pair of games after a couple of weeks away from the diamond.

Shawn Moran is the sportswriter at the Big Spring Herald. To contact him, email sports@bigspringherald.com or call 432-273-7331.

Iowa's Garza, Badgers' Gard take AP All-Big Ten top honors

By ERIC OLSON

AP Sports Writer

Iowa's Luka Garza is The Associated Press player of the year in the Big Ten Conference and Wisconsin's Greg Gard is its coach of the year.

Garza was the unanimous pick for player of the year and for a spot on the AP's All-Big Ten team, also announced Tuesday, in voting of 15 journalists covering the conference.

Illinois's Kofi Cockburn was named newcomer of the year.

Joining Garza on the all-conference first team are Michigan State's Cassius Winston, Illinois' Ayo Dosunmu, Penn State's Lamar Stevens and Maryland's Jalen Smith.

Winston, the 2019 player of the year, is a repeat selection to the first team. Stevens was a second-team pick last year.

Garza, a 6-foot-11, 260-pound center from Washington, D.C., has scored 20 or more points in his last 16 games, the longest streak by an Iowa player since 1971. He has scored 25 points or more 13 times this season and has seven games with at least 25 points and 10 rebounds. His 15 double-doubles are the most by an Iowa player since 2002. His 23.9 points per game rank fifth nationally, and his 26.2-point average in conference games is the highest since Purdue's Glenn Robinson averaged 31.1 in 1994.

The second team is made up of Maryland's Anthony Cowan, Michigan's Xavier

Pair of Coahoma Bulldogette powerlifters qualify for State

Special to the Herald

SEAGRAVES

Coahoma powerlifters Cailey Glover and Christian Everett will compete with the best in the state later this month after qualifying at the Regional 1, Division 3 contest held on Friday in Seagraves. Glover will make her second appearance at state after she placed second in her weight class at regionals. The Coahoma junior squatted 330 pounds, bench pressed 150 pounds, and deadlifted 305 pounds for a total of 785 pounds. Everett, a freshman, placed six in her weight class. She squatted



Courtesy Photo

Cailey Glover and Christian Everett pose in their softball uniforms. Both are also powerlifters who have qualified as one of the best in the state in their respective weight classes.

195 pounds, bench pressed 100, and deadlifted 225 pounds for a total of 520.

Coahoma's other two regional powerlifters Serena Dobbs and Kirah Kimball had an outstanding day but didn't advance. Dobbs placed sixth in her weight class. She squatted 235 pounds, bench pressed 105 pounds, and deadlifted 215 pounds for a total of 555 pounds. Kimball squatted 285 pounds, bench pressed 180 pounds, and deadlifted 270 pounds for a total of 735 pounds. She placed seventh in the meet. The Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association state contest is set for March 20 in Waco, Texas.

NCAA Men's Basketball Top 25

Ranking	Team	Overall	Points	Prev
1	Kansas	28-3	1625	1
2	Gonzaga	29-2	1546	2
3	Dayton	29-2	1507	3
4	Florida State	26-5	1384	7
5	Baylor	26-4	1322	4
6	San Diego St.	30-2	1261	5
7	Creighton	24-7	1157	11
8	Kentucky	25-6	1118	6
9	Michigan St.	22-9	995	16
10	Duke	25-6	990	12
11	Villanova	24-7	989	14
12	Maryland	24-7	912	9
13	Oregon	24-7	904	13
14	BYU	24-7	762	15
15	Louisville	24-7	755	10
16	Seton Hall	21-9	722	8
17	Virginia 23-7	560	22	
18	Wisconsin	21-10	495	24
19	Ohio State	21-10	443	19
20	Auburn 25-6	436	17	
21	Illinois	21-10	241	23
22	West Virginia	21-10	167	NR
	Houston 23-8	167	21	
24	Butler	22-9	161	NR
25	Iowa	20-11	111	18

RECEIVING VOTES:

Stephen F. Austin (75), Providence (66), East Tennessee State (59), Michigan (53), Penn State (42), Utah State (40), Saint Mary's (9), Arizona (7), USC (6), Liberty (6), Richmond (5), Rutgers (4), New Mexico State (4), UCLA (4), Northern Iowa (4), Texas Tech (3), LSU (2), Vermont (2), Florida (1), Purdue (1), Mississippi State (1), Belmont (1)

DROPPED FROM RANKINGS:

Penn State (20), Michigan (25)

