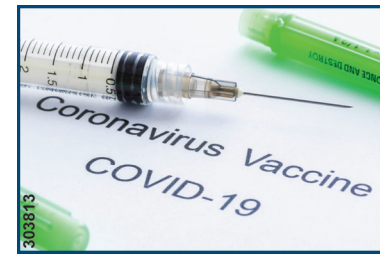


BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY EDITION,
JANUARY 7, 2021

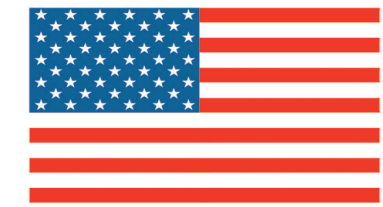


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VOLUME 116, NUMBER 93

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Governor Greg Abbott appoints Farris to First Court of Appeals

Upcoming Events

Silver Wings Ball
Jan. 30
The Club at Silver Hills
5:30 p.m. cocktails
6:45 p.m. dinner

SMMC Virtual Hiring Event
Jan. 19-20

Howard County Area Honor Rolls will be featured Jan. 14

Benefit for Sheri Bailey
Jan. 9

Eagles Lodge Funds raised will help with medical and funeral expenses

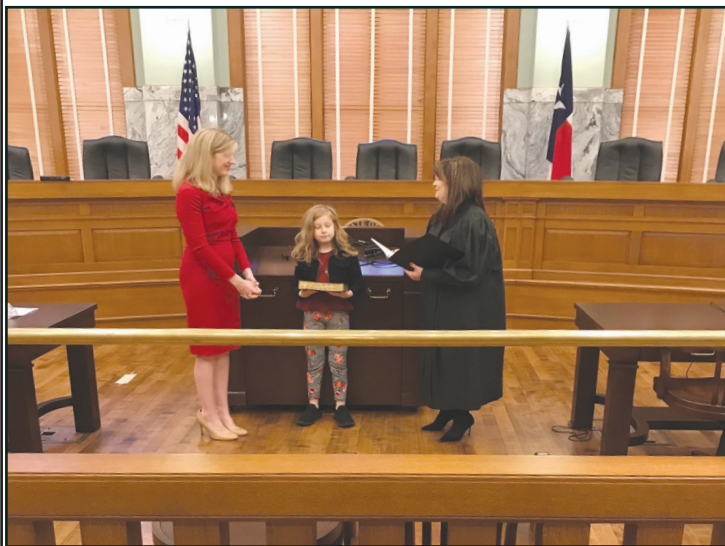
.....
Wash your hands, wear a mask, social distance when possible. Slow the spread.

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E-mail editor@bigspringherald.com

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www.bigspringherald.com



Courtesy photo

April Farris, daughter of Dr. David and Ann Ward, was recently sworn into the First Court of Appeals. During the ceremony, her daughter

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
Managing Editor

Governor Greg Abbot has announced appointments to the First Court of Appeals, which became effective Jan. 1, 2021. Amongst those appointed was April Farris, former Big Spring native and daughter of Dr. David and Ann Ward.

Farris' term is set to expire on Dec. 31, 2022 or until her successor shall be duly elected and qualified. The First Court of Appeals in Houston serves Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Waller and Washington counties. In 2020, Farris was recognized as a Rising Star by Law 360.

April Farris of Houston is an

appellate litigation partner at Yetter Coleman LLP. She previously served as an assistant solicitor general for the Texas Solicitor General's Office. She is a member of the Texas State Bar and committee chair of its Appellate Section and president and former board member of the Federalist Society Houston Lawyers Chapter. Additionally, she is a member of the Houston Bar Association, the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society, the Garland R. Walker Inn of Court, and the Women's Energy Network and a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. She is a volunteer for Girl Scouts and Tallowood Baptist Church. Farris received a Bachelor of

See **COURT**, Page 3

Community Covid-19 testing sites open; vaccines dispersed to frontline workers

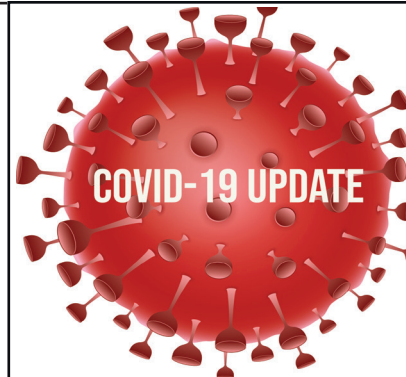
By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
Managing Editor

Scenic Mountain Medical Center reported the following update pertaining to testing completed to date. There have been 2,666 tests for Covid-19, with five pending. Of those tests there have been 707 returned positive for an overall positivity rate of 26.5%.

From Dec. 1 through Jan. 5, SMMC and SMMG has conducted 730 Covid-19 tests with five pending and 197 positives returned for a positivity rate of 27%. There are currently 17 Covid-19 patients in Scenic Mountain Medical Center with three in ICU and two vents.

See **COVID**, Page 3

Scenic Mountain Medical Center



COVID-19 UPDATE

Scenic Mountain Medical Center has reported 1/06/2021:
• 17 Covid-19 positive patients
• 3 in ICU & 2 vents

SMMG & SMMC Testing through Jan. 6:
• 2666 tests
• 707 positives for 26.5% positivity rate
• 5 pending

From Dec. 2020 - Jan. 5, 730 patients have tested of which 197 were positive for a rate of 27% positivity. 5 tests are pending.

Howard County has reported as of 01/04:
• 2529 positive cases
• 67 Covid-19 fatalities
• 242 Active cases
• 3659 recovered
• 1439 probable cases

Outpatient COVID testing in Big Spring

Gregg Street Clinic
2301 South Gregg St
Big Spring, Texas 79720
Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday

910 S Main St
Big Spring, TX 79720
Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday

West Texas Medical Plaza
1501 W 11th Place
Big Spring, Texas 79720
Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday

*SMMC provided numbers for in-house patients/ SMMG testing since the onset of Covid-19; info obtained from Texas Health Department website

Martin Luther King annual march cancelled, recognition continues

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
Managing Editor

A legacy that has been impacting the nation since 1986 will be remembered this

year, in Big Spring, in a little different fashion due to the ongoing pandemic. The annual Martin Luther King Day march, normally drawing community members in to march up Martin Luther King Blvd. will not be taking place this year on Monday, Jan. 18, but the legacy of Dr. King will not be forgotten or overlooked.

Since 1986 America has annually honored, celebrated the life and legacy of the former civil rights leader who became the figurehead of the Civil Rights Movement who helped to change this nation for the better increasing racial tolerance. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observed each year on the third Monday of January as "a Day On, not a Day Off," is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of

Service that encourages all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

"Mount Bethel Baptist Church has been a part of the Big Spring, Texas faith community for nearly 98 years and as an active and responsible community partner, Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, became the host of the city's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative March nearly two decades ago," Reverend Michael D. Smith, Senior Pastor at Mt. Bethel, said. "As the year 2020 ends, we remain both mindful of those lost to this horrific pandemic and grateful for the service of courageous frontline workers who have protected us against this relentless enemy. To say that this outgoing year has been a challenge is an understatement. Nevertheless, with the emergence of new vaccines and other therapies to combat this deadly disease, we remain hopeful of a new normalcy."

