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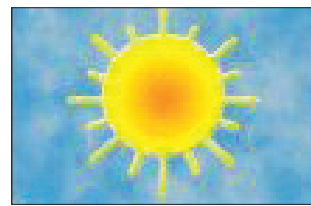
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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 25, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 308

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Fatal blaze under inquiry

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

What started out as a report of barrels on fire at Price Construction early Sunday morning quickly turned deadly, as a Big Spring man was killed in a mobile home fire at the company's Highway 350 location.

Pedro Becerra Contreras, 43, of Big Spring was pronounced dead early Sunday morning after the mobile home he was staying in — located behind the construction company's office building on Highway 350 north of Big Spring — was destroyed by a fire, according to law enforcement officials.

Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan said he and his firefighters received the call to respond to the fire at approximately 2:20 a.m. Sunday.

"When the call first came in, we were told it was a bunch of barrels that were on fire at Price Construction," said Sullivan. "Firefighters made it to the location in approximately eight minutes, thanks to the close proximity of our Jonesboro Fire Station. However, once we were on the scene we discovered it was a pair of mobile homes the company keeps behind its office to house workers who are here from out of town. It's like a small mobile home park."

Sullivan said other Price Construction employees on the scene informed him and his firefighters one of

See **FIRE**, Page 3A



Howard County Treasurer Teresa Thomas goes over routine personnel considerations with county commissioners Monday morning.

HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Unruly female, falling ramp beset vehicles

County commissioners OK repairs to deputies' patrol cars

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Commissioners approved more than \$5,000 in repairs to two vehicles used by the Howard County Sheriff's Office during their Monday morning meeting, the result of a traffic accident and an unruly arrestee during the past several weeks.

The court approved \$1,046 in repairs to a 2004 Crown Victoria, damage HCSO Chief Deputy Mark Hall said was caused by a woman who was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated after being involved in a traffic accident.

"She kicked out the windows and broke the door frame of the car," Hall told commissioners.

"She kicked out the windows and broke the door frame of the car."

—Chief Deputy Mark Hall

Debra Carol Bradberry, 38, was arrested Sunday, Nov. 9, on charges of driving while intoxicated — third or more offense, assault of a public servant, accident involving damage to a vehicle, duty on striking fixture/highway landscape, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to display driver's license, aggravated assault of a public servant, criminal mischief and resisting arrest, search or transportation.

See **VEHICLES**, Page 3A

McLellan named to fill vacant trustee seat at Howard College

By **CINDY SMITH**

Special to the Herald

Longtime local businessman Larry McLellan was appointed to fill the vacant District 3 seat on the Howard College board of trustees Monday.

McLellan replaces Harold Davis, who had served more than 35 years on the board before his death on Oct. 13.

"We are certain that Mr. McLellan will be an excellent replacement in the vacant position," said Dr. John



McLellan

Freeman, Howard College board of trustees chairman. "He has big shoes to fill but we're confident he is more than capable of doing the job well." McLellan, a licensed pharmacist and current president and CEO of Leonard's Pharmacy and Prescription Services Inc., has been serving the Howard

County community for more than 24 years.

This isn't his first step into the world of education as he served as a board member for the Big Spring Independent School District from 1992-2002.

He has been active on the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County board, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation board, Big Spring YMCA board and is presently serving on the Big

See **TRUSTEE**, Page 3A

Lights for Gail slated Friday

GAIL — Lights for Gail, the 15th annual lighting of the star on Gail Mountain, will be held at 7 p.m. Friday.

The Borden County Courthouse will be open at 5 p.m., serving refreshments. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at the courthouse at 5:30 p.m. by horse-drawn sleigh.

Santa's sleigh and buggy rides will be held throughout the evening. The museum will also open at 5 p.m.

Everyone is invited. Those who wish can bring items for "Christmas for the Kids" at Buckner's Children's Home.

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Holy Land retrial ends in sweeping guilty verdicts

By **PAUL J. WEBER**

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — It took 15 years and two trials, but the government has won a terrorism conviction against what had been the nation's largest Muslim charity and five of its leaders for funneling millions of dollars to the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

"United States citizens have spoken in this case, and said

with a resounding verdict of guilty that we will not tolerate those who choose to finance terrorism," U.S. Attorney Richard Roper said.

Holy Land became the government's signature victory in the tough-to-convict pursuit of terrorism financing cases. Lengthy prison sentences may await Holy Land's five convicted leaders, and some could be locked away

for life.

Counting the collapse of last year's original Holy Land trial, the government has stumbled in terrorism-financing cases. Two other high-profile trials in Chicago and Florida ended without convictions on the major counts.

Holy Land has been suspected since the 1990s of bankrolling social programs run by Hamas, which the U.S. design-

nated a terrorist organization in 1995. Prosecutors accused Holy Land of routing more than \$12 million overseas to help Hamas spread its ideology and boost its ranks.

Before being taken into federal custody, the five men waved and flashed peace signs to sobbing family members. Their sentencing date has not

See **VERDICTS**, Page 3A

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Coahoma handles Roby, 57-46

Herald Staff Report

ROBY — Cody Sheppard showed size matters in basketball as he used his 6-6 frame to lead the Coahoma Bulldogs to a 57-46 victory over the Roby Lions Monday.

Sheppard posted a double-double, pulling down 14 boards to go along with 17 points. He also played a pivotal role on defense for the Bulldogs, blocking five shots.

Roby played even with Coahoma for a quarter, but it was all Bulldogs in the second period. Coahoma used a 19-8 advantage in the second frame to give itself the 11-point advantage needed for the victory.

Complimenting Sheppard's performance was guard Isaac Garcia with 17 points. Braden Griffin had 12, while Lane Douglass helped out on the boards, pulling down 11 rebounds.

The Bulldogs and Bulldogettes won't play again until after the Thanksgiving break. Both squads return to action Dec. 2 with a trip to Seagraves. Then, starting Dec. 4., Coahoma will host its annual tournament.

Coahoma	16	19	10	12-57
Roby	16	8	9	13-46
Coahoma (3-0): Cody Sheppard 17, Isaac Garcia 17, Braden Griffin 12, Josh Paniagua 7, Mikey Mendoza 2, Jovi Paniagua 2.				

Bufs demolish Water Valley

Forsan improves to 3-0 with dominant victory

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

FORSAN — Forsan's Buffaloes had little problem handling their opponent on the basketball court for a second consecutive game Monday.

The Buffs got a 25-point performance from Evan Burton as they cruised to a 70-44 victory over the Water Valley Wildcats.

"I feel like we're playing better every game," said Forsan Head Coach Terry McDonald. "Tonight, we were in a bit of a roller coaster. At times, we played with a lot of emotion and energy, but sometimes we were a little flat. Still, we've got some new kids. This is a new mix, but I think we're coming together a little more every game."

The Buffs' dominance started midway through the first period as they ended the frame on a 13-2 run for a 23-13 advantage.

They scored 12 unanswered points to open the second period and coasted to the win from there.

Tristian Clay complimented Burton with 13 points, while Riley Wood hit three treys on his way to a 10-point night.

"We've got some good athleticism," said McDonald. "We've got a good nucleus back of players who were on varsity last season. We still need a good pre-district season to work out some kinks, but I think this is a good way to go into the holiday."

The Buffs were originally scheduled to play Roscoe Highland today, but the game was canceled due to Highland's presence in the football playoffs.