NCAA Women's Basketball Top 25

Ranking	Team	Overall	Points	Prev
1	S. Carolina	32-1	747	1
2	Oregon	31-2	723	3
3	Baylor	28-2	668	2
4	Maryland	28-4	656	6
5	UConn	28-3	647	5
6	Louisville	28-4	588	4
7	Stanford 27-6	558	7	
8	NC State 28-4	543	10	
9	Mississippi St.	27-6	502	9
10	UCLA	26-5	488	8
11	Gonzaga	28-2	452	12
12	Northwestern	26-4	384	11
13	Arizona 24-7	374	13	
14	Oregon State	23-9	312	14
15	DePaul	27-5	283	18
16	Kentucky	22-8	276	16
17	South Dakota	28-2	253	17
18	Florida State	24-8	241	22
19	Texas A&M	22-8	239	15
20	Indiana 24-8	185	20	
21	Iowa	23-7	172	19
22	Princeton	26-1	165	21
23	Missouri State	26-4	120	23
24	Arkansas	24-8	99	25
25	Arizona State	20-11	29	24

RECEIVING VOTES:

TCU (11), Ohio State (10), Marquette (7), Boston College (6), Florida Gulf Coast (3), Rutgers (3), Duke (2), Iowa State (2), Boise State (1), Central Michigan (1)

DROPPED FROM RANKINGS:

None

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Help Wanted

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Annie's Mailbox

Can't Turn a Blind Eye to Potential Health Problem

Dear Annie: I believe my husband has a very serious disease. I'm an inveterate Googler and started noticing symptoms about a year ago. I mentioned his prevailing symptom to a friend in the medical field, and the condition I suspected is exactly what she popped out with. Also, my brother is an MD and he has told me that my husband should see a neurologist ASAP.

The problem is that my husband won't see a doctor, and, even if he did, I'm pretty sure he wouldn't tell them what's really going on. He denies the symptoms that I've seen. I'm not the only one who has noticed. Without naming the disease, I've told him I'm worried and said that I know he'd feel bad if the shoe were on the other foot, but he won't make the appointment.

I am worried and feel like I can't talk openly with anyone about it. If he does have the disease, it's incurable and terminal and, from what I've read, there are no treatments that can slow its progression -- yet. But I still feel like knowing would allow us to prepare. Is there anything I can do either to get my husband to the doctor or to find my own peace? My friend said she sees

this all the time and there's nothing to do but wait until my husband has a serious fall or accident. It feels terrible to wait for that. -- Worried Wife

Dear Worried Wife: I am so sorry that you are going through this. Seeing your loved one suffer is heartbreaking. Your initial instinct to want to have him take care of himself is the most natural one in the world. His instinct to run away and avoid knowing what is wrong is also a natural one that comes from fear. Now that you know that both of your instincts are natural and fair, it's time for next steps.

Sit him down and have a heart-to-heart with him, but don't tell him that you have been Googling around and playing doctor. Rather, tell him how much you love him and that you are afraid to lose him. Tell him that you will support him in whatever the doctor says but that you would really like him to see a doctor -- if not for himself, then for you, the love of his life. If that fails, ask your brother, a medical doctor, if he can help persuade your husband to see a neurologist. Best of luck to you and your family.

Dear Annie: Four years ago, I kissed my wife goodnight, and we went to sleep as usual. The next morning, she

told me that she wasn't feeling like herself and wanted to spend the day with her friends. Later that evening, she called to say that she would not be coming home until she was able to figure things out, including if she still wanted to be married and a mother to our 10-year-old daughter.

I tried my best to be supportive, hoping that some personal time would help. In the 12 years that we had been together, we both shared that each of us considered the other our soulmates. -- Betrayed by Soulmate

Dear Betrayed by Soulmate: I am so sorry that your wife left you and your daughter. We will never know exactly why she did what she did, but what you can control is how you react to what she did. Now is the time to step into your personal power, if not for yourself, then for your daughter.

Counseling or support groups can be very helpful at this time, especially for your daughter. You have to be mother and father for her, and that is a big ask, but you can do it with help from others who have survived similar challenges.