While Mount Bethel Baptist Church has



HERALD file photo

Community members have gathered on an annual basis in remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s contributions and to honor his memory. This year, while the march will not be taking place, the recognition of Martin Luther King Day is still important.

See **MARCH**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Rueleen Freeze

Rueleen Freeze was born Oct. 21, 1930 at Minco, Oklahoma to Ruel Daggs and Seona (Rinn) Daggs.

Preceded in death by her husband Lee James Freeze, and her sister and one brother, Vera Mae Eubank and Don Daggs.

She is survived by her three sons, Jay Freeze of Big Spring, Jim Freeze of Prosper, Texas, Tim Freeze of Orlando, FL; four grandchildren; and her two brothers, David Daggs of Edmond, OK and Jim Daggs of Aspen, CO.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, at the Myers and Smith Funeral Home and Chapel with Pastor Ricky Carstensen officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring. Masks and social distancing will be required.

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

Esequiel Flores

Esequiel Flores, Sr., 65, of Big Spring, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Betty Jean Cooper

Betty Jean Cooper, 90 of Big Spring passed away Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 in a local nursing home. The family will receive friends from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021 at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born April 13, 1930, to Lillie Odessa Walker Lovvorn and Charles Lovvorn in Coahoma, Texas.

Jean is survived by four daughters, Cecilia Ward of Big Spring, Teresa Welch of Big Spring, Melissa Decker of San Antonio and Vanessa Burchett of Big Spring; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Cecil Cooper; twin infant sons, Kenneth and Keith Cooper, and five sisters

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Jean's memory to Big Spring First Church of the Nazarene 1400 S. Lancaster Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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

Take Note

• A benefit for Sheri Bailey will be hosted Saturday, Jan. 9 at the Eagles Lodge. Funds raised with help the family with medical expenses, funeral costs and other expenses that may arise. There will be brisket plates sold as well as other fundraising opportunities available. Scenic Mountain Medical Group employees are also holding a T-shirt fundraiser for those wanting to purchase a shirt and support the family.

• Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the Annual Banquet will be virtual this year. The date is set for Feb. 11 at 1:30 p.m. More information can be obtained by calling the Big Spring Chamber office at 432-263-7641.

• West Texas Centers will be hosting the January 2021 Mental Health First Aid training classes twice in January. The classes will be held on Jan. 26, 2021 for Adult Mental Health First Aid, and Jan. 28, 2021 for Youth Mental Health First Aid. Both classes will be virtual.

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

• Isaiah 58 has kicked off food distribution for 2021. The first distribution of the year took place Jan. 5. Distributions will take place from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Tuesdays.

• The City of Big Spring recently announced that due to a recent increase in COVID-19 cases, all indoor city-owned rental facilities including our venue, The Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, will be closed for the rest of the year. With this announcement and with no other venue options that will properly social distance our musicians, we will be unable to kick off our season on Dec. 19 with our "Holiday Spectacular" Concert. Be watching our Facebook page, Symphony website (Bigspring-symphony.org), the Big Spring Herald, KBYG and KBST for further details and a new kick-off date for our season, appropriately entitled, "The Versatile Big Spring Symphony".

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate through these unusual times. We hope to see you very soon. May you and your family stay safe and healthy through the rest of this Holiday Season!

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

• City of Big Spring offices have moved to by appointment only or electronic communication only. Contact information for all departments can be found on the city website at mybigspring.com.

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

• Cub Scouts meet Mon-

day from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Naz Family Church, located at 1400 S. Lancaster.

• Howard County Republican Club meets the second Monday of each month at 421 Main Street. Everyone is welcome. The meeting takes place at Noon. For more information call 432-213-7628.

• A new group named Taking Care of Business has started in Howard County. It is made up of people of all ages and genders who want to be better than they are. The focus of the fledgling organization is to engage in meaningful discussions that promote personal growth. Additionally, the organization will plan and execute worthwhile activities within the community. There is no membership fee and attendance is not taken. The only requirements are that you be positive or want to be more positive than you are, consider yourself to be a good person but want to be better than you are, and that you have a desire to help others be better too. Childcare is available during the discussion time if you let us know. Topics to be avoided include Religion and Politics, though we can dance around them.

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

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

• The Senior Supper Club has come out of hibernation to resume its normal Tuesday evening dinners. The Come-One-Come-All group will be meeting on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and orders will be placed around 5:30 p.m. after much socializing from a distance. The Senior Supper Club is an informal group of folks from Howard County who meet at least weekly and sometimes more for Dutch-Treat food at different area restaurants. Sometimes the group also meets for cards, dominoes, or desserts and fellowship. For more information, contact Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com.

• St. Vincent de Paul will be open the following dates beginning November 2020. Food distribution will take place the second Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and other assistance will be suspended at this time, but will resume on Dec. 17. Distributions will take place at 1009 Hearn at SVDP Building. In December 2020, the food distribution will continue the 2nd Thursday as scheduled.

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- Deep Water Exercise Classes
- Morning Boot Camp Classes
- Morning & Afternoon Workout Classes

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Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 79 inmates at the time of this report.

• **THOMAS WILLIAM-SCOTT MURPHY**, 41, was arrested by HCSO on charges of injury child/elderly/disable with intent bodily injury and assault family/house member impede breath/circulation.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 6800 block of N. Service Road. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 4200 block of W. Highway 89. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Sycamore. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of S. E. 15th Street. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3500 block of E. I-20. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 6100 block of FM 846. No transport was required.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 19000 block of E. 25th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 800 block of Highland. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of E. 14th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

• Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org, or call 432-268-3003.

• GriefShare is a biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support); there is no charge for attendance.

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Weather



Today: Sunny, with a high near 53. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming east in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. East wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 49. East wind around 5 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 52.

Saturday Night: A chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32.

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

Protestors rush Capitol Hill as House and Senate prepare to vote

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Managing Editor

Members of the House and Senate were convening to hear debate before the Electoral College went to a vote to accept and certify the Presidential Election results Wednesday afternoon. While hearing debate, around 1:20 p.m.(CST) protestors breached the building sending the House and Senate into recess and placing the building on lock down.

Video footage from Capitol Hill showed protestors climbing up the walls to try and gain access to the building while flooding steps outside. Protestors were also shown climbing through windows to gain access into official office. Photos were released of protestors inside the Capitol offices, inside the dome, and even attempting to gain access onto the House floor. Upon hearing of the breach, Capitol Hill security began moving lawmakers to a secure location. All members of the Senate were able to be moved before protestors gained access. According to video footage there were some House members still locked on the House floor while protestors were outside the chambers.

A few hours after the protestors gained access, National Guard troops were requested by the Mayor of Washington DC; a 6 p.m. curfew was also put in place to help de-escalate the situation.

President Elect Joe Biden took the podium to address the nation around 3 p.m. Thursday as the overtaking of the Capitol took

place.

“(This is) An assault on people's representatives, on Capitol Hill, police sworn to protect them public servants who work at the heart of our Republic, on the rule of law. This is one of the few times we've seen it... let me be very clear the scenes of chaos do not reflect the true American do not represent who we are,” President Elect Joe Biden said during his address to the people. “We are seeing a small number of extremist; this is disorder, chaos ... it must end. I call on this mob to pull back and let the work of democracy go forward.”