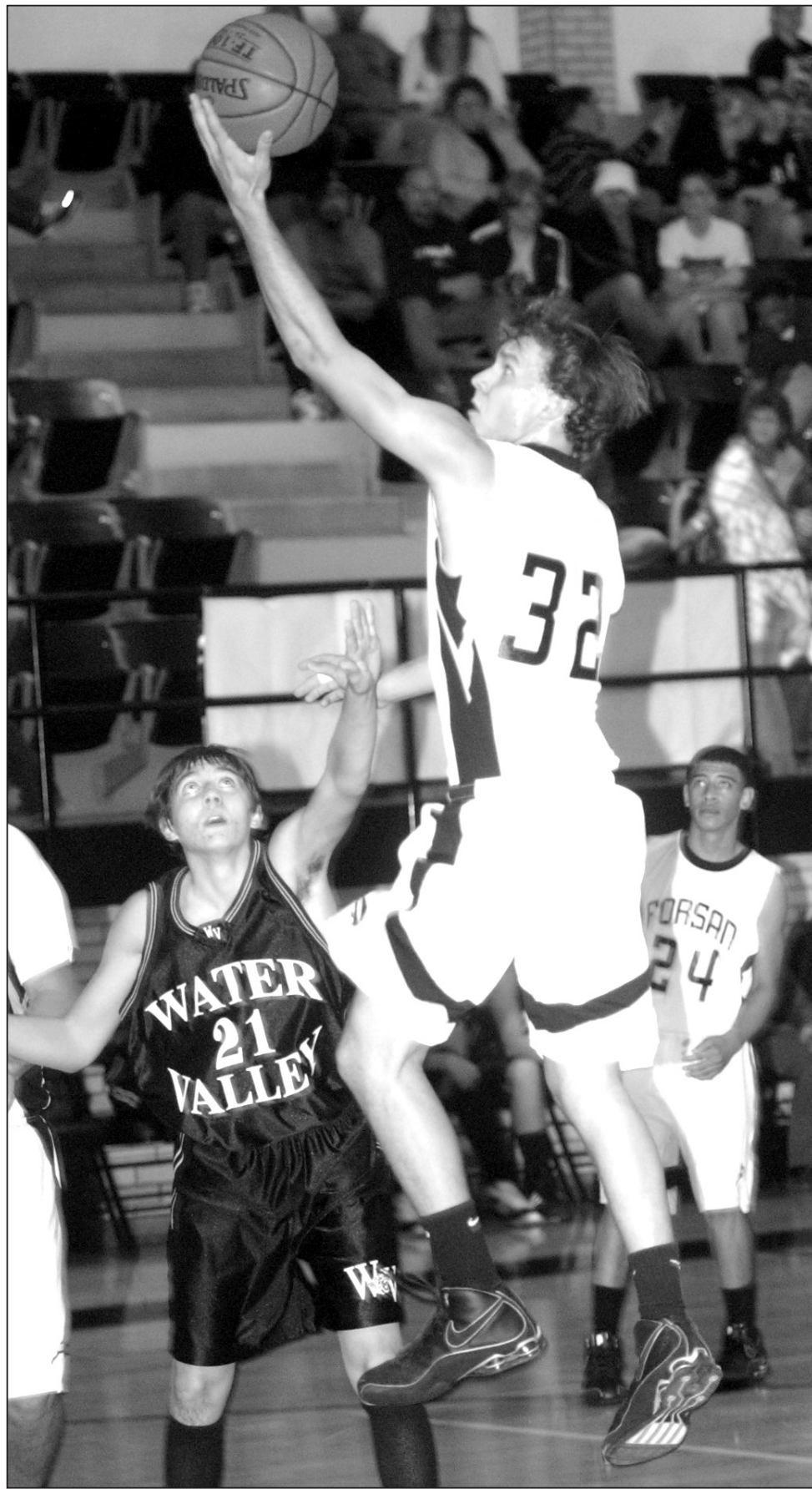
The Buffs return to the hardwood after the Thanksgiving break on Dec. 2 with a trip to Sterling City.

Water Valley	13	12	6	13-44
Forsan	23	15	19	13-70

Water Valley: Travis Franke 4, Dylan Doss 14, Sheyenne Smith 13, Zach Glass 5, Trey Armond 4, David Williams 2, Justin Hahn 2.

Forsan: Jeremy Freitag 3, Jeremy Robbins 9, Tristian Clay 13, Evan Burton 25, Riley Wood 10, Alex Huckabee 2, Nathan Atkinson 8.

3-point goals: WV 3 (Doss 3), FHS 4 (Wood 3, Clay 1); Free throws: WV 9-19, FHS 6-13. Fouled out: None.



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Forsan's Evan Burton lays in two points during the Buffs' 70-44 win over Water Valley Monday at Buffalo Gym. Burton led the Buffs with 25 points.



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Forsan's Amanda Longorio goes up in the post in the Lady Buffs' 50-47 victory over Water Valley Monday in Buffalo Gym. Longorio led all scorers with 22 points.

Lady Buffs remain perfect with win over Water Valley

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

FORSAN — One of the main focuses in the pre-district basketball schedule is for a team to be able to prepare for a variety of challenges and schemes which could possibly be seen once league play does begin.

The Forsan Lady Buffs faced their toughest challenge of the season Tuesday night. The Lady Buffs found themselves facing an 11-point deficit midway through the third quarter as the Water Valley Lady Wildcats appeared poised to hand Forsan its first loss of the season.

However, Forsan got a spark from the combined efforts of Amanda Longorio and Tori Gauer and picked up a come-from-behind victory, 50-47.

"We fought back a couple of times in past games, so it's not a totally new thing," said Forsan Head Coach Robert Hillger. "Tonight we played the first two quarters with no energy. We couldn't make anything early in

the night. It took somebody making a couple of shots to get everybody into it and going."

Trailing 38-27 with 3:13 to play in the third period, Longorio scored the next seven points of the game. She hit two shots from the post and then traveled outside, draining a 3-pointer from the corner and cutting Water Valley's lead to 4.

"Amanda is the kind of player who can go inside or outside," said Hillger. "Every now and then when she hits from the outside, it surprises everybody because they don't expect a post to get out there and shoot it the way she does. It really energizes the team and the crowd."

From there, Gauer took over, coming up with key steals and scoring the next four points to tie the game at 38 just seconds into the fourth period. Kelsey Jones gave Forsan the lead for good after getting an offensive board and a put back with 6:18 left to play.

See **FORSAN**, Page 2B

Pacman back at practice

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Suspended cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones was back at work with the Dallas Cowboys on Monday, going to meetings and a practice even though he can't suit up until Dec. 7 against Pittsburgh.

Jones is allowed to do everything but play in the next game — Thursday against Seattle — as he works his way back from his latest suspension, a six-game penalty for violating the league's player conduct policy. He previously was suspended for the entire 2007 season and coach Wade Phillips said Monday it's reasonable to believe another slip-up would get him permanently banned from the NFL.

"We've got to hope, for his sake really, that he has cleared all that up," Phillips said. "All the pressure is on him, really, to do the right thing."

Jones did not come into the locker room during the 45 minutes it was open to reporters. A team meeting followed, then an extended walkthrough that was closed to media.

By being around the team this week, Jones can start getting back into football shape. He also can start repairing whatever damage his absence might've caused in the locker room.

"He got to prove some things, obviously, but he's going to be welcome here," said linebacker Greg Ellis, a co-captain and the defense's elder statesman. "Time is the only thing that's going to make this better — and good time, keeping your nose clean, doing the right things, making the right decisions, being in the right places at the right time and not at the wrong places at the wrong time. ...

"He can't let us down in the aspect of off-the-field issues. If he gives up a play here, that happens in football. But when you're doing things that take you away from your teammates because you're not keeping it together off the field, those are the kinds of things you can control most of the times."

Fellow cornerback Terence Newman said Jones is a good teammate.

"He hangs out with everybody," Newman said. "His track record isn't the best as far as him getting into trouble, but if you get to know the guy you find out he is a really good dude."

Jones started the first six games, breaking up enough passes that he still leads the club in that category. He also was the main punt returner. The Cowboys went 4-2 with him, and are 3-2 without him.

They've won the last two games for their first winning streak since September, with the defense playing well in both games. Adding Jones for the final month should make them even better as they fight for a wild-card berth.

"I think he fits fine," Phillips said. "He made a lot of plays for us when he played. Having not played for a year, I thought he really came along pretty well."

Phillips said coaches will wait until next week to determine Jones' role. With Newman playing through a groin injury and rookie Mike Jenkins missing the upcoming game with a hamstring problem, there's no point in deciding where to slot Jones until he's able to play.

Jones will no longer be provided with a team-hired bodyguard. The Cowboys tried that already, and the personal protector is the guy Jones wound up scuffling with during a party at a downtown hotel Oct. 7. He played the following Sunday, then was suspended indefinitely Oct. 14.

Jones spent much of his time away in an alcohol rehabilitation program. Commissioner Roger Goodell said he spoke to "clinical experts" before setting Jones' punishment at six games. The league hasn't outlined the terms of his return, except to say he must stay out of trouble.

"He's running out of chances," Newman said. "We will try and do our best to see that nothing happens. We have to do our

See **PACMAN**, Page 2B

Crossroads area football playoffs schedule

Friday
Class 4A, Division II, Region I semis
Big Spring vs. Everman, 2 p.m., Abilene

Six-man Division I, Region II final
Garden City vs. Fort Davis, 6 p.m., Wink

Class A, Division I, Region I final
Stanton vs. Canadian, 2 p.m., Plainview

Obituaries

Margaret S. Trevino



Our beloved wife, mom and grandmother passed away Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008 after a short battle with cancer.

She was born June 9, 1937 in Pleasanton to Refugio and Maria Solis. She was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Corey Rubio.

She is survived by her loving husband, Pedro A. Trevino; children, Connie Paredes, Alice Hernandez, Martha Casarez, Carl Trevino, Brenda Rubio, Alan Trevino and Mary Anita

Hernandez; 16 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; brother, Eliseo; and two sisters, Irene and Lenora.

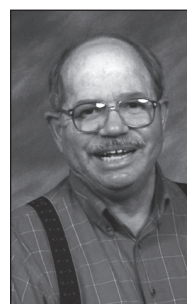
Margaret's undying love and devotion were to God and to her family. While going through her treatments, the things she missed most were going to daily mass, family functions and her water aerobics at the YMCA. Margaret will be greatly missed by all who loved and cared for her.

Visitation is at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home at 2620 S. Congress, Austin, followed by a rosary at 7 p.m. A memorial mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 4800 Convict Hill Rd., with burial at Assumption Cemetery.

Arrangements by Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home, 2620 S. Congress, Austin (512) 442-1446. You may view memorials at www.wcfish.com.

Paid obituary

Kenneth Haggard



Kenneth "Butch" Haggard, 68, of Stanton, died Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008, in a local nursing home after a lengthy illness. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008, at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton. Memorial services will follow at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church of Stanton, with the Rev. Daniel Armstrong, pastor, officiating.

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

home.

He was born June 11, 1940, in Houston and married Nancy Craine July 25, 1966, in Houston.

