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BIG SPRING

VOLUME 116, NUMBER 79

<u>Upcoming Events</u>

Comanche Trail Festival of Lights is open until Dec. 25

Operation Love Letter is accepting letters to be distributed to area nursing home residents. Drop off locations are located throughout town.

City offices available by appointment or electronic communication only

Christmas Tree Forest is open at Heritage Museum.

Open until Christmas

Wash your hands, wear a mask, social distance when possible. Slow the spread.

Share your community photos with us. E-mail editor@ bigspringherald.com

City, County and area businesses will be closed for the Christmas holiday.

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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

INDEX

SMMC puts focus on patient safety, receives a 'B' in the Fall 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade

Special Herald

SMMC

The Leapfrog Group, a Washington D.C-based organization aiming to improve health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers, released new Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades, which assign A, B, C, D and F letter grades to hospitals nationwide. Scenic Mountain Medical Center re-2020 Safety Grades.

"Our focus is safety," said Dr. Rohith Saravanan, chief medical officer at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. "If we start there, patient experience will take care of itself, quality metrics will take care of itself, as will employee morale. We don't see quality as just a clinical goal. It's an enterprise-wide priority that encompasses customer service, compliance

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HOSPITAL GRADE **FALL 2020**

SMMC received a B grade in the Leapfrog Hospital Safety friendly tips for patients, visit ceived a B for the Fall Guide. This is the first time SMMC has been graded on www.hospitalsafetygrade.org the Leapfrog Safety scale.

and wellness."

Developed under the guidance of an Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign A, B, C, D and F grades to approximately 2,600 U.S. hospitals twice per year. It is calculated by top patient safety experts, peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public.

"Our goal is to inform patients about local hospitals with the best safety measures in place and the strongest records," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "Every hospital can earn an 'A' grade, and we're proud of the hospitals that are committed to making an effort to protect pa-

tients from harm." To see Scenic Mountain Medical Center's full grade, Courtesy image and to access consumerand follow the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade on Twitter

and Facebook..

About The Leapfrog Group

Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps forward in the quality and safety of American health care. The flagship

See GRADE, Page 3

Howard County Children's Advocacy welcomed a special visitor from the North Pole - Santa & Mrs. Claus

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Managing Editor

Despite a pandemic, Santa Claus is making his rounds.

Kids in the community were able to visit with Santa and take a photo, in a Covid safe way, as Howard County Children's Advocacy Center hosted Santa and Mrs. Claus at Crossfit. The drive through event served as a fundraiser for the agen-

cy and United Way. ity time with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. ness on their faces," Kelli Crouse, representative of Howard County Children's Advocacy Center, said.

As children took the time to visit with Santa, some of them brought letters to be hand delivered, others thanked Santa for sending their elf, and everyone left happy according to those helping at the event. During the few hours Santa visited, the HCCAC was able to raise \$200, and in the process of it all created memories for children

See SANTA, Page 3

You could literally see the happi-

"While we didn't have as many participants as we expected, each child was able to spend some qual-

Big Spring Rotary recognizes students of the month



The Big Spring Rotary Club recognized December students of the month. Pictured left to right are: Kaylee Kernick (Coahoma), Gage Davidson (BSISD), Dana Johnson (Vocational Chair), Angel McCafferty (Forsan). Congratulations on this achievement.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus visited with area youth





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Obituaries

James (JR-Jimmy) Ray Roger

James (JR-Jimmy) Ray Roger, 78, passed away Dec. 19, 2020, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home

in Big Spring. Family will receive friends at Myers & Smith Funeral Home on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Memorial service will be held Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020, at 2 p.m. at College Baptist with Bobby Roger officiating. Jimmy was born March 3, 1942, to

Henry and Evelyn Roger. He grew up in a large family with eight siblings. After graduating Big Spring High School,

he was drafted into the United States Army in 1964 and attained the rank of Sergeant before being discharged in 1966. He served in South Korea and received the Vietnam Service medal. Upon returning home, he worked at Cosden Refinery until near re-

In Jimmy's early years, he was active at Westside Baptist Church and then joined Crestview Baptist Church. After his time in the military, he was involved with the church softball league, playing catcher with Crestview's team, which included many other family members.

Everyone who knew Jimmy knew he loved sports. There were three that occupied his time: baseball/ softball, golf, and bowling, and he excelled at each one of these sports. He was a member of the Morton Chippers, a fast pitch softball team that won state in the late 1960's. That same year, Jimmy was named to the all-state team as the center fielder. He also won several bowling tournaments with numerous 300 games at Bowlarama in Big Spring.

Jimmy made and retained many friends and was loved by each of them. Through the last several years of his life, one lifelong friend rose to the top of the list. Tommy Fletcher and his wife, Bunny, became Jimmy's best friends. They watched after him, helped him on many occasions, took him on trips and managed his affairs. They loved him and made him a part of their family. Jimmy's brothers and sisters want to express a special word of appreciation to Tommy and Bunny for all they did for him.

"You did a wonderful job and we are grateful that you were there for him when he needed someone. Thank you for loving our brother. May the Lord bless you for all you did for him."

Jimmy was preceded in death by his parents: Henry and Evelyn Roger; two sisters: Barbara Roger and Nancy Brashear; one brother: Billy Roger; one sister-in-law: Mary Ruth Roger; three brothers-in-law: Don Brashear, Joe Weakland and Billy Scott; one niece: Jacque King; and two nephews: Alan and Kenny Scott.

He is survived by three sisters: Patsy Scott of Big Spring, Mary Ellerbe and husband Don of Riverview, FLA, and Becky Weakland of Carlisle, PA; and two brothers: Tommy Roger of Pocola, OK and Bobby Roger and wife Kim of San Angelo. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to Big Spring Steers High School Golf Team or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org.

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

Paid Obituary

John Wayne Parum
John Wayne Parum, 81, of Abilene, Texas passed away on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, at Hendrick Hospice Care in Abilene, Texas. Graveside service will be held

Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 11 a.m. at Eastlawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Early, Texas with Kenneth Reiter officiating. Online condolences for the family are welcome at https://www.higginbothamfuneralhomecrossplains.com Wayne was born Aug. 13, 1939, in Wolfe City, Tex-

as to the late Simon Parum and Faye (Crownover) Parum. Wayne married Nelda Yvonne Nichols on Nov. 20, 1959, who preceded him on Jan. 16, 2001.