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

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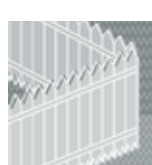
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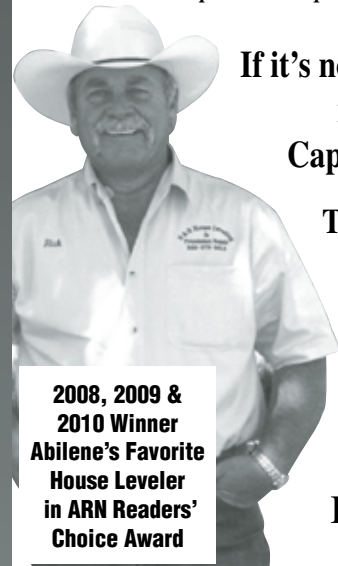
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**Contract
Bridge**

By Steve Becker
Trump control

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 4 2
♥ K 10 6 2
♦ K J 8
♣ J 9 3

WEST
♠ —
♥ Q J 9 7
♦ 9 7 6 3 2
♣ 10 8 7 2

EAST
♠ A 8 6 3
♥ A 8 5 4
♦ 10 5
♣ A 5 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 9 5
♥ 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ K Q 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass
4♣

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

heart, forcing declarer to ruff again and reducing his trump holding to the Q-J-10 while East still had the 8-6-3.

Declarer drew East's trumps and led a low club to dummy's jack, but had to go down one when East took the ace and returned his last heart to West's jack for the defenders' fourth trick. South scored the rest of the tricks with his high diamonds and clubs.

Declarer would have made the contract, however, had he been a bit more careful. West's opening queen-of-hearts lead marked him with the jack, so South should have played low from dummy instead of covering the queen with the king.

This play would have short-circuited the defense. After the queen held the trick, West could not continue the suit without establishing a heart trick in dummy, whether he led the jack (covered by the king) or a low heart (covered by the ten).

Declarer would ruff in either case, but with a heart winner now established in dummy, he would not have to ruff the next heart lead by East. Having thus defused the trump-shortening effort by the defenders, South would have lost only a spade, a heart and a club.

Declarer had a countermeasure available to withstand the assault on his trumps. All he had to do was to make use of it.

The most common form of defense against a suit contract is to keep leading a suit that forces declarer to ruff in the hope that he will eventually run out of trumps and lose control of the play.

Take this case where South went down one as a result of East-West's forcing tactics. West led the queen of hearts, covered by dummy's king and East's ace.

South ruffed East's heart return and led the king of spades, won by East with the ace. East led another

Tomorrow: Search party.
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SUDOKU

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

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

**Mercury Retrograde
Is Over**

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The day will be molded by one of two types of discomfort, the discomfort of doing a thing, and the discomfort of not doing a thing. Choose the first type because the discomfort will be brief and lighter than expected.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Rainmakers exist, i.e., people with enough knowledge, experience and just plain luck to open the sky and let the results pour down. They usually charge a lot of money. It's a good thing rainmaking can also be learned.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you're thinking something that limits your belief in yourself or your future, it's a dumpy thought. Dumpy thoughts belong in dumpsters, not recycling bins from which they can come back to haunt you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're in the mood to strike out independently, and this is the mode that will allow you to socialize freely, network with impunity and find opportunities that seem custom-made for you.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

LEO BY HOLIDAY MATHIS SCORPIO

(July 23-Aug. 22). Language allows you to live in a symbolic world. Every word you hear, read or say links your brain to something. It is possible to travel to a moment of joy or trouble in the split second it takes to say a word.



(Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Romantic love is a dance that, like the tango or the fox trot, requires a certain amount of space and tension between partners. Be mindful of this. Stay strong and aware as you move.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Avoid answering questions you weren't asked or explaining yourself before you have to. These moves will weaken your stance. Keep things brief, and let them unfold in a give-and-take rhythm.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You sometimes feel like you don't know what you're doing when, in fact, there are many ways of "knowing" that you're discounting. Hush your inner doubts; trust yourself; and keep going.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Any song you listen to a hundred times in a row will get on your nerves, even if it started off as your favorite song. There's a point when even the most joyful repetitions need to be interrupted.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't need approval to move forward. It's too early for the others to really get what you're doing anyway, so don't give them the chance to stop you. As long as you know what you're doing, that's what matters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It would seem that the one getting special treatment is the most powerful person in the room, but it's not really the case. The controls are being moved at a lower and less visible level.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your way of seeing something is valuable. When you share this with someone who could use a few different perspectives, you are giving a gift. When you take the time to carefully present your views, that's pretty wrapping paper.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 10). This solar return is a poke that shifts your posture. You'll react by holding your head up a little higher, putting more intention and grace into your moves, treating and regarding yourself in a way that tells the world how you are. A significant personal win comes in June, and July brings fortuitous alliances. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 48, and 15.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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5:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	All About	Ready Jet	Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy	UEFA	SportsCenter	Daily Wager	Basket	Law & Order:	The First 48	Moonshiners
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	Shofar	Focus	Flintstone	Burgers	Fam. Guy			The Blitz	SVU			
6:PM	News	Rosa de	Big Bang	CBS 7	Exatlon	News	Hope To	PBS News-	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	NBA Pre-	College	College	Sports	Law & Order:	The First 48	Moonshiners
6:30	Wheel	Guadalupe	Big Bang	ET	(SS)	News	Building	Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	game	Basketball	Basketball	Stars In.	SVU		
7:PM	The Bachelor	Ringo	The Resident	NCIS (DVS)		Ellen's Game	Our Mess	No Passport	Andy G.	The Flash	Big Bang	NBA			Stars Pre.	The Biggest	The First 48	Moonshiners
7:30						Eye on			Andy G.		Big Bang	Basketball:			NHL Hockey:			
8:PM			Amor eterno	FBI	La Doña	This Is Us	Light of	No Passport	G. Pyle	DC's Leg-	Big Bang	Mavericks at	College	College	New York	The Biggest	The First 48	Moonshiners
8:30						Southwest			G. Acres	ends	Big Bang	Spurs	Basketball	Basketball	Rangers at	Loser		
9:PM	(:01) For Life	Sin miedo	FOX 24	FBI: Most	Operación	New Amster-	Light of	No Passport	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	NBA Basket-			Dallas Stars.	Law & Order:	The First 48	Moonshiners
9:30	ABC	a la	News at 9	Wanted	Pacífico	dam	Southwest		Heroes	Seinfeld	Miracle	ball: Clippers	SportsCenter	Tennis: Tie	Postgame	Law & Order:	(:06) The	Moonshiners
10:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	Being	Amanpour-	C. Burnett	black-ish	Conan	at Warriors		Break Tens.	Stars In.	SVU		
10:30	Jimmy Kim-	Noticiero	Mom	CBS 7	Titulares	Tonight	Words of	Co	Perry Mason	black-ish	Miracle		SportsCenter		Spotlight	The Biggest	(:03) The	Moonshiners
11:PM	Mel Robbins	Contacto	Mod Fam	Late Show-	La Doña	Show	Jesus IS	No Passport		Gold	Hot Ones				Spotlight	Loser	First 48	
11:30	Nightline	Deportivo	Funny	James	(SS)	Seth Meyers	Creation			Gold	Conan				Spotlight	(12:01)	The First 48	
12:AM	Extra	Destilando	Two Men	Corden	Operación	On the	No Passport			Live PD	Jokers	NBA Post-	SportsCenter		NHL Hockey:	Rangers at	Stars	
12:30	Mel Robbins	Amor	Simpsons	Holly	Pacífico	Late-Lilly	For the			Live PD	Jokers	game		Pardon	Briarpatch	(:03) Chi-	The First 48	Moonshiners
1:AM	Paid Prg.	Como dice el	Pawn	ET	Programa	News	Light of	No Passport	Mannix	Cops	Jokers	NBA	SportsCenter	Now/Nav.	Ariel	Cicago P.D.		
1:30		dicho	Pawn	ET	Programa	News	Light of	No Passport	Mannix	Cops	Jokers	Basketball:			Mavericks at			

ANDY CAPP

Panel 1: "CAN YOU TAKE ME VIA THE SUBS' BENCH, LADS?"

Panel 2: "YOU WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR TEAMMATES, ANDY?"

Panel 3: "I WANT TO PICK UP MY BEER"

AGNES

Panel 1: "AGNES...WHAT IS THAT ON YOUR FACE?"

Panel 2: "I AM REVISITING THE MADCAP WORLD OF NASAL PUPPETS."

Panel 3: "REVISITING?"

Panel 4: "HEH-HEH...YEP! NOT THE FIRST RODEO FOR THIS BEAUTY!"

Panel 5: "SHE SAID IT MIGHT BE THE LAST RODEO FOR THIS BEAUTY."

ARCHIE

Panel 1: "HOW MUCH FOR A DOZEN ROSES?"

Panel 2: "IF YOU HAVE TO ASK TWICE, YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT!"

Panel 3: "GULP: HOW MUCH FOR A SINGLE ROSE?"

Panel 4: "EVER HEAR THE EXPRESSION 'CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN'?"

Panel 5: "HE GAVE YOU WHAT?"

Panel 6: "A PETAL!"

ONE BIG HAPPY

Panel 1: "Little Jack Horner Sat in a corner, Eating his Christmas pie; He put in his thumb, And pulled out a plum, And said, 'What a good boy am I!'"

Panel 2: "HE COULDN'T USE A FORK, SO HE STUCK HIS FILTHY HAND IN THE PIE?"

Panel 3: "AND HE THINKS THAT MAKES HIM A GOOD BOY?!"