He continued, “The words of a president matter no matter how good or bad the president is at their best they can inspire, and at their worst they can incite.”

President Elect Joe Biden called for President Trump to call for an end to this scene on national television.

The protestors began to enter the Capitol building around 1 p.m. as House and Senate members were debating before taking to the Electoral College vote on Presidential Vote totals.

The scene is still unfolding. There have been reports of tear gas, gun shots and other forceful actions taken inside the Capitol building. At the beginning of the chaos, House and Senate members along with members of the press who were inside the building, were moved to secure locations.

Protestors are still being shown surrounding the building as of

3:18 p.m.

Shortly after President Elect Biden's address, President Trump Tweeted out a video encouraging those who are taking part in the protests at the Capital to go home. The video was short and Tweeted out by the White House.

With the additional National Guard support and heavy law enforcement and first responder presence around the area, the Capitol was able to be cleared and secured as time ticked down to the 6 p.m. curfew enacted earlier in the day. Amidst the chaos, it was reported that one female succumbed to injuries from a gunshot wound she sustained inside the Capitol.

The U.S. Senate reconvened at 7 p.m. CST to continue debate and proceed to the electoral college vote count.

Prior to the attack on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, the Georgia votes were also tallied with a final vote count being issued.

According to the Associated Press, the 2020 Georgia runoff election has named winners for the two open seats: Jon Ossoff claimed victory over David Perdue with a 50.3% total and 2,229,482. Ossoff's victory placed another Democratic seat on the Senate. Raphael Warnock, also Democrat, claimed victory with 50.7% of the vote over Kelly Loeffler. Warnock ended with 2,245,870 votes.

With the announcement of the Election totals, Democratic control of the Senate was gained.

COVID

Continued from Page 1

Vaccines have arrived in Howard County and have started to be distributed to frontline healthcare workers. While the vaccine is not yet available to the community, but are expected to be made available soon in accordance with Texas Phase 1B guidelines.

The following guidelines will be used to begin vaccine distribution in the community. Those who meet the following guidelines will be part of Phase 1B:

- People 65 years of age and older
- People 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes Covid-19, such as but not limited to: cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies, solid organ transplantation, obesity and severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m2 or higher), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, and Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

For those who have exhibited Covid-19 symptoms or have been exposed to Covid-19 and are needing to be tested, tests are available at the following locations:

Gregg Street Clinic
2301 South Gregg St
Big Spring, Texas 79720
Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday

910 S. Main St
Big Spring, TX 79720
Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday
West Texas Medical Plaza
1501 W 11th Place

Big Spring, Texas 79720

Clinic Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m, Monday - Friday

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Alvin Marin, 83, died Thursday. Visitation 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM January 10, 2020 with a vigil service at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service at 10:00 January 11, 2020.

Myers & Smith for expenses.

Larita Beck, 69, died Saturday. No services will be held.

Judy Bair, 66, died Sunday. No services will be held.

Mauricio Hernandez, 66 of Big Spring died December 17, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Rueleen Freeze, 90, died Monday. Services will be Saturday at 10:00 AM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Rosalinda DeLeon, 78, died Thursday. Services will be Thursday at 2:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Jessica Rangel, 38, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Terry Coates, 61, died Friday. A Celebration of life will be at a later date. A fund has been set up at

Esequiel Flores, Sr., 65, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

COURT

Continued from Page 1

Science in Integrated Marketing Communications from Abilene Christian University and a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School.

“Ann and I are very proud of both of our children who are both dedicated Christians, loving parents, and talented people. April has very much distinguished herself in the field of appellate law to which she is very well suited. We believe she will now excel at being an appellate judge to the benefit of the people of Houston and Southeastern Texas.”

Farris was sworn in on Jan. 1, 2021 in the Texas First Court of Appeals building by Judge Elrod of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. According to Dr. Ward - Farris's father - April interned for Judge Elrod her first year out of law school and since that time Elrod has served as a mentor to Farris. During the ceremony, Farris' family, including Dr. Ward and his wife, were able to be in attendance, along with Farris' husband Ben and her grandfather. During the ceremony, Farris' daughter, Clara held the Bible.

Following the two-year appointment, Farris will have to be elected for a six year term.

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

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MARCH

Continued from Page 1

been the host for the annual march, the community partnerships are the driving force behind the success of the event. Each year, the community members are able to gather and make the march through the efforts and support of the City of Big Spring, The Big Spring Police Department, the Big Spring Fire Department, Mayor Shannon Thomason and other community organizations. This year, while Martin Luther King Day will still be recognized by leadership at Mt. Bethel, due to Covid-19 concerns, the 2021 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Walk hosted by Mt. Bethel Baptist Church of Big Spring, Texas will be postponed.

“Although, we will not be able to march in-person, we want the message and power of this significant holiday to continue online by everyone sharing personal MLK moments from the past on social platforms of your choice,” Rev. Smith said. “We look forward to a time when this historical event can again be observed safely lest we forget from whence we’ve come, and that we are better together.”

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

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2021
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Reaction from leaders pours in after mob breaks into Capitol

AP-US--Congress-Electoral College

A mob of violent protesters made its way into the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, forcing police to evacuate lawmakers and delaying the constitutional process to affirm Joe Biden's victory in the November election. Some of the reaction from around the United States and the world:

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson: "Disgraceful scenes in U.S. Congress. The United States stands for democracy around the world and it is now vital that there should be a peaceful and orderly transfer of power."

Canadian Foreign Minister François-Philippe Champagne: "Canada is deeply shocked by the situation in Washington, D.C. The peaceful transition of power is fundamental to democracy — it must continue and it will. We are following developments closely and our thoughts are with the American people."

Vice President-elect Joe Biden: "To storm the Capitol, to smash windows, to occupy offices, and to threaten the safety of duly elected officials is not protest. It is insurrection. The world is watching and like so many other Americans, I am shocked and saddened that our nation, so long a beacon of light, hope and democracy, has come to such a dark moment."

National security adviser Robert O'Brien: "Violence has absolutely no place in our democracy. I applaud the men and women of law enforcement and the National Guard, who are working to restore order and protect our institutions. Our country is better than what we saw today at our Capitol."

Sen. Ben Sasse, Republican from Nebraska: "Today, the United States Capitol — the world's greatest symbol of self-government — was ransacked while the leader of the free world cowered behind his keyboard — tweeting against his Vice President for fulfilling the duties of his oath to the Constitution. Lies have consequences. This violence was the inevitable and ugly outcome of the President's addiction to constantly stoking division."

Former President George W. Bush: "Laura and I are watching the scenes of mayhem unfolding at the seat of our Nation's government in disbelief and dismay. It is a sickening and heartbreaking sight.

This is how election results are disputed in a banana republic — not our democratic republic. I am appalled by the reckless behavior of some political leaders since the election and by the lack of respect shown today for our institutions, our traditions, and our law enforcement. The violent assault on the Capitol — and disruption of a Constitutionally-mandated meeting of Congress — was undertaken by people whose passions have been inflamed by falsehoods and false hopes."

