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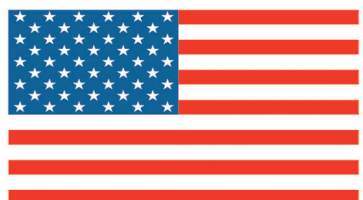
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 JANUARY 12, 2022

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VOLUME 117, NUMBER 98 COPYRIGHT 2022 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION



Weather

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 65. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 32. North wind around 5 mph becoming west after midnight.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 68. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.

Spring virtual classes at Howard College due to COVID-19 spike

By **CINDY SMITH**

Howard College

Howard College campuses are ready for the spring semester and will temporarily move to a virtual course delivery mode in some courses for the first two weeks of classes, due to the recent surge in COVID-19 confirmations. The alternative course delivery will not affect select Career Technical Education courses and Health Profession courses, which will remain in face-to-face mode.

Students should expect communication from their instructors within the next three days regarding any specific instructions for access to courses. The college is asking all students to actively monitor their student email for additional information.

"I want to reiterate that we are ready to begin the spring semester and this is a temporary measure," said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, president of Howard College. "We are taking these operational steps to prioritize the health of our students, faculty, staff and communities and feel the best way to do this right now, is to move to a virtual mode in some courses for the first two weeks of class."

The college plans to re-evaluate the cases and trends in the communities we serve the week of January 24th and move back to the original course delivery mode for all classes on January 31st.

Campuses are open and are strictly following the Amber status which can be reviewed on the college website.

"We are being mindful of federal, state, and local guidelines regarding COVID-19 measures and are remaining on our Amber status at this time," added Sparks. "We will be social distancing and asking employees to limit contact with others on a regular basis and utilizing electronic means as possible."

Howard College on-campus services will remain available during this altered period, but students and staff should monitor the college website or call ahead as hours and/or availability may change due to staffing changes resulting from health issues.

The college will make additional online tools available for students who have questions about access, passwords, resources, etc. prior to classes starting.

The dorms on both the Big Spring and the SouthWest College for the Deaf (SWCD) campus will remain open with move-in continuing as currently scheduled. Students who are not required to be on campus for an athletic program may choose to delay their move-in until classes return to in-person instruction. However, students are reminded most CTE and health professions programs will continue in the face-to-face mode and students will attend in-person. Any questions regarding dorm move-in should be directed to the housing staff on the respective campus.

"Our focus right now is to start the semester as normal as possible with this temporary measure to safeguard the health of our students, employees, and communities we serve,"

See **HOWARD**, Page 3

COVID-19 in Howard County:
Jan. 10, 2022
 Confirmed Cases: 3,430
 Probable Cases: 2,753
 Fatalities: 153
 Active Cases (estimated): 241
 Recovered (estimated): 5,791

Council selects redistricting Plan B
Selection to be confirmed at Jan. 25 meeting

By **ROGER CLINE**

Herald Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council preliminarily selected Redistricting Plan B during their meeting Tuesday evening.

The council held a public hearing on the redistricting process at the start of the meeting, but no one chose to speak on the subject. Following the public hearing, Attorney Robert Bass of Allison, Bass and Magee law firm of Austin developed and presented three plans – labeled A, B and C – for the council's consideration.

On first reading, the council selected Plan C; however, council members will hold a second Public Hearing on the redistricting process during their next meeting, scheduled Jan. 25, and will hold a second vote on the plan at that time.

When U.S. Census results are released every 10 years, local governments must restructure their district lines if the population has shifted so that a disparity of 10 percent or more between the government's subdivisions has developed. Bass, joining the meeting remotely, told the council that the disparity between City of Big Spring districts is about 25 percent.

Any of the three plans presented by



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Local citizens (l-r) Dale Avant, Clarence Hartfield, and T.J. Stewart peruse City of Big Spring redistricting plans as City Attorney Andrew Hagen displays the maps on a table in the City Council Chambers Tuesday evening.

Bass would bring the city's districts into line with the 10 percent requirement. Plan C – the one selected on first reading by the council – would bring the total maximum deviation to 1.63 percent. Plan A has a total maximum deviation

of 2.3 percent, while Plan B has a total maximum deviation of 1.77 percent.