Panel 4: "BAD PARENTING MADE HIM A SLOB. ERF!"

MOMMA

Panel 1: "I'M AFRAID THEY WON'T BE PUTTING MRS. BUTTERWORTH ON THE TEN-DOLLAR BILL."

Panel 2: "WHY NOT?"

Panel 3: "BECAUSE MRS. BUTTERWORTH HAS SYRUP BOTTLES SHAPED LIKE HER! HAVING HER FACE ON MONEY WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARD!"

Panel 4: "THAT WASN'T MY REASON, BUT I CAN'T ARGUE WITH IT."

MOMMA

Panel 1: "DON'T AGGRAVATE ME TODAY!"

Panel 2: "I LIKE TO GET THE JUMP ON THE WORLD!"

NEST HEAD

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Panel 2: "WHY NOT?"

Panel 3: "BECAUSE MRS. BUTTERWORTH HAS SYRUP BOTTLES SHAPED LIKE HER! HAVING HER FACE ON MONEY WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARD!"

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MOMMA

Panel 1: "DON'T AGGRAVATE ME TODAY!"

Panel 2: "I LIKE TO GET THE JUMP ON THE WORLD!"

This Date In History

Today in History
Today is Tuesday, March 10, the 70th day of 2020. There are 296 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On March 10, 1885, Konstantin U. Chernenko, who was the Soviet Union's leader for 13 months, died at age 73; he was succeeded by Mikhail Gorbachev.
On this date:
In 1496, Christopher Columbus concluded his second visit to the Western Hemisphere as he left Hispaniola for Spain.
In 1848, the U.S. Senate ratified the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War.
In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln assigned Ulysses S. Grant, who had just received his commission as lieutenant-general, to the command of the Armies of the United States.
In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell's assistant, Thomas Watson, heard Bell say over his experimental telephone: "Mr. Watson — come here — I want to see you" from the next room of Bell's Boston laboratory.
In 1906, about 1,100 miners in northern France were killed by a coal-dust explosion.
In 1913, former slave, abolitionist and Underground Railroad "conductor" Harriet Tubman died in Auburn, New York; she was in her 90s.
In 1933, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake centered off Long Beach, California, resulted in 120 deaths.
In 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis, Tennessee (on his 41st birthday) to assassinating civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. (Ray later repudiated that plea, maintaining his innocence until his death.)
In 1980, "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower was shot to death at his home in Purchase, New York. (Tarnower's former lover, Jean Harris, was convicted of his murder; she served nearly 12 years in prison before being released in January 1993.)
In 1988, prior to the 50th anniversary of the Anschluss, Austrian President Kurt Waldheim apologized on his country's behalf for atrocities committed by Austrian Nazis.
In 2000, Pope John Paul II approved sainthood for Katharine Drexel, a Philadelphia socialite who had taken a vow of poverty and devoted her fortune to helping poor blacks and American Indians. (Drexel, who died in 1955, was canonized in October 2000.)
In 2004, teenage sniper Lee Boyd Malvo was sentenced in Chesapeake, Virginia, to life in prison for his role in the October 2002 killing rampage in the Washing-

ton, D.C., area that left 10 people dead. (Malvo, 19, was sentenced a day after sniper mastermind John Allen Muhammad was given the death penalty.)
Ten years ago: President Barack Obama denounced waste, inefficiency and downright fraud in the government's health care system as he sought to rally public support for his revamped overhaul plan during a rally in suburban St. Louis. About 200 women who'd flown airplanes during World War II as Women Airforce Service Pilots were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Actor Corey Haim died in Burbank, California, at age 38.
Five years ago: Breaking her silence in the face of a growing controversy over her use of a private email address and server, Hillary Rodham Clinton conceded that she should have used government email as secretary of state but insisted she had not violated any federal laws or Obama administration rules. A U.S. Army helicopter crashed in dense fog during a training exercise at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, killing seven elite Marines and four experienced soldiers.
One year ago: A Boeing 737 Max 8 operated by Ethiopian Airlines crashed shortly after taking off from the capital, Addis Ababa, killing all 157 people on board; the crash was similar to one in October in which a 737 Max 8 flown by Indonesia's Lion Air plunged into the Java Sea minutes after takeoff, killing all 189 people on the plane. (The aircraft would be grounded worldwide after the two disasters, bringing fierce criticism to Boeing over the design and rollout of the jetliner.) "Captain Marvel," the first female-fronted superhero movie from Marvel Studios, took in more than \$150 million domestically and \$455 million globally on its opening weekend, making it one of the biggest blockbusters ever led by a woman.