Wayne was preceded in death by his loving wife of 41 years, Nelda Yvonne (Nichols) Parum.

Wayne is survived by his son, Russell Parum of Big Spring; daughters, Terrie Parum of Cross Plains; Ronda Atkins of Palestine; seven grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Paid Obituary

Randolph "Randy" Kent Sanders



Randolph "Randy" Kent Sanders, 66, of Big Spring, died Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. Viewing and visitation will be Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Randy was born Dec. 24, 1953. He was employed by BSISD. He was a longtime member of Life Church.

Randy loved his job, his students and all of his co-workers. His passion for people extended to everyone he met.

He is survived by his wife: Rhonda Sanders; 7 children: Dawn Holzapfel and husband Kent, Randy Sanders II, John Sanders, Thomas Sanders, Michael Carr and wife Rose, Ashley Keener, and Garry Keener and wife Cristi; 22 grandchildren; and 7 great grandchildren; and 2 sisters: Ann Sanders and Diana Blindert.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Dr. Virgil Sanders and Dr. Nell Sanders; one brother: Mark Sanders; and one sister: Danya James.

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

Paid Obituary

Armando "Mando" Salgado



ing will be locked.

required for all who enter.

City of Big Spring

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mation for all departments can be found on

the city website at my-

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Sayles at jennysales@ya-

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<u>hoo.com</u>.

bigspring.com.

Armando "Mando" Salgado Jr., 66, of Big Spring, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020.

Viewing and visitation will be Wednesday, December 23, 2020 from Noon to 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Funeral service will be Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020 at 11 a.m. at Life Church with Pastor Kevin Knud-

son officiating. Armando was born on July 3, 1954. He was a long standing member of Life Church/Miracle Revival Center since 1995. He was employed by BSISD for 30 years. Armando was charismatic and beloved by

his coworkers and all his students. He served in the

United States Marine Corp and Reserves from 1973-1983, Semper Fi! He received a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Lubbock Christian University. Armando's family was his everything.

He is survived by his devoted wife Suzanne Salgado, three children: Mandi Salgado and partner Annie, Zoie Granados and husband John, and Chelby Porras and husband Marcus, two grandkids Townsend and Declyn, his father Armando Salgado Sr, sisters Olga Williamson and Margret Sumner.

He was preceded in death by his mother Josefa "Josie" Salgado, sister Becky Salgado, nephews Brandon Sumner and Joshua Williamson, best friend and brother in law Bob Sumner and sister in law Valerie Hernandez.

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

Paid Obituary

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- JASON SCOTT OGORMAN, 30, of 7000 E. 1-20 S. Service Road, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- •BLANCA CECILIA VARGAS, 44, of 108 N. Johnson Street, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and warrant – other agency. •NATHAN BRIAN ENOCHS, 20, of 1714 Pur-
- due, was arrested on charges of criminal trespass habitation/shelter and resist arrest search or •TY JERMAINE BANKS, 37, of 1500 block of
- E. 15th Street, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication. • GABRIEL LUCERO, 40, of 1702 S. Monticello Street, was arrested on a charge of public intoxica-
- SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY was reported in the
- 1900 block of Simler Drive. • ASSAULT was reported in the 1400 block of S. Johnson Street.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1400 block of S. Johnson Street. SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY was reported in the
- 1000 block of S. Scurry Street. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1600 block of E. 5th Street.
- MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported in the 1100 block of N. Lamesa Highway. •THEFT OF FIREARM was reported in the
- 3600 block of W. Highway 80. • THEFT was reported in the 2100 block of S.
- Main Street. • MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the area of 11th and Runnels.
- MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported in the 600 block of E. 6th Street.
- WELFARE CONCERN was reported in the 2400 block of Morrison Drive.
- UNATTENDED DEATH was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity:

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 94 inmates at the time of this report. • TY JERMAINE BANKS, 37, was arrested by

- BSPD on a charge of public intoxication. LINDA LEE BARRIENTES-RAMON, 29, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of evading arrest de-
- tention with vehicle. KYLE ERIC DECKER, 41, was arrested by DPS on charges of possession of controlled substance penalty group one (greater than or equal to one gram less than four grams) and tamper/fabricate
- physical evidence with intention. NATHAN BRYAN ENOCHS, 20, was arrested by BSPD on charges of criminal trespass and resist arrest search or transport.
- ELIASAR GARCIA, 46, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of theft property (\$100 to \$750).
- LETICIA GARCIA, 48, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of theft property (\$100 to \$750).
- TERESA LORENE LANG, 38, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- **STEVE LOPEZ, 56,** was arrested by HCSO on charge of criminal mischief impair/interrupt public service and evading arrest detention.
- GABRIAL LUCERO, 40, was arrested by BSPD on a charge pf public intoxication. JASON SCOTT OGORMAN, 30, was arrested
- by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated. • RICKIE DAN PRIETT, 60, was arrested by
- HCSO on charges of terrorist threat cause fear or disruption and unlawful restraint. KATHERINE DELORES SCAGGS, 49, was ar-
- rested by HCSO on a charge of failure to appear possession of controlled substance penalty group one (greater than or equal to one gram less than
- BLANCA CECILA VARGAS, 44, was arrested by BSPD on charges of public intoxication and failure to appear/neglect child.
- KIMBERLY WEEKS, 63, was arrested by

BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

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Support Groups

Queens of The Dude Ranch 221 S. Main St.