During the meeting, Mayor Shannon Thomason originally moved to adopt

See **CITY**, Page 3

Daily Quote

"I very frequently get the question: 'What's going to change in the next 10 years?' And that is a very interesting question; it's a very common one. I almost never get the question: 'What's not going to change in the next 10 years?' And I submit to you that that second question is actually the more important of the two -- because you can build a business strategy around the things that are stable in time." — **Jeff Bezos**

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 www.bigspringherald.com



BSISD to consider redistricting at Thursday board meeting

By **ROGER CLINE**

Herald Staff Writer

The Big Spring ISD school board will open its regular meeting Thursday with a public hearing regarding redistricting.

The meeting will start at 5:15 p.m. in the Board Room at Big Spring High School, 707 E. 11th Place.

The Herald has previously reported on a Redistricting Committee workshop held recently at the school to select a recommended plan for school board members to consider.

At the start of Thursday's meeting, following the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, members of the public will have the opportunity to offer comments on



See **BSISD**, Page 3

other topics before the school board opens a public hearing on redistricting.

After the board hears commentary from the public on the topic, the Redistricting Committee will present the plans to the school board, along with its recommendation. The board will discuss redistricting plans, including the three discussed by the committee at their workshop. Of those three – plans A, B and C, the committee will recommend Plan A to the school board.

The school board will consider and possibly take action on adoption of a redistricting plan for the district, including approval of a

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Obituaries

Deloris Fern Lewis Albert



Deloris Fern Lewis Albert, 86, of Big Spring, passed away Monday, Jan. 10, 2022. Funeral service will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

She was born March 19, 1935 in Shawnee, Oklahoma to Iva Alice (McGlasson) Lewis and Glen A. Lewis. She married Glen Ray Albert March 18, 1972 in Big Spring and he preceded her in death on Oct. 2, 2014. She was past president of American Busi-

ness Associations and was in the Salvation Army and served as Corp Sergeant Major for 40 years. She was a member of the Salvation Army Church.

She is survived by two sons: Ed Teichman and wife Dawn and Bill Teichman and wife Susan, all of Big Spring; one daughter: Elaine Harris and husband Duane of Alamogordo, New Mexico; one sister: Ida Lou Morgan; 13 grandchildren; numerous great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a grandson Christopher Teichman; two sisters: LaWanda Hamm and Glenda Timmons and three brothers: Marvin Lewis, Myrle Lewis and Ivan Lewis.

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

Jerry G. "J.J." Jones



Jerry G. "J.J." Jones, 72, died Monday, Jan. 10, 2022. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive.

Jerry was born on May 5, 1949 in Big Spring to Glenn and Loyce Jones. He was married to Phyllis

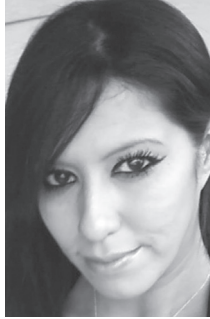
until she passed away in 2007.

Jerry is survived by his life partner: Teri Hooper of Big Spring; brother: Jesse Jones (Martha) of Big Spring; sister: Glenda Thompson of OK; numerous cousins who were like his brothers & sisters; and several nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents: Glen & Loyce Jones; his wife Phyllis Jones; and sister: Julie Van Dyken.

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

Linda Torres



Linda Torres, 39, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022, in McKinney, TX. The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Linda was born on July 29, 1982, in Big Spring to Efrían and

Genice Torres. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring.

Linda is survived by one daughter: Melody Hanson of TN; 3 sons: Bentley Wright, Brayen Wright, & Kingsley Wright, all of TN; 1 brother: Adam Garza (Emily) of Ft. Worth; 2 uncles: 2 aunts: and several cousins,

Linda was preceded in death by her parents: Genice & Efrían Torres; 1 daughter: Briana Hanson, and two aunts.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral

Becky Arview

Becky Arview, 66, died Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.
- Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org, or call 432-268-3003.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **VICTORIA ROCHELLE WINTERS**, 27, of 309 NW 9th Sy was arrested on a charge of assault by contact.
- **SHARON BECKER CLARK**, 65, of 1404 E Pacific Ave was arrested on a charge of warrant from another agency.
- **MICHAEL WEIHERT**, 28, of 1401 Buena Vista was arrested on a charge of theft of firearm.
- **DANIELLE ROSE COSTA**, 29, of 408 Rex Ave was arrested on a charge of assault family violence threat or offensive touch.