Today's Birthdays: Talk show host Ralph Emery is 87. Bluegrass/country singer-musician Norman Blake is 82. Actor Chuck Norris is 80. Playwright David Rabe is 80. Singer Dean Torrence (Jan and Dean) is 80. Actress Katharine Houghton (Film: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?") is 78. Actor Richard Gant is 76. Rock musician Tom Scholz (Boston) is 73. Former Canadian Prime Minister Kim

Campbell is 73. TV personality/businesswoman Barbara Corcoran (TV: "Shark Tank") is 71. Actress Aloma Wright is 70. Blues musician Ronnie Earl (Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters) is 67. Producer-director-writer Paul Haggis is 67. Alt-country/rock musician Gary Louris is 65. Actress Shannon Tweed is 63. Pop/jazz singer Jeanie Bryson is 62. Actress Sharon Stone is 62. Rock musician Gail Greenwood

is 60. Magician Lance Burton is 60. Movie producer Scott Gar-denhour is 59. Actress Jasmine Guy is 58. Rock musician Jeff Ament (Pearl Jam) is 57. Music producer Rick Rubin is 57. Britain's Prince Edward is 56. Rock singer Eddie Brickell is 54. Actor Stephen Mailer is 54. Actor Philip Anthony-Rodriguez is 52. Actress Paget Brewster is 51. Actor Jon Hamm is 49. Rapper-producer Timbaland is 48. Ac-

tor Cristian (kris-tee-AHN) de la Fuente is 46. Rock musician Jerry Horton (Papa Roach) is 45. Actor Jeff Branson is 43. Singer Robin Thicke is 43. Actress Bree Turner is 43. Olympic gold medal gymnast Shannon Miller is 43. Contemporary Christian singer Michael Barnes (Red) is 41. Actor Edi Gathegi is 41. Rock musician Matt Asti (MGMT) is 40. Actor Thomas Middleditch is 38. Country singer Carrie Underwood is 37. Actress Olivia Wilde is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Emeli Sande (EH'-mihl-ee SAN'-day) is 33. Country singer Rachel Reinert is 31. Country musician Jared Hampton (LANCO) is 29. Actress Emily Osment is 28.

Newsday Crossword

I SWEAR by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 69 ___ and crafts | 11 Comedy routines | 43 Sight-related |
| 1 Free stuff in a goodie bag | 70 Sign of things to come | 12 None at all | 48 Fair-haired lady |
| 5 Recipe amts. | 71 Rogue | 13 Many an Iraqi | 50 In the thick of |
| 9 Public square | 72 Sunset | 21 New Delhi's nation | 52 Rule for club members |
| 14 Created with a loom | direction | 22 Command | 54 Tot's taboos |
| 15 Leave out | 73 Kingly address | 26 Greek "S" | 55 Actress Watts or singer Judd |
| 16 Indy 500 participant | DOWN | 28 Big name in toy bricks | 56 Playful river mammal |
| 17 Last word of a prayer | 1 Hindu guru | 29 Completes a plane flight | 57 Complain annoyingly |
| 18 One-third of tri- | 2 Grown-up girl | 31 Egotistical | 58 Stroll |
| 19 Optional purchase | 3 Ward off | 32 "If all ___ fails . . ." | 59 Phone image to touch |
| 20 "I do," at a wedding | 4 Style of music or movies | 33 Garden hose holder | 60 Halifax, ___ Scotia |
| 23 Weep loudly | 5 Part of a BLT | 34 Got 100% on | 62 A second helping |
| 24 Motivation | 6 Visible air pollution | 35 Molten rock | 63 Butter portions for rolls |
| 25 Chapters of history | 7 Tree with cones | 36 "Sign me up!" | 65 Accelerate, as an engine |
| 27 Raggedy Ann, for one | 8 Appliance with burners | 37 Almost-excellent grade | |
| 30 Person behind the wheel | 9 Prior to a major conflict | 39 Dalmatian's mark | |
| 34 Whodunit excuse | 10 Too permissive | 42 Best possible | |

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Hank Cherry Dominates From Start To Finish At 50th Bassmaster Classic

Special to the Herald

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Across the country, there are thousands of ultra-talented bass anglers who would have loved to compete in this week's 50th Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk.

Only 53 got the opportunity — and from start to finish, there was no doubt which one of them owned the event.

Hank Cherry, a 46-year-old pro from Lincolnton, N.C., and an eight-year veteran of the Bassmaster Elite Series, caught five bass on Championship Sunday that weighed 19 pounds, 8 ounces. It gave him a three-day total of 65-5 and put the exclamation point on a dominant wire-to-wire victory that netted him a \$307,500 first-place prize.