MEMBER **2020**

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

SMMC receives 300 doses of Moderna Covid-19 vaccine to be distributed soon

Special to the Herald

Odessa Regional Medical Center (ORMC) and Scenic Mountain Medical Center (SMMC) received its first doses of the Moderna vaccine on Monday, December 21. ORMC received 400 doses at and SMMC received 300. Both facilities will begin administering the vaccine to healthcare workers as soon as possible.

and Scenic Mountain Medical Center began its preparations to safely and efficiently receive, store, distribute and administer the COVID-19 vaccine months ago. These preparations included the planning for cold chain

Odessa Regional Medical Center

logistics and development of proprietary IT software designed to facilitate scheduling health care personnel to receive vaccines in a physically distanced manner to receive vaccines in a physically distanced manner. We have a team of clinicians and subject matter experts who are leading our efforts and ensuring our processes follow all current CDC and FDA guide-The Moderna vaccine (mRNA-1273)

was granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisory committee on December 17, 2020. EUA allows for the use of medical countermeasures, including vaccines, during public health emergencies, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. Under an EUA, FDA may allow the use of unapproved medical products, or unapproved uses of approved medical products in an emergency to diagnose, treat, or prevent serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions when certain statutory criteria have been met, including that there are no adequate, approved, and available alternatives. Similar to the Pfizer vaccine, Mod-

erna includes a 2-dose schedule taken approximately four weeks apart. The Moderna vaccines proved to be approximately 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 in its vaccine trial of 30,000 individuals in 89 different clinical sites covering 32 U.S. States. According to the CDC, Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines carry genetic material that teaches our cells how to make a harmless piece of "spike protein," which is found on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. These do not affect our DNA and cannot give the vaccine recipient COVID-19, though side reported side effects include fever, headache and muscle aches. Other mRNA vaccines have been studied for influenza, Zika, rabies, and cytomegalovirus (CMV).

across Howard County.

The Howard County Children's Advocacy Center is a United Way of Big Spring and Howard County supported agency. As with many of the other other local agencies and agencies across the nation, funding has been hard to come by this year. The Santa photo opportunity served as the annual fundraiser for the agency this year.

"When I started thinking about what we were going to do this year, I knew I wanted it to surround children. 2020 has been a weird vear and we aren't able to host our Christmas events for the Center like we normally would," she said. "After brainstorming, I thought of drive through photos with Santa. I was hooked up with the Mr. and Mrs. Claus and they offered to donate their time to our agency. I have a friend who is a photographer and also a huge supporter of The CAC of Howard County, so I contacted her with my idea."

Once connections were made the idea began to take on life and the result was visible on Saturday as families drove up to speak with Santa. Crossfit offered up the space which allowed for a smooth flow of traffic as cars lined up for their opportunity to keep Christmas magic alive this year. For those who were unable to attend this past weekend, but would like to support the agency there are still opportunities to do so.

"You can support our agency by talking about us, spreading the word, liking our Facebook and following along our journey, hosting drives with groups you are involved in and collecting new stuffed animals, new soft fluffy blankets, pre-packaged snacks and drinks," Crouse said.

In addition to monetary and item donations, rep-

resentatives from HCCAC offer up presentations to help businesses and organizations to better understand the services being offered to the community and the important that holds.

According to Crouse, through the recent receipt of a generous donation from a local company and the agency will be able to provide Christmas for some of the Howard County kids who have been supported by the agency.

"Events like this are important for our community to be able to have a fun, safe, event for children. During this time it is especially important that children have some sense of normality. While the event was different, children were still able to spend time with Santa," she said. "For us as an agency, we look forward to the Holidays because we get to see our kids in a different and less stressful environment. Our agency usually has a holiday event where we can give out presents, food and

families get to spend time with Santa. We normally interact with kids and families during a stressful and chaotic time in their lives and we cherish the time we get with them during the holiday season.' The agency provides forensic interviews to chil-

dren who have been alleged to be sexually abused, physically abused, children who have witnessed a violent crime and surviving children in a home where a child has died. We provide advocacy and therapy to those children as well to ensure that they do not get lost in the criminal justice process. Education regarding safe/unsafe touch for children and abuse/neglect training for adults and organizations. All of our services are free of charge to "We would like the community to look up this

holiday season. Pay attention to the children around you. Protecting this community's children is a responsibility we all hold. If you see something, say something," she said. "We are thankful to be a part of such a wonderful community, and we look forward to getting to know the community and through the joint partnership look forward to providing quality services here for years.

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

tion they need to make informed de-

cisions. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Leapfrog's other main initia-

tive, assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safe-

ty, helping consumers protect them-

selves and their families from errors.

, injuries, accidents, and infections.

Obituaries

Eduardo Flores Jr.

Eduardo Flores Jr., 41, of Big Spring passed away on Dec. 20, 2020. He will lie in state Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a Rosary being held at 7 p.m. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at 10 a.m. The family request that the funeral service be only for

immediate family and guest may join the family out at Mount Olive Memorial Park for a graveside service at 11 a.m. Eduardo enjoyed life to the fullest. His passion was

working on cars and listening to all types of music. He enjoyed fishing, baking, and he loved to sing. He always had a smile on his face. Every person he encountered became a friend. He left many treasured memories that will be cherished forever.

He is survived by his wife Amanda; his sister Mary Helen; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and in laws.

He is preceded in death by his parents Eduardo Sr. and Irene Flores; and his grandparents Luis and Erlinda Flores.

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

Paid Obituary

Beautiful Highland South Home! Awesome curb appeal with mature oak trees, gorgeous yard & a circle drive. This home has split yard & a circle drive. This nome has spill level design with a large man-cave downstairs complete with a fireplace, wet bar & built-ins. Stunning new kitchen with granite countertops. Beautiful inground pool w/400sqft Cabana. Large courtyard in the center of the home. Roof is 1 yr old & has a lifetime warranty



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& CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288

Armando Salgado, Jr. 66 died Wednesday. Visitation will be Noon until 7:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral Services will 11:00AMSaturday, December 26, 2020 at Life Church.

Alvin Marin, 83, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Richard Mills, 72 died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Randolph K. Sanders, died Friday. Visitation will be 11:00

AM until 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10:00 Wednesday at Life Church. REMOVE

FUNERAL Memorial

package?

James Ray Roger, 78, died Saturday. Family will receive friends from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at College Baptist Church.

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

Take the time to stay safe this holiday season! * More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started

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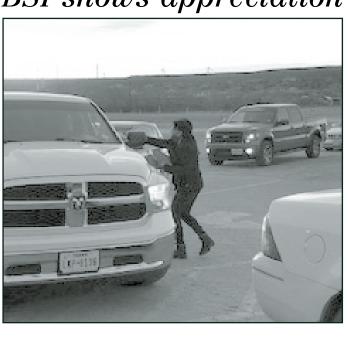
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Courtesy photo



As part of our showing appreciation to our community we handed out notes of appreciation to our BSI parents. Mrs. Sanchez battled the cold wind but every parent received a big thank you for sending their child to school and following drop off and pick up procedures. Parents are a valued part of our BSI school community. Unfortunately, due

to the Covid we've not been able to have parent volunteers but as soon as this is over, we welcome all parents to come visit.