- **UNATTENDED DEATH** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 400 block of NE 11th St.
- **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the 1000 block of N Lamesa Hwy.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1500 block of E 4th St.
- **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 900 block of Father Delaney St.
- **UNWANTED SUBJECT** was reported in the 400 block of Rex Ave.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Princeton. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of Kinzie Rd. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2400 block of N Birdwell Ln. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in 13th and Runnels. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 400 block of NE 10th St. 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 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported at 15th and Johnson. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 6200 block of S Service Rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3800 block of Hamilton. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the MM 166 I20. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Sheriff

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 96 inmates at the time of this report.
- **KARLOS MARQUES CARTER**, 42, was arrested by DPS on a charge of possession of controlled substance less than 1g.
- **SHARON BECKER CLARK**, 65, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of illegal dumping more than 500lbs less than 1000lbs.
- **DANIELLE COSTA**, 65, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of assault family violence.
- **CHRISTOPHER OBELL VANOVER**, 44, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of issuance of bad check.
- **MICHAEL WEIHERT**, 28, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of theft of firearm.
- **VICTORIA ROCHELLE WINTERS**, 27, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of assault class C.

The Following
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HOWARD

Continued from Page 1

stated Sparks. "We plan to return to face-to-face in-

struction for all courses as quickly as possible but will do so as illness subsides which will provide the best opportunity and environment for our students to be successful."

For more information about Howard College re-

sponse to COVID-19, visit www.howardcollege.edu/special-notice. For questions about this release please contact Cindy Smith, Dean of Student Success/Public Information Officer at 432-517-0073 or csmith@howardcollege.edu.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

Plan B. Councilman Troy Tompkins (District 5) moved to amend the mayor's motion to instead adopt Plan C. The Council approved the amendment 5-1 with Thomason dissenting, then unanimously approved the amended motion 6-0.

At the start of the meeting, local citizens Scott Emerson, Dale Avant and T.J. Stewart addressed the council during the public comment portion of the meeting.

After public comments, the council moved into the public hearing on, and consideration of, the redistricting plans.

The council heard a presentation by Chelsey Baldivia with the South Plains Association of Governments regarding Section 3 Workers for active Texas Department of Agriculture Community Development Block Grants. No action was required on the item.

City Manager Todd Darden presented his regular report, discussing the upcoming Large Item Pickup scheduled Jan. 19 for District 1; and the Jan. 17 Martin Luther King Holiday.

The meeting's Consent Agenda, consisting of four items, was considered next.

The council approved three of the items: the City Council minutes of the Dec. 14, 2021, regular meeting; final reading of a resolution authorizing amendments to the City's Personnel Policy Manual; and final reading of an ordinance establishing bonding requirements for city officials.

The fourth item - final reading of an ordinance authorizing the Municipal Court to charge a credit/debit card reimbursement fee - was pulled from the consent agenda for further examination.

During his public comment, Scott Emerson spoke against the credit card fee at the Municipal Court, saying it constituted a tax, and adding that Mayor Thomason ran for office on a platform of no new taxes.

During discussion on the topic, Municipal Judge Timothy Green disputed the assertion that the credit card fee constituted a tax. Instead, he said, the fee - levied on those using an online service to pay court fines remotely - is not mandatory as fine payers can instead pay fines other ways. The online service which charges the fee is offered for convenience, primarily for people from out of town who receive traffic tickets in Big Spring, although local citizens can also use the service - and pay the fee - if they wish.

Green said the city receives no additional money from the fee, which is collected by the company operating the web payment service in lieu of payment by the city through use of taxpayer funds. The council approved the item 5-1, with Councilman Nick Ornelas (District 1) dissenting.

Next, the council voted to consider an item which was tabled at the city leaders' previous meeting, to remove all members appointed before July 1, 2021, from the Airpark Development Board, the Parks and Recreation Board, the Traffic Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Animal Rescue and Adoption Committee, the Board of Adjustments and Appeals, and the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

Councilwoman Diane Yanez (District 2), who had asked that the item be placed on the agenda, moved to approve it Tuesday evening, and Ornelas seconded the motion. Mayor Shannon Thomas unilaterally ruled the item "out of order," saying that it went against a portion of the City Code that had just been adopted. Yanez appealed his ruling, seconded by Ornelas, but the motion was defeated 5-1 with only Councilman Troy Tompkins (District 5) voting to reverse the mayor's ruling. It is unclear why Yanez and Ornelas voted against their own motion.