The competition was held at historic Lake Guntersville, but Cherry's raw emotion shined through most back at the final weigh-in, which was held at Legacy Arena inside the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

"I talked to (fellow competitor) Paul Mueller in the boatyard, and he told me the devil was gonna try to get in my head today," Cherry said. "He said just tell the devil to get out of your boat. He said tell him you don't have time for him."

"That's what I did. I caught my first fish and then I lost a big one. I could hear those voices in my head, but I didn't listen to them. I just went and caught four more."

This was the fifth Classic appearance for Cherry, and he had come close to hoisting the trophy once before — back in 2013 on Oklahoma's Grand Lake, when he came in third after losing a key fish on jerkbait.

That same lure was one of his weapons of choice this week during three days of fishing that saw him catch 29-3, 16-10 and 19-8.

He did most of his damage during Friday's first round with a Z-Man Jack Hammer ChatterBait. The bait allowed him to cut through a strong wind on his way to a tournament-best bag that featured a pair of 7-2 largemouth.

On Days 2 and 3, he relied mostly on his own Hank Cherry Signature Series Jig from Picasso in green pumpkin with a matching Berkley MaxScent Chunk trailer and the jerkbait — a Megabass 110-1 in the French pearl OB color. He replaced the factory hooks on the jerkbait with Berkley Fusion EWG No. 5s.

"I changed the hooks out to make it sink just the right way," Cherry said. "About 90 percent of the fish I caught would be when it was directly falling. I had it heavy enough that I could see it falling, and if I saw one following it, I could watch them kill it."

Cherry suffered an arm injury on Day 1 that he said may have limited the amount of

running he did the rest of the week. But the major factor in his limited travel, he said, was the wind that blew hard on Lake Guntersville for most of the tournament.

He spent practically the whole event fishing one causeway and one grass flat.

"I never put gas in the boat all week," Cherry said. "Y'all know me. If it's windy, I'm not going to be making a lot of long runs — and anyway, I just didn't need to."

Cherry said Garmin LiveScope allowed him to keep track of the giant schools of gizzard shad that were drawing fish to the area. He also said a solid understanding of the way bass use causeways helped him catch big limits each day.

"Everybody has a misconception about those causeways," Cherry said. "They think they should just fish the four corners. But bass use those causeways like highways. When they're coming in, they come through the causeways and go down the rocks and to the back. Then they go exactly the same route when they come back out."

"That Garmin LiveScope just made them easy pickings."

The win brought Cherry's career earnings with B.A.S.S. to \$934,500. He now has three career victories and 10 Top 10 finishes.

Perhaps more important than any statistic, however, was the fact that he exorcised some old demons that had lingered in the back of his mind since his near miss at Grand in 2013.

"When I caught that biggest bass on a jerkbait (Sunday), I felt some redemption," he said. "I've learned a lot — and I'm still learning. I learned from this event how to handle the situation when you start with a big lead and have to protect it. I learned that your body will do wild things when you need that last fish to seal the deal, but you have to work through it."

"Those kinds of things make for an amazing feeling — and once it sinks in that I won this thing, I think that will be the most amazing feeling of all."

South Carolina pro Todd Auten finished second with 58-10, and Arkansas angler Stetson Blaylock was third with 58-1.

Hank Cherry added an additional \$7,500 to his winnings for being the highest-placing eligible angler in the Toyota Bonus Bucks program. Todd Auten was awarded an additional \$2,500 for being the second-highest placing eligible angler in the Toyota Bonus Bucks program.

Virginia pro John Crews took the Berkley Big Bass award for the day with a 6-10 largemouth. But the Berkley Big Bass award for the week went to Auten for the 7-9 he caught on Day 1.

Soccer games around Europe to be played in empty stadiums

MADRID (AP) — All upcoming professional soccer games in Spain, France and Portugal, as well as some in Germany and a European Championship qualifying match in Slovakia, will be played in empty stadiums because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The Spanish league said Tuesday that matches in the first and second divisions will be played without fans for at least two weeks. The announcement came after the government outlined a series of preventative measures being implemented to help contain the spread of the virus, including ordering all sporting events with a significant number of fans — professional and non-professional — to be played in empty venues.

The league said it will "follow its recommendations and/or decisions, prioritizing the health of fans, players, club employees, journalists, etc., due to the COVID-19 health crisis."

Portugal announced similar measures for the professional league and said youth soccer competitions would be suspended between Saturday and March 28. It also said non-professional soccer matches can't be played with crowds bigger than 5,000 people.

