

BROWNSVILLE The Herald

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020

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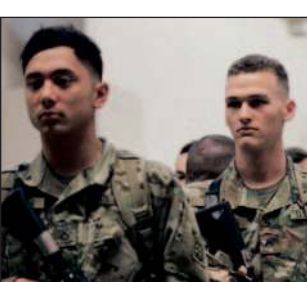


KINGS FESTIVAL

Hundreds of people gathered at Gonzalez Park to enjoy the lovely weather and celebrate Dia de los Reyes Magos at the first ever Three Kings Festival organized by Healthy Communities of Brownsville in partnership with several organizations such as H-E-B and The Revival of Cultural Arts at Carlotta Petrina.

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NATION



U.S. SOLDIERS DEPLOYED

Hundreds of U.S. soldiers deployed Saturday from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to Kuwait to serve as reinforcements in the Middle East amid rising tensions following the U.S. killing of a top Iranian general.

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POPULAR ON THE WEB

TENSIONS HIGH

President Donald Trump declared Friday that a "reign of terror is over" as he marked the death of an Iranian general killed in a U.S. strike and as the Pentagon scrambled to reinforce the American military presence in the Middle East in preparation for reprisals.

BrownsvilleHerald.com

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Good Morning! Thank you for reading today's edition of The Brownsville Herald



A MEDICAL COMPLICATION

Migrants face blocks to emergency care



PHOTOS BY DENISE CATHEY/THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

Above: Helen Perry, executive director of Global Response Management (GRM), stands outside the organization's mobile unit Wednesday in the migrant campsite outside El Puente Nuevo in Matamoros, Mexico. The organization, alongside its partners, has been fighting for critically ill asylum seekers to be recognized as qualifying for exemption from remaining in Mexico under the MPP policy. **Below:** Asylum seekers wait to see a medical professional Wednesday at the Global Response Management mobile unit in the migrant campsite just outside of El Puente Nuevo in Matamoros, Mexico.

BY ERIN SHERIDAN
STAFF WRITER

When asylum seekers waiting in Matamoros need emergency medical care, crossing the border into the United States is never a given — despite medical exemptions in the White House's "Remain in Mexico" policy.

"When we first got started, Border Patrol told one of our doctors that 'this will not be a thing,'" said Helen Perry, executive director of Global Response Management (GRM), from the organization's mobile unit set up just past the Gateway International Bridge in Matamoros.



MYBROWNSVILLEHERALD.COM

Visit the Global Response Management website.

PLEASE SEE **MEDICAL, A8**

PLEASE SEE **TRUMP, A7**

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High **75°**
Low **55°**

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How Trump targeted Iranian general

From list of options, settles on drone strike

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE AND MATTHEW LEE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — At the midway point of his annual Christmas vacation, President Donald Trump huddled at his Florida club with his top national security advisers. Days earlier, a rocket attack by an Iranian-funded group struck a U.S.-Iraqi base, killing an American contractor and wounding several others.

Trump's advisers presented him with an array of options for responding, including the most dramatic possible response: taking out Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds force and the man responsible for hundreds of Americans deaths.

Trump immediately wanted to target Soleimani. It was a decision his predecessors had avoided and one that risked inflaming tensions with Tehran. Some advisers voiced concern about the legal justification for a strike without evidence of an imminent attack in the works against Americans. So other options were discussed in the coming days with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Defense Secretary Mark Esper and national security adviser Robert O'Brien, including bombing the base of the group blamed for killing the U.S. contractor.

But Trump remained focused on the option to target Soleimani, a preference that surprised the small circle of aides because the president had long been reluctant to deepen U.S. military engagement around the world. By Thursday, officials believed they had intelligence indicating Soleimani was plotting against Americans, though it's unclear when that intelligence became known to U.S. officials.

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