The council approved vouchers for Dec. 16, 2021, in the amount of \$1,148,146.65; for Dec. 29, 2021, in the amount of \$749,403.25; and for Jan. 6 in the amount of \$828,830.43.

The council unanimously approved award of a bid for lease

purchase financing of capital items to Bank Funding LLC., who offered an interest rate of 1.450 percent on the transaction. The city received six bids in total on the financing, and Bank Funding's was the lowest interest rate of the six, according to a memo included along with the meeting's agenda.

In New Business, the Council will acknowledge receipt of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors' minutes from its regular meeting Nov. 16. EDC Director Mark Willis was not present at the meeting.

The council also acknowledged receipt of a quarterly Claims and Litigation Report from City Attorney Andrew Hagen.

The Council accepted a \$10,000 donation from Occidental Petroleum (Oxy) for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and glass cutters for the Big Spring Fire Department.

A donation of fencing from the City to the Salvation Army for use at a ballfield at the organization's headquarters and Boys and Girls Club in town at 811 W. Fifth Street was "pulled" from the agenda and not considered during the meeting. No explanation of the action was offered.

The council approved a contract renewal with CGI Communications Inc. for production of the Community Video Program.

"This company makes money by including ads on some film that promotes the city," said City Attorney Andrew Hagen, adding that the videos are used on the city's website.

The contract is due to remain in effect until the third anniversary of the date it was first approved, which was Jan. 3, 2021, and was approved unanimously.

The council approved on first reading a resolution set the rotation of Council members to verify and audit payment vouchers on a monthly basis, rather than a biweekly basis as it has been. Each council member will, in turn, be responsible for verifying vouchers for two meetings consecutively within a given month. The motion passed 5-1 with Councilwoman Gloria McDonald dissenting.

The council will also consider on first reading a resolution amending the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation by amending the number of directors, the manner of appointing the directors, and the rules of procedure. The item, which passed unanimously, corrects an error in the original wording of the resolution, which had passed at a previous meeting.

The council approved an ordinance adopting the 2021 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code. This effectively means the city will make many small changes to its codes governing conditions and maintenance of property and buildings, standards for utilities and facilities, including safety and sanitation; condemnation of buildings deemed unfit for occupation; demolition of condemned structures; permits; nuisances; waste disposal; illegal dumping and litter control; garbage; etc. The item was approved 4-2, with Ornelas and Yanez dissenting.

The Council approved amending the budget to fund the purchase of a vehicle for the Big Spring Senior Center. \$20,000 of the increase will be funded by a donation from the G.C. Broughton Foundation, while about \$3,000 will be funded by the city's Senior Center fund.

The council voted to consider an appointment to the Big Spring EDC Board of Jonathan Ray, but Yanez, who had appointed Ray, reported that he withdrew his name from consideration.

Other nominees, including: Board of Adjustments and Appeals: Rosie Franco (nominated by Yanez); Animal Rescue and Adoption Committee: Amy French (nominated by Cody Hughes - District 3); Convention and Visitors Bureau Board: Kristy Tyra (nominated by Troy Tompkins - District 5) and Emaan Campbell (nominated by Mayor Shannon Thomason); were appointed by acclamation.

The council adjourned into executive session to discuss business prospects and economic development negotiations, and to discuss an offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect. Actions discussed during closed session will be voted on in open session before taking effect.

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Linda Torres, 39, died Wednesday. Family receive friends on Saturday from 1 PM until 2 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service Saturday at 2 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Gilbert Jimenez, 50, died Thursday. Funeral service Wednesday at 10 AM at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Mark Hall, 58, died Saturday. He will be in state on Thursday 9 AM until 9 PM at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be Friday 2 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Jessey "Chap" Coker, 92, died Sunday. Graveside service Wednesday 2 PM at Mt. Olive Cemetery.

Jerry Jones, 72, died Monday. Visitation Wednesday from 9 AM until 9 PM at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service Thursday 2 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Cemetery

Becky Arview, 66, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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BSISD

Continued from Page 1

resolution to that effect.