Comptroller's Office: Food Banks Could Claim Enough Unclaimed **Property to Feed Thousands**

AUSTIN — The Comptroller's office is working with food banks throughout the state to check the agency's unclaimed property website for funds that could help fill their pantries during this holiday season. An initial check of some notable Texas food pantries shows that they're owed thousands of dollars in unclaimed property. The San Antonio Food Bank recently laid claim to enough unclaimed property to provide nearly 140,000 meals to needy Texans facing increased food insecurity.

"The economic fallout of the pandemic has taken a toll on every Texan, but it has hit the most vulnerable among us especially hard," Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. "The Feeding Texas network of food banks, along with partners around the state, has been working tirelessly to meet the increased need, and we're pleased to assist their efforts. Every dollar can go a long way in helping needy Texans make ends meet during these unprecedented times, so I'm encouraging all food banks to check ClaimItTexas.org to see if we're holding some of their unclaimed property."

San Antonio Food Bank President and CEO Eric S. Cooper said he was thankful to learn his organization had more than \$19,000 in unclaimed property held by the Comptroller's office.

"It's a bit of a Christmas miracle to get a gift of unclaimed property via the state Comptroller's office," said Cooper, whose office received its claim check recently. "In fact, the miracle was so much, in our case, it will provide nearly 140,000 meals to those facing hunger in San Antonio this holiday season."

The outstanding unclaimed property reserved for food banks includes items such as utility deposits, uncashed checks, refunds from vendors and more. Businesses generally turn property over to the unclaimed property program after it has been considered dormant for one to five years.

The Comptroller's office has provided a list of potential unclaimed property for food banks to a contact at Feeding Texas, a hunger-relief organization that partners with 21 food banks across the state. Our office still encourages all parties to perform their own searches online as entities may be known by various

"I also want to take this opportunity to remind Texans that these organizations need your support now more than ever," Hegar added. "Visit Feeding-Texas.org to find information on how you can help or to find out about your local area food bank."

For more information about the unclaimed property program, or to search for unclaimed property and begin the claims process, visit the Comptroller's unclaimed property website, ClaimItTexas.org, or call 800-321-2274 (CASH).

There is generally no statute of limitations for unclaimed property the state holds, which means there's no time limit for owners to file a claim. They can do so at any time.





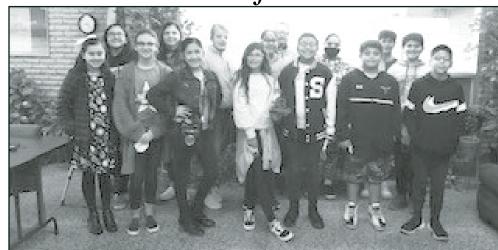


BSI shows appreciation to parents Marantha Baptist Academy wishes community Happy Birthday Jesus Day



The students and staff at Marantha Baptist Academy wish Big Spring a very Happy Birthday Jesus Day.

Big Spring Intermediate spreads Christmas cheer before school lets out



Courtesy photo Big Spring Intermediate Student Council students spread Christmas cheer in preparation for the holidays.

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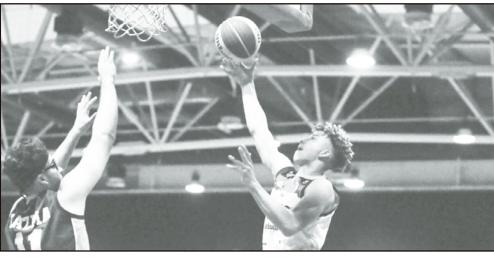


SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 5 Tuesday, December 22, 2020

World Travels: How Howard Hawks basketball has become destination for ballers from around the globe





Courtesy Photos

The Howard Hawks have added talent from around the country and globe this off-season. Above left is Blaize Sagna - a dynamic guard from England. Above right is D'Mari Wiltz - another versatile and aggressive guard from New Orleans.

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sportswriter

The Howard Hawks have been known as one of the most competitive and prestigious junior college basketball teams in the country for years. They reached the pinnacle in 2010 when they put together a record-setting season and won the National Championship under then Head Coach Mark Adams, who now serves as an assistant coach at Division I national powerhouse Texas Tech.

Current NBA player Jae Crowder once suited up for the red and black under Adams and the long list of Division I commits from Howard has continued under current Head Coach Scott Raines. Eric Reed Jr., from last year's team, is now suiting up, playing solid minutes, and putting up solid scoring numbers for Southeast Missouri State. In fact, almost every player from last year's 22-9 squad committed to and moved on to play at a four-year university this past spring.

That means the Howard Hawks will have almost a completely different team than the one that hit the hardwood last winter. They will be versatile this season with good size and shooting ability. Both Raines and Assistant Coach Junsie Cotten have been working hard this offseason to put a strong team together so that they can compete in the extremely strong and daunting Region V.

With all of that being said, let us take a look at who will be playing for the Hawks this season and what they bring to the court:

AKENE AGEE - Brampton, Ontario

Agee is an athletic 6-foot-4 guard who played his college ball last year at Cloud County Community College in Concordia, Kansas. He started just one game but played in 27 while averaging 4.7 points per game and 2.0 rebounds per game. He scored a season-high 21 points against Cowley and totaled four games of double-digit points scored for the T-Birds. Agee will be a sophomore this season and will be battling with a strong group of guards for solid playing time in the rotation.

JACOBY BISHOP - New Waverly, TX

Bishop will be a true freshman fresh off of an 18 point-per-game season while at Coldspring-Oakhurst High School. He is a 6-foot-0 combo guard that distributes the ball well and has a knack for finding the open man. He averaged 7.0 assists per game while playing for the Trojans and that strong facilitating ability should help the Hawks at some points over the next season. Just like Agee, Bishop will have his work cut out for him at earning minutes with a crowded backcourt.

GREG DURAND - Sheffield, England

Durand is a 20-year-old wing from Great Britain with great size (6-foot-5) and scoring ability. He played in 11 games last year for Charnwood College in England and averaged 14.1 points per game. Durand had both a high field goal percentage (47.0) and three-point percentage (34.3) while also producing as a force on the boards by grabbing 6.7 rebounds per game. He will also be playing alongside his Charnwood teammate Blaize Sagna in Big Spring and both Raines and Cotten are excited about Durand's potential.