National Association of Manufacturers President and CEO Jay Timmons: "The outgoing president incited violence in an attempt to retain power, and any elected leader defending him is violating their oath to the Constitution and rejecting democracy in favor of anarchy. Anyone indulging conspiracy theories to raise campaign dollars is complicit. Vice President Pence, who was evacuated from the Capitol, should seriously consider working with the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment to preserve democracy."

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York: "This is the final chapter of an incompetent, cruel, and divisive administration that has trampled on the Constitution and the rule of law at every turn, and we won't let President Trump, the members of Congress who enable him, or the lawless mob that stormed our nation's Capitol steal our democracy. The election results are clear and the will of the American people will be carried out."

Thomas Donohue, CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce: "The attacks against our nation's Capitol Building and our democracy must end now. The Congress of the United States must gather again this evening to conclude their Constitutional responsibility to accept the report of the Electoral College."

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka: "We are witnessing one of the greatest assaults on our democracy since the Civil War. Today's attempted coup has been years in the making as Donald Trump consistently spews venom, conspiracies, hate and lies to his supporters. They are carrying out his wishes, and far too many Republican lawmakers have enabled and even encouraged this violent threat to our republic."

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg: "Shocking scenes in Washington, D.C. The outcome of this democratic election must be respected."

Rep. Liz Cheney, Republican from Wyoming: "We just had a violent mob assault the Capitol in an attempt to prevent those from carrying out our Constitutional duty. There is no question that the President formed the mob, the President incited the mob, the President addressed the mob. He lit the flame."

Former President Barack Obama: "History will rightly remember today's violence at the Capitol, incited by a sitting president who has continued to baselessly lie about the outcome of a lawful election, as a moment of great dishonor and shame for our nation. But we'd be kidding ourselves if we treated it as a total surprise. For two months now, a political party and its accompanying media ecosystem has too often been unwilling to tell their followers the truth — that this was not a particularly close election and that President-Elect Biden will be inaugurated on January 20. Their fantasy narrative has spiraled further and further from reality, and it builds upon years of sown resentments. Now we're seeing the consequences, whipped up into a violent crescendo."

Former President Bill Clinton: "Today we faced an unprecedented assault on our Capitol, our Constitution, and our country. The assault was fueled by more than four years of poison politics spreading deliberate misinformation, sowing distrust in our system, and pitting Americans against one another. The match was lit by Donald Trump and his most ardent enablers, including many in Congress, to overturn the results of an election he lost. The election was free, the count was fair, the result is final. We must complete the peaceful transfer of power our Constitution mandates."

President Donald Trump: "These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously & viciously stripped away from great patriots who have been badly & unfairly treated for so long. Go home with love & in peace.

Remember this day forever!"

Southeast Texas congressman tests positive for COVID-19

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Rep. Kevin Brady said he has tested positive for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

The Southeast Texas congressman and ranking Republican Ways and Means Committee member revealed his test results in a tweet late Tuesday, followed by a prepared statement Wednesday. The disclosure came as a record number of Texas COVID-19 deaths were reported Wednesday.

Brady had been practicing all guidelines laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the House physician, including social distancing and mask-wearing, according to the statement. Brady had been tested when he began experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and began

receiving outpatient treatment from Walter Reed Medical Center.

Brady received the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 18 and was to have received his second dose later this week, according to the statement. It was not immediately known where Brady was recovering or whether he was quarantined.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, "the effectiveness of the vaccine after a single dose is inconclusive. He has full confidence in the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine and is incredibly proud of the historic success of Operation Warp Speed," according to the statement.

The Conroe Republican had been the House Ways and Means Committee chairman until Democrats won a

House majority in 2018.

A record 326 COVID-19 deaths were reported Wednesday, shattering the previous record of 278 deaths reported on July 23, according to statistics compiled by the Texas Department of State Health Services. That brought the Texas death toll for the eight-month-old outbreak to 28,545.

The state reported 19,535 new confirmed coronavirus cases and 4,026 probable cases on Wednesday, bringing to almost 1.9 million the number of confirmed and probable cases in Texas. Of those, 320,540 cases were active on Wednesday, a record 13,628 were hospitalized, the 10th consecutive record day.

Austin-area officials announced Wednesday that they were discussing

plans to turn the Austin Convention Center into a field hospital as hospitals continue to fill close to their capacities because of the soaring number of COVID-19 cases.

Dr. Mark Escott, the interim Austin-Travis County health director, said local hospitals' intensive-care units were projected to be filled to capacity by Jan. 15. However, the convention center could be pressed into service as a field hospital sooner as a surge of cases from the Christmas and New Year's holidays was expected to intensify, he said.

The convention center was pressed into service as a hospital previously during the July COVID-19 surge for up to 1,500 coronavirus patients.

Twitter muzzles Trump amid Capitol violence

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and DAVID KLEPPER

Associated Press

In an unprecedented step, Twitter suspended the account of President Donald Trump from tweeting for 12 hours Wednesday following the storming of the U.S. Capitol by his supporters.

Twitter said that future violations by Trump could result in a permanent suspension. The company required the removal of three of Trump's tweets, including a short video in which he urged those supporters to "go home" while also repeating falsehoods about the integrity of the presidential election. Trump's account deleted those posts; had they remained, Twitter had threatened to extend his suspension.

Earlier in the day, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube all removed the video, but only Twitter placed additional limits on the president.

While some cheered Twitter's actions, experts noted that the companies' actions follow years of hemming and hawing on Trump and his supporters spreading dangerous misinformation and encouraging violence that have contributed to Wednesday's violence.

Jennifer Grygiel, a Syracuse University communications professor and an expert on social media, said Wednesday's events in Washington, D.C. are a direct result of Trump's use of social media to spread propaganda and disinformation, and that the platforms should bear some responsibility for their inaction.

"This is what happens," said Grygiel, who uses they/them pronouns. "We didn't just see a breach at the Capitol. Social media platforms have been

breached by the president repeatedly. This is disinformation. This was a coup attempt in the United States."

Grygiel said the platform's decision to remove the video — and Twitter's suspension — are too little, too late.

"They're creeping along towards firmer action," they said, calling Trump "Exhibit A" for the need for greater regulation of social media. "Social media is complicit in this because he has repeatedly used social media to incite violence. It's a culmination of years of propaganda and abuse of media by the president of the United States."

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Full Howard basketball preview for upcoming season set to begin this month



HERALD File Photos

The Howard Hawks are known for their physical defense. Mo Musa (above left) blocks a shot last season while Darrell Green (above right, #14) combines with ex-Hawk Klay Brown to make a block in another contest.

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 that now 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, CN

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 double-digit baskets 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 verymstrong 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 season-high 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 off-season to earn more time on the court.

BLAIZE SAGNA - London

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

Wiltz is an athletic point guard with a competitive streak and the ability to both score and facilitate the ball for his teammates. 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-the-basket type of player who can play with the ball in his hands and we really liked his competitiveness and toughness."

The Howard coaches have spent countless hours 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 are.