In other business, the board will conduct a second public hearing to discuss the status of the district's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Use of Funds Plan, and the ESSER Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

The board will next consider report items including the Mid-Year Goal Progress Measures report, a report on upcoming election dates, and a report on Cooperative Fees paid by Big Spring ISD.

The meeting's Consent Agenda consists of two items: approval of minutes, including those from the Dec. 2 special meeting, the Dec. 6 Howard County Leadership Summit, and the Dec. 9 regular meeting; and financial reports.

Action items on the agenda will start with consideration of approval of the district's Emergency Operations Plan.

The board members will consider approval of a resolution to enter into a joint election agreement with the city of Big Spring for the May 7 election, and consider contracting with the Howard County Election Administrator to conduct the school trustees election on May 7.

The board will consider approval of various donations and of employment recommendations before discussing and considering approval of personnel issues.

Following the Action Items, the board will conduct Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees recognition.

Superintendent Jay McWilliams will present his report, which will include information about resignations and retirements in the district; an enrollment report; a COVID-19 update; and district updates.

Following McWilliams' report, the meeting will adjourn.

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Hawks drop close game in defensive battle



Courtesy Photo/Tony Claxton

Rahkiem Petterson slams the ball home during a game this past Saturday as the Howard Hawks took on the New Mexico Military Institute. The Hawks lost a very closer game 56-51.

By STEVE BELVIN
Contributing Writer

If defense is what you like then Saturday's basketball game between the Howard College Hawks and New Mexico Military Institute Broncos was just what the doctor ordered. The visiting Broncos moved up in the WJCAC standing by escaping with a 56-51 win over Howard.

ard drops to 2-2 in league play. Both teams hustled hard throughout the game, diving for loose balls, blocking shots, taking charges. But it was the Broncos that battled back from an 11 point halftime deficit to thwart off the home team. NMMI coach John Schooley said he expected this kind of game. "I've been coming down here many years," he said. "Whether it was Mark Adams or Scott Raines coaching this is what I expect. We are just like them, we play good defense. It was an ugly season but I expect. We are just like them, we play good defense. It was an ugly season but I expect. We are just like them, we play good defense."

The first half saw both teams struggle to score. Howard held NMMI to 20 percent shooting; If not for Isaiah Williams' 10 points, NMMI might have trailed by more than 30-19 at the half. Howard got the lead by scoring nine points in the last minute of the half. It started with Lamar Everd making a couple of free throws, then Benny Udoh made a three-pointer, Jacoby Bishop got a steal which turned into a Blaize Sagna layup. It ended with Wiltz nailing a 14-footer at the buzzer.

NMMI outscored Howard 22-11 the first six minutes of the second half to tie the game at 41-apiece. From then on the two teams battled back and forth. NMMI took a 48-46 lead with less than two minutes left in the game and stretched it to 52-46 with less than a minute left, Bishop converted a three-point play for Howard to pull within 52-49 with 18 seconds. That's as close as the Hawks would get.

HOWARD, 10-6 for the season, will be in action Thursday when they host Frank Phillips at 7:30 p.m. at Dorothy Garrett. The Lady Hawks are tentatively scheduled to play Frank Phillips at 6 p.m.

NMMI (11-6, 3-1) - Chris Beady 2 9 15; Jordyn Nelson 2 0 4; Amiri Crowder 1 4 6; Luis Varon 0 4 4; Isaiah Williams 6 2 17; Reggie Ward 1 0 2; John Mapiu 1 0 2; Jon Salazar 2 2 6; totals 15-42, 21-27 56.

HOWARD (10-6, 2-2) - Rahkiem Petterson 4 1 9; D'Mari Wiltz 2 2 6; Jeremy Bishop 4 1 10; TK Bryant 1 1 3; Bonny Undoh 2 1 6; Blaize Sagna 3 3 9; Howard 2 3 8; totals ; 18-50, 11-19 51.

Halftime - Howard 30, NMMI 19.

Turnovers - NMMI 19, Howard 15, Rebounds - NMMI 35 (Salazar 7, Varon 6) Howard 29 (Petterseon 8, Wiltz 5) Three Points - NMMI (Williams 3, Bredy 2); Howard (Petterson 1, Undoh 1, Everd 1) Steals - NMMI (Varon 3)

Sands Lady Mustangs blow out Grady for district win



Courtesy Photos

Top Left: Lili Porras looks to make a pass in a game against Grady. Top Right: Landry Morrow drives to the basket to help her Sands Lady Mustangs to a easy victory over Grady by a final score of 68-27.

