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BIG SPRING

HERALD

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 13, 2007



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 11

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Green grant?

BSISD hopes to cut down on pollutants from buses

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big Spring education officials are hoping to add a touch of green to their yellow school buses.



Officials with Big Spring Independent School District said they are seeking a grant that will result in more environmentally friendly buses.

Sandra Waggoner said the grant, available through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, would be worth \$141,000.

If BSISD earns the grant, work crews will "retrofit" 17 school buses with a system that will cut down on pollutants.

"It will help the buses burn fuel more cleanly and will cut down on emissions," Waggoner said.

Not all of the BSISD fleet will be effected by work. The retrofit will not effect buses built after 2006. Also, buses must have at least five years of active life left in them to qualify for the work, Waggoner said.

If BSISD receives the grant, the grant would cover the entire cost of the retrofit, Waggoner said.

Big Spring ISD trustees will discuss the item during their Thursday night meeting, although the district has until late February to formally apply for the grant.

See **GRANT**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Kentwood Elementary Principal Dana Rodriguez, right, presents \$276 to Salvation Army Capt. Russ Keeney at SA headquarters on West Fifth Wednesday. Kentwood students collected the money to assist the agency's annual Angel Tree Christmas gift program.

Toy drive continues at Herald

Deadline Monday for holiday event

By **JOHN A. MOSELEY**
Managing Editor

Less than a week. That's all the time that's left, but the *Big Spring Herald* and the Salvation Army plan to make the most of it by teaming up to bring a little extra happiness to children in need this Christmas.

The *Herald* is now conducting a toy drive through Monday, asking local residents to bring a new unwrapped toy to the newspaper office at 710 Scurry between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tuesday, the toys will be delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution to youngsters from needy families.

The drive, brainstormed by former *Herald* advertising account representative Bob Rumpff several years ago, has become a tradition during the holiday season.

What's more, we're sure it's an important tradition.

"We have hundreds of children on our Angel Trees," Salvation Army Capts. Russ and Linda Keeney noted. "That's of great concern, because the angels don't seem to move off the trees at the same pace they used to. So, we're again concerned that not all the children will receive a gift this year."

That's wholly unacceptable — to both the Keeneys and the *Herald's* staff.

When the drive was initiated, Rumpff said he became concerned when he first noted that efforts were under way to provide food and clothing for children in Howard County but there was no dedicated project to provide toys.

See **TOYS**, Page 3A

"While food and clothing are important, to a child, Christmas just isn't Christmas without a new toy."

—Bob Rumpff, who suggested the annual toy drive several years ago

Kid to kid

Kentwood students brighten Christmas with donations of cash, canned goods

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

File this under "Kids Helping Kids."

Students from Kentwood Elementary decided to help spread the Christmas spirit to their less-fortunate counterparts in the community this month.

The students decided they would help out the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, then doubled their efforts by collecting canned food for the SA's community pantry.

Their efforts were decidedly successful, officials said.

"They wanted to do something this year, so I asked them if they wanted to help the toy drive or the canned

"They wanted to do something this year, so I asked them if they wanted to help the toy drive or the canned food drive. They said, 'Can't we do both?'"

—Kentwood Elementary Principal Dana Rodriguez

food drive," Kentwood Principal Dana Rodriguez said. "They said, 'Can't we do both?' and I said, OK ... and they really came through."

Kentwood's three-week fund-raiser for the Angel Tree program, which provides Christmas toys for needy children in the area, resulted in a \$276 donation to the Salvation Army. The students then provided 671 cans

of food for the agency's pantry.

"Each class had a competition to see who could donate the most," Rodriguez said, adding that Connie Kennedy's third-grade class ended up the winner.

But Rodriguez was equally proud of all her students' efforts.

"My heart is full from the

See **KENTWOOD**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:
Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.



Robbery suspect sought

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Crimestoppers of Big Spring is seeking information on a pair of robberies that may have been committed by the same man during the late hours of Saturday, Nov. 24.

Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, said the first robbery was reported at the 7-Eleven convenience store at 401 Birdwell Lane at 11:15 p.m.

"Officers responded to the 7-Eleven in reference to a robbery," said Everett.

"While at that location, other officers were dispatched to the Travel Mart, located at 800 W. Interstate Highway 20, in reference to a second robbery.

"The clerks at both locations said a male subject entered the store and placed his hand under his clothing like he had a weapon," Everett added. "The clerks said the man then demanded money."

Everett said an undetermined amount of cash was taken from the 7-Eleven,

See **SUSPECT**, Page 3A

12 Shopping Days Til Christmas

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Thursday, December 13, 2007

IN BRIEF

Big Spring High School schedules fall sports banquet

The Big Spring High School booster clubs have scheduled a fall sports banquet for Saturday at 6 p.m. in the high school's cafeteria.

Male and female athletes that participated in football, volleyball, cross country and cheerleading will be recognized.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Kay Cook at the Athletic Training Center.

Call Denise Carillo at 816-1685 with any questions.

Lady Steers softball team holding fund raiser at Pizza Inn

The Big Spring Lady Steers Lady Steers Booster Club will be holding a fundraiser for the softball team Wednesday at the Pizza Inn.

The Pizza Inn Doughnation Drive begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. Pizza Inn will donate 10 percent of the night's profit to the softball team.

Individuals needed to referee area basketball games

Individuals are needed to referee area sub-varsity basketball games for the 2007-08 season.

Anyone interested should call Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300.

Crossroads region varsity sports weekly calendar

Here's a look at the upcoming Crossroads varsity sports schedule:

FRIDAY

Big Spring girls basketball vs. Clyde, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan boys and girls basketball at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Stamford, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball at Pecos, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY

Big Spring boys and girls basketball vs. Snyder, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY

Forsan boys and girls basketball at Rankin, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys and girls basketball at Merkel, 6:30 p.m.

Rangers trade for Mariners' Broussard

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — The Texas Rangers filled one of their primary offseason needs Wednesday night when they acquired first baseman Ben Broussard from the Seattle Mariners for minor league infielder Tug Hulett.

Also Wednesday, outfielder Milton Bradley passed a physical, one of the final steps needed to complete a one-year deal with Texas. Bradley tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee and damaged cartilage when San Diego manager Bud

Black spun him to the ground in September.

"We're satisfied with the results of the physical. He's recovering extremely well," general manager Jon Daniels said. "He's walking with no limp. The doctor was pleased with his progress. Barring any setbacks, he should be a player for us very possibly in April."

The Rangers also Wednesday declined to offer a 2008 contract to Akinori Otsuka, making the reliever a free agent.

Otsuka was 2-1 with a 2.51 ERA and four saves in 34 appearances last season before being sidelined the final three months of the sea-

son because of a sore right elbow. He had 32 saves for the Rangers in 2006 before returning to the setup role when Eric Gagne signed with Texas.

Broussard, a Texas native, hit .275 with seven homers and 29 RBIs in 99 games this season for the Mariners. Primarily a first baseman throughout his career, Broussard also played the corner outfield spots for Seattle.

"He'll have a chance to play a more important role on our team and get an opportunity to play first," Daniels said. "His versatility and flexibility does give us some options. But as we sit here today, he is most likely going to

end up playing first base quite a bit."

After trading Mark Teixeira to Atlanta in July, the Rangers used Jarrod Saltalamacchia, Brad Wilkerson and Frank Catalanotto at first base. Saltalamacchia, who came over from the Braves in the Teixeira deal, is expected to be a full-time catcher next season.

Texas doesn't plan to re-sign Wilkerson, a free agent, and Catalanotto can also play the outfield and be the designated hitter.

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Orioles send Tejada to Astros

By **JUAN A. LOZANO**

Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — Miguel Tejada got his wish — albeit a couple of years later than he wanted.

Tejada was traded from the Baltimore Orioles to the Houston Astros for five players on Wednesday, giving the 2002 AL MVP a fresh start on a team looking to boost its lineup.

The Orioles got outfielder Luke Scott, pitchers Matt Albers, Troy Patton and Dennis Sarfate, and third baseman Michael Costanzo for the four-time All-Star shortstop.