See **HOWARD**, Page 10

NBA Standings (Through 1/5/21)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	AWAY	DIV	CONF	PPG	OPPG
Philadelphia 76ers	6	1	.857	-	4-0	2-1	2-0	6-1	111.0	101.7
Orlando Magic	5	2	.714	1.0	2-2	3-0	3-0	4-1	110.7	107.7
Indiana Pacers	5	2	.714	1.0	3-2	2-0	2-0	4-2	114.9	108.1
Boston Celtics	5	3	.625	1.5	2-1	3-2	1-1	4-3	113.4	112.5
New York Knicks	4	3	.571	2.0	1-1	3-2	0-2	4-3	103.3	105.1
Cleveland Cavaliers	4	3	.571	2.0	2-1	2-2	1-1	4-3	104.4	105.0
Milwaukee Bucks	4	3	.571	2.0	3-0	1-3	2-0	3-3	124.6	111.1
Atlanta Hawks	4	3	.571	2.0	1-2	3-1	0-0	3-3	118.3	112.3
Brooklyn Nets	4	4	.500	2.5	3-3	1-1	1-0	2-3	119.5	111.3
Chicago Bulls	4	4	.500	2.5	1-3	3-1	0-2	2-3	113.9	119.6
Miami Heat	3	3	.500	2.5	3-1	0-2	0-1	1-2	105.8	107.7
Charlotte Hornets	2	5	.286	4.0	1-2	1-3	0-0	1-3	107.3	112.3
Washington Wizards	2	5	.286	4.0	0-4	2-1	0-2	1-5	118.6	120.3
Toronto Raptors	1	5	.167	4.5	1-2	0-3	1-2	1-2	106.0	110.2
Detroit Pistons	1	6	.143	5.0	1-3	0-3	0-2	1-4	111.0	117.6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	AWAY	DIV	CONF	PPG	OPPG
Los Angeles Lakers	6	2	.750	-	2-2	4-0	0-1	6-2	114.1	104.1
Phoenix Suns	5	2	.714	0.5	2-1	3-1	1-2	5-2	107.9	100.6
Los Angeles Clippers	5	3	.625	1.0	2-2	3-1	2-0	5-3	110.9	109.5
Utah Jazz	4	3	.571	1.5	1-2	3-1	2-1	4-2	109.7	110.0
New Orleans Pelicans	4	3	.571	1.5	2-1	2-2	1-0	2-1	106.3	104.3
Golden State Warriors	4	3	.571	1.5	2-1	2-2	1-0	2-1	116.4	121.1
Sacramento Kings	3	4	.429	2.5	2-1	1-3	1-2	3-1	110.6	116.7
Portland Trail Blazers	3	4	.429	2.5	1-2	2-2	0-1	3-3	114.4	118.1
Dallas Mavericks	3	4	.429	2.5	1-1	2-3	1-0	2-2	107.7	105.1
Denver Nuggets	3	4	.429	2.5	2-3	1-1	2-0	3-4	117.0	116.0
San Antonio Spurs	3	4	.429	2.5	1-3	2-1	1-1	2-4	111.4	114.9
Houston Rockets	2	3	.400	2.5	2-1	0-2	0-1	2-3	112.2	115.6
OKC Thunder	2	4	.333	3.0	0-3	2-1	0-1	0-2	100.5	110.8
Minnesota T-Wolves	2	5	.286	3.5	1-2	1-3	1-2	1-4	107.6	120.0
Memphis Grizzlies	2	5	.286	3.5	0-4	2-1	0-1	0-3	106.9	112.1

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E R G K Y L X D U Y B L X E C M I G D A
T Y Z Z T F E T A R E D I S N O C F U H
I C U G S D O E U S S I T W K B D P T L
N R W Z T S U N W R A P C O W O R K E R
G S Y A D I L O H O H H S L I A K B F W
P B K U U C H D L A M M K G K P K U O H
X W C Z I O F P U R C H A S E A H F U H

WORDS

BAG
BOX
BUDGET
CONSIDERATE
COWORKER
DECORATE
FAMILY
FRIENDS
GIFT
GREETING
HOLIDAYS
IDEA
LIST
PRIZE
PURCHASE
RECEIPT
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STORE
TISSUE
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WRAPPING PAPER

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A psychological ploy

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 8 2
♥ 6
♦ Q J 7 5
♣ K J 10 4

WEST **EAST**
♠ K 7 ♠ 5 4
♥ A 9 4 2 ♥ K Q J 10 8 7 5 3
♦ K 10 8 6 3 2 ♦ A 9
♣ 9 ♣ 7

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 6 3
♥ —
♦ 4
♣ A Q 8 6 5 3 2

The bidding:
East South West North
4♥ 4♠ 5♥ 5♠

Opening lead — nine of clubs.

Dear Mr. Becker: A great many people simply don't understand the psychological factors of the game. I know what I'm talking about because I have been playing rubber bridge for years with some friends, and I am far and away the biggest winner in the game.

However, this is not because I play better than the others — as a matter of fact, they all bid and play their cards better than I do.

Where I have a big edge is when it comes to psychology. For instance, the other night I won a 3,300-point rubber — the very first one we

played. My partner and I didn't have the cards to win by such an amount, and to be perfectly frank about it, we should actually have lost the rubber.

It was the psychology, though, that did it, and this hand is what got us started. We got to five spades, and West led his singleton club.

I won with the king, noting that with neither opponent able to give the other a club ruff, the contract was now assured. I then led a spade and finessed. West took the king and made a good play by leading a low heart away from his ace in the hope that East could win and return a club.

East got pretty mad when he saw the heart lead because he wanted a club return also. When he played the ten of hearts, I let him win the trick by discarding a diamond.

This was the key play of the hand, and if you don't understand why, you are missing the whole point. East laid down the ace of diamonds, which I ruffed, and I then claimed the balance, making five.

You never heard such a ruckus as now took place. East and West accused each other of all kinds of stupidity for failing to return a club. Neither of them had noticed my seven-card club suit.

Their heated exchanges went on for a long time, and from then on they were easy pigeons. Cordially yours, John Dough

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

someone is thinking of you.

lucky numbers are: 4, 24, 21, 29 and 13.

COSMIC TOPIC: FIXED ENERGY:

The rock-solid, dependable "fixed" signs -- Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius -- bring stabilizing energy to any situation. When the rest of us are lost in the wilderness, the fixed signs are quietly turning sewing needles into compasses and leading us home. Fixed means "firmly attached," and these signs have birthdays square in the middle of the four seasons. For example, earthy Taurus arrives in mid-spring, when seedlings have taken root, literally holding the ground in place when it rains. Leo makes her dramatic entrance in midsummer, when the sun is at his scorching hottest. This fixed fire sign is the most optimistic and self-confident of the zodiac, and people gravitate to her light like moths to a flame. Steal a glimpse into your own secret desires -- just gaze into the still, deep waters of a Scorpio's eyes. This fixed, midautumn water sign is like a cool, bottomless well from which one may continually draw inspiration. In the dead of winter, when everything seems bleak, Aquarians bring hope to the world and the will to hold on. These fixed air signs are the pioneers of the zodiac, building upon past discoveries while propelling humanity forward into new and exciting territory.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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Just Before the Shift