LAMAR EVERD - Winnipeg, Canada Everd played last year at Paris Junior College in

East Texas and will be making the move west to Big Spring to join the Hawks. He averaged 11.9 points, 4.9 rebounds, and 3.9 assists per game last year for the Dragons and scored a season-high 34 points against Kilgore late in the season. Everd appeared to get stronger as the season went along last year and he will look to continue that momentum into the his sophomore year at Howard.

DARRELL GREEN - Baltimore, MD

Green is one of two returning Hawks from the 2020 team and he will look to use that as a springboard towards the starting lineup. Green played very well at points last year in a crowded guard room and played his best ball at the end of the season. In fact, Green's two highest-scoring games of his freshman season came in the last four games of the season for Howard. Overall, Green averaged 5.0

points per game with a high field goal percentage (47.9) and staggering three-point percentage (44.3) while coming off the bench.

MARKO JOKSIMOVIC - Berane, Montenegro

Joksimovic will make the move to Howard College after playing in 2019-20 for KK Beko Beograd in Serbia. He has played in the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and will bring good size to the Howard lineup.

GERMAN KASANZI OBAMA - Alcala de Henares, Spain

Kasanzi Obama played for Navarro College last year and appeared in 25 games while averaging 10.2 points per game. He totaled 15 games with doubledigit points scored and seemed to find the basket often every time that he hit the hardwood. He scored a season-high 23 points against Tyler last year but had plenty of games where he led his team in scoring. He is a guard with good size (6-foot-4) that is more likely to score than he is to distribute the ball around (0.9 assists per game last year).

ZACHERY MACKSON - Atlanta, GA

Mackson is another transfer that will be fighting for playing time this season. He put together a very strong season last year while playing for Bishop State in Mobile, Alabama. Mackson averaged 13.9 points per game and shot an extremely high percentage from the floor (66.7). He scored a seasonhigh of 37 points and totaled four games with over 20 points. He was a consistent starter for the Wildcats and Mackson will surely be battling to fill a starting role again this year.

NOAH MASON - Humble, TX

Mason is a big-bodied forward out of Atascocita High School in Humble, Texas. Mason will provide much-needed size for the Hawks. Size on the interior was an issue for Howard last year and Raines is hoping that the addition of Mason will help alleviate that issue.

MO MUSA - Amarillo, TX

Musa is the second of two returning Howard players from last year's team. He most often served as a situational defensive player that was quick to force a turnover. His season-high in points scored was nine (twice) and Musa has been working hard this offseason to earn more time on the court.

New Orleans Saints

Kansas City Chiefs

BLAIZE SAGNA - London, England

Sagna is an athletic guard that was considered the top prospect coming out of England. He has played the last two seasons for Charnwood and averaged 22.8 points per game last season. He also averaged 7.8 rebounds per game and 3.0 assists per game. The year before, his numbers were not quite as strong, which is a strong indication that Sagna is still improving and has not reached his full potential. The 6-foot-1 guard will most likely be one of the starting guards for the Hawks during the upcoming season and Raines will rely on him to run the offense.

SAMI SANAD - Cervignano, Italy

Sanad played alongside Agee last season at Cloud County Community College. The 6-foot-7 forward averaged 4.9 points and 3.0 rebounds per game in 29 games played. He will be one of the forces for Howard on the low block during this next season and could play good minutes if he proves himself as a consistent strong front-court player.

RODNEY SMITH - Atlanta, GA

Smith played last season at Pensacola State and averaged 7.8 points per game. He was forced to play out of position and he believes that the versatile Howard system will help him produce. "It was a learning year," Smith said. "It was my first time ever playing off the ball and not being the main man. I had to learn how to get my shots off the ball and how to be the second option. I knew that I was going to have to do that at the next level anyways, so I'm happy that it happened early." Smith will now step into a competitive environment with a group of very strong guards that will all be vying for playing time.

BONAVENTURE UDOH - Amarillo, TX

Udoh spend last year at Wayland Baptist and will be making the switch to Howard in January. He was the leader for Amarillo Palo Duro back in 2019 and adds another versatile and dynamic member to the 2021 Hawks' roster.

D'MARI WILTZ - New Orleans, LA

Wiltz is an athletic point guard with a competitive streak and the ability to both score and pass.

Alabama

Wake Forest

See HAWKS, Page 10

2021 NFL MOCK DRAFT (NBC SPORTS)

D: -1-	M	D1	D:4:	0-11
Pick	Team	Player	Position	College
1	New York Jets	Trevor Lawrence	QB	Clemson
2	Jacksonville Jaguars	Justin Fields	QB	Ohio State
3	Cincinnati Bengals	Penei Sewell	OT	Oregon
4	L.A. Chargers	Ja'Marr Chase	WR	LSU
5	Dallas Cowboys	Zach Wilson	QB	BYU
6	Carolina Panthers	Patrick Surtain II	CB	Alabama
7	Atlanta Falcons	Micah Parsons	LB	Penn State
8	Miami Dolphins	Jaylen Waddle	WR	Alabama
9	Philadelphia Eagles	DeVonta Smith	WR	Alabama
10	New York Giants	Gregory Rousseau	EDGE	Miami (FL)
11	Detroit Lions	Caleb Farley	CB	Virginia Tech
12	San Francisco 49ers	Kwity Paye	EDGE	Michigan
13	Denver Broncos	Samuel Cosmi	OT	Texas
14	Minnesota Vikings	Alex Leatherwood	OT	Alabama
15	Chicago Bears	Trey Lance	QB	North Dakota Stat
16	New England Patriots	s Kyle Pitts	TE	Florida
17	Las Vegas Raiders	Wyatt Davis	OL	Ohio State
18	Baltimore Ravens	Rondale Moore	WR	Purdue
19	Washington	Jaycee Horn	CB	South Carolina
20	Arizona Cardinals	Shaun Wade	СВ	Ohio State
21	Miami Dolphins	Christian Darrisaw	OT	Virginia Tech
22	Tampa Bay Bucs	Patrick Jones II	EDGE	Pittsburgh
23	Indianapolis Colts	Kyle Trask	QB	Florida
24	Cleveland Browns	Zaven Collins	EDGE	Tulsa
25	New York Jets	Rashod Bateman	WR	Minnesota
26	Jacksonville Jaguars	Jevon Holland	S	Oregon
27	Tennessee Titans	Christian Barmore	DL	Alabama
28	Buffalo Bills	Rashawn Slater	OL	Northwestern
29	Green Bay Packers	Terrace Marshall	WR	LSU
30	Pittsburgh Steelers	Pat Freiermuth	TE	Penn State
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Carlos Basham Jr.