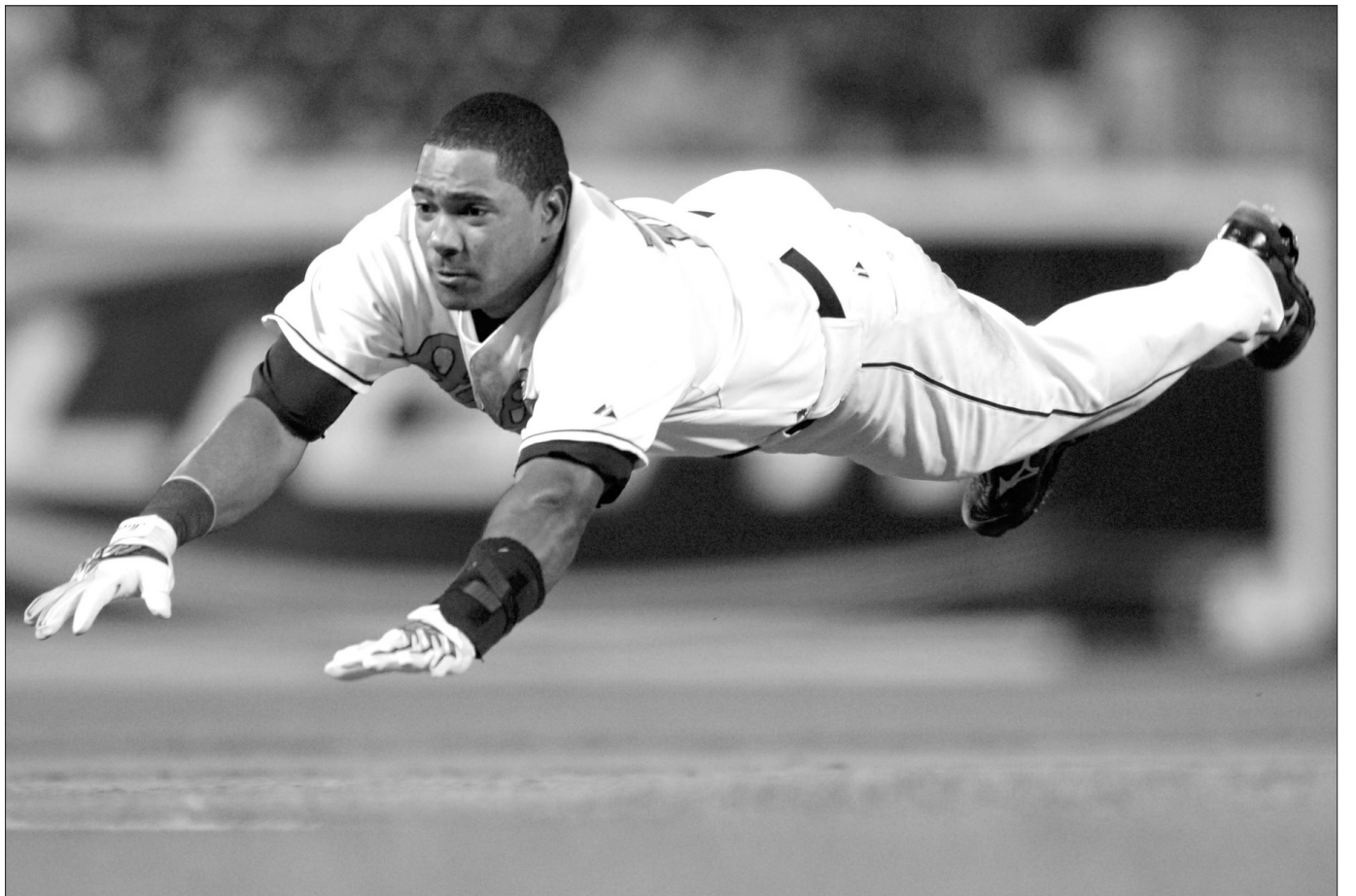
Two winters ago, Tejada caused a stir in Baltimore when he said he was unhappy with the Orioles' direction and wanted to be traded. He later backed off that stance.

"I feel very happy with this trade, because it's something that I've been really looking forward to," Tejada told The Associated Press by telephone from Miami.

Houston general manager Ed Wade said the Astros couldn't pass up the opportunity to add Tejada.

"The reality is when you are talking about a player of this magnitude, you have to go in with every expectation that the asking price is going to be very high and if you want to participate, it's going to be tough," he said.

Tejada hit .296 with 18 home runs and 81 RBIs this season. In 11 seasons, he has hit .287 with 258 home runs and 1,033 RBIs. His home run total ranks him fourth all-time among shortstops.



Miguel Tejada finishes a triple in action from the 2007 season by diving into third base. The Baltimore Orioles finally traded Tejada two years after he first made a request to be moved. Baltimore sent the All-Star shortstop to the Houston Astros for five players.

"This is a big day for us. We got a big bat to our lineup," Wade said.

Tejada is 31, and the Orioles were worried about his range at shortstop. He had resisted their efforts to move him over to third base.

Wade said while Tejada may not cover quite as much ground as he once did, the Astros are confident he'll be solid at short-

stop. Adam Everett, Houston's shortstop this season, will become an unrestricted free agent by Thursday, Wade said.

In 2005, Tejada came under scrutiny after teammate Rafael Palmeiro tested positive for steroids. Palmeiro said Tejada gave him vitamin B-12 that might have been tainted with performance-enhancing drugs.

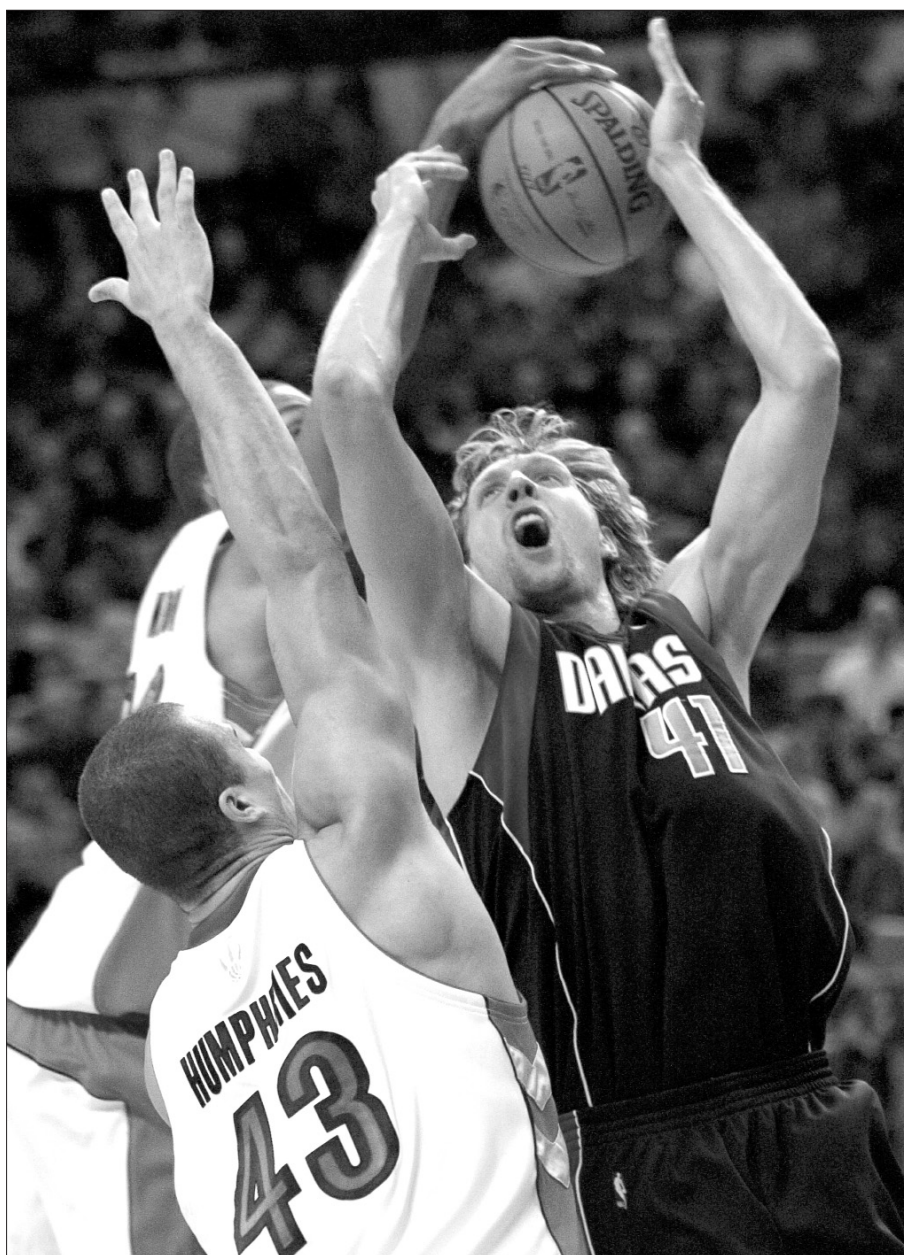
Tejada denied any steroid use

and his name has not been linked to any wrongdoing. Wade refused to make any comment on that subject.

"I'm not addressing the steroid issue," he said.

When asked if it was a coincidence that the deal for Tejada was announced a day before former Senate Majority Leader

See **TEJADA**, Page 2B



Toronto Raptors forward Jamario Moon (back) strips the ball as Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) drives to the hoop past Raptors forward Kris Humphries (43) during the first half of the Raptors' 96-72 victory in Toronto, Wednesday.

Raptors beat Mavs for first time in four years

The Associated Press

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors were determined to hold a lead against the Dallas Mavericks again. This time, they did.

Kris Humphries had 16 points and 12 rebounds, Chris Bosh scored 17 points and Toronto beat Dallas 92-76 Wednesday night for the Raptors' first win over the Mavericks in more than four years.

Toronto won its third straight and ended an eight-game slump against Dallas. The Raptors' last win over the Mavericks was a 77-71 victory on Nov. 6, 2003.

Toronto almost ended its streak earlier this year, but Dallas overcame a 24-point deficit to beat Toronto 105-99 on Nov. 20, the Mavericks' largest comeback for a regulation win.

"We could have been intimidated by them because of what happened in Dallas the last time we played them," Bosh said. "We stood our ground, came out hard and fast. We jumped on them and played good defense."

Dallas' 76 points were a season low. Jason Terry had 21 points for Dallas, while Josh Howard added 19.

"Our defense the past two games has been as good as they can get," Raptors coach Sam Mitchell said.

Howard left after being poked in the eye early in the fourth quarter and did not return.

One game after scoring a season-high 36 points, Dirk Nowitzki had just 13 points, shooting 6-for-15.

"He just couldn't get it going tonight," Dallas coach Avery Johnson said.

Nowitzki said Humphries' rebounding hurt the Mavericks.

"Humphries killed us on the glass, which is all hustle," Nowitzki said. "You've got to put a body on him and get some rebounds defensively."

Leading 21-17 after the first, Toronto outscored Dallas 15-2 in the first four minutes of the second.

"Man, we just weren't very good, and that's why they got control of the game," Johnson said.

The Raptors led 54-36 at the half, but refused to get comfortable.

"We built that lead and I think everybody was nervous and on their toes the whole time," Bosh said. "We were trying to stay aggressive. We didn't just sit back and see if we could keep the lead. We went and took it."

A 3-pointer by Howard cut the gap to nine in the final minute of the third, but Toronto ended the

See **NBA**, Page 2B

Obituaries

Ann McKnight



Ann McKnight, 64, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2007, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, 2007, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Walter McCall, Odyssey Hospice chaplain, officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ann was born June 15, 1943, in Fort Smith, Ark., to Mazie and John Saunders. She was a graduate of Baylor University with a bachelor of science degree from the School of Dental Hygiene in 1966.