Top Dogs: Georgia celebrates title, looks ahead to 2022

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Kirby Smart learned from his former boss that the time for celebrating is short in college football. Even while he reveled Tuesday in the hangover from Georgia's first national title since 1980, the coach was already thinking about what comes next. "The wind blows a lot stronger at the top," Smart said. "I've seen it." Indeed, he has. Smart worked nine seasons at Alabama under Nick Saban, helping win four national titles. Now, he's got one of his own after Georgia rallied for a 33-18 victory over Auburn and the Crimson Tide in the championship game Monday night. The long-overdue party stretched from Indianapolis all the way back to Athens, Georgia, where fans and students stormed the streets in a raucous celebration. But Smart's time with Saban taught him that he's already a bit behind on the 2022 season. "I know people don't understand it, but other teams are 10 days up on you because they finished January 1st," Smart said. "Fortunately, I had a really good mentor and teacher in dealing with that because he's in it every year. But you fall behind because you're trying to manage your roster."

pionship. "I don't know that our team that's coming back is prepared for what they're about to see because there's a sense of entitlement, there's a sense of the disease, that has always crept in at Georgia," Smart said bluntly of his alma mater. "There's a huge anointment and entitlement that can affect your program. So now it turns for us to ... what we've got to do to keep it going." Smart knows that he'll have to replace a number of key players, especially on the defensive side. Nose tackle Jordan Davis, linebacker Nakobe Dean and end Travon Walker all have a shot at going in the first round of the NFL draft. Tackle Devonte Wyatt, cornerback Derion Kendrick, and linebackers Channing Tindall and Quay Walker are expected to move on as well. On the offensive side, running back James Cook and linemen Jamaree Salyer and Justin Shaffer have their sights on the pros. Receiver George Pickens missed much of the season with a knee injury, but he also could be headed to the NFL draft.



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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
High-class defense

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K J 10 9
♥ K Q
♦ A K Q
♣ 10 7 4
WEST EAST
♠ 6 5 ♠ 7 4 3 2
♥ J 9 8 6 5 ♥ A
♦ 7 5 ♦ 9 8 4 2
♣ J 8 6 ♣ A Q 9 3
SOUTH
♠ Q 8
♥ 10 7 3 2
♦ J 10 6 3
♣ K 5 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 NT

Opening lead — six of hearts.
Assume you're East, defending against three notrump. You might not agree with North's opening bid, but there's nothing you can do about that. West leads a heart, which you win with the ace. What should you play next? (Remember, you see only the dummy and your own hand.)

It would seem you have no chance to stop the contract unless your side can quickly snatch four club tricks. Dummy has nine practically sure tricks in plain view. So, acting

on this basis, you could return a low club hoping to find your partner with three or four clubs to the king (almost impossible in view of South's one-notrump bid).

But observe what happens if you do this. Declarer follows low — there is no reason to risk playing the king — and West wins the club with the jack. West returns a club to your ace, and the party is over. South makes four notrump.

Now let's go back to trick two. Instead of leading the three of clubs, let's say you lead the queen! Of course, South can make the contract by playing the king, but is he likely to do that?

He might think you have the Q-J-9-x(-x) of clubs and refuse to cover the queen. If he ducks, you continue with the three. What will South do this time? If he thinks you started with Q-J-9-3, he will follow low again, counting on dummy's ten to force West's ace. The contract is then defeated when partner wins with the jack and returns a club to your A-9.

Of course, South might guess correctly and play his king on either the first or second club lead. The important point, though, is that by playing your clubs in the suggested fashion, you have at least given declarer a chance to go wrong.

Tomorrow: Bad luck is not to blame.

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Going Mobile

Dear Annie: When I was 10, I began asking for a phone. Every kid in my class had one, and I was being left out and bullied because I was the only kid without one. Now, three years later, I finally have a phone!