Butch graduated from Texas A&M University in College Station in 1964 with a degree in agricultural economics. He farmed cotton and worked in agricultural chemical sales, retiring Aug. 14, 1979.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church, where he taught the Men's Sunday School Class for 12 years. He was a member of Hi-Sky Emmaus Community and Scenic Mountain Emmaus Community and was a 30-year member of Stanton Lions Club.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy Haggard of Stanton; two sons, Rusty Haggard of Flower Mound and Jeff Haggard of Canyon; his mother, Esther Haggard of Stanton; one brother, Robert I. Haggard of Albuquerque, N.M.; two sisters, Robbie Jean Nunneley of Tulsa, Okla. and Lynnette Bruce of Midland; six grandchildren, and numerous cousins, several nieces and nephews and many many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Rob Haggard, Sept. 8, 1996.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Alice R. Jensen

Alice R. Jensen, 68, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008, in a local hospital. Memorial services will be at a later date in Roswell, N.M.

She was born May 25, 1940, in Lone Rock, Ore., and married Garland Helmstetler Sr. May 17, 1957, in Yuma, Ariz. He preceded her in death in 1981.

Alice came to Big Spring in 2004 from Roswell, N.M. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include two sons, Garland Helmstetler Jr. and wife Mindy of Odessa and Tim Helmstetler and wife Marty of Big Spring; two daughters, Tracy Helms and husband Joe and Shanda Posey and husband Verlin, all of Texline; two sisters, Aloah Medlock of Spray, Ore., and Hazel Griggs of Goldendale, Wash.; 13 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society in care of Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

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

Corey Don Sharp

Corey Don Sharp, 27, of Big Spring died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodne3tt at 264-7599.

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Monday:

- JARRON VANDERBILT, 25, 2510 Fairchild, was arrested on seven local warrants and a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.
- JABREYA LOUDERMILL, 22, 1904 S. Runnels, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 200 grams.
- HOWARD JOHNSON, 24, Gulfport, Miss., was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 200 grams and a Mississippi warrant.
- FRANCISCUS MEDRANO, 37, Plains, was arrested on a Yoakum County warrant.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 200 block of 16th and the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- ASSAULT BY THREATS was reported in the 1100 block of Ridgeroad.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 900 block of Scurry.
- CREDIT CARD/DEBIT CARD ABUSE was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.
- TERRORISTIC THEAT was reported in the 2600 block of Wasson.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (note: 56 prisoners were reported in the county jail):

- CHARLES ALLAN ROBINSON, 47, was arrested on charges of theft over \$1,500 and terroristic threats, as well as bondsman off bond warrants for theft over \$1,500, driving while license suspended and driving while intoxicated.
- ADAM WAYNE EDMONDSON JR., 17, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- ALMA JEAN YANEZ, 28, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance under 200 grams in a drug free zone.
- MARGARET CLANTON DAGESTAD, 33, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance under 200 grams in a drug free zone.
- DAPHNE MICHELE FRANCO, 44, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of theft under \$500.
- OSCAR HERNANDEZ, 48, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a parole violation warrant.
- ABEL YHARTE GOMEZ, 23, was arrested on charges of speeding and no liability insurance.
- MARK ARGUELLO, 35, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated/third or more offense.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2300 block of Roberts. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Elm. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Donley. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of W. Fifth. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of S. Main. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

• The Department of State Health Services will provide flu shots through Wednesday, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the clinic, located at 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28B. Cost is \$10, which is covered by Medicaid and Medicare. For more information, contact 263-9775.

• Vendors are needed for the Christmas Bazaar to be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Canterbury South. Please contact Jennifer Mendez at 263-1238 or leave a message.

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is now available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment.

Your Local Weather

Wed 11/26	Thu 11/27	Fri 11/28	Sat 11/29	Sun 11/30
77/49	74/45	62/36	61/37	62/33
Partly to mostly cloudy. High 77F. Winds WSW at 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- 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, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Lottery

• The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday afternoon by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-3-0. Sum It Up: 3

• The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday afternoon by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-5-2-7. Sum It Up: 14

• The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-6-6. Sum-it-Up: 19

• The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-5-2-2. Sum It Up: 18

• Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6-11-18-20-29.
Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: \$12,457
Winning numbers purchased in Austin, Houston.

• Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6-9-13-28. Bonus Ball: 26.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Take Note

Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

• Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• 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. After Dec. 1 the number to call for rides to treatment will be (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

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McGee looks back on A&M-Texas games

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Even if he doesn't throw another pass, Stephen McGee's A&M legacy is already cemented by how he's performed in the historic rivalry against Texas.

The Aggies' senior quarterback played a central role in the last three games against their archrivals — and led them to upsets in the last two.

His final season fizzled when he sprained his throwing shoulder in the second game and he isn't likely to see much action when A&M (4-7, 2-5 Big 12) plays the fourth-ranked Longhorns (10-1, 6-1) on Thanksgiving Day.

In 2005, McGee made his first start and held his own against Vince Young in the Longhorns' surprisingly hard-fought 40-29 win. In 2006, McGee ran for 95 yards in the Aggies' 12-7 win in Austin and in 2007, he threw for a career-high 362 yards in A&M's 38-30 victory at Kyle Field.

"All three of those games were at critical junctures for our team," said McGee. "I felt myself in all those games, there was a point in the game, where you looked at the guys in the huddle, you looked at them in

the eyes, you see something in there and you realized all the stuff you've gone through together."

Fittingly, McGee will wear the A&M uniform for the last time at the site of his defining highlight. Two years ago, A&M trailed 7-6 in the fourth quarter and McGee led the Aggies on a grinding, 16-play drive, finishing it with an 8-yard TD run.

"Guys were throwing up, exhausted and laying it on the line for each other," said McGee. "That's something that's going to stick with me forever, the way we played together, the way we fought and stuck together through everything. Those are my buddies that I'll have for life."

Senior tackle Travis Schneider said McGee's debut performance against Texas will actually be the one he never forgets. Then a freshman, McGee rushed for 108 yards and two touchdowns, bouncing up from every hard hit to let the Longhorns know he was ready for more.

"He got knocked out, but he was getting up and talking trash to all the defenders on the Texas side," Schneider said. "That kind of set the tone for him and let everybody know, for all the Aggie fans out there, what

kind of player he is for this ball-club."

Last year's game at Kyle Field would've been the perfect bookend, if McGee didn't still have one more season to play.

He shouldered criticism early in the season for the Aggies' anemic offense, then spent the second half defending embattled coach Dennis Franchione.

The Aggies limped into the finale after three consecutive losses, while the Longhorns had won five in a row and still had a shot at the Big 12 championship.

McGee finished 25-for-36 and had a bruising touchdown run as the Aggies beat Texas at Kyle Field for the first time since 1999.

Mike Sherman, who replaced Franchione less than a week later, has seen all three games and taken note of what McGee showed in each.

"It's evident in watching those games that the entire A&M football team played at another level," Sherman said. "I think Stephen, certainly being the leader, was a big contributor to the fact that not only did he play well, but I think he motivated others to do the same."

Brown preaches A&M before BCS

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — Texas coach Mack Brown can say one good thing about the BCS: It sure has everyone paying attention to college football.

"You've got to give the BCS credit," Brown said Monday. "They've got more talk about college football than ever before."

Don't misunderstand what Brown is saying. He has long favored creating a playoff system and he's no fan of the complicated, convoluted and confusing system that ranks his team at No. 2 in the country — for now.

Even if the Longhorns (10-1) beat rival Texas A&M on Thanksgiving night, there's a good chance Texas might get passed in the standings by a team they beat — Oklahoma — if the Sooners beat Oklahoma State two days later.

Texas spent almost a month at No. 1 and now could find itself out of the national championship picture if the formula doesn't fall just right for the Longhorns.

Brown insisted Monday he didn't want to talk much about the BCS for fear of letting it get in the way of the game against Texas A&M. Lose to the Aggies (4-7) and Texas can forget about the BCS altogether.

That's what happened the last two years when the Aggies pulled off upset victories.

In 2006, the Aggies won 12-7 in Austin to knock Texas out of the Big 12 title game. Last season, A&M stunned Texas 38-30 in what turned out to be coach Dennis Franchione's last game.

This year, the Longhorns are 34-point favorites.

"Sitting here and talking about (the BCS) is disrespectful to A&M," Brown said. "The only input we can have is to play well Thursday night."

Up at Oklahoma, coach Bob Stoops is publicly making the case for his team to leap Texas for the coveted No. 2 spot and the inside track to the BCS national championship game.

Texas beat Oklahoma 45-35 on a neutral field in Dallas. Oklahoma blasted Texas Tech, the only team to beat Texas, 65-21 on Saturday night in Norman, Okla. The Sooners still have to play rival Oklahoma State on Saturday.

"I just hope they don't overdo it," with the BCS talk, Texas defensive end Henry Melton said of Oklahoma.

In 2004, Brown was criticized for publicly lobbying for his team to get its first BCS bid.

It worked when Texas went to the

Rose Bowl and beat favored Michigan 37-35.

"I was criticized for being political and whining," Brown said. "Now the BCS has made it popular for the coach to take up for his team. I guess I was a trendsetter."

"Now it's gotten to be 'That coach has really got guts, he's standing up for his team,'" Brown said. "It's amazing what happens over a four-year period."