Ann had been a resident of Big Spring since 1979, coming from Carrollton. She had worked for Dr. Rickey, Dr. Cauley and Dr. Ward. Ann married the love of her life, Kirk McKnight, May 20, 1989, in Big Spring. They were blessed with 18 wonderful years of devotion to one another. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

Ann is survived by her husband, Kirk McKnight of Big Spring; two sons, John Olson and his wife, Kellie, of Beaumont, and Tommy Olson and his wife, Nikki, of Punta Gorda, Fla.; and six grandchildren, Ashley, Kayley and Chelsea, all of Beaumont, and Christopher, Michael and Zachary all of Punta Gorda, Fla.

The family suggests memorials to the American Diabetes Association, Midland Office, 10 Desta Drive, Suite 220E, Midland 79705.

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

Paid obituary

Edward Lee Loveless Jr.



Funeral services for Edward Lee Loveless Jr., 64, of Grand Prairie will be 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, 2007, at Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Prairie. Burial will follow at the Grand Prairie Memorial Gardens.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Edward went home to be with his Lord on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2007, in Arlington. He was born to Edward and Bessie Loveless on Nov. 27, 1943, in Big Spring. He was an educator for almost 40 years and a faithful husband to his wife Mary for 37 years. Edward was a dedicated Christian and member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Prairie.

Left behind to cherish his memory is his wife, Mary Loveless of Grand Praire; sons Stephen Loveless and his wife, Martha, of Big Spring and Brian Loveless and his wife, Jennifer, of Grand Prairie; stepmother June Loveless of Big Spring; brothers David Loveless and Robert Loveless, both of Big Spring; sisters Cheryl Beddingfield of Phoenix, Ariz., and Linda Robertson of Deer Park; and grandchildren Aubree and Vance Loveless, Michael Esquibel and Stephanie Sanchez.

Edward is preceded in death by his father, Edward Loveless Sr.; mother, Bessie Loveless; and stepmother, Lea Loveless.

Homestead Funeral Home of Grand Prairie is in charge of arrangements.

Paid obituary

Myrtle E. McElreath-Williams



Myrtle E. McElreath-Williams, 95, of Fort Worth, formerly of Big Spring, died Dec. 12, 2007, in a Fort Worth nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with her son, the Rev. Weldon McElreath, officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Survivors include four sons, Weldon McElreath of Holly Lake Ranch, Bill McElreath of Jacksboro, Jesse McElreath of Fort Worth and Ronnie Williams of Artesia, N.M.; one daughter, Irene Ringener of Big Spring; two sisters, Eldora Caughey and Marie Chapman, both of Big Spring; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Robert C. 'Bob' Johnson

Robert C. "Bob" Johnson, 71, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007, in an Odessa hospice facility. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today:

- **MARCUS E. STURGILL**, 18, of 1216 E. 15th Street, was arrested Wednesday on two local capias warrants.
- **LINDA SMITH**, 56, of 1210 S. Main Street, was arrested Wednesday on a local citation.
- **MARCOS HERNANDEZ**, 34, of 1907 Potosi, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **ELVIN GRIFFIN**, 43, of 3304.5 W. 19th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- **LACEY CHAVARRIA**, 21, of 1105 Mesa, was arrested Wednesday on six local warrants.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- **POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 900 block of Lamesa.
- **DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM** was reported in the 200 block of Fourth Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1200 block of Main Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 70 inmates at the time of this report.
- **RUDOLPH AVALOS JR.**, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a habitation.
 - **ANTONIO FLORES**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
 - **BRODERICK RAY BRADLEY**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
 - **MICKEY RAY GREEN**, 23, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of violation of a promise to appear, no driver's license and bondsman off bond for driving while license invalid.
 - **RICHARD SHAUN MAY**, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and reckless driving.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2100 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 900 block of E. 14th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of E. 12th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 900 block of Gregg Street. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of Hilltop. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of E. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 300 block of Tulane. Service refused.

Weather

Tonight...Increasing clouds. Lows in the lower 30s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Highs in the lower 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow. Lows in the lower 30s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs around 50. North winds 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Sunday...Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Tuesday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs around 60.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-16-20-32-34-42
Number matching six of six: none.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-6-9-16-19
Number matching five of five: 2.
Prize per winner: \$12,315.
Winning tickets sold in: Denton and Rowlett.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-1-0-3. Sum It Up: 10.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-6-0. Sum It Up: 14.

Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center to Monroe Casey and the Prowlers, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Take Note

• Serendipity (for women only) will meet at College Baptist Church at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17. As we spend a short time with Mary the Mother of Jesus, come and experience Christmas in a new, different and exciting way. Door prizes, gifts, food and desserts and included. Free child care is provided. RSVP the church at 432-267-7429.

• Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is \$10, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, call 263-9775.

• St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.

A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming an Odyssey Healthcare volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

• All creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

• Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

BIG SPRING HERALD

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REMEMBER! Find It In Big Spring First!

NBA

Continued from Page 1B

quarter with a 7-0 run to push the lead back to 16.

Dallas guard Eddie Jones was assessed a flagrant foul for hauling down Toronto's Darrick Martin on a breakaway with 17 seconds left in the third.

It was the second night in a row a Toronto point guard was the victim of a flagrant foul. T.J. Ford left Tuesday's victory at Atlanta on a stretcher after his head struck the floor when he was knocked down by Atlanta rookie Al Horford.

Ford, who spent the night in an Atlanta hospital before flying home to Toronto on Wednesday afternoon, received a loud ovation when he walked out to the Raptors' bench during a second quarter time out.

"I wanted to come out and support my teammates. Whether I came out on the floor or not, I just wanted to show those guys that I'm OK."

Johnson said Ford's situation seemed to boost the Raptors.

"They had us down pretty good the first time and we came back and won," Johnson said. "They got a lead tonight and they kept it. They seemed to have more energy tonight, espe-

cially after what happened with T.J. Maybe that gave them some extra juice."

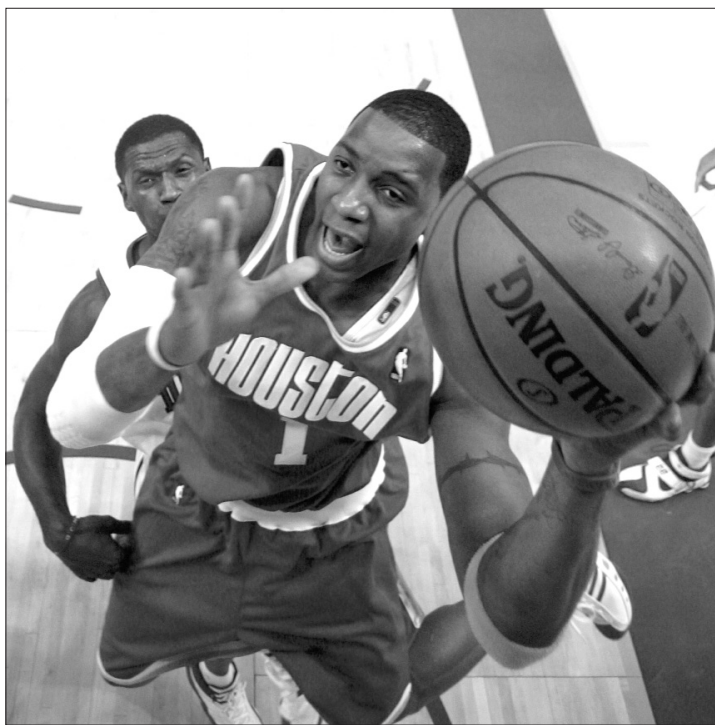
Notes: Dallas G Devin Harris (stomach virus) did not dress. ... Nowitzki's season low is 11 points, set Nov. 10 at Portland. ... The Mavericks missed their first seven shots.

Rockets 80, Pistons 77

The Houston Rockets had a terrible time at the free-throw line. Good thing for them, the Detroit Pistons seemed to miss from everywhere else.

The Rockets made five of their last seven free throws after an awful start and took advantage of Detroit's poor shooting across the board to beat the Pistons 80-77 Wednesday night.

Houston missed 14 of its first 15 shots from the line and finished one errant attempt shy of matching Orlando — 6-for-23 (26.1 percent) at New Jersey on Dec. 12, 1994 — for the third-worst mark in NBA history.



AP photo/David J. Phillip
Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady goes up for a shot as Detroit Pistons' Antonio McDyess, rear, watches during the first quarter of the Rockets' 80-77 win Wednesday in Houston.

"It's mental. It's just you and the basket," said Tracy McGrady, who missed all five of his attempts. "And the fans definitely don't make it easy on you. Every time you miss, (they say), 'Awww!' 'Awww!' That's the worst thing you can do to a player — especially at home."

McGrady scored 29 points and

Yao Ming added 21 points and 13 rebounds to help the Rockets win for the third time in seven games.

"I've never seen a night like that, where we miss so many free throws — and won the ballgame," McGrady said.

Bonzi Wells went 2-for-9 from the free-throw line. Luther Head went 1-for-2. Even Yao, an 88-percent shooter from the line, was off, going 3-for-6.

"Oh, man. We can lose a game because of that," Yao said. "Tomorrow, I'm going to come here and shoot at least 100 free throws. It's almost like you give away free points and give away a game."

Toronto holds the mark, missing all three of its attempts against the Charlotte Hornets on Jan. 9, 1996, and the Rockets' 3-for-14 performance (21.4 percent) against Portland on Feb. 22, 1983, is second.

Houston was able to overcome its bad free-throw shooting because the Pistons seemed to miss from everywhere else.

Detroit shot 36 percent (30-for-83) from the field, including 4-for-15 on 3-pointers, and 13-for-22 from the line.

Rasheed Wallace scored 21, Chauncey Billups added 15 and Richard Hamilton had 14 for Detroit, which won seven of its previous eight by an average of 20 points.

"We did one good thing," Detroit coach Flip Saunders said. "We defended very well at the free-throw line."

Pacers 117, Bulls 102

Kareem Rush scored 22 points to lead Indiana in a game that featured five technical fouls and two ejections. Jamaal Tinsley added 18 points and eight assists for the Pacers in their first home game since he was shot at, but unhurt, early Sunday morning in downtown Indianapolis.