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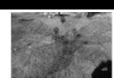
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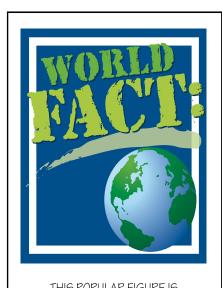
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ANSWER: SANTA CLAUS

What's the Difference?

There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?





В



3. Missing cranderry 4. Extra chocolate block Answers: I. Extra allspice 2. Pine bough is larger



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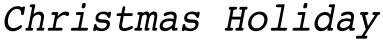


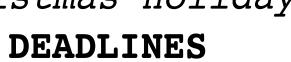
the bigger picture is? ANSWER: CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT



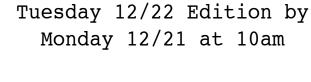








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By Steve Becker

Looking a few tricks ahead

North dealer. North-South vulnerable. **NORTH**

♦ Q 10 7 4

♥KJ6 ♦ AK93

EAST

♥98752

♦0865

♠ A 6

♣84

South

1 🏚

West

2 🏚

♣52 WEST **♦**52 **♥**A3 ♦ J 10 4

♦KJ10973 SOUTH **♦**KJ983 **♥** 0 10 4

♣A06 The bidding: East North

1 ♦

Pass 2 🏚 Pass Opening lead — ace of hearts.

♦72

Assume you're declarer at four spades and West leads the ace and another heart, most likely indicating a doubleton. If you're not the type of player who worries a lot, you win the heart in dummy and lead a trump,

give his partner a heart ruff. Unfortunately, East goes up with

hoping East can't gain the lead to

the ace of trump and returns a heart, which West ruffs. West exits with a diamond, and you later go down one when the club finesse fails.

If you were a more apprehensive sort, though, you might find the way to make the contract. From the outset, you'd be looking for a way to get home safely even if East has the ace of spades. And the more you thought about it, the more likely you'd be to come up with a line of play that might very well save the contract if East does have the spade ace.

After winning the heart at trick two, you cash the A-K of diamonds and ruff a diamond with the eight. Next you lead a trump, taken by East with the ace, and, just as before, he returns a heart, ruffed by West.

But now, much to West's chagrin, he would find himself unable to exit safely with a diamond. He would have only his six clubs remaining and would have to lead one of them into your A-O. And so, even though you were unable to stop East from giving West a heart ruff, you would still make four spades.

The moral of the hand, if there is one, is that it sometimes pays to

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sudoku. This mind-bending

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puzzle will have

you hooked from

the moment you

square off, so

sharpen your

pencil and put

your sudoku savvy to the test!

Numbers

Tomorrow: Silence is sometimes golden. ©2020 King Features Syndicate Inc.

SUDOKU

	8		4		2					
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	4	annaske			9	3				
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чдопосы	6		5	7						
Laval: Paginna										

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!

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	3	2	L	G	8	6	c)	mak	ħ			
	G	6	9	2		ħ	ω	8	L			
•												

: RISWER:

No balloons in sight,

Between Two Eclipses

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The thing you are exceptional at needn't be touted in the early stages of a relationship. Keep it in your back pocket for a surprising moment of maximum impact.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you dare to talk about what's on your mind, longtime friends will have fascinating insights as to the situation, while people who don't know you as well will have an even more interesting take on it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your immediate goal is to learn as much as possible. Later, you'll figure out how to apply it and make the big bucks. You'll build soft and hard skills at the same time.

CANCER (June **22-July 22).** When you love a thing, you want other people to know about it, too. You'll take the time to learn about the history and the nuances that make a thing unique so you may later share it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't have to wait for a thing to happen to be grateful for it. You can start the cycle at any time. Being grateful in advance paves the way for abundance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The difference between the hard job and the easy one will be the number of

Tomorrow's Horoscope By Holiday Mathis $^{\text{appre-}}_{\text{ciating}}$

steps, the amount of risk and the amount of acting you have to do. Your decision will ultimately hinge on the latter part.

LIBRA (Sept. **23-Oct. 23).** You're not doing it in the way they are doing it; therefore, they don't know what to do with your product. Don't give up though. A demonstration and/ or instruction may be in order.

SCORPIO (Oct. **24-Nov. 21).** When you know you're outmatched, sometimes the power move is to surrender. Without a fight, your opponent will let the guard down. It gives you time to think of your next move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

There's no benefit to being any other age, shape, size or personality than that which naturally befalls you at this time. All the good stuff comes from being exactly you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. **22-Jan. 19).** Telling your own story well is a gift you give yourself. Your story influences people's opinions of you, but that's not the reason it's worth working on. This is about

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've turned down help because you didn't want to owe anyone. This time it's different. If you accept what's offered, you'll quickly find yourself in

a much better position.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Learning takes courage because it means either admitting that you don't know or tearing down what you thought you knew. Also, you must trust your guide. Don't let the teacher test you until you've tested the teacher.

TODAY'S BIRTH-DAY (Dec. 12). Your intentions have power; the clearer they are, the more powerful they become. The next 10 weeks is a soul-searching process, though it's all done through action. Your wants will be stripped down to their essence, making them easier to satisfy. Ultimately, you'll build something that helps your whole crew. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 13, 3, 18

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our world.

cial occasions and help

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department, state parks

about this and can help

The Nature Conservan-

it right with experienced

arborists to make sure

your tree has the best

procreate. Some peo-

chance to thrive and

ple buy cheap trees,

plant improperly and

the tree fails.

then endure grief when

-- Gather donations

for a homeless shelter,

cy could also help. Do

tact your local parks

department, national

parks. They know all

make it very special.

and 33.

you

built

your-

self.