Brown even joked about Texas Tech coach Mike Leach giving the nod to Oklahoma and Stoops over the Longhorns in the coaches' poll component of the BCS. Leach used to be an assistant coach under Stoops at OU.

"That's like my mother. Mike worked for the guy," Brown said. "If it's even, the guys who worked with you and for you are going to vote for you. That's why I don't like coaches voting. It's a tough deal."

Not that he wants to give up his vote in the coaches' poll. Stoops gave up his vote last year. Brown said he's thought about it. Brown doesn't reveal his votes during the regular season.

"I did not want to continue to vote and I did because of Texas," Brown said. "I think the University of Texas, if asked, should vote."

PACMAN

Continued from Page 1B

part and keep him out of trouble."

Ellis warned against having high hopes about Jones, although it's not because he doesn't trust his teammate.

"He's a highly talented player so people have a tendency to say, 'OK,

well, because he's that talented of a player, we're going to place everything on him,'" Ellis said. "We can't just depend on an absent guy who is coming back to change the whole complexion of the football team."

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

"Tori has been the picture of consistency on defense for four years," said Hillger about the senior guard. "She's fast and a good defensive stopper."

From the 3:13 mark in the third period, Forsan outscored Water Valley 23-9. Longorio finished with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Gauer added 11 points. Sandi Golleher had six points and six boards and Kelsey Jones chipped in five.

The Lady Buffs put their undefeated record on the line

at 6:30 p.m. tonight in Roscoe, playing Highland High.

"I feel good about the team so far, but we've got a big test against Highland," said Hillger. "This was as big of a test as we've had this season against Water Valley. They really came out ready to play and wanted it more than we did in the first half. We showed some character and guts and really got after Water Valley in the second half. I am very proud of these girls."

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Texas Tech no longer controls own destiny

By BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — No. 7 Texas Tech no longer controls its own destiny after its 65-21 meltdown against No. 3 Oklahoma this past weekend.

The Red Raiders will be pulling for an upset of the Sooners against in-state rival Oklahoma State on Saturday night, and Texas Tech must beat Baylor in Lubbock in order to have a chance to play for the Big 12 title Dec. 6.

The BCS rankings will determine the Big 12 South title if Oklahoma, Texas and Texas Tech are all still tied in the conference standings after playing their regular season finales this week.

Texas holds a slim BCS edge (.0084 points) over the Sooners but the latter can make up points against the No. 11 Cowboys, while the Longhorns do not play a ranked team. Texas Tech is seventh and also plays a nonranked team.

The walloping Texas Tech took Saturday night dropped it five spots in The AP poll.

Still, after beating Kansas, Texas and OSU — all Top 25 teams — Leach believes the Red Raiders should be ranked ahead of other one-loss teams — No.

2 Florida, No. 4 Texas and No. 5 USC.

"Only a few teams have beaten three in a row and we're lucky enough to be one of those," Leach said. "We should be the top-rated one-loss team."

Leach lost his fifth-straight game in Norman, Okla., and extended for another year his inability to beat Texas and Oklahoma in a single season.

"The disappointment is not how it turned out," Leach said. "It's that we didn't play our best game and that's too bad. So, we need to find a way to control that."

Now a long shot to play for the national championship, Texas Tech's immediate focus is playing an improved Baylor (4-7, 2-5) team Saturday. The Red Raiders (10-1, 6-1) will be finished by the time OSU and Oklahoma take the field.

"We're obviously rooting for Oklahoma State," Leach said.

Leach said his vote in the coaches poll came down to deductive reasoning.

"We think quite a bit of OU and the Big 12," he said. "Our experience was Oklahoma beat us, Texas did not, so Oklahoma goes above."

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Case of the Missing Queen

South dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q J
 ♥ K 10 8
 ♦ 8 7 4 2
 ♣ K 7 5 3

WEST
 ♠ 10 7 5
 ♥ Q 7 3
 ♦ K Q J 6
 ♣ J 8 4

EAST
 ♠ 9 6 4 3 2
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ A 10 3
 ♣ Q 10 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 8
 ♥ A J 9 6 2
 ♦ 9 5
 ♣ A 9 6

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
 3♥ Pass 4♥

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

One of the most commonly encountered problems in bridge is trying to decide which way to finesse for a queen when the finesse can be taken in either direction. Some players enjoy the challenge of solving this thorny problem, but most mortals don't relish it one bit.

Take this case where declarer can make four hearts by finessing against West for the queen, ultimately losing only two diamonds and a club. But if he elects to finesse against East, he goes down one.

Oddly enough, the best way of

dealing with which way to finesse is not to finesse at all. The problem can be resolved simply by circumventing it!

Let's say East-West start out with three rounds of diamonds. Declarer ruffs the third diamond and, since a club must be lost in any case, concentrates all his energies on avoiding a trump loser. But instead of trying to guess the location of the queen outright — a 50-50 proposition — South skirts the issue entirely.

He cashes three spades, discarding a club from dummy, and then plays the A-K of clubs, ending in dummy. At this point, with five tricks to go and having lost only two tricks to date, South has the A-J-9-6 of hearts and nine of clubs, while dummy has the K-10-8 of hearts, a diamond and a club.

Declarer next leads dummy's remaining diamond and ruffs it as East discards a spade. South then exits with the nine of clubs.

As a result of this series of plays, the contract is now secure. It does not matter to declarer which opponent wins the club. He has the A-J-9 of trumps facing the K-10-8, and a defender is on lead. The queen is trapped regardless of what happens next.

In effect, South makes no direct effort to locate the missing queen. He simply lets nature take its course.

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VEHICLES

Continued from Page 1A

According to Hall, she was stopped by a trooper with the Department of Public Safety.

"The trooper contacted us because the woman was acting very erratic," said Hall. "The DPS vehicles don't have cages in the back, so one of our deputies responded to the scene to bring her in. That's when the damage occurred."

Hall said the woman was later released by the HCSO and trans-

ported to a mental care facility in Abilene following committal proceedings.

The second accident, according to Hall, occurred Friday and caused considerably more damage to another HCSO vehicle.

"A deputy was traveling behind a Reese Albert Paving truck when a steel ramp fell off the vehicle," said Hall. "There wasn't time for the deputy to swerve and miss the ramp, which caused a considerable amount of damage to the bottom of the vehicle."

Repairs are expected to cost

approximately \$4,800, according to the purchase request approved by the commissioners. Luckily, however, the funds will be recoverable.

"The paving company's insurance will pay for the damages," Hall told commissioners. "The driver received a citation for failure to secure load."

Also during Monday's meeting, commissioners approved a change order to the county jail being built on the west side of Big Spring.

"This change order will effect the east side of the building,

where the mechanical and electrical room is," said Justin Gilmore of Southwest Architects. "We had planned to have the metal paneling there. However, it would be much easier for someone to gain access through the metal paneling than through a block wall."

The change will cost an additional \$19,200, according to Gilmore, before factoring in the refund the cut in metal paneling will cause.

Gilmore also asked for the court's permission to go out on bids for furniture, furnishings

and equipment for the facility.

"We would like to get the bids locked in before Christmas," he said. "Generally, you see a price increase after the holiday, so we feel like we can save some money if we get this done before then."

The court agreed advertising for the bids would start Dec. 1, with the opening of bids expected to take place Dec. 22 at 9:30 a.m.

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

FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

the two structures on fire was occupied.

"When the other workers that were staying there told us one

of the trailers was occupied, we tried to gain entry," said Sullivan. "However, it was already fully engulfed in flames, as was the other structure. It had been burning for quite some time before we arrived on the scene. The roof had already collapsed and there was just no way to at-

tempt a rescue."

Sullivan said the second mobile home was not occupied at the time the fire ripped through the structure, and no other injuries were reported as a result of the blaze.

Contreras was employed as a heavy equipment operator for

Price Construction, according to obituary information received from Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at a later date in Mexico.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, according to Sullivan.

"There are no indications at

this time foul play was involved, but the fire is still under investigation," he said.

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

TRUSTEE

Continued from Page 1A

Spring Economic Development Corporation board.

McLellan's wife, Susan, is a Big Spring native, graduating from Howard College in 1986 with her AAS degree in dental hygiene.

"Mr. McLellan is a visionary man and I know that he will be committed to leading Howard College into the future in a positive, aggressive way," said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, Howard College president.

"Through his exposure and experience in education, economic development and private industry, he will bring some new insight to the board which will only be a benefit for

our students and the communities we serve."

McLellan will take the oath of office during the Dec. 15 board meeting at 12:30 p.m. in the Tumbleweed Room of the Dora Roberts Student Union Building on the college campus. Following the ceremony, McLellan will assume his active role on the board.

VERDICTS

Continued from Page 1A

been set.

The convictions range from supporting a terrorist organization to money laundering, which carry sentences up to 15 or 20 years on each count.

Defense attorneys say

"Twelve good American citizens in the first trial didn't convict anyone of anything. And 12 good American citizens in the second trial convicted everyone of everything. If you can make sense of that ... explain it to me."

allege that deaths resulted from the defendants' actions, which could have made them eligible for life in prison. They also tightened their case from the initial trial.

For federal prosecutors, it was a long-sought victory.

President George W. Bush personally announced the

freezing of Holy Land's assets in 2001, calling the action "another step in the war on terrorism." Evidence dated far back as 1992, when the FBI bugged a hotel meeting in Philadelphia where defendants spoke using the code word "Samah" — "H a m a s" spelled backward.