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even though there is no one better qualified than you to enhance your reputation, reputations are always the domain of other people. Still, you'll find subtle ways to get them to sing your praises.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The moment something major is going on for someone you care about is your time to shine as a supporter and true friend. This is not that. This is preparation for that. Gather your statements and talking points.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your intuitive inklings will be correct. You'll bet on a hunch and win. Said "bet" may be made with money but will more likely be an investment of time, attention and heart.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Light-heartedness has a time and place -- maybe most of the time and a good percentage of the places. Today, though, you'll dig into your more serious purposes. This is it. Bring the grit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Leave space for the other person to express his or her heart, soul and being. You'll learn. You'll be delighted -- and baffled. Leaving space, allowing the air to go dead, is a kind of invitation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Frustration gets misplaced. The problem with the vacuum cleaner is released

on the dog, etc. Knowing this, you don't take things personally when someone you love is in an edgy state.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). At any given moment, you exist in several worlds and times. You're recalling the pertinent information of yesterday, nudging tomorrow in a direction, sitting with mixed reviews.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The friends who told you that you were on the rise were met with your skeptical eyes. But here you are, risen, to a degree -- not the ultimate degree you will grow, but you're getting there. Take it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Shakespeare's Henry VI said, "Of all base passions, fear is most accursed." But fear doesn't have to turn into a passion. Nip it in the bud. Face it when it's small.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Thinking of other people -- sometimes you think it's a lost art. You don't know why, considering you think of other people all the live-long day. You'll be delighted tonight by the proof that

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dinner Guest with No Conscience

Dear Annie: My wife and I have a close friend whom, in non-pandemic times, we invited over for dinner or cocktails at least once or twice a week. We've spent many holidays together over the last 10 or so years. We love her like a sister.

The only problem is she never brings anything to our house, and I mean never. She also has never invited us over to her house for drinks, dinner or anything, except to take care of her animals when she is gone on shopping trips.

Once in a while, like on holidays, we've tried asking her to bring a dessert or something like that, and she's acted like it's a real pain. The one time that she agreed to bring a dessert, she asked us to pick up the ingredients and said she'd make it at our place. How do we bring up our frustrations with this? We don't want to hurt her feelings. But come on, enough is enough. -- Hosed Host

Dear Hosed: With friends like you, who needs restaurants? Seriously, though, you shouldn't be shy about expressing your feelings; she's certainly

had no problem expressing hers. It doesn't have to be a dramatic confrontation. Just let her know that you love spending time with her but it's a lot of work for you two to always host, and that it would be a big help if she could bring over food and/or drinks whenever you get together. No good friend would react badly to that.

Dear Annie: Last weekend, I had to complete an eight-hour project with a man I'd never met before. It was an incredibly long day -- because this man talked constantly! It was continuous, nonstop talk about any-

thing and everything, from his divorce, to his children, to his health, to his house, etc.

If I had something to say or comment on, he would briefly listen, but then he would get right back into constant chatter. I now know everything about this man that I don't care to know.

What causes someone to talk nonstop? Don't they realize that it's annoying? -- Carrying Earplugs From Now On

Dear Earplugs: There are many possible causes for excessive, nonstop talking,

including mental illnesses, brain injury, hearing loss, fear of silence and just plain old self-absorption. Some overtalkers may recognize that it's irritating but find it difficult to stop. Some might lack self-awareness. In some cases, it can help to confirm that you've heard them by repeating a brief summary of it back to them. In others, directness is the only option -- e.g., a simple statement such as "I'd like some time to focus on the work, please," said with a smile. It might feel awkward for a moment, but it's better than seething for eight hours.

Dear Annie: Just to add to your advice to "Not a Fan," who was tired of her husband's off-key singing around the house. She should join him every chance she gets: Either they will make beautiful music together or he will realize how bad it is. -- Susan D.

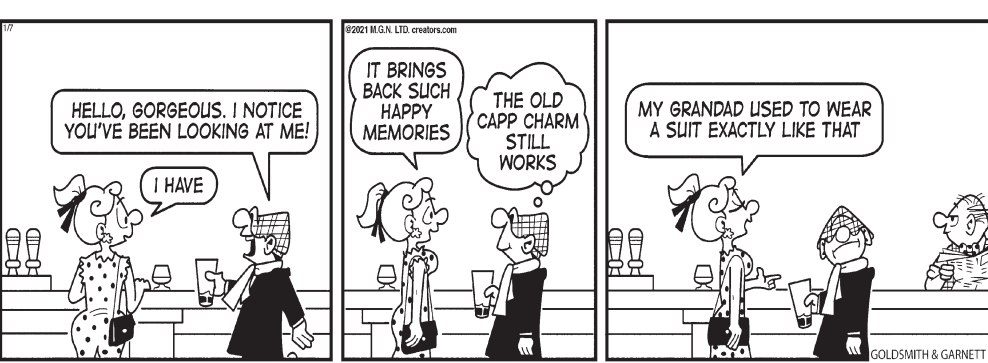
Dear Susan: You get points for creativity. Thanks for the laugh.

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

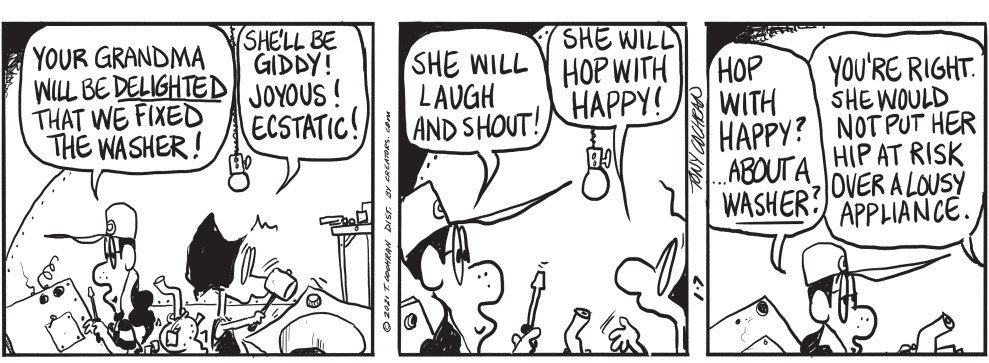
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Table of TV channels and their programming. Columns include channel number, name, and program title.