Ben Gordon led Chicago with 18 points, but he shot just 7-for-21 from the field.

Celtics 90, Kings 78

Rookie Glen Davis had 16 points and nine rebounds, and made all 10 of his free throws in his first start to help host Boston improve to an NBA-best 18-2. Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 26 points, Ray Allen had 15 and Kevin Garnett added 11.

TEJADA

Continued from Page 1B

George Mitchell's report on drug use in baseball was to be released, Wade said, "the deal was announced today because we finished it this morning."

Wade joked that he had no idea what would be in Mitchell's report.

"Barnes & Noble didn't send me my advanced copy," he said.

Tejada said he figures he'll adjust easily to the National League, and that the cozy ballpark dimensions in Houston will benefit him.

"I was in Houston last week and I've played in Minute Maid Park in the All-Star game, so I think I'll do great in that city," Tejada said.

The 2002 AL MVP with Oakland is owed \$13 million in each of the next two years, the final seasons of a \$72 million, six-year contract.

The trade was the latest big move by Wade, who took over as GM in September. Houston finished 73-89, two years after reaching the World Series for the first time.

Earlier this month, the Astros finalized their \$16.5 million, three-year contract with free-

agent second baseman Kaz Matsui. He's expected to bat second behind new leadoff man Michael Bourn, acquired in November as part of a trade that sent reliever Brad Lidge to Philadelphia.

Tejada had played all 162 games in six straight years before playing 133 this season. In 2006, Tejada sometimes drew the ire of the Orioles for failing to run out grounders and being the last player to arrive at the ballpark.

The Orioles went 69-93 this season and were hoping to restock their roster.

"That's one of the concepts

behind, in this position, obtaining five players in exchange for one," Orioles president of baseball operations Andy MacPhail said. "Nobody knows for certain how these young players are going to evolve, but if you get five you start playing the percentages, quite honestly."

Scott, 29, hit .255 with 18 homers and 64 RBIs as Houston's regular right fielder. Albers, a 24-year-old righty, went 4-11 with a 5.86 ERA.

Patton, a 22-year-old lefty, made his major league debut this season. Sarfate, a 26-year-old righty, was 1-0 in seven relief appearances.

Costanzo, 24, was acquired from Philadelphia in the deal that also brought Bourn. He hit 27 home runs in Double-A this season. The Orioles will assign him to the minors.

Notes: The Orioles designated RHP Cory Doyno for assignment. ... The Orioles signed OF Tike Redman to a one-year contract. He hit .318 in 40 games this season.

Associated Press Writer Dionisio Soldevila in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and AP Sports Writer David Ginsburg in Baltimore contributed to this report.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

The Rangers previously acquired first baseman Chris Shelton in a trade from Detroit, but he spent all of last season in the minor leagues.

Bradley and the Rangers reached a preliminary agreement Sunday on a contract worth \$5.25 million, but that was pending the physical that Bradley took Wednesday in Texas. Bradley played in Oakland in 2006, when Rangers manager Ron Washington was a coach there.

Bradley can earn an

additional \$2.75 million in performance bonuses with the Rangers.

Bradley was the second-half offensive catalyst for the Padres, who fell one win short of going to their third straight trip to the playoffs. But he got hurt when Black was trying to keep him from going after umpire Mike Winters during a confrontation on Sept. 23.

San Diego and Bradley, who has a history of losing his temper, claimed Winters baited the player into the confrontation and directed a profanity at him. Winters was suspended for the final five days of the regular season

and didn't work the post-season.

Bradley finished the year hitting .306 with 13 homers and 37 RBIs in 61 games with Oakland and San Diego.

The Rangers anticipate Bradley eventually playing center field, but not at the beginning of the season.

"He's going to be ready earlier to DH than he is to play the outfield," Daniels said. "Ron may kind of gradually work him in

different spots until he feels his 100 percent. Our goal will be to get his bat in the lineup as early as we can."

As for the prospects of re-signing Otsuka, Daniels didn't sound optimistic.

"We just couldn't find any common ground," Daniels said. "The risk was more than we felt comfortable with. ... We talked about some type of shared-risk deal."

While there had been

positive reports from Otsuka's rehabilitation, Daniels said that wasn't enough without some protection in the contract for the team.

Hulett was a 14th-round draft pick by the Rangers in 2004 and has yet to play in the majors. He hit .275 with 11 homers and 67

RBIs in 132 games at Triple-A Oklahoma last season.

To make room on their roster for Broussard, the Rangers designated outfielder Nick Gorneault for assignment. Texas then failed to offer Gorneault a 2008 contract, making him a free agent.



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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Opening Lead Tells the Tale

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ J 4
♥ A Q 6 3 2
♦ Q 10 5
♣ A 8 2
WEST
♠ 8 5
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ A K J 9 7 6 2
♣ —
EAST
♠ 7 3 2
♥ —
♦ 8 4 3
♣ K J 10 7 6 5 4
SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 9 6
♥ K 7 5 4
♦ —
♣ Q 9 3

The bidding:
West North East South
3♦ Pass 5♦ 5♠
Pass 6♣
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

You don't have to play bridge very long before you learn the telling effect an opening lead can have on the outcome of a hand. Here is a spectacular example.

The deal arose in a team match, and the bidding at the first table went as shown. East tried to muddy the waters with his five-diamond bid, but North-South reached six spades anyway. East elected not to double the slam — which would have directed West to lead a suit other than diamonds — because he wasn't sure his side would get a second trick even if West led a heart.

Without the double, West natu-

rally led a diamond, ruffed by South. It might seem that declarer is sure to lose a heart and a club regardless of the opening lead, but he proceeded to prove otherwise.

Trumps were drawn, after which South led a heart to the queen. When East discarded a club, West's distribution became an open book — he had started with two spades, four hearts and either six or seven diamonds headed by the A-K, and therefore at most one club. So declarer played the ace and another club, East taking the king and exiting with a club to the queen.

South then ran all his trumps, coming down to the K-7-5 of hearts in his hand while dummy had the A-6-3 of hearts and queen of diamonds when the last trump was led. West could not guard both suits, so the slam came home.

At the other table, South wound up in only four spades after West opened one diamond and North overcalled with one heart. East later doubled four spades, hoping West would read this as requesting a heart lead.

Though the meaning of this double is certainly open to debate, West was obviously on the same wavelength as East, because he led the eight of hearts at trick one! East ruffed and returned a club, and before declarer could bat an eye, East had scored three heart ruffs and West two club ruffs for down two!

Bridge is at times a very strange game.

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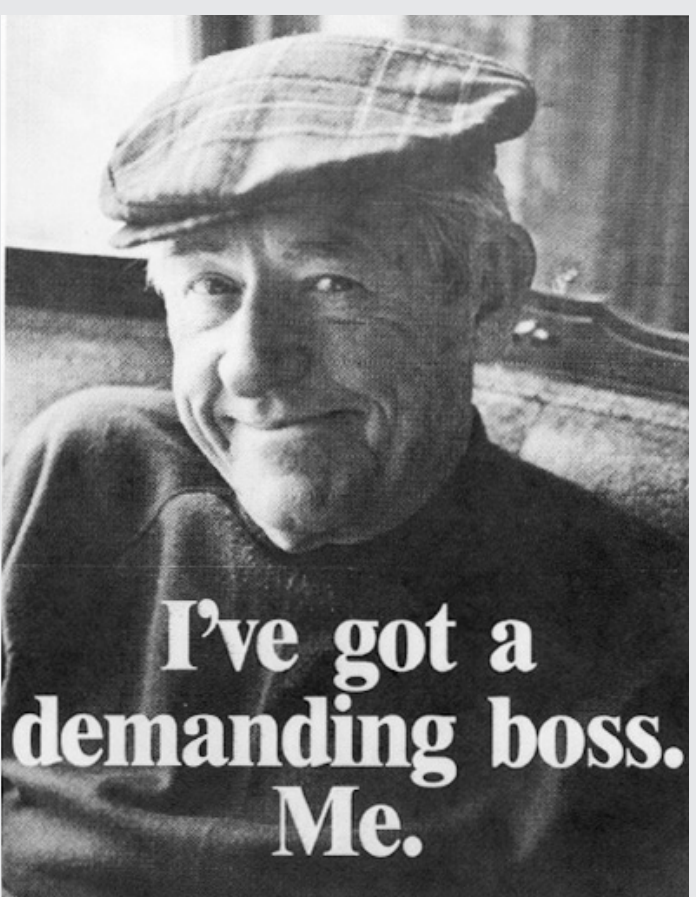
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HERALD

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GREATER OPPORTUNITIES OF THE PERMIAN BASIN INC.: Project Head Start has the following position available: **Teacher Aide:** Must be 18 years of age and have a High School Diploma or GED. Must be able to attend training and participate in child development classes and occasionally attend out-of-town training. **Teacher:** Must have a degree AA or BA in Early Childhood Education, Child Development or related field or a CDA Credential. All applicants must; Be 18 or older. Pass a pre-employment drug screen. Post-employment Criminal History check must be clear of felony convictions to continue employment with the agency. Agency offers OJT, benefit package for all full and part-time employees. Applicants may apply at Lakeview Head Start 1107 NW 7th St. Big Spring, Tx. Positions will be opened until filled. Applications available on line www.gopb.org. All interviews will be held at the Administration Office at 206 W. 5th in Odessa, Tx..

HIRING IMMEDIATELY for Night Watchman. Must have a clean background check, reliable transportation, and a valid driver's license. Retirees welcome to apply. Call 719-523-3194 after 2pm.

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Maintenance/ Electronics/ Electrician Positions

The Colorado River Municipal Water District has openings for Maintenance Workers in Big Spring. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful. CRMWD has an opening for an Electronics Technician and also an Electrician. Electronic and/or Electrical experience required.

District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. EOE Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling 432-267-6341.

MIDWEST FINANCE CORP now hiring assistant manager/collector. Benefit package. Pay DOE. Apply in person, 600 S. Gregg. No Phone Calls!