COSMIC QUES-

TION: "My ex-husband, an Aquarius, was good as gold with his child support in the first six months of our divorce. We have two boys, 10 and 4. Well, as soon as he caught wind that I was dating, he changed. The checks stopped coming. I'm a Capricorn. I don't want to interfere with his visitation, but it's just not fair. He has the same job and is making the same money as before, so I know that he can pay. He just doesn't want to. How can I make him pay his child support? I'm working part time now, and it's not enough to cover all of my expenses."

On a practical level, take legal action. Affirm all the way that you're doing this out of love for both your children and for your ex-husband. It is, after all, the right thing for everyone. At the same time, do your own work on the spiritual level, which may include sending him love, respect and forgiveness through the ether. He is harboring some nasty negativity and wrongheadedness, which would be a waste to hook into on a spiritual level. Detach with love. Your focus on being happy and prosperous in your own right and letting the law work out the rest could be enough to lift the

> Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

negative energy.

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for birds, bats, butter-

flies and other wildlife.

-- Contact extended

care facilities to see

what their residents

animal for wounded

veterans or others

-- Contact your

Humane Society for

Let the memories of

your loved ones make

a positive impact. And

don't forget to do it

again on anniversa-

ries of their birthdays.

You don't have to be

rich to do these things.

Any good done in their

memories alive. -- May

Your Hearts Find Peace

beautiful sentiment and

wonderful suggestions.

Dear Hearts: What

names keeps their

I could go on and on.

memorial ideas.

needing help.

and employees need.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

More Mindful Celebrations

Dear Readers: The letter from No More Balloons caused quite a reaction, with many of you offering suggestions for other ways of celebrating. Here is a sampling:

Dear Annie: Bubbles are the answer instead of balloons. There are bubble machines, and there are large hoops to make your own. Dish soap is best if you are making your own. Bubbles are beautiful and iridescent. -- Bubble Lover

Dear Annie: In The Villages, Florida, we have thousands of golf carts. When someone has a birthday, we make a parade caravan. People decorate their carts with party regalia and then take their turn in line to drive past the hospital, senior center or the home of the special person. Usually, the person is sitting outside so we

but lots of funny gifts are left at a "gift corral" at the recipient's driveway. My dad and I are poets, and we like writing a special poem for the occasion. But some paraders sing a favorite song. Lots of veterans are here who love to hear our national anthem, and everyone in the caravan joins in.

I don't like fresh-cut flowers because they die quickly. I just can't keep them alive for more than two days. So, I appreciate your idea of planting a tree. It makes a forever gift. I've attended parties where we get a few people to pitch in to buy a tree or shrub or even seedlings. And we have people signed up to do the planting.

Great idea to keep our ocean life safe from plastics. Use reusable bags for shopping. I give them as gifts with pictures to match the recipient's favorite things or places. -- New

Ideas

Dear Annie: I have

many suggestions for

things. -- Pay for spaying or

extended care facility, animal rescue or other acts of mercy. -- Sponsor a memo-

rial for a walkathon, bricks for a new hospital, a park bench, a picnic table, a bus shelter (if allowed) or any number of needed

neutering. Work with lo-

cal wildlife agencies to sponsor nesting boxes

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2020

Thank you!

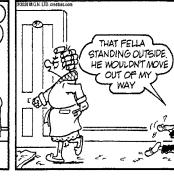
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ANDY CAPP

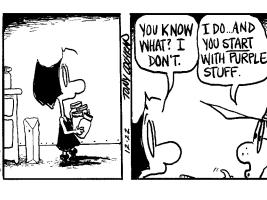




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MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 22, the 357th day of 2020. There are nine days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 22, 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers. (Reid is serving a life sentence in federal prison.) On this date:

In 1858, opera composer Giacomo Puccini was born in Lucca, Italy.

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1940, author Nathanael West, 37, and his wife, Eileen McKenney, 27, were killed in a car crash in El Centro, Calif. while en route to the funeral of F. Scott Fitzgerald, who had died the day before. In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Franklin D. Roos-

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

In 1968, Julie Nixon married David Eisenhower in a private ceremony in New York. In 1984, New York City resident Bernhard Goetz (bur-NAHRD' gehts) shot and wounded four youths on a Manhattan subway, claiming they were about to rob him.

In 1989, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo), the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising. Playwright Samuel Beckett died in Paris at age

In 1991, the body of Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, an American hostage slain

by his terrorist captors, was recovered after it had been dumped along a highway in Lebanon.

midair collision with a MiG fighter, killing all 157 aboard the jetliner, and both crew members of the fighter jet. In 2003, a federal judge ruled the Pentagon couldn't enforce mandatory anthrax vaccinations for military per-

In 2008, five Muslim immigrants accused of scheming to massacre U.S. soldiers at Fort Dix were convicted of conspiracy in Camden, N.J. (Four were later sentenced to life in prison; one received a 33-year sentence.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama signed a law allowing gays for the first time in history to serve openly in America's military, repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The Senate ratified the New START treaty with Russia capping nuclear warheads for both nations and restarting on-site weapons inspections. Auburn's Cam Newton was named AP Player of the Year. "The Lone Ranger" announcer Fred Foy died in Woburn (WOO'burn), Massachusetts, at age

Five years ago: Migration experts said more than a million people who had been driven out of their countries by war, poverty and persecution entered Europe in 2015. Stanford running back Christian McCaffrey was named The Associated Press college football player of the

One year ago: Baba Ram Dass, a 1960s counterculture spiritual leader who experimented with LSD and traveled to India to find enlightenment, died at the age of 88. Afghanistan's election commission said a pre-

liminary vote count showed that incumbent President Ashraf Ghani had won reelection with 50.64% of the In 1992, a Libyan Boeing vote. (Both Ghani and rival 727 jetliner crashed after a Abdullah Abdullah claimed victory; they announced a power-sharing arrangement in May 2020 in which Ghani would remain president.) Today's Birthdays: Ac-

tor Hector Elizondo is 84. Country singer Red Steagall is 82. Former World Bank Group President Paul Wolfowitz is 77. Baseball Hall of Famer Steve Carlton is 76. Former ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer is 75. Rock singer-musician Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick) is 72. Rock singer-musician Mi-

chael Bacon is 72. Baseball All-Star Steve Garvey is 72. Golfer Jan Stephenson is 69. Actor BernNadette Stanis is 67. Rapper Luther "Luke" Campbell is 60. Actor Ralph Fiennes (rayf fynz) is 58. Actor Lauralee Bell is 52. Country singer Lori McKenna is 52. Actor Dina Meyer is 52. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, is

50. Actor Heather Donahue is 47. Actor Chris Carmack is 40. Actor Harry Ford is 38. Actor Greg Finley is 36. Actor Logan Huffman is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jordin Sparks is 31. Pop singer Meghan Trainor is 27.