"This is definitely the most notable victory that the government has had in this type of case," said Matthew Orwig, former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Texas.

Holy Land wasn't accused of violence. Rather, the government said the charity, based in Richardson, Texas, financed schools, hospitals and social welfare programs controlled by Hamas in areas ravaged by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Holy Land supporters told a different story. They accused the government of politicizing the case as part of its war on terrorism, while attorneys for the foundation said Holy Land's mission was philanthropy and providing aid to the Middle East.

They reminded jurors that none of the charity's benefactors were designated by the U.S. as terrorist fronts, and that Holy Land also donated to causes elsewhere, including helping victims of the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.

"Twelve good American citizens in the first trial didn't convict anyone of anything," said Linda Moron, attorney for former Holy Land chairman Ghana Leash. "And 12 good American citizens in the second trial convicted everyone of everything. If you can make sense of that ... explain it to me."

Ghassan Elashi, Holy Land's former chairman, and Shukri Abu-Baker, Holy Land's chief executive, were convicted of a combined 69 counts, including supporting a specially designated terrorist, money laundering and tax fraud.

Mufid Abdulqader and Abdulrahman Odeh were convicted of three counts of conspiracy, and Mohammed El-Mezain was convicted of one count of conspiracy to support a terrorist organization.

Holy Land itself was convicted of all 32 counts. It will also be required to forfeit about \$12.4 million to the government.

Prosecutors chose not to

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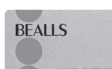


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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
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OTHER VIEWS

Christmas:
Too big to fail

Every Who down in Whoville likes Christmas a lot, but the budgets to pay for the trappings are shot. And, no, we're not going to write this entire piece in verse; we don't have the in-house talent to sustain it and our freelance budget is hurting, but that's precisely our point. Who can afford the holidays this year?

Retailers are bracing for a disappointing shopping season. Americans who are worried about losing their jobs, their homes and their life savings aren't in the mood to line up for Nintendos. Employers have canceled Christmas parties and holiday bonuses. Shopping malls aren't hiring seasonal workers, and local governments are cutting funds for their holiday displays or threatening to. No, Virginia, there is not a Santa Claus. Maybe next year.

Across the country, cash-strapped towns will make do with fewer lights and shorter parades, The Wall Street Journal reports. The Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas, a trade group, is holding meetings to discuss economic survival strategies. Lavish open-bar office parties are out; potlucks in the break room are in. American Express, Hearst Corp. and Morgan Stanley all have canceled their holiday staff celebrations, according to the Wall Street gossip site Dealbreaker.com. Don't miss the bitter grousing in the site's anonymous comment section.

In Chicago, a city hall budget crunch was eased by \$10 million by giving employees three extra days off during the holidays — without pay. You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch.

Whose idea was it to schedule the holidays in the fourth quarter? That short-sighted plan virtually guarantees that seasonal good cheer will be axed whenever we need it most. Right now, for example.

To riff on Dr. Seuss a little more: We have an idea. An awful idea! This page has a wonderful, awful idea!

You guessed it — a bailout. Why didn't we think of it sooner? Taxpayers have already committed nearly a trillion dollars to saving mortgage monsters Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, insurance giant AIG and the entire banking industry. What's a few billion more for tinsel and lights? As long as Congress is working on a plan to save Detroit automakers from themselves, why not underwrite a few thousand office parties while we're at it? How about a modest economic stimulus package — say, a \$25 gift card for every American?

Yes, we know that in the end, the Grinch could not stop Christmas from coming. But our economic crisis is much bigger than one cave-dwelling green meanie and his dog-drawn sleigh. We need help, and we know just the man for the job: Henry Paulson. If this works out, he can carve the roast beast.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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• Sign your letter.

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• 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

Evangelicals — Essential to the GOP?

A good friend of mine (let's call him Bob) is convinced that unless the GOP puts abortion "aside as its focal point, it simply cannot win and regain power." That's especially interesting in light of Kathleen Parker's latest column, which disses the evangelical wing of the GOP.

Bob's point is that "we've lost a majority of women over this issue as they have become one-issue voters." It's not only liberal women but also others who believe it's simply not the government's business.

Kathleen Parker broadens the point considerably beyond abortion: "The evangelical, right-wing, oogedy-boogedy branch of the GOP is what ails the erstwhile conservative party and will continue to afflict and marginalize its constituents if reckoning doesn't soon cometh."

Since the 1980s or so, says Parker, the GOP "has become increasingly beholden to an element that used to be relegated to wooden crates on street corners." "The GOP has surrendered its high ground to its lowest brows. In the process, the party has alienated its non-base constituents."

I'll resist the temptation to respond specifically to Kathleen's uncharitable indictment of us knuckle draggers because I like Kathleen personally and because I want to respond to her and Bob's overlapping contention that certain social conservatives are dragging the party down.

Bob's opinion is largely based on his personal conversations with women, and Kathleen writes, "If one were to eavesdrop on private conversations among the party intelligentsia, one would hear precisely that 'armband religion is killing the Republican Party.'" But do their anecdotal reports justify their con-

clusions?

2004 exit poll data reveal that President Bush got 55 percent of the male vote and 48 percent of the female vote, while 2008 data show that McCain got 48 percent of the male vote and 43 percent of the female vote.

McCain's percentage of the male vote dropped more than his percentage of the female vote, so it's hard to see how alienated women made the difference.

Plus Karl Rove tells us that there were 4.1 million fewer Republicans voting this year than in 2004, some of whom he believed turned independent or Democratic for this election, which might validate Kathleen's thesis, except that Rove says that most of those 4.1 million "simply stayed home."

What's even more interesting is there was an almost identical drop-off (4.1 million) of those voters who attend religious services more than once a week (evangelicals, anyone?).

I'm thinking Bob needs to avoid angry women, and Kathleen should steer clear of those intelligentsia types, for there is another 2008 exit poll gem they might not have seen. Top issues for voters were: economy (63 percent); war in Iraq (10 percent); terrorism (9 percent); and health care (9 percent). It appears that neither abortion nor any other social issue even made honorable mention.

It's not debatable that Obama had a vastly superior organization and "ground game" and did an infinitely better job than McCain of marketing himself and inspiring voters with his charisma and his nebulous message of hope and change. Despite all these advantages, McCain — largely because of the jolt of enthusiasm he injected into his anemic campaign by naming the conspicuously pro-life Christian Sarah Palin his running mate — was surging ahead in the national polls right before the subprime meltdown reared its game-changing head.

Though Democratic policies and

actions mostly caused it, Republicans got the blame — and McCain was finished.

Considering all those unique factors in 2008, it's premature to say this election represents the emergence of a sustained national power shift in favor of the Democrats — though admittedly, current demographic trends are problematic for the GOP.

But if social issues were so advantageous for Obama, why did he hide and distort his record on abortion? Why did he not brag about the liberal activist judges he is sure to appoint? Why did he attempt — other than when he thought his microphone was off in San Francisco — to paint himself as a mainstream Christian who wants to reduce abortions? Why did mainstream media debate moderators deliberately avoid these issues?

I believe Kathleen is wrong in saying "either the Republican Party needs a new base — or the nation may need a new party." The opposite is true: The party needs to quit betraying the base, on both social and economic issues.

I do believe some of my fellow Christian conservatives are too single issue-oriented and am appalled that so many stayed home, given the gravity of the stakes in this election. But the fact remains that it was McCain's underemphasis rather than overemphasis of the social issues that cost him Republican votes.

But the far more important answer to Bob and Kathleen is that the Republican Party can no more do without pro-lifers than human beings can survive without hearts. It's who they are. There's already a party stressing economic conservatism nearly to the exclusion of social issues, and the last time I checked, our beloved Libertarians weren't garnering a great percentage of the vote.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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Too much stuff is not enough

We are fast approaching the most meaningful, emotional, important holiday of the year. I speak, naturally, of Black Friday.

"It will be black," says TD Bank economist Joel Naroff, "but not for the reasons retailers expect."

This year, it's Bleak Friday. The nation's on sale.

E-mail deals pop up daily. There are offers of free shipping. Fliers jam mail slots. Stores host surprise party sales. "Everything's 30 percent off, today only," the clerk will tell you. Except it's true tomorrow and the next day, too.

The problem with marking down all merchandise 30 percent or 40 percent is that it makes you suspect everything was overpriced to begin with. Also, greedily: Why not 60 percent?

At Foot Locker, the guy barbers as if he's in a Middle Eastern souk. More shoes, socks? No, thank you. Guess what? He throws free socks at us! Is this a great country or what?

"Stores are stuffed to the gills with inventory," says Wharton professor Stephen Hoch. "You're a moron if you go into a store, any store, and don't try to negotiate."

A great irony of contemporary capitalism is that what's good for the U.S. economy is bad for the individual. Americans should save, but the economy is dependent on

spending. The austere and greedy parts of the soul are duking it out, with greed ceding not an inch.

Personal consumption is 70 percent of our gross domestic product because, apparently, we forget to make stuff other people wanted. The rest of the GDP consists of the government and the few people who managed to save and invest, only to lose 40 percent of it now.