NEEDED LVN or RN 8-5 M-F Chg./tx Nurse \$18.50 + DOE/ \$25.00 DOE. 10-6 Chg. Nurse-M-F starts @ \$20.00 + DOE. Could be more. Call Tammy at Mountain View Lodge 432-263-1271.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

NOW SEEKING Part time LVN position for Martin County Home Health. If interested please contact Allison Williams, RN @ (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now Hiring for Certified Nurse Aides. We have the following shifts open: * 6am-2pm shift * 10pm-6am shift Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

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PROMLING LODGE N. of Sterling City looking for hard-working, energetic, pleasant, individual to host, cook, clean for guest. GOOD PAY and TIPS. Will Train. Jan.-Feb. Call Monica 325-280-3675.

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Lost and Found

FOUND POMERANIAN dog in Edward's Heights Addition. Call 432-263-0307 to identify.

FOUND SATURDAY 12/08/2007 in Wal-Mart parking lot. Medal type lapel pin with name and Inscription. Possibly someone's keepsake. Call and identify. [432]466-0215.

LOST MINI Doberman (male) tan in color, collar w/tags. Answers to Buddy lee. Last seen in Sand Springs on Terry Road & I-20. Call 432-393-5706.

Miscellaneous

BRAND NEW double size mattress set \$100, TWIN \$90, Both new. 806-549-3110.

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AIR NUMBER bed, dual control, pick your number, NEW \$899. 806-549-3110.

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NEW MAHINDRA Tractors are located at 6011 East Hwy 80, Midland TX. (Take Exit 144, off I-20, Located North Service Rd. of Business 20.) Full service dealer. Hours 8am-7pm Monday-Friday, Saturday 8am-12noon. Low interest rates and long term financing available. Cultivate your dreams. The Tractor that out weighs, out lifts and out performs the competition. www.beenetractors.com

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NICE BRICK Office Building at 2000 South Birdwell Lane, 3300 sq. feet, with 11 Offices and ample parking. \$1500 Per month. Please Contact Lucy 432-263-5000.

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32 CITY Lots for Sale By Owner. \$750.00 Cash or \$1,000.00 with \$100.00 Down. Payments \$100.00 per month. Call (432)689-2429.

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2005 HARLEY Davidson DYNA Lowrider. Cobalt Blue with lots of chrome. Less than 4k miles, and garage kept. Forward controls, custom grips, detachable windshield and sissy bar. \$11,500 Firm. Scott 432-213-2732.

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2005 HARLEY Davidson DYNA Lowrider. Cobalt Blue with lots of chrome. Less than 4k miles, and garage kept. Forward controls, custom grips, detachable windshield and sissy bar. \$11,500 Firm. Scott 432-213-2732.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Bundle up and grab your cocoa to view the Geminid meteor shower, visible in



HOLIDAY MATHIS

North America early this morning and tonight. Every 1 to 2 minutes, dazzling, yellowish meteors shower the dark sky, emanating from the constellation Gemini. As Mercury and Neptune link, celestial visions illuminate our imaginations. Let the magic begin!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're not afraid of being the bad guy. Your boundaries and expectations are very clear. You know what you need and can accurately assess who is able and willing to give that to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're not easily fooled. You look at the evidence. For instance, when evaluating whether someone really loves you, you go by what this person has done for you lately instead of trusting words, vibes or good intentions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The extremely happy and extremely sad people seem to find you. Seeing a full emotional range helps you have great empathy. Ultimately, it's your own life that becomes richer because of this.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have a nose for bargains. You'll pick up fabulous holiday gifts at a discount. Tonight, get to the bottom of a confusing miscommunication. Probe gently to get to the

essence of the matter. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Confrontation is lucky. Don't pull back when you can run forward. The afternoon brings a perfect time to say what's on your mind. Your confidence grows as you hold others to their word.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Emotions are your magic mode of transportation. When you put your feelings out there, you can make impossible leaps and bridge unachievable distances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). More isn't always better, and today more is worse as it's all bulk and clutter. Try to get by with the resources you already have. You'll be amazed at your own ingenuity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Planets smile on your efforts to figure out where you stand financially. Make your list of liabilities and assets so you'll be clear about how best to approach the rest of the month.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have the opportunity to give someone a gift that was never extended to you. Your willingness to act in this selfless way makes at least three people happy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Is this love situation worth the risk that's involved? What about your fragile heart? Romance is for the bold. Dive in. Tonight, you're particularly irresistible!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You detect lies better than a polygraph test — you know what questions to ask and how to listen. You can avoid disappointment by acting on what you know.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Have no fear of your

feelings or anyone else's. Laughter heals. And there is power and sacredness in tears. Embrace loved ones regardless of their emotional state.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm an Aquarius born on Jan. 30, 1978 (11:21 a.m., Brooklyn, N.Y.), and I am having a rough time of things lately. Both my husband and I were recently hurt and in the hospital (for separate incidents), and we also had our car vandalized. I was wondering when you see things improving for us and what you see for our future. We are thinking of starting a business, having kids and getting my photography out into galleries. His birthday is Feb. 12, 1978 (6 a.m., Istanbul, Turkey)."

Both of you have retrograde natal Mars in Cancer in your charts, and Mars entry into Cancer this fall triggered the accidents and vandalism involving movement (cars). No planet is inherently good or bad, but each has a shadow. Mars helps us stand up for our rights and go after what we want. He also charges anger, violence and accidents. As Mars moves backward through January 2008, try not to take any undue risks with your safety. Promote your photography to galleries April through June 2008. With Saturn transiting your children sector over the next two and a half years, you're contemplating the inherent responsibilities of starting a family and having a career before going for it.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Vanessa Hudgens says

Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: Four days ago, my husband and I waited 12 hours for the birth of our son's first baby. As soon as we were allowed to see our new grandchild, we rushed into the hospital room, thrilled beyond belief. Our joy was short-lived because soon after, our daughter-in-law's friends started arriving. My husband and I were speechless that grown people would be so rude and intrusive on OUR time.

Our grandchild was passed from friend to friend, and each one held the baby before my husband. I cannot believe the insensitivity of these people. We waited all day to share the joy with our son and his wife. These friends acted like they had a right to be there. They should have waited until the next day to visit and should have had enough common sense to know this was "family time."

We are saddened and angry that this once-in-a-lifetime moment was taken from us. Everyone watched the baby get his first bath while my husband and I looked over their shoulders. It was the ultimate intrusion, and the more I think about it, the angrier I become. Should I say something or let it



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

go? — No Name, No City

Dear No Name: Please, please, please, let it go. Chances are, those friends were specifically invited by your son and his wife, who wanted to share their joy with as many people as possible. You will have plenty of opportunities to get to know your grandson, and this particular time will become insignificant. His birth was not about you, and we urge you not to give the impression that it was.

Dear Annie: I am in a dead-end marriage and also am the caregiver for my husband's 85-year-old invalid mother. After my mother-in-law came out of the hospital two years ago, I was the only one who volunteered to take her in. I thought it would bring my husband and me closer, but it has only created more problems.

He won't even help me with her unless I start a fight about it. My husband's siblings — all four of them — said, "We'll help whenever you need something," and changed their minds shortly after she moved in. They visit her once a week and think it's enough. When I ask someone to come over so I can get out, I hear, "Why me? Ask someone else." She is THEIR

mother, not mine, and I am ready to run away.

My mother-in-law is a nice lady who helped me in the past and I am very grateful, which is one reason I took her in. But it's a burden to be tied down 24/7. Any suggestions? — Burned Out

Dear Burned Out: Being a caregiver is hard work and you are to be commended for taking on this often thankless job. Have your husband get his siblings together with you and create a schedule so each one is responsible for Mom one afternoon a week (or whatever you can work out). Or, ask them to contribute financially to the cost of a senior day care program or home assistance. We also recommend you contact the Family Caregiver Alliance (caregiver.org) at 1-800-445-8106 for help, support, information and resources.

Dear Annie: This is for "The First Wife." After 20 years of marriage, my husband left me for a younger woman when our kids were teens. I realize now that my husband was high maintenance and self-centered. When he left, there was less pressure and tension. We laughed more, talked more and I had plenty of time for the kids because I was no longer so focused on my husband's needs. I could make decisions without wondering how he would feel. Today I am a successful 66-year-old businesswoman with a supportive and loving husband. — Pensacola Grandma

Dear Pensacola: Your experience is proof that good things can happen after divorce if you are open to the possibilities.

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

KENTWOOD

Continued from Page 1A

generosity from our kids, that they wanted to give their own piggy bank money or allowance money to help those less fortunate," Rodriguez said. "It makes me more optimistic about the future of our community ... I'm very proud of our school."

She wasn't the only one. "This will help tremendously," Salvation Army Capt. Russ Keeney said. "This will make several children happy this Christmas, and it will give the Kentwood kids something too — they had a hand in making someone else happy."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Big Spring police and emergency medical technicians responded to a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Gregg and W. Ninth streets Wednesday afternoon. No major injuries were reported.

TOYS

Continued from Page 1A

"While food and clothing are important, to a child," Rumpff said at the time, "Christmas just isn't Christmas without a new toy."

"I don't think anything could be more true," Russ Keeney said in recalling Rumpff's observation. "That's why this toy drive is extremely important, because it allows us to supplement Angel Tree donations."

"There are a lot of families that have several children whose names are on the Angel Tree cards," Russ added. "And very often one person will pick up one child's card, while somebody picks up the other child from a family. Not everyone can give at the same level, so quite often one of the children will have been given

much more than another child in the same family has been given. Toys given to us during this drive allow us to even out the disparity.

"There are also situations where a child's card doesn't list a toy," Keeney added. "But we want to make sure every child has a toy."

For more information concerning the toy drive, call the Herald office at 263-7331.

Keeney also noted that the Salvation Army is also still in need of food donations, which can be dropped off at the corps building, located at 811 W. Fifth Street, or can also be dropped off with toys at the Herald's offices.

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley by calling 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.

SUSPECT

Continued from Page 1A

but the thief left the Travel Mart empty handed.

