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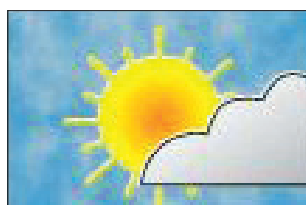
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THE BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 14, 2008



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 11

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Local man awaiting child porn trial

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The first of several West Texas men indicted on child pornography charges has been found guilty in federal court.

Following a two-day trial in

Lubbock before U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings, a jury convicted Dennis Ray Hagan, of Eastland, on all seven counts of an indictment charging various child pornography offenses, announced U.S. Attorney Richard B. Roper of the

Northern District of Texas.

Rory Dale Worthan, 43, of 2613 Ann Drive, was indicted alongside Hagan and several other men in mid-September on two counts of possession of child pornography, two counts of receipt of child pornography and one count of

receipt of child obscenity, according to records filed with the U.S. District Court.

According to U.S. Department of Justice spokesperson Kathy Colvin, Worthan is set to go to trial Jan. 5 in Lubbock, with Judge Cummings presiding. The

prosecuting attorney will be Assistant U.S. Attorney Steve Sucusy.

Also indicted on the same three charges were Jason Alan Seyffert, 31, of Merkel; Danny Randell Lott, 46, of

See **PORN**, page 3A

Trustees to discuss bond costs

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The bills are starting to come due for renovation projects at Howard College.

Trustees will consider the guaranteed maximum cost of several projects when they hold their monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the student union building's Tumbleweed Room.

Voters approved more than \$20 million in renovation at the college in 2007. On Monday, trustees will learn the top end costs for Phase 1 on the three-year undertaking.

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said Phase 1 — which features an addition to the science building and renovation to the A and E wings of the administration building — will cost \$2.96 million.

In the 18 months since the election, college officials had anticipated an

See **BOND**, page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Jesse Morgan portrays Jesus ascending to Heaven in a scene from First Church of the Nazarene's Drive Through Christmas Nativity. The event continues Saturday and Sunday evening at the church, located at 1400 Lancaster.

Angel trees

SA extends event deadline

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

With just a few days left until its holiday deadline, the local Salvation Army's annual Angel Tree program is in need of serious help from the community.

According to Corps Assistant Amy Tompkins, less than 50 percent of the more than 700 angels placed on the trees have been returned to the Salvation Army with their gifts.

"The original deadline for the program was Saturday, but because we still have so many angels out there we've

See **ANGEL**, page 3A

11 Shopping Days Til Christmas

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Obama names new HUD administrator

By **PHILIP ELLIOT**

Associated Press

CHICAGO — President-elect Barack Obama on Saturday named New York City's housing commissioner to his Cabinet, turning to a former Clinton administration aide to help deal with an issue at the heart of the U.S. economic crisis.

If confirmed by the Senate, Shaun Donovan will lead the Housing and Urban Development Department at a time when the mortgage crisis is being blamed for the financial market turmoil that has dragged the nation into a recession.

Obama praised Donovan's record in New York, where he managed a \$7.5 billion plan with a goal of putting a half-million New Yorkers in affordable housing. The Harvard-educated architect also kept foreclosures to a minimum in the city's low- and moderate-income home ownership plan, with just five out of 17,000 participating homes.

"We can't keep throwing money at the problem, hoping for a different result," Obama said during his radio address released early Saturday. "We need to approach the old challenge of affordable hous-

ing with new energy, new ideas, and a new, efficient style of leadership. We need to understand that the old ways of looking at our cities just won't do."

With fallout from the housing market continuing and more people losing their homes, Donovan faces a tough challenge.

More than 259,000 homes received a foreclosure-related notice in November, up 28 percent from a year earlier, RealtyTrac reported last week. The news comes as the Mortgage Bankers Association reported a record one in 10 American homeowners with a mortgage was either at least one month behind on their payments or in foreclosure at the end of September.

While the mortgage crisis has threatened cities, Obama said it also provides a chance to rethink how the federal department can help people in cities. He said Donovan, who also has a degree in public service from Harvard, will bring "fresh thinking unencumbered by old ideology and outdated ideas."



Donovan

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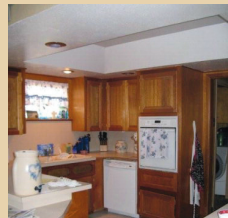