Jonesing for new junk got us to this crisis. A new credit-card campaign seduces shoppers to binge more: "We're a nation of consumers. And there's nothing wrong with that." Oh, yes, there is! The ad continues: "The trouble is there's so much cool stuff. It's easy to get carried away." To the poorhouse, especially with the company charging 11 percent to 19 percent interest, plus 24 percent on cash advances, rates a bookie could love.

This behavior may be changing, despite such seductions. "People feel that they should be conservative. It's the right thing to do even if, personally, they're not feeling the challenges," says consumer business expert Tara Weiner, managing partner of Deloitte's Philadelphia office.

"It just doesn't feel like a time of nicety spending."

In other words, it's a lousy time to have a holiday.

Weiner forecasts that most market sectors will be down for the crucial holiday period, responsible for 20 percent to 40 percent of annual retail sales. The only exceptions, she sees, are large discounters, warehouse clubs and, with more people

eating at home, supermarkets.

Oh, and Urban Outfitters.

What cockroaches are to the environment, adolescents are to the marketplace. If they know there's a recession, they don't care. Let somebody else deal with the mess.

"Part of the problem is emotional," Naroff says. "An awful lot of people are concerned, and they're scared. People who might be spending are not." Hoch concurs. "In the last month and a half, the only people who lost money had money."

Shopping is not the economic Xanax to cure all ills. "The consumer is not going to spend us out of a recession," Hoch says, though the credit-card folks believe otherwise.

"We're getting back to some core values of focusing more on family, not shopping," Weiner says. "There was probably a need to scale back. All you need to do is look at all the public storage." What is public storage but a junk hut?

Consumers have lost confidence, and they're bored, Hoch found in a recent study. "It's all the same stuff." We've lost the thrill. Naroff wonders "whether people can stay irrationally depressed for an extended period of time."

Great. We've gone from irrational exuberance to irrational depression in eight years. But, wait, who says we're irrational?

Karen Heller is a columnist for *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or send e-mail to kheller@phillynews.com.



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Bird Poop: The stump had moved ... and it blinked

His way was the hard way. Because of his upbringing in a northeastern state, his father and grandfather had instilled in him their ways of hunting. Since his move to Texas, he had retained the essence of what he had learned. No blinds, no feeding areas to lure the unsuspecting. Alone, with only his rifle as companion, he walked the rolling hills in search of his prey.



BEBE MCCASLAND

Overnight, the November cold front promised by the weatherman had arrived. After a pre-dawn breakfast, he left camp. At times he would stand beside a tree as he listened for the tell-tale footfall. While waiting, he had time to reflect on previous

hunts and their outcome. Underfoot, the leaves dampened by morning dew lent to his quiet approach to a dense thicket.

Ever careful of what might lie ahead, he took seriously the locals' admonition regarding the feral hogs and rattlers that could be awaiting him as the day lengthened. These dangers were just a part of meeting nature on its terms.

Ahead was an old stump left from some careless soul in too big a hurry to rustle some firewood. Looking backwards when he heard what he thought was a twig breaking, he cautioned himself not to stumble over the stub if he decided to go in that direction.

Having glanced to both sides for what might have caused the sound, he froze when he looked forward again. The stump wasn't where he thought it had been. Knowing how easy it was to become disoriented in the woods,



Courtesy photo

During flight, the long-eared owl flattens its ear tufts against its head as it moves silently through the night sky. When frightened or disturbed, the owl raises its "horns" while compressing its other feathers close to its body.

he stood still as he carefully scanned the path he planned to take. "Darn," he thought to himself, "I'd have sworn that sucker was a few feet to the left."

As his boot broke a small limb hidden by the leaves, the stump moved. Two bright yellow eyes glared at him.

In previous hunts, the man had seen great horned owls roosting in the trees. Although this bird resembled the larger owl, it was slimmer. With "horns" now fully extended, it appeared to be stretched vertically. Since it wasn't even three inches in diameter, the man had mistaken its rigid stance and rough, gray bark appearance for the remnants of a tree. The owl blinked.

As they continued to stare at each other, the owl slowly gave in to an urge to close its eyes. Since it made no attempt to fly away, the man realized the raptor was in trouble. To leave it on the ground to starve, or for other wildlife to kill, was unacceptable to him.

"Skinny, just plain skinny," was the description the man gave us in trying

to identify the owl. His willingness to bring the bird was admirable.

Between a great horned and a screech owl in size, the slender bird of prey had suffered a damaged wing. Unable to continue its strictly nocturnal search for food, the long-eared owl was emaciated and vulnerable.

While both sexes of this specie had tawny facial discs, adult males were usually grayer and pale, with more white underneath. Females, such as this one, had distinctive tawny accents on their wings, chest, and belly.

In addition to height, weight, and breadth differences in great horned and long-eared owls, the absence of a white throat was a quick way to identify a long-eared. While a great horned had cross-barring on its breast, the long-eared sported streaks running up and down.

After tube feeding the owl, we made arrangements for delivery to the

Midland wildlife sanctuary. The break in the wing had calcified. If the owl recovered from its near starvation, it could be placed in an educational setting. Since it only hunted at dusk, early morning, or on moonlit nights, few people would ever have the opportunity to see such a secretive bird of prey. Hidden during the day, the bird had survived because it was so elusive.

As we drove home, we thought the word "long" best described the bird's attributes. Long feathery tufts, called "horns" or "ears," long body, long wings, long tail had earned its usage in partially describing the overall predator. Since this was one of three long-eared owls we would be privileged to handle, we were grateful to meet each sojourner if only for a temporary stay.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Parent's Corner: Is government assistance our downfall?

In this Thanksgiving season we have a lot to be thankful for, even in the current financial downturn; but we must be mindful of what is happening around us.



DARRELL RYAN

I was chatting with a recent college graduate and asked him about his favorite subject in college. He said he loved government and would someday love to go into politics. I asked him to share with me a special moment in one of his government classes. He responded with the following story that his professor shared with the class.

The professor said he came to class one day and

noticed there was a young man, an exchange student, who was continuing to rub his back and stretching as if his back hurt. The professor asked the young man what was the matter.

The student told him he had a bullet lodged in his back. He had been shot while fighting communists who were trying to overthrow his country's government and install a new socialist government. In the midst of his story he looked at the professor and asked a strange question. He asked, "Do you know how to catch wild pigs?"

The professor thought it was a joke and asked for the punch line. The young man said this was no joke. You catch wild pigs by finding a suitable place in the woods and putting corn on the ground. The pigs find it and begin to

come everyday to eat the free corn.

When they are used to coming every day, you install a fence down one side of the place. When they get used to the fence, they begin to eat the corn again and you install another side of the fence. They get used to that and start to eat again. You continue until you have installed all four sides of the fence with an open gate in the last side. The pigs that are used to the free corn start to come through the gate to eat, and then you slam the gate on them and catch the whole herd. Suddenly the wild pigs have lost their freedom.

They run around inside the fence, but they are caught. Soon they go back to eating the free corn which they have grown so used to that they have forgotten how to forage in

the woods for themselves, so they accept their captivity.

The young man then told the professor that is exactly what he sees happening to America. The government keeps pushing us toward socialism and keeps spreading the free corn out in the form of programs such as supplemental income, tax credit for unearned income, tobacco subsidies, dairy subsidies, payments not to plant crops, welfare, medicine, drugs, etc., while we continually lose our freedoms — a lit-

tle more at a time.

Very few things in life are really free. All of this wonderful government assistance presents a problem that will confront the future of democracy

in America. We must be aware before the gate slams shut!

Darrell Ryan is the director of federal programs for Big Spring ISD.

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**Publish Date:
Thursday, Nov. 27th**

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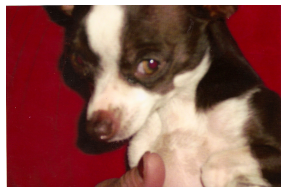
FOUND on Wasson at 7-11, White & Tan Chihuahua (male) with 2 red collars. Please call 432-816-3962.

LOST BRITTANY Spaniel (Liver & white) wearing red collar with no tags. Last seen near Jeffrey Rd. Please call 432-416-0118 or 263-0926.

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2007 CHEVROLET Suburban LS, maroon/ tan, 25,000 miles. \$22,000. Call (432)517-0383.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The sun and Mercury join in Sagittarius and our powers of communication are strengthened. This aspect particularly favors communicating en masse, such as through a media outlet or an e-mail blast. It's a premium opportunity to consider what message you would tell the whole world if you could. Who knows? It very well may be possible.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Are those who can't remember the past condemned to repeat it? Not if you're around. You recall just exactly what happened the last time in a similar scenario to this one and you remind everyone well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Witnessing the happiness of others brings you pleasure, even though you'd prefer the more direct route to feeling good, which is experiencing happiness yourself. Accept joy however it comes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are enough resources to go around, contrary to what some will report. Do not believe scary stories. Keep in mind the motive that others may have for making you feel insecure and react the opposite way.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's so simple for you to gauge the emotional tone of a room that you don't even consider this a talent. However, your level of sensitivity is rare and unique. Use your gift to unite people in mutual support.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Someone has been difficult to understand. Do a little digging. Your relationship route is cleared once you know where this person grew up, what his or her parents were like and other casual facts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Loved ones are testy, quibbling over the silliest things. You're trying to avoid the pettiness, and yet it represents something unsettling, like a lack of respect. Express yourself. Nothing is too small to mention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You energize others with your ideas about how to improve a situation. Your vision is broad, including many people. You're not sure if you can pull it off, but start anyhow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Share your optimism. Others will benefit from your suggestions, even if they don't follow them.