Later Tuesday, the French soccer league announced that all soccer matches in its top two divisions will be played without fans until April 15.

The moves came a day after Italy said all sports events in the country, including Serie A soccer games and preparatory events for the Tokyo Olympics, would be suspended until April 3.

The first major game without fans in the Spanish league will be between Real Madrid and Eibar at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium on Friday.

"For weeks, LaLiga has been working on alternative plans in coordination with UEFA in case health authorities decide to suspend any match, creating a plan to play these matches," the Spanish league said.

Champions League matches are also being affected in Spain, including next week's game between Barcelona and Napoli at the Camp Nou. Barcelona said that match will have no fans in attendance.

Spain had previously announced a decision to play Tuesday's Champions League game between Valencia and Italian club Atalanta in an empty stadium. Two Europa League matches in the country have also been affected — Sevilla vs. Roma on Thursday and Getafe vs. Inter Milan on March 19. Rome and Inter are also from Italy.

The Spanish track federation also said it was told by the government of measures affecting all professional and non-professional sporting events in the country. Basketball games in Spain will also have to be played in empty venues.

Spain's health minister on Monday announced a sharp spike in coronavirus cases in and around Madrid, and said all schools in the region will close for two weeks from Wednesday. There were more than 1,600 confirmed cases in Spain on Tuesday, with 35 deaths and more than 100 people in inten-

sive care.

In Germany, the Bundesliga will stage its first games without spectators this week. Borussia Mönchengladbach said its match against Cologne on Wednesday would take place in an empty stadium. On Saturday, Borussia Dortmund will face Schalke in one of German soccer's fiercest local rivalries without fans.

Dortmund will also play at Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League on Wednesday without fans under measures previously imposed by French authorities.

The other two Champions League games this week, Leipzig's match against Tottenham on Tuesday and Liverpool's home game against Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, are expected to be played with fans.

Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp said closing stadiums to fans — a measure not yet taken by English soccer authorities — wouldn't necessarily be the best solution.

"The problem with football games," Klopp said, "is if you are not in the stadiums, then you go watch it closely together in rooms and I'm not sure which is better in this case, to be honest."

The Irish soccer association said its Euro 2020 playoff match against Slovakia on March 26 will be played in an empty stadium "on the instruction of the Slovakian government." And the German soccer federation said its friendly against Italy on March 31 will be played without fans in Nuremberg.

Dutch soccer was also hit. Authorities in the province of North-Brabant called off this weekend's professional matches, including three in the top division.

If Serie A is unable to complete its season, the Italian soccer federation said Tuesday it was considering three options: Not assigning the title but informing UEFA which teams had qualified for Europe; determining the champion with the standings at the time of the suspension; or forming a playoff to decide the title.

Sports around the world have been affected by the virus, including an important tennis tournament scheduled for this week in California and many Olympic qualifying events.

The next Grand Slam tennis tournament is the French Open, which is due to start in Paris on May 24.

"The French Open is 11 weeks away," the French tennis federation said Tuesday. "We are not hypothesizing that it will be canceled or postponed."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the WHO, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks. Those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diag-

nosed and more than 63,000 so far have recovered.

In Greece, the owner of the Olympiakos and Nottingham Forest soccer clubs said he has the virus.

Greek shipowner and businessman Evangelos Marinakis said in a post on his verified Facebook page that "the recent virus has 'visited' me and I felt obliged to let the public know." His post says he feels well and is following doctors' instructions.

Also, Polish Sports Minister Danuta Dmowska-Andrzejuk recommended that athletes from her country refrain from going to sports events abroad.

Poland is due to host the Europa League soccer final on May 27 in Gdansk, three days before Turkey hosts the Champions League final in Istanbul. Tickets are on sale for both games.

UEFA said Tuesday that both games will be played as scheduled.

"UEFA takes the situation linked to the coronavirus very seriously," the governing body of European soccer said in an e-mailed statement.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and are in contact with the World Health Organisation and national authorities regarding COVID-19 and its development."

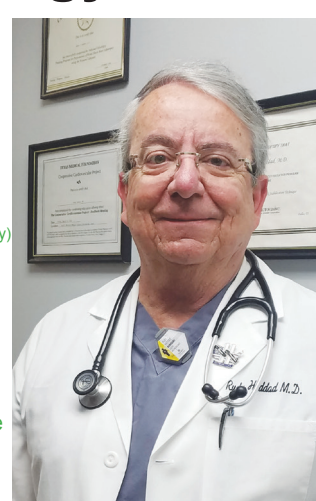
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