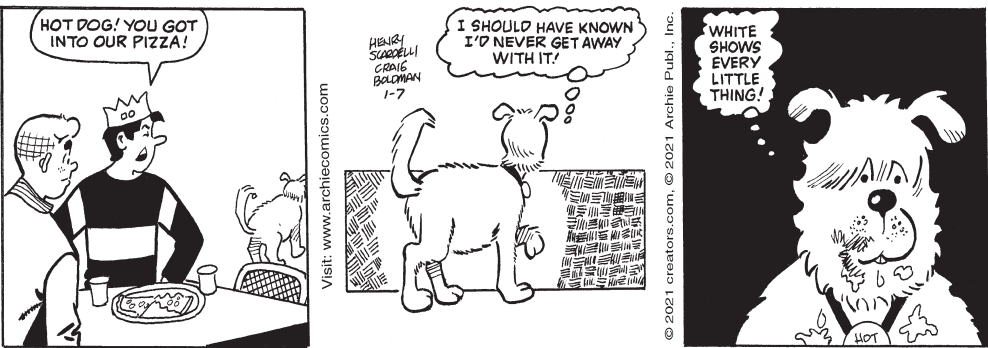
ANDY CAPP



AGNES



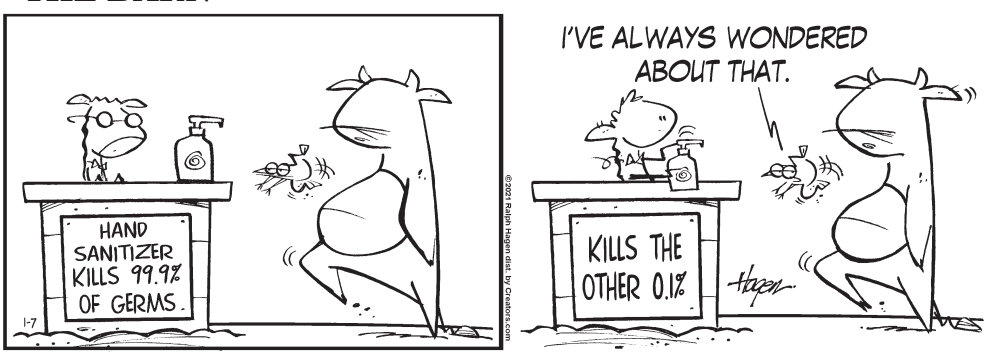
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This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2021. There are 358 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 7, 1789, America held its first presidential election as voters chose electors who, a month later, selected George Washington to be the nation's first chief executive.

On this date:

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1942, Japanese forces began besieging American and Filipino troops in Bataan during World War II. (The fall of Bataan three months later was followed by the notorious Death March.)

In 1953, President Truman announced in his State of the Union message to Congress that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

In 1959, the United States recognized the new government of Cuba, six days after Fidel Castro led the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1972, Lewis F. Powell, Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were sworn in as the 99th and 100th members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died in Tokyo at age 87; he was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.

In 1999, for the second time in history, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice; he was acquitted.

In 2004, President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of immigrants improperly working in the U.S.

In 2006, U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, facing corruption charges, stepped down as House majority leader. (DeLay was found guilty in Nov. 2010 of illegally funneling corporate money to Texas candidates; his conviction was eventually overturned.)

In 2015, masked gunmen stormed the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, methodically killing 12 people, including the editor, before escaping in a car. (Two suspects were killed two days later.)

In 2019, Amazon eclipsed Microsoft as the most valuable publicly-traded company in the U.S. For the first time in more than 25 years, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was absent from oral arguments as she recuperated from cancer surgery.

Ten years ago: A package addressed to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano ignited at a Washington postal facility, a day after fiery packages sent to Maryland's governor and state transportation secretary burned the fingers of workers who opened them.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama tore into the National Rifle Association during a televised town hall meeting in Fairfax, Virginia, as he dismissed what he called a "conspiracy" alleging that the federal government — and Obama in particular — wanted to seize all firearms as a precursor to imposing martial law.

One year ago: A magnitude 6.4 earthquake, the strongest to hit Puerto Rico in more than 100 years, killed one person, injured nine others and knocked out power across the U.S. territory. A stampede at the funeral of Gen. Qassem Soleimani in his Iranian hometown of Kerman killed 56 people and injured more than 200. Jury selection began in New York for the rape and sexual assault trial of Hollywood

mogul Harvey Weinstein; about a third of the first 120 prospective jurors were sent home after they said they could not be impartial. Neil Peart, the drummer for the influential rock trio Rush, died at the age of 67 at his California home; the band said he had been battling brain cancer.

Today's Birthdays: Magazine

publisher Jann Wenner is 75. Singer Kenny Loggins is 73. Singer-songwriter Marshall Chapman is 72. Actor Erin Gray is 71. Actor Sammo Hung is 69. Actor Jodi Long is 67. Actor David Caruso is 65. Talk show host Katie Couric is 64. Country singer David Lee Murphy is 62. Rock musician Kathy Valentine is 62. Actor David Marciano is 61. Sen.

John Thune, R-S.D., is 60. Actor Hallie Todd is 59. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is 58. Actor Nicolas Cage is 57. Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik (on-DRAH'-sik) (Five for Fighting) is 56. Actor Rex Lee is 52. Actor Doug E. Doug is 51. Actor Kevin Rahm is 50. Actor Jeremy Renner is 50. Country singer-musician John Rich is 47. Actor Dustin Diamond is

44. Actor Reggie Austin is 42. Singer-rapper Aloe Blacc is 42. Actor Lauren Cohan is 39. Actor Brett Dalton is 38. Actor Robert Richardson is 38. Actor Lyndsy Fonseca is 34. Actor Liam Aiken is 31. Actor Camryn Grimes is 31. Actor Max Morrow is 30. Actor Marcus Scribner is 21.

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Newsday Crossword

FOLLOW THE SIGNS by Steve Mossberg
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 "I should have known that!"
- 4 Light melodies
- 9 Outward appearance
- 14 Case workers' grp.
- 15 Nonreactive, as elements
- 16 City near the Great Salt Lake
- 17 FIRST SIGN
- 20 Sported
- 21 Bubbly brand
- 22 Pro follower
- 23 Wasting no time
- 26 Motown's "Prince of Soul"
- 28 SECOND SIGN
- 33 Pressure prefix
- 35 End of an Amherst address
- 36 Not sanitary
- 37 Moonlight Oscar winner
- 38 Our soccer squad
- 41 Outward appearance
- 42 Common sonata movement
- 44 "Dude"
- 45 "External" beginning
- 46 THIRD SIGN
- 50 Beowulf beverage
- 51 Turmoils
- 54 Science class, for short
- 57 Bakery tray array
- 59 Lexus rival
- 60 FOURTH SIGN
- 64 Breadth
- 65 Leaf under a petal
- 66 Rug rat

DOWN

- 1 Russian retreat
- 2 WWII sub
- 3 Bit of circular acrobatics
- 4 One with a mortgage
- 5 Useful connections
- 6 Allow
- 7 In good shape
- 8 Straight-line speaker
- 9 Exercise regimen with kids (really!)
- 10 Reaction to a bad pun
- 11 Inspiration
- 12 Tailor's creation
- 13 Leftovers
- 18 Start getting paid to play
- 19 With everything in place
- 24 Sporting sword
- 25 Bit of baby talk
- 27 Jargon suffix
- 29 Cuban music
- 30 Jogging attire
- 31 Fail to mention
- 32 Fire starter
- 33 Stinging comment
- 34 Lotion ingredient
- 38 Story-telling orchestral piece

39 Language of Pakistan

- 40 Spread in a field
- 43 Barely seen
- 45 Standing tall
- 47 Poncho weather
- 48 Port of Ukraine
- 49 Ancient visionary
- 52 Group on a scouting outing
- 53 Late-fall mall temp
- 54 Outclass
- 55 Measure of 47 Down
- 56 Telltale sign
- 58 Slow-cooked dinner
- 61 PC's brain
- 62 Deck-and-dice fantasy, for short
- 63 OPEC state

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-69.

Coahoma Bulldogettes down Compass to open district play



Courtesy Photo

Kenzi Canales guards against a Lady Cougar.

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — The Bulldogettes handily won their opening 5-3A district match against Odessa Compass Academy on Tuesday, 76-14.