"It's believed the same male subject may have been involved in both

incidents," said Everett. "Both clerks gave a similar description of the man, saying he was a white male, approximately 18 to 20 years of age, between 5 feet, 8 inches and 5 feet, 10 inches tall with a slender build. He may have had a goatee

and a mustache, and was described as having dirty blond hair, wearing a blue hoodie pullover and blue jeans."

Everett said Crimestoppers is authorized to pay up to \$1,000 cash for information leading to the arrest and

indictment of any person or persons involved in criminal activity.

"Anyone with information on this crime can call 263-TIPS," said Everett. "Information is confiden-

tial and callers may remain anonymous. No caller-ID is ever used."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail

at citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

GRANT

Continued from Page 1A

Making BSISD buses more eco-friendly is entirely optional on the

district's part, Waggoner said.

"This is not something that was mandated. We don't have to retrofit the buses," she said. "But it is something we'd like to

do."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

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- FRED CLAUSS (PG) 4:30 PM
- THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) 4:40 PM / 7:10 PM

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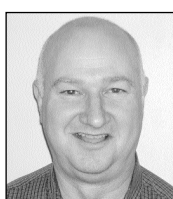
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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Let me share some basic lessons about giving Christmas gifts: Do not give a gift to impress people. Do not give a gift you cannot afford to buy. Do not give a gift because you desire a gift in return. Do not give a gift as a repayment for having been given a gift.

Let me share some basic lessons about the giving of Christ: Jesus was given; He was not loaned. Jesus cannot be bought but must be accepted. Jesus is a gift for every day of the year. Jesus is the gift that keeps giving. Jesus gives joy to hearts that are hurting. Jesus gives forgiveness to people that obey. Jesus gives peace to families that honor Him.

Let me share some basic reminders about the holidays: People may ask for fancy things but they really need faithfulness. People may be with other people yet still be lonely. People may open presents from Santa but they really need the presence of God. People do not need gifts from you as much as they need you.

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Share the magic at Big Spring's Festival of Lights

Although workers are still in the process of putting the finishing touches to their displays, thanks to the cold, rainy weather over the past few days, there's little doubt the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park will once again be a major attraction for Big Spring during the Christmas season.

Poinsettias, arranged around and reflected in the waters of the historic Big Spring and those lining the dam along U.S. 87 grab the eye, but they are just a few of the attractions at this year's new and improved Festival of Lights.

"The main attraction this year will be recognizing our military," said Festival of Lights President Pat Simmons said. "There will be a huge U.S. flag, with more than 1,000 lights, in the diorama area (adjacent to the community center)."

This holiday season, as in recent years, numerous businesses, civic groups and individuals have again been invited to take part in decorating for the festival and they've come through with even more magnificent efforts than ever before.

The festival begins Saturday night and will continue through Dec. 31.

The Festival normally draws thousands of visitors from several states and countries.

Even with the difficult weather of late, Simmons said the entire display will be something to see, if not 100 percent completely set up.

Saying the displays are about 93 percent complete, she said she doubts with the delay that the entire show will be ready in time for Saturday's opening. Visitors are always welcomed to return for another visit during the season.

Don't forget, admission is free, but donations from visitors are gratefully accepted — making it possible to not only maintain the displays, but expand them each year.

Be sure to take a few moments this holiday season, pack up the family or a few friends and take a tour through the park and enjoy the almost magical display volunteers have created.

We're convinced you'll be pleased with what you see and glad you took the time.

We always are.

How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Whatever needs doing, Lord, needs doing with You by our side.

Amen

Huckabee, Romney, church and state

The surfacing of the "religion question" in the Republican presidential primary campaigns of both Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee has raised important issues and exposed much public confusion about the intersection of religion and politics.

Secularists feign sympathy with Romney for having to address the Mormon question in response to alleged anti-Mormon bigots but condemn him for failing in his speech to expressly include nonbelievers among those whose religious liberty he would safeguard.

This particular attack on Romney by the secularist bigot patrol reveals their own religious bigotry, their ignorance or their disingenuousness. It goes without saying that robust religious liberty includes the freedom to believe in any religion or not to believe at all.

But the secularists' attacks on Huckabee are more serious. They have taken him to task for identifying himself as a "Christian leader" in Iowa, with some saying he was exploiting Romney's Mormonism and also violating the spirit of the constitutional prohibition on requiring religious tests for public office.

In a campaign ad, Huckabee says, "Faith doesn't just influence me. It really defines me," and he identifies himself as a "Christian leader."

It's one thing to read the First Amendment Establishment Clause as prohibiting the slightest government endorsement of the Christian religion (while not demonstrating similar angst over government promotion of secular humanism, New Age-ism, Islam or Native American spirituality). But it's taking it to an entirely new level to say that it precludes public officeholders from allowing their Christian worldview to influence their policy preferences or

governance.

Public officials cannot separate their worldview from their governance without gutting themselves into ciphers. Their policy agenda will necessarily reflect their value system. Voters in turn properly base their decisions on candidates in part on their respective values and how closely they resemble their own.

A friend of mine objects that it's wrong for Christians to impose their values through the laws. He cites Justice David Souter's opinion saying the government can't prefer one religion over another.

My friend is merely restating the popular misunderstanding that we cannot legislate morality. All laws are based on morality; the only question is whose morality is being imposed. The pro-abortionist seeks to impose his values by law just as much as the anti-abortionist.

When a Christian legislator votes to restrict abortion, he is not using government to endorse his religion any more than a secularist legislator is endorsing atheism by opposing those restrictions. The Christian legislator is not establishing Christianity but rather certain laws grounded in Christian values — as well as those of other religions.

Our elected public officials can support or oppose laws for whatever reasons they want, provided they don't otherwise violate the Constitution.

If they pass unpopular laws, the electorate may vote them out. But to make a constitutional challenge based on their motives for supporting or opposing laws is a scary prospect.

I wouldn't like it if a Hindu, Buddhist or Muslim were passing laws based on certain values with which I disagreed. But I would have no constitutional complaint if their final product — the laws they passed — were constitutional. My remedy would be to work against their reelection.

So, for Mike Huckabee to advertise his Christian credentials is not only proper but also admirable and quite useful because it helps

voters to identify who he is and what he might do if elected.

How can Huckabee define himself while omitting perhaps his most defining attribute: his Christianity? He is saying, for example, "You can count on me not to waiver on the abortion issue because my faith compels me to be pro-life."

It's also unfair to say he is appealing to anti-Mormon bigotry to promote himself as a Christian leader. He is just putting his best foot forward with Christian conservatives whose votes he is seeking. Couldn't we just as easily argue that it bespeaks an anti-Christian bigotry to suggest that merely by promoting his Christian pedigree, Huckabee is attacking other religions or non-religions?

You can be sure that if Huckabee gets the nomination, his opponents will "play the religion card" against him, like they have against President Bush for the last seven years, as in dubbing him a "messianic militarist."

Finally, Huckabee is not implicitly violating the Constitution's bar on imposing a religious test for public office by identifying himself as a Christian leader. The Constitution only forbids us from adopting by law a religious requirement for office. It doesn't bar candidates from promoting their religious backgrounds or forbid voters from considering those backgrounds.

Huckabee is perfectly within his rights to hold himself out as a Christian. Voters are perfectly within their rights to evaluate what that means.

I just hope that fellow Christian conservatives will look beyond the label and not blindly support a Christian candidate who might be way more Christian than conservative.

We shouldn't have to choose between the two.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. To find out more about him, visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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ADDRESSES

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The White House
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• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

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• **KEL SELIGER**
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Texas 31st District
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Phone: (432) 268-9909

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• **EMMA BROWN** — Home: 267-2649.

• **JERRY KILGORE** — 263-0724;
Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

• **BILL CROOKER** — Home: 263-2566.

• **GARY SIMER** — Home: 263-0260.

Middle East talks — the new fiasco

George W. Bush, who is — and this will make you laugh — President of the United States, has finally involved himself in the Middle East Peace Process (or MEPP, as some of us call it).

After seven years of benign neglect, Mr. Bush met with delegations from 46 interested countries and organizations at the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

His intent, he said, was "to facilitate" a meeting of minds between Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

I have this to say about that: Can we stop him before it's too late?

George Bush knows diddly-squat about the Middle East and even less about peace. (Who but Bush would convene a peace conference at a military academy?)

He's got a track record here, folks, and it's not a good one. He invaded Afghanistan, which went pretty well...until he turned away from the job of fighting al Qaida in order to invade Iraq, which hasn't gone so well.

The MEPP is a minefield for even the most sophisticated players, honeycombed with traps, ambushes and dead-ends. MEPP people talk in code.

If you say you're going to be "even-handed" in your dealings with Israelis and Palestinians, that means you're against Israel and probably an anti-Semite. Don't ask why, that's just the way it is. That's way too complex for

George Bush. Bush's idea of peace is to bomb a country until it surrenders. So far the bombing part is working out better than the surrender part.

I know what you're going to say, you people who read the "National Review" cover to cover:

Don't be so quick to dismiss our efforts in Iraq. The Surge seems to be working, just as George Bush said it would. Violence in Baghdad and is down; fewer American troops are being killed and maimed.

OK, violence is down. What did you expect?

You put a soldier with a gun on every corner and violence is going to go down. Markets will open; people will be more cheerful.

But less violence is no more than a pre-condition for the success of the Surge.

Real success would be if the warring factions of the country used the hiatus in violence to achieve political accommodation. And that's not happening.

Who am I to make such a judgment?

Fair question. Admittedly, I am no expert on the Middle East. Never been there. Before the war, I didn't know the difference between a Sunni Muslim and Sonny Bono.

In fact, if you gave me a blank map of the Middle East right now, I couldn't fill in the names of the countries.

Yet, despite that handicap, I was right about this war from the beginning, which is more than a lot of Middle East experts can say.

I ran across an old column the other day, written just after

Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered his case for the war to the United Nations.