Your cheerful point of view is uplifting and others get swept into the spirit of enthusiasm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your powers of imagination are even stronger than usual. You are moved beyond concrete facts and into the realm of "what if?" You are more productive when you give yourself time to daydream.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is some-

thing wrong with the plan that's on paper. Though you can't put your finger on the problem just yet, you instinctively sense that it won't work. Go gingerly. Heed your internal warning system.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your powers of focus are strong. You are particularly adept at getting back on track after a disruption. Others need your help in this regard. Seize everyone's attention and lead the way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are fascinated with the intangible and abstract. You will be moved by beauty in unexplainable ways. To take advantage of your profound state of mind, connect with nature, art and music.

ASTROLOGICAL RITUALS: When used in an astrological context, for some the word "ritual" has connotations of witchcraft and the kind of dark activities one might see in a horror film. That's not the "ritual" I'm talking about. Any action can be a ritual. It's the significance you give it that makes it so. This week features the ritual of preparing a meal and sitting down with loved ones. While we involve ourselves with the actual logistics of making this happen in the manner and style we deem appropriate, what is actually most important is the symbolic gesture and the meaning we ascribe to it. Astrological rituals can be more like the daily habits we make important -- preparing the morning coffee, putting on clothes, organizing a desk before you leave the office for the day, etc. The only difference is that astrological rituals coincide with changes in the heavenly landscape. When a ritual is timed with planetary movement, there is an added layer of resonance. So say you decide to go outside and hold hands with a loved one every time the moon is full. Obviously you can still do this when the moon is not full, but making it a full moon ritual gives a greater quality of attention to the action, making it special.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Christina Applegate is already a Hollywood veteran having had her acting debut at three months old when she appeared with her actress mother on "Days of Our Lives." She's a Sagittarian go-getter who uses her celebrity to bring help and awareness to fighting cancer. Sagittarius is especially talented at uniting large groups of people whether it be for a fighting cause or a laughing one.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators' Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Wacky Facts

American slang dates back to Colonial times. We get the slang words "peepers" (eyes), "mug" (face) and "chops" (mouth) from criminals who were brought from England to the Colonies between 1619 and 1772.
— *World Almanac for Kids*

KID NEWS

Chatter Box

"We're blown away we actually have time to hang out and do things. We're trying to figure out what friends we can see."
— *Kevin Jonas, on what it's like for the Jonas Brothers to finally be home from their tour, in People magazine*



In The News

Meet 'True Jackson, VP'

In Nickelodeon's new comedy series, "True Jackson, VP," Keke Palmer plays 15-year-old True Jackson, the head of the youth division of Mad Style, a major fashion label. As the head of youth apparel, True gets to design cool clothing for her peers, rock stars and celebrities. She hires her best friends, Lulu and Ryan, to help.

True quickly discovers that her dream job has the same ups and downs as high school. There are cliques and mean girls, like Amanda, the assistant to the boss. But there are also friends who look out for you, like the receptionist, Oscar. From selling sandwiches to designing clothes, True realizes she can do anything.

Time For Kids kid reporter Morgan Mullings caught up with Palmer to talk about the show, which premiered on Nickelodeon this month.

TFK: What are your hopes for the new show?

PALMER: I hope everyone really likes the show, has fun watching it and will tell their friends about it.

TFK: What's the cast like when they're not on screen?

PALMER: Goofy. We are all goofy. We have a good chemistry and it's always cool to hang out with one another. They're really great.

TFK: How is your character, True, like you? Does she relate to you in any way?

PALMER: She definitely does, being in a grownup world. She's hardworking, persistent, determined and optimistic. We're very much alike.

TFK: What do you like about her?

PALMER: I love her personality. She's always helping people. She's always trying to be there for her friends and even some of her nemeses on the show.

TFK: How did you get interested in show business?

PALMER: I believe it was almost five years ago. I was in Chicago when my parents told me about "The Lion King" auditions. I was like "Man, I wanna try out, I wanna try out." That was my first audition.

TFK: What kind of impact do you think the characters in the show will have on kids?

PALMER: I think it will have a good effect on them.

I hope they work hard and try to make their goals happen. You know, some people may feel and think that a 15-year-old girl can't be a vice president of a company, but then the show might motivate people to think they can do the unbelievable, too.

TFK: Do you include your family in your work?

PALMER: Always. My family always works with me with my acting and stuff like that. They're always standing by me. They are a big part of my career.

TFK: You have your own album, you've starred in movies and now you have your own TV show. What do you see yourself doing in the future?

PALMER: I hope to see myself still acting, with an even better music career and also maybe winning an Oscar. That would be pretty awesome.

— *Morgan Mullings*

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GAVIN BOND/NICKELODEON/MCT

cool gear

Stay warm with these terrific trends in accessories

BY EMILIE LE BEAU
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Being a student means wearing embarrassing clothes. Gym uniforms aren't exactly hip. And some students have to wear a school uniform, which certainly isn't designed to look cool.

Once winter arrives, the situation is worse. There are silly hats that look like berets and scarves loaded with fringe. Ugh.

For kids who want to look cool when they're chilly, there are fashionable options. Here's a winter guide for guys and girls:

MITTENS

Uncool: Mitts so thick, you can barely bend your fingers.

Cool: Mittens that convert to gloves. The Smart Wool Flip Mitt looks like a mitten but the top can be pulled back when you need your fingers. Made with 100 percent wool, these mittens are for both guys and girls. Color options include celery, rust or taupe. \$22 at [SmartWool.com](#). Also check out the bright and cheery patterned convertible mittens, top right, from [Gap.com](#) for \$14.50.

SCARF

Uncool: A bulky scarf randomly wrapped around the neck.

Cool: A Neck Gator, bottom right. It's like a scarf but it has closed ends so there's less bulk. The Neck Gator from Patagonia is made with recycled plastic soda bottles and old fabric. It has a fleece-like feel and is double-layered for warmth. It is loose fitting and soft. Five color options, meant for both guys and girls, \$25 at [Patagonia.com](#).

HEAD COVERING

Uncool: Ditching a hat or hood because you don't want to mess up your hair.

Cool: Arriving at school with perfect hair because your hood protected you from damaging winds. Try a knit, one-piece

wrap that doubles as both a hat and scarf. The Isotoner Hoodwrap Scarf is available in black, ivory or navy for \$24 at [Isotoner.com](#) and the Hooded Scarf from [Gap.com](#) comes in light heather gray, below, or dove white for \$45.

HAT

Uncool: Wearing a lame beanie hat. Far worse, skipping the beanie and risking frost bite.

Cool: A cool wool hat, shaped like a baseball cap. The Ace hat from Nobis has a brim and flaps that can be pulled down. Handknit, available in black, chocolate brown or charcoal grey. \$44.95, available at stores such as Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's. American Eagle Outfitter's Cable Knit Radar, right, is a soft cotton blend knit hat and comes in sour apple, black, grey, navy and oatmeal for \$15.50 at [ae.com](#).

LEG WARMERS

Uncool: Walking into school with bright red legs because you couldn't bear to pull pants over your uniform skirt and knee socks.

Cool: Pulling on designer leg warmers. The Betsey Johnson leg warmers, right, are made with chunky gray acrylic knit. Each legwarmer has eight button hearts running up the side. One size only, \$40 at [FredFlare.com](#).



MCT ILLUSTRATION

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE COMPANIES

Rips & Raves

Fun right at your fingertips

We foresee hours of amusement with the fortune-telling game Cahootie. Available in several themes, it updates and improves upon the classic paper toy by offering durable card stock cootie-catchers and 40 reusable peel-and-play stickers. Our tester-families especially loved the Truth or Dare Cahootie. With questions such as "What's your proudest moment?" and dares such as "Give your friends 30 seconds to give you a wacky new hairstyle," it's perfect for a playdate or slumber party. Kids can even go online to create and print their own stickers. Other favorite themes included Sporty Girls, Wishes and Dreams, and Birthday Wishes. Ages 7 and up. Cahootie, \$6
— *Jessye Siciak/FamilyFun magazine*



FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE

Try This

Speed eraser: Turn office supplies into toys

Turn a handful of office supplies into a busy fleet of cars and trucks. Begin by cutting erasers with a knife (a parent's job; kids can use scissors for this, but the cuts won't be as straight). Stack the erasers to make cars, trucks and trailers. Pencil-cap erasers and automatic pencil eraser refills make good cargo. Use white glue to hold the pieces together. To make tires, press thumbtacks into a piece of cardboard, color them with permanent markers, then remove the tacks and press them in place on the vehicles.
— *FamilyFun magazine*



FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE

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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Scrivner Uri Harel	BBC Business	Cash Cab	'Em High, Ed Begley	Law & Order	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Suite Life	Horn	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Querida Enemiga	Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazonas	News NBC	Friends Seinfeld	Dr. Young Hagee	Business Made	Cash Cab	Movie: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith	Law & Order	Law & Order	Movie: Hair Show, Gina Torres	Phineas	College Football: Navy at Northern Illinois	College Basketball: Maui Invitational
7 :PM	Charlie Brown	Charlie Brown	Cuidado-Ángel	House	NCIS	Doña Barbara	The Biggest Loser: Families	Fam. Guy	Israel	Nova (DVS)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Ride With the Devil, Jewel	Law & Order	Law & Order	Movie: Ride With the Devil, Jewel	Phineas	Score	College Basketball: Maui Invitational
8 :PM	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	Fuego en la Sangre	(.08) Fringe	The Mentalist	El Rostro de Analia	Families	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (DVS)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Ride With the Devil, Jewel	Law & Order	Law & Order	Movie: Ride With the Devil, Jewel	Phineas	College Basketball: Maui Invitational	Score
9 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	(.07) TMZ	Without a Trace	Sin Senos	Law & Order: SVU	Office	Frank TV	Israel	Extreme Loggers	Movie: Sil-verado, Kevin Costner	MAN	MAN	MAN	Wizards of Life De	College Basketball: CBE Classic	SportsCenter
10 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones de	Tonight Show	Sex & Seinfeld	Ministerio-Vida	Digital	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Ride With the Devil, Jewel	MAN	MAN	MAN	Suite Life	Series of Poker	SportsCenter
11 :PM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night	Frank Caliendo	Israel	Smiley	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Ride With the Devil, Jewel	MAN	MAN	MAN	So Raven	Series of Poker	SportsCenter
12 :AM	News	News	Amarte-Pecado	RENO 911	RENO 911	Programa Pagado	News	Frank Caliendo	Israel	Smiley	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Ride With the Devil, Jewel	MAN	MAN	MAN	Replace	Martial Arts	NFL Live
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Basco	Clasicos	Friends	Entertain	Paid	Pelicula:	Frank TV	Light of the Southwest	Extreme Loggers	Movie: Ride With the Devil, Jewel	MAN	MAN	MAN	Emperor Dragon	Martial Arts	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE

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"HE KNOWS HOW TO LET HIMSELF IN, MARTHA. I'M SURE HE CAN LET HIMSELF OUT!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

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"Mommy, guess how many little beads were on your pearl necklace?!"

HAGAR

BETTER GIVE ME TWO OF YOUR WIFE'S DIAMOND BRACELETS...

WHILE I'M HERE, I MIGHT AS WELL SHOP FOR NEXT CHRISTMAS, TOO...

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BLONDIE

EVERYTHING CHECKED OUT FINE, DAGWOOD... YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD

THANKS, DOC. YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, TOO

I DO? NOBODY'S TOLD ME THAT IN A LONG TIME! ARE YOU JUST KIDDING?

NO... YOU DO LOOK GOOD

COULD I GET A SECOND OPINION?

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BLONDIE

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WIZARD OF ID

SIRE, THE CARRIAGE DRIVERS WANT SOMETHING DONE ABOUT GIANT POTHOLES

PUT A SIGN BESIDE EACH ONE SAYING "UNDERGROUND PARKING"

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AGNES

SO... YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT NO CHEERLEADING POSITIONS ARE OPEN AT THIS CURRENT TIME.

RIGHT.

HOW AM I TO LEARN THE NOBLE TRADE OF ATHLETE ENCOURAGEMENT? SURELY SOMEONE AROUND HERE NEEDS A HEARTY SHOUT CAPPED WITH A SPREAD EAGLE LEAP!

SHE SAID SHE'S HERE TO PUMP UP THE LUNCH LADIES.

LET'S GO!! JELLO, JELLO, IT'S SO GOOD! THE MEATLOAF, HOWEVER, TASTES LIKE WOOD!

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HI AND LOIS

PEOPLE ARE DRIVING LESS BECAUSE GAS IS SO EXPENSIVE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT HEATING OIL?

I SEE YOUR POINT...

A "STAYCATION" IS NO FUN WHEN YOUR HOUSE IS FREEZING.

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THE OTHER COAST

GOODDAY, SIR, I'M CALLING TO OFFER YOU AN INCREDIBLE ONE-TIME DEAL ON...

IF I GET ONE MORE CALL FROM A TELEMARKETER, I'M GOING TO LOSE IT!

THEN MAYBE YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN OUR INCREDIBLE OFFER ON AN ANGER MANAGEMENT DVD.

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SNUFFY SMITH

MIZ PRUNELLY, I NEED HELP WIF TH' 'RITHMATIC PROBLEM !!

KEEP TRYIN', JUGHAID !! YOU'LL FIGGER IT OUT !!

MIZ PRUNELLY DON'T GET IT NEITHER !!

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BEEBLE BAILEY

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO NOW, SARGE?

OH, JUST KEEP SCRUBBING WHEREVER YOU SEE ANY DIRT

ZERO!!

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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 25, the 330th day of 2008. There are 36 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: One hundred years ago, on Nov. 25, 1908, the first issue of The Christian Science Monitor was published.

On this date: In 1758, during the French and Indian War, the British captured Fort Duquesne in present-day Pittsburgh.

In 1783, the British evacuated New York, their last military position in the United States during the Revolutionary War.

In 1881, Pope John XXIII was born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli near Bergamo, Italy.

In 1947, movie studio executives meeting in New York agreed to blacklist the "Hollywood Ten" who'd been cited for contempt of Congress the day before.

In 1957, President Eisenhower suffered a slight stroke.

In 1963, the body of President Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1973, Greek President George Papadopoulos was ousted in a bloodless military coup.

In 1974, former U.N. Secretary-General U Thant died in New York at age 65.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 2002, President Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head.

Five years ago: The Senate gave final congressional approval to historic Medicare legislation combining a new prescription drug benefit with measures to control costs before the baby boom generation reaches retirement age.

One year ago: Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned from exile to an ecstatic welcome from thousands of supporters and immediately stepped up the pressure on U.S.-backed military ruler Pervez Musharraf to end emergency rule. Kevin Dubrow, lead singer for the heavy metal band Quiet Riot, was found dead in a Las Vegas home; he was 52.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ricardo Montalban is 88. Actress Noel Neill is 88. Actress Kathryn Crosby is 75. Actor Matt Clark is 72. Singer Percy Sledge is 68. Author, actor and game show host Ben Stein is 64. Singer Bob Lind is 64. Actor John Larroquette is 61. Actor Tracey Walter is 61. Movie director Jonathan Kaplan is 61. Singer Amy Grant is 48. Rock musician Eric Grossman (K's Choice) is 44. Rock singer Mark Lanegan is 44. Rock singer-musician Tim Armstrong is 43. Singer Stacy Lattisaw is 42. Rock musician Rodney Sheppard (Sugar Ray) is 42. Actress Jill Hennessy is 39. Actress Christina Applegate is 37. Actor Eddie Steeples ("My Name Is Earl") is 35.

Thought for Today: "Reject hatred without hating." — Mary Baker Eddy, American religious leader and founder of The Christian Science Monitor (1821-1910).

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Answer to previous puzzle

RECAP	STEP	BOAT
EMOTE	TALE	ARCH
PIN	NEEDLE	LAME
STS	AREA	POLLEN
CLAP HERO		
ROBOTS	HARBORS	
ENEMY	SITS	NEAT
ASAP	EVE	RULE
MENU	SEED	FISTS
TSTRAPS	MODEST	
EONS	PARE	
TIERED	ARMS	FOE
STUB	MEDIA	HOUND
PERU	AGED	OUNCE
SMOG	NOSE	WIDEN

Newsday Crossword

GIARHEADS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Sky twinkler
5 Female choir voice
9 "Surely you ___!"
13 Spring-blooming bulb
15 Eastern European
16 Friend in war
17 Singer Baker
18 Walking speed
19 Unappetizing food
20 Type of home loan
23 Before, poetically
24 Sandwich fish
25 Observe
26 Low end of many scales
27 Farewell party
31 Feel one's way
34 Daddy
36 Hosp. test
37 Noncommittal stance
41 Toward the stern
42 Tune for two
43 "I didn't do it!"
44 Sneezer's needs
47 Big fuss
48 Abbr. after a lawyer's name
49 Only
51 Plopped down
54 Bid higher and higher
59 Italy's capital
60 Yemeni or Saudi
61 Wood-joint part
62 Bad smell
63 ___ avail (useless)

DOWN

1 Look too long
2 Radio knob
3 Vibrant
4 Church ceremony
5 Colorado ski resort
6 Andes pack animal
7 Mexican snack
8 Across the ocean
9 Sharply uneven
10 Jazz great
11 Walk through the mud
12 Use a word processor
14 Spouse
21 Take to court
22 High end of many scales
26 Make a choice
27 Small stain
28 Leave out
29 As of
30 Speeder's penalty
31 Pesky insect
32 Loan adjustment, briefly
33 Escape clauses
34 In addition
35 Gorilla, e.g.
38 Good enough
39 Very detailed
40 In addition
45 Harsh
46 Take advantage of
47 Pub pint
49 Get up
50 "That's great!"
51 Moses' mountain
52 Oak-to-be
53 Campers' shelters
54 Bit of rain
55 Went on horseback
56 "Don't worry about me"
57 Urge
58 Sax attachment

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13			14		15			16					
17					18			19					
20					21			22					
23					24			25					
			26				27			28	29	30	
31	32	33			34	35				36			
37					38			39	40				
41					42			43					
44			45	46				47					
			48				49	50			51	52	53
54	55	56					57				58		
59							60				61		
62							63				64		
65							66				67		

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