From the start, Coahoma dominated with an explosive first quarter. Isabella Cox kicked-off a Bulldogette 24 point run after nailing a 3-point goal within the first minute of play. The relentless onslaught continued the rest of the game. Coahoma out scored Compass 52-14 in the next three quarters.

Compass faced a more experienced Bulldogette team after the Odessa school cancelled its basketball preseason. Coahoma came into the game after playing 13 games in the last two months.

The top scorer for Coahoma was MaKynlee Overton who had a game high of 20 points. Kenzi Canales tallied 19. Julia Cox also scored in the double digits with 11 points. Sharing the offensive load were Sophia Biddison with nine points, Kathleyn Johnson earned eight and Brynn Rodgers got four.

Next the Bulldogettes (8-4, 1-0) will turn their attention to the Crane Lady Birds (11-5, 1-0), who were the 2020 3-3A district champions. Coahoma hosts Crane on Friday, 6:30 p.m.

Big Spring Steers Basketball game at Monahans

Special to the Herald

Due to COVID-19 MWPISD is following these protocols:
All spectators will be screened for COVID-19, including temperature checks.
If your temperature is above 100°F or you answer yes to any of the COVID-19 symptom questions, you will not be allowed entry.
50% Gym capacity.

All spectators will be required to wear face coverings while entering and exiting school facilities and when social distancing cannot take place.

Sit on the designated visitor and home sides
There will be absolutely no congregating under the grandstands or in the lobby areas of gymnasiums. (MWPISD reserves the right to ask you to leave).
There will be absolutely no spectators/parents allowed on the playing field

or court before, during, or after contests.

Everyone must exit the facility immediately after completion of the games through the same entry door.

Entry:

Fans will have a central entry point into the gyms and may not enter through the back or side of the gym.

Athlete Spectators:

Non-competing athletes will be asked to practice social distancing and wear masks. They will be assigned a section on the visiting side stands. Please keep players in the designated area.

NFL prospects everywhere in Alabama-Ohio State title game

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

Former LSU linebacker Patrick Queen is a good example of how a huge performance in a national championship game can help a player boost his NFL draft stock.

Queen was a rising prospect throughout last season and capped it by being the defensive MVP of the College Football Playoff championship victory against Clemson. About three and half months later, Queen was selected in the first round by the Baltimore Ravens at No. 28 overall.

No. 1 Alabama and No. 3 Ohio State head into the national title game Monday night with a slew of future NFL players. The matchups will not only determine who wins a championship, but could also influence where some of their stars are drafted.

"You do want to look into a player's ability to play in the clutch and in the big moments because obviously when you're putting together a football team, an NFL roster, your goal is to be playing in the playoffs," said Jim Nagy, Senior Bowl executive director and a former NFL scout. "So you want to look at the consequential games. The games that really matter."

Alabama center Landon Dickerson, who is out with a knee injury, and guard Deonte Brown have already accepted invitations to the Senior Bowl on Jan. 30, Nagy said. Heisman Trophy-winning receiver DeVonta Smith, star running back Najee Harris and tackle Alex Leatherwood have also been invited.

For Ohio State, center Josh Myers, running back Trey Sermon, linebackers Tuf Borland and Barron Browning, and defensive end Jonathon Cooper plan to take part in the Senior Bowl, Nagy said. Invitations have also been extended to defensive tackle Haskell Garrett and linebacker Pete Werner.

There are perhaps 20 players who could potential-

ly be drafted in April after playing for the Crimson Tide and Buckeyes.

QUARTERBACKS

Ohio State's Justin Fields was amazing against Clemson, throwing six touchdown passes and showing off accuracy and arm strength all over the field. He also displayed poise and toughness, playing most of the game after taking a nasty hit to his side.

That came after an inconsistent and truncated season that has called into question Fields' status as the best available QB behind Trevor Lawrence.

"There's a lot of buzz around the league about (BYU's) Zach Wilson being the No. 2 pick in the draft behind Lawrence," said Dane Brugler, a draft analyst for The Athletic. "Fields, with what he did, it changed that a little bit. He's making teams kind of go back and reconsider."

The Alabama defense has had some bumpy moments, but it is still the most talented group Ohio State has faced, starting with SEC defensive player of the year Patrick Surtain III. The junior will probably be the first cornerback drafted if he declares.

Plus, Fields will be tested by Alabama schematically.

"Give (Tide coach) Nick Saban 10 days to figure you out and to find your weaknesses, that's terrifying," said Matt Miller of NFL Draft Scout.

Alabama quarterback Mac Jones is among the second tier of quarterbacks in the upcoming draft that includes Florida's Kyle Trask and maybe SMU's Shane Buechele.

Jones has been superb, but he doesn't have athletic traits comparable to Fields and Lawrence. Jones is surrounded by top-end talent, and offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian has done a good job of scheming receivers open and creating mismatches.

"He's a very, very difficult evaluation because

how do you separate him from just an elite situation," Brugler said of Jones.

Especially on the heels of former Alabama star Tua Tagovailoa's rookie NFL season, which was solid but far from spectacular.

WADE'S WORLD

Ohio State cornerback Shaun Wade made the All-America team, but that was a generous evaluation based on reputation and last year's play when he was a nickelback and slot corner.

His move to the outside this season has been spotty at best and indicative of Ohio State's cornerback play in general. Now, he gets to face Smith, a sure first-rounder, and the gemstone of Alabama's prolific passing game.

"If I'm Alabama and Steve Sarkisian, I'm getting DeVonta Smith on (Wade's) side of the field as much as humanly possible because no one has been able to stop him," Miller said.

Brugler said Wade's future might still lie at safety.

"At the same time, if he goes out there and performs at a high level against Smith, then all of a sudden that's a different conversation," Brugler said. "But based on what we've seen from Shaun Wade this year, it just doesn't seem like a realistic possibility."

HOWARD

Continued from Page 5

Game One (1/16): vs. Weatherford (TBA)
Game Two (1/24): vs. Ranger @ Edmond, OK (11:00)
Game Three (1/25): vs. Hill @ Edmond, OK (3:00)
Game Four (1/26): vs. Murray State @ Edmond, OK (5:00)
Game Five (1/30): @ Weatherford (TBA)
Game Six (2/2): vs. University of Southwest JV (6:00)
Game Seven (2/6): vs. Loyalty Prep (TBA)
Game Eight (2/8): @ South Plains (7:30)
Game Nine (2/11): vs. Clarendon (7:30)
Game 10 (2/15): @ Frank Phillips (7:30)

Game 11 (2/18): vs. New Mexico JC (7:30)
Game 12 (2/20): @ Odessa (2:00)
Game 13 (2/22): vs. Midland (7:30)
Game 14 (3/1): vs. Western Texas (7:30)
Game 15 (3/4): @ New Mexico Military (7:30)
Game 16 (3/8): vs. South Plains (7:30)
Game 17 (3/11): @ Clarendon (7:30)
Game 18 (3/13): vs. Frank Phillips (4:00)
Game 19 (3/15): @ New Mexico JC (8:30)
Game 20 (3/18): vs. Odessa (7:30)
Game 21 (3/22): @ Midland (7:30)
Game 22 (3/29): @ Western Texas (7:30)
Game 23 (4/1): vs. New Mexico Military (6:30)

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