Powell convinced me that Saddam was a bad guy who meant us harm and was in violation of the U.N. sanctions imposed on him after the first Gulf war. He even convinced me (much to my embarrassment today) that Saddam was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. However, I wrote:

"What I doubt is the immediacy of the threat he presents to us and, most importantly, why war is the best way to meet that threat."

I went on to write: "War is always a hideous thing and this one promises to be a particularly ugly one...the world's television screens will be filled with images of dead and dying, many of them women and children, as well as scenes of wretched refugees streaming in hordes from American bombs. And each picture will be a recruiting poster for al Qaida, the Muslim terrorist organization."

That's not a perfect forecast of the way things worked out, but it's in the ballpark. Closer than George Bush's experts came, anyway. That's why, maybe, you should listen to me when I say:

The Surge working? Bush involving himself in MEPP? Beware.

Don Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. E-mail him at dkaul1@verizon.net.

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CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

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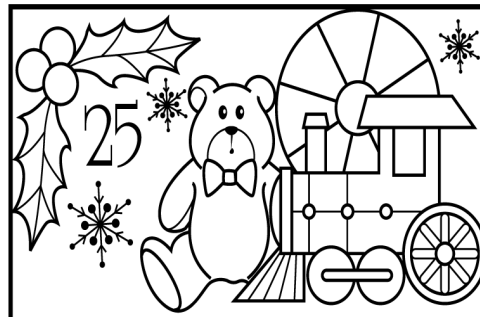
By

**Monday, Dec. 17, 2007
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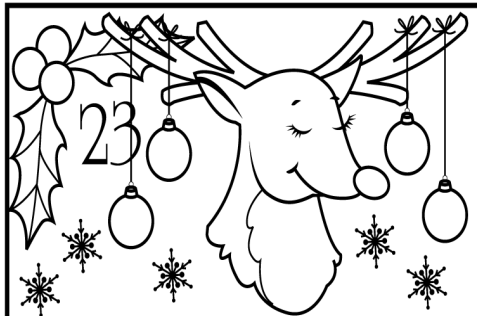
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3. Limit one entry per child. Entries will not be returned.
4. All entries must be turned in by Dec. 17, 2007, 5 p.m.
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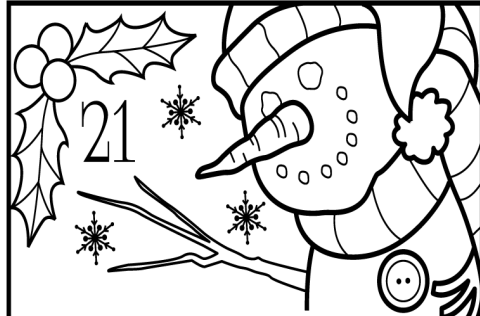
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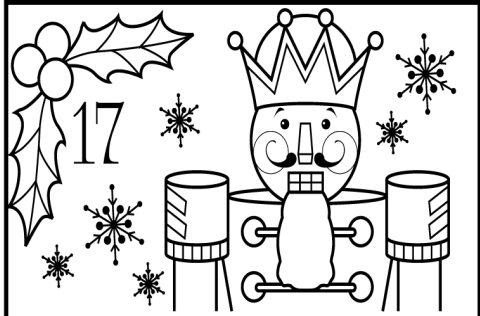
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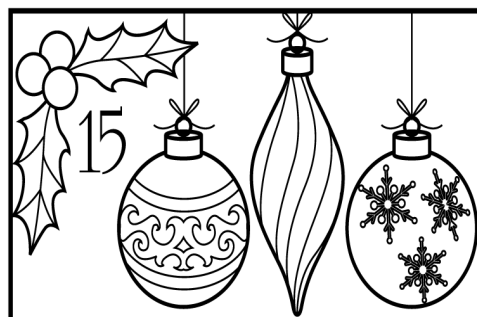
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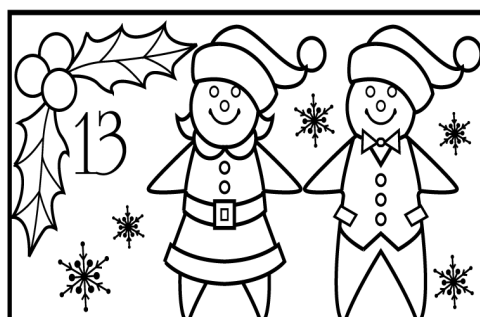
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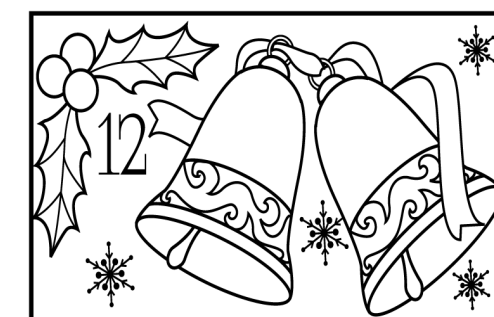
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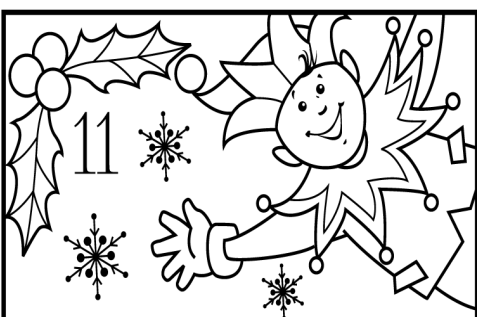
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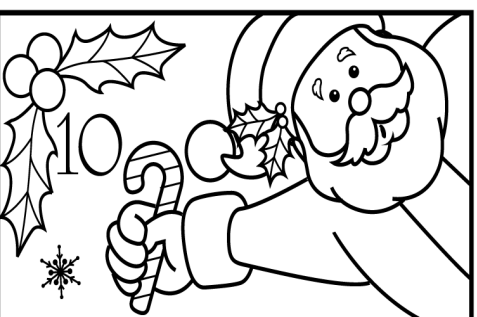
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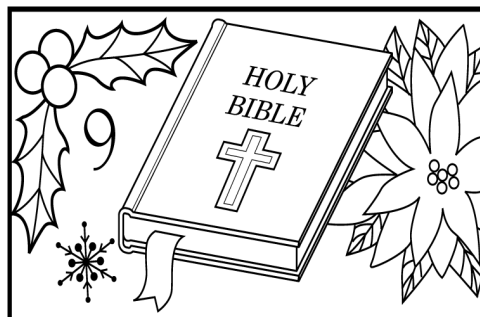
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DEADLINE: MONDAY, DEC. 17TH**

The new TT

Second generation of Audi icon launched

For sports car enthusiasts, there are two letters that need no introduction. It is an icon — even though the first Audi TT was launched in the U.S. just eight short years ago.

Its prowess for performance is legendary. Even when stationary, its graceful and fluid lines give the appearance of a powerful cat set to pounce.

Two letters are all you need to make the heart beat just a little faster.

And now we have the second generation. Earlier this year Audi launched the new TT Coupe. Longer and wider than its predecessor (which means more interior room), the 2008 TT takes the ball and moves it down the field.

Let's start with the body, which is constructed using the Audi Space Frame, an aluminum technology developed by the company in the early 90s for the first A8 series.

The body shell weighs 454 pounds (308 pounds aluminum, 146 pounds steel). By using the Audi Space Frame technology, weight has been reduced by 48 percent, which is

one of the key factors behind its impressive handling ability on the road.

Adding to its impressive road behavior is the fact that torsional rigidity has been improved by 50 percent over the previous model.

ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE

The new TT Coupe is available in three variations: front-wheel drive 2.0T, front-wheel drive 2.0T Premium and the all-wheel drive 3.2 quattro. A six-speed S tronic

automatic transmission is mated to the 2.0T models, while 3.2 quattro buyers also have the option of a 6-speed manual.

Audi trim line designations are based on engine size. As expected, the 2.0T models are powered by a transversely installed 2.0-liter four-cylinder turbo engine featuring Audi's gasoline direct injection technology. Turning out 207 lbs.-ft. of torque and 200 horsepower, it has a 0-60 mph time of 6.1 seconds and an electronically regulated speed of 130 mph. Requiring premium unleaded gasoline, it has an EPA fuel economy rating of 23 mpg city, 31 mpg highway.

The 3.2 quattro is pow-



The second generation 2008 Audi TT Coupe.

ered by a 3.2-liter transversely installed V6 engine yielding 236 lbs.-ft. of torque and 250 horsepower. It has a 0-60 mph time of 5.3 seconds and a quarter-mile time of 14.1 seconds. Also requiring premium unleaded fuel, the 3.2 quattro has an EPA fuel economy rating of 18 mpg city, 24 mpg highway.

While the new TT has

more interior room, the back seat of the 2+2 seating arrangement remains a seat in name only. It's a great place to toss an overnight bag or a couple of sacks of groceries, but don't plan on putting passengers back there — at least anyone you would like to remain friends with.

However, the trunk can accommodate 13.1 cubic feet of luggage (24.7 cubic

feet with the rear seat folded flat).

And I'm out of room to talk about all the interior changes and the long list of standard safety features.

The second generation TT is absolutely awesome and highly recommended for a test drive for those in the market for a sports car. And yes, there is a roadster version. I purposely didn't write

about it because I'm banking on Audi sending me one for a test drive. Stay tuned!

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedaily.com.

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THE NUTS AND BOLTS



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2+2-seat sports coupe
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Trim packages:
2.0T, 2.0T Premium, 3.2 P
PRICE RANGE:
\$35,000-\$50,000
ENGINE:
2.0-L turbo 4 (200 hp/207 T)
3.2-L 6-cylinder (250 hp/236T)
TRANSMISSION:
6-speed S tronic automatic
6-speed manual
EPA: 23/18 mpg city, 31/24 mpg highway (4/6)
FUEL: Premium unleaded

SUSPENSION: MacPherson strut (gas charged) with 3-point lower control arm, aluminum subframe, tubular anti-roll bar, track-stabilizing steering roll radius (front), four-link rear with separate spring/shock arrangement, subframe, tubular anti-roll bar (rear) [2.0T]
BRAKES: Dual-circuit brake system with diagonal split, ESP, hydraulic brake assist.
LENGTH: 164.5 inches
WHEELBASE: 97.2 inches
WIDTH: 72.5 inches
HEIGHT: 53.5 inches
WEIGHT: 2,965-3,450 lbs.
TRACK: 61.9/61.3 (front/rear)
FUEL TANK: 14.5 gallons
TIRES: 17-inch

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► News in brief

Letter signals possible use of eminent domain for border fence

EL PASO (AP) — In a written ultimatum to South Texas land owners opposed to plans to build a border fence, federal officials foreshadow the possible use of eminent domain to buy land for border fence construction.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff sent the letter to property owners who either refused or ignored requests to let federal land surveyors on their property.