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ACROSS

- 1 Start to melt 5 Wandering
- animal 10 Big sheet of ice
- 15 Thorough
- 16 Where
- Des Moines is 17 Much-admired
- celebrity
- marathon
- 20 Criticize
- 22 Balance-sheet
- sealed!"
- 29 Horse's foot
- restaurant
- 38 Capital of
- Norway 39 Railroad bridge
- **42** Putter's target
- 43 Steering system components
- 45 Southpaw's nickname
- 47 Nary a soul
- loop
- 49 Cafeteria brawl
- dynamic
- 56 Fly like an eagle

Newsday Crossword

- **14** Fence opening
- investigation

- 18 Actors' parts 19 Participates in a
- plus **23** "My ___ are
- 24 Take up a hem, perhaps
- 25 Keep in a cage
- **30** Grownup
- **31** Handout in a fine
- 35 Fizzy drink
- 36 Lessen
- supports
- 41 Dog treats

- **48** Is knocked for a
- **54** Prefix for
- **55** Similarly

- - **57** Duet plus one 58 Washbowl
 - **59** Not punctual
 - **60** Peered at

 - **62** Otherwise

- shout
- 4 Fuse, as metal
- 6 Band of traveling
- 7 Breadbasket
- items 8 Assist in a crime
- ground level

61 Paid out

- end-of-week
- 3 Oodles
- 5 Ankle injury
- actors
- 10 Building's
- **DOWN** 1 Employee's

 - but known!"
- 9 "Absolutely!"

- 11 Contemptible one **12** Deed holder
 - 13 Sunrise
- direction 21 Move like a
- butterfly 22 Skin-cream
- ingredient 24 Top-notch
- 25 Throw out a fishing line 26 Air freshener
- target 27 Hosiery shade
- 28 Result of a sudden
- downpour 29 Best-seller 31 Used to be
- **32** "Money ___
 - object" 33 Winter coaster

- FOR FUN by Gail Grabowski
 - Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com 34 Mix. as salad
 - 36 Wartime partner 37 Stinging insect 40 Little kids
 - 41 Butcher shop
 - buy 43 Adopted, as a
 - pet 44 Start a
 - paragraph 45 Skeptical 46 Very strange
 - 47 Library no-no 48 Hotel room fee
 - **49** Envelope part 50 Speck of land in
 - the sea 51 Soccer score 52 Berets and
 - bonnets 53 Elm, for one
 - 55 Tummy muscles, for short

11

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IOC accused of ignoring human rights for 2022 Beijing Games

By STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

A coalition representing ethnic minorities in China is again accusing the International Olympic Committee of ignoring widespread human rights abuses as the country prepares to hold the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

Rights groups speaking for Tibetans, Uighurs and others representing Hong Kong have sent an open letter to IOC President Thomas Bach and IOC member Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr., who oversees preparations for the Beijing Games.

Obtained by The Associated Press, the letter says the IOC has "turned a blind eye to the widespread and systematic human rights violations being committed by the Chinese authorities.'

Rights advocates are asking to see evidence which the IOC says it has received — that China will abide by human rights commitments that it made when it was awarded the games in 2015. It also says that China has promised to allow unfet-

tered reporting and to permit demonstrations or

Athletes around the world have been pressing for more latitude to express themselves at the Olympics and argue that lobbying for human rights is not a political issue.

Representative of rights groups met two months ago with IOC leaders but say their requests have been largely ignored. They also sent an open letter three months ago asking the IOC to take the Olympics away from Beijing.

China is widely reported to have incarcerated more than a million Uighurs, a mostly Muslim ethnic group, in the western Xinjiang region. China at first denied the existence of the camps, but now says they are training and education centers.

Forced labor, torture and forced sterilization and abortion are being widely reported in Xinjaing. The treatment of the religious minority has been termed "cultural genocide" or "ethnic cleansing."

The campaign staff of President-elect Joe Biden

suggested several months ago the treatment

amounted to "genocide." "History has shown us that the IOC has made an active decision to continue with the charade of political neutrality to justify its inaction towards China's human rights violations," the letter said. "This willful ignorance is shameful and fails to value the personal experiences of all of us struggling under this repressive regime."

The IOC has repeatedly said it runs a sports event and is not responsible for domestic policies in the host country. It repeated this in a statement to The Associated Press. It said that human rights issues had been raised with "government and local authorities"in China. It said it had received "assurances" but offered no details as the letter requested

Beginning with the 2024 Olympics in Paris, cities will have to adhere to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. However, China is not subject to these rules because the IOC mandated the provision after picking Beijing

'For decades we have brought evidence to the IOC about the severe repression, the beatings, torture, and even death of our people.'

HAWKS

Continued from Page 5

He will be joining Howard straight out of high school where he starred at St. Augustine High School. His team finished the last two seasons as the Louisiana state Runner-Up and Wiltz was a driving force behind the team's success. Now, he will join the Hawks as a true freshman with all of the tools to be a great player. "We had a really good read on him and he fits exactly what we're looking for," Raines said. "He's a really talented attack-thebasket type of player who can play with the ball in his hands and we really liked his competitiveness and toughness."

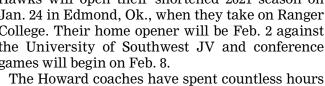
Overall, this appears to be one of the most talented teams of Raines' tenure at Howard with an extremely strong, deep, and versatile backcourt. The

Hawks will open their shortened 2021 season on Jan. 24 in Edmond, Ok., when they take on Ranger College. Their home opener will be Feb. 2 against the University of Southwest JV and conference games will begin on Feb. 8.

recruiting these players and assembling a roster full of ballers from around the world. Next, we will see how all of those players mesh together quickly

and then we shall find out just how impressive the 2021 Howard Hawks

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