But my mom has restricted my access to it; I can use my phone only when she says so. I'm not allowed to text my friends -- even though it's the only way to keep in touch now that we aren't in any of the same classes. The same applies to social media. No Instagram or Snapchat. My mom doesn't love technology, and she doesn't understand that this is the only way to keep in touch. Is she right that I'm being unreasonable? Please help! -- Odd Girl Out

Dear Odd Girl Out: I have no doubt that she has your best interests at heart and is trying to protect you

from some of the very real dangers that social media and even text messaging can have. Nonetheless, technology is something that not only is here to stay but is going to become even more present in our lives. Have a conversation with your mother about this, and try to understand her reasons for keeping you off social media.

Perhaps once you have that conversation, you will better understand why she is hesitant and you two can come up with a compromise, such as putting privacy settings in place, restricting certain features and ensuring that the social media sites know your age.

Dear Annie: I've been reading letters from people complaining and/or asking about what to do about not receiving thank-you acknowledgments. Here is the other side of that dilemma. What does one do when receiving

gifts that for whatever reason are unfortunate picks for the receiver? I feel as if I'm lying when I say "thank you." I've tried not sending a thank-you, but that felt icky and did not work. -- You Shouldn't Have

Dear You Shouldn't Have: Tell the gift-givers that you've appreciated all their gifts over the years but decided to ask for donations in your name to your favorite charity instead of physical presents. That's something you can all feel good about.

Dear Annie: I have a resource for "Heartbroken Sibling," whose sister was in a car accident and is now living with a traumatic brain injury. I would encourage "Heartbroken Sibling" to look into LoveYourBrain, an organization created by former professional snowboarder Kevin Pearce. After Pearce sustained a nearly fatal brain injury, he and his brother Adam start-

ed LoveYourBrain to create a community of survivors of traumatic brain injuries and their caregivers. The organization empowers survivors to take their healing into their own hands and has many helpful resources and workshops that could bring peace, new meaning and even healing to "Heartbroken Sibling" and his/her sister's lives. -- Reframe Your Mindset

Dear Reframe Your Mindset: Thank you for letting me know about LoveYourBrain. It seems to be a wonderful resource. Readers can find out more at <http://www.loveyour-brain.com>.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology -- featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information.

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

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How to find more time to travel

Travel can expose individuals to new environments and cultures and greatly shift their perspectives while providing opportunities to try new things.

The perks of traveling are well known, but that knowledge doesn't mean people are heading off for parts unknown. A report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that, although 73 percent of American civilian workers have access to paid vacations, around half of the entire labor

force does not use its vacation time.

A fear of returning to a mountain of work or even that taking time off could make them appear expendable and put their jobs in jeopardy may compel some to avoid taking time off. Others may believe they simply do not have the free time to travel or are too busy to plan getaways.

But even the busiest individual can employ strategies to make more time for travel.

• Leave it to a travel agent. Travel agents can book trips at little to

no cost to consumers, freeing them from the time constraint of researching and booking trips. Travel agents often tap into their experience to plan adventures that travelers booking on their own may never discover.

• Balance work life and home life. Many people find it difficult to balance life at work and life at home. Overworked professionals can begin to prioritize home life and put it on equal footing with work. That shift can free up more time to travel.

• Travel for work. While it may not be the same thing as traveling for leisure, work travel provides a chance to get away and see new places. Explore job opportunities that put an emphasis on routine travel, which can break the monotony of sitting in the same office day after day.

• Take a sabbatical. A sabbatical is a period of extended time off that employers grant employees. People often take sabbaticals to study, volunteer or pursue professional interests. Travel can be built into a sabbatical and even be a major component of the growth individuals on sabbatical hope to experience.

• Ask for help from others. Family obligations can prevent individuals from traveling as much as they would like to. In such instances, individuals can ask a friend or family member to look after their children for a weekend and offer to reciprocate.

Even the busiest individuals can find time to travel.

WEDNESDAY

Table with 17 columns (KMid 3 Midland, UNI 4 Spanish, KPEJ 5 Odessa, KOSA 7 Odessa, KTLK 8 Telemundo, KWES 9 Midland, KMLM 12 Odessa, KPBT 13 Odessa, KQWT 14 Odessa, KOSA2 16 Midland, WTBS 33 Atlanta, TNT 34 Atlanta, ESPN 35 Sports, ESPN2 36 Sports, FSN 38 Sports, USA 55 New York, A&E 58 New York, DISC 60 Discovery) and multiple rows of program listings.

JAN. 12