The letter states that the government will first try to negotiate with land owners for the purchase of property it needs for construction of the fence. But it also warns that if no deal is reached, the government may go to court to "seek title and possession, and the court will determine fair market value."

A copy of the letter was released Wednesday to The Associated Press by Homeland Security.

Dated Friday, the letter also warns that the government will take property owners to court if they refuse to allow border fence workers and surveyors onto their land.

Attorney confirms suspended federal judge being investigated

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge suspended for allegedly harassing a female employee is being investigated by the U.S. Justice Department, his attorney confirmed Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Samuel Kent has also met with FBI agents to discuss the accusations against him, said Dick DeGuerin, his defense attorney.

"Judge Kent is confident he didn't break any laws and that a fair investigation will show that," said DeGuerin.

Kent has been accused of groping a former employee, Cathy McBroom, in his court chambers in March in Galveston, located 50 miles southeast of Houston.

The Judicial Council of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reprimanded Kent in September, ordering him on leave for four months. The reprimand gave no details about the allegations made against Kent.

Ike Turner, rock pioneer and ex-husband of Tina Turner, dies in San Diego at age 76

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Ike Turner managed to rehabilitate his image somewhat in the past few years, touring around the globe and drawing acclaim that included his first solo Grammy earlier this year.

But the 76-year-old's prodigious musical legacy was forever tarnished by his image as the drug-addicted, brutally abusive former husband of Tina Turner.

Turner, known with his ex-wife for such songs as "River Deep, Mountain High" and "Proud Mary," died Wednesday at his suburban home. No cause of death was immediately given.

In interviews toward the end of his life, Turner acknowledged many mistakes, but said he still carried

himself with pride.

"I know what I am in my heart. And I know regardless of what I've done, good and bad, it took it all to make me what I am today," he once told The Associated Press.

Rapper Pimp C to be buried in Port Arthur

HOUSTON (AP) — Pimp C, whose raspy Southern drawl and raw lyrical prowess attracted legions of fans, will be remembered at a memorial in his southeast Texas hometown.

The funeral for Pimp C, who was born Chad Butler, was set for 11 a.m. Thursday at the Robert A. Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur.

Pimp C, one-half of the trailblazing rap duo Underground Kingz, was found dead in the Mondrian Hotel in Los Angeles on Dec. 4. He was 33.

Officials said he apparently died in bed and there were no signs of foul play. Autopsy and toxicology results weren't yet available.

UGK laid the groundwork for the unprecedented success of Southern rap in this decade, and countless rap superstars name the group as a major influence.

Close Senate vote expected on energy bill that would mark a new direction

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic leaders anticipated a close vote as the Senate prepared to consider an energy bill that supporters say will mark a new direction and move the country away from gas-guzzling cars and toward greater reliance on nonfossil fuels.

The legislation, similar to a package of energy proposals passed a week ago by the House, repeals billions of dollars in tax breaks for the largest oil companies, requires a 40 percent boost in automobile fuel efficiency and a massive increase in the use of ethanol as a motor fuel.

Some of the details were still being worked out late Wednesday as Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada mapped out strategy to overcome a certain GOP filibuster against the bill's \$21.8 billion tax package, including repeal of \$13.5 billion in tax breaks enjoyed by the five largest oil companies.

Democrats, who may lose one or two of their own in the voting, will need significant support from the GOP Senate ranks to get the 60 votes needed to overcome Republican procedural roadblocks.

The revenues would be used to give tax and other incentives to develop clean and renewable energy such as wind and solar energy, coal plants that capture their carbon dioxide emissions, and ethanol made from cellulosic feedstocks such as prairie grasses and wood chips.

1 suspect arrested in Denver in Las Vegas school bus stop shooting that injured 6 people

LAS VEGAS (AP) — An 18-year-old man was arrested in a shooting at a school bus stop that injured six young people, police said.

Nicco Tatum was arrested Wednesday in Denver after authorities received a tip that he was headed to Chicago on a bus, police Capt. Kirk Primas said. Tatum is expected to be booked on six counts of attempted murder with a deadly weapon and six counts of battery with a deadly weapon.

Police were still searching for a second suspect. Six people were wounded Tuesday at a bus stop a few miles from Mojave High School in North Las Vegas. At least one teen remained hospitalized Wednesday.

Alejandro Rios, 18, who was shot in the torso, was upgraded from critical to serious condition, University Medical Center spokeswoman Cheryl Persinger said. A 17-year-old male also hospitalized had been listed in serious condition late Tuesday, but an update was not available because he has chosen to keep his information private, Persinger said.

Iran, NKorea nuclear programs and Mideast peace process top Rice's agenda for final year

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea, the rocky resumption of the Middle East peace process, instability in Lebanon and uncertainty in Iraq will dominate Bush administration foreign policy concerns during its final year.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press in her State Department office, Rice said Wednesday that Iran and North Korea, two of the three charter members of President Bush's "axis of evil," have a long way to go before shedding that tag despite recent developments.

"They are clearly still states about which there are significant proliferation concerns," Rice said. "It would be very irresponsible not to deal with those dangers."

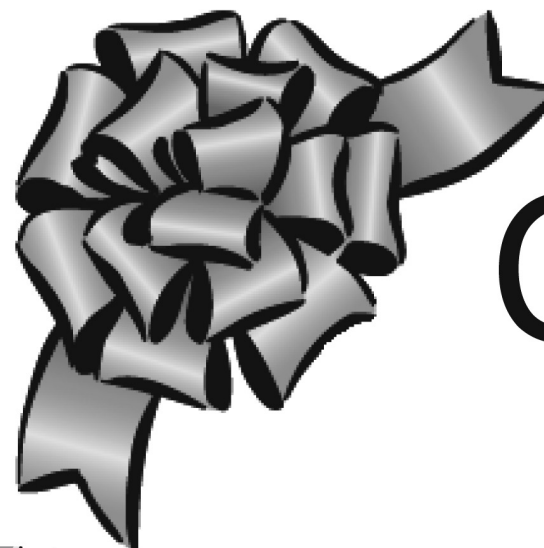
Her comments follow the release of new U.S. intelligence that finds Tehran stopped nuclear weapons development in 2003 and apparent progress in efforts to get Pyongyang to abandon its atomic arms program, including unprecedented political and cultural exchanges.

European nations threaten to boycott U.S.-led climate talks, German minister says

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — European nations on Thursday threatened to boycott U.S.-led climate talks next month unless Washington accepts a range of numbers for negotiating deep reductions of global-warming emissions at a U.N. conference here.

The move raised the stakes as delegates from nearly 190 nations entered final-hour talks on Bali aimed at launching negotiations for a successor to the Kyoto Protocol.

The United States, Japan and several other governments refuse to accept language in a draft document suggesting that industrialized nations consider cutting emissions by 25 percent to 40 percent by 2020, saying specific targets would limit the scope of future talks.



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From the Berlin Wall to Big Spring, Texas

Jones named Veteran of the Month for December

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Clem Jones never saw combat, but he saw just about everything else during a 21-year military career.

Jones, named Hangar 25's Veteran of the Month for December, talked about his Air Force career that took him literally around the world — and finally to Big Spring — during ceremonies Tuesday night.

The Trumann, Ark., native joined the Air Force shortly after its formation in 1948 and served at duty stations ranging from Japan to England to the shadows of the Berlin Wall.

And he never heard a shot fired in anger.

"I don't have any combat stories to tell — because I didn't see any combat," he joked at the beginning of his address.

Although he never became directly involved in combat operations, he performed yeoman support service while stationed in Japan during the Korean War.

"I was with some friends when we heard over Armed Forces Radio that North Korea had invaded South Korea," Jones said. "Like the hick from the sticks that I was, my first thought was, 'Where the heck is Korea?' Well, over the next few days, I found out more about Korea than I

"We just liked it here, I thought the relationship between the community and the Air Force was the best I had ever seen, so we decided to stay here — and it's worked out just fine."

— Clem Jones

several years criss-crossing the Atlantic Ocean, seeing duty in such diverse places as Southampton, England, and Mount Lemon, Ariz.

His globetrotting was capped with a stint in West Berlin during the height of the Cold War in the early mid-1960s.

"We were 110 miles behind the Iron Curtain," Jones said. "It was quite a situation. It could have been bad, but it worked out OK."

In 1968, he was transferred to an Air Force base in a small town in West Texas he had passed through several years before.

"When we were heading to Tucson we passed through Big Spring," he said. "My wife asked me, 'What do you think?' and I said, 'Well, it looks kind of desolate.'"

He would change his opinion of Big Spring soon enough. After capping his career with a stint at Webb AFB, he retired and decided to stay in the area.

"We just liked it here," he said. "I thought the relationship between the community and the Air Force was the best I had ever seen, so we decided to stay here — and it's worked out just fine."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

ever wanted."

Working in support of the 35th Fighter Wing during the conflict entailed plenty of 20-hour days. Days off, on the other hand, were extremely few and far between, he said.

"I didn't get any time off for about two months," he said. "Heck, if you got two or three hours off at a time, you considered yourself fortunate. Our shop never closed."

Returning to the United States after the war, Jones encountered an overabundance of machinists, so he switched his specialty to radio maintenance.

He would spend the next



Clem Jones talks about his 21-year Air Force career during ceremonies honoring him as the Hangar 25 Veteran of the Month Tuesday evening.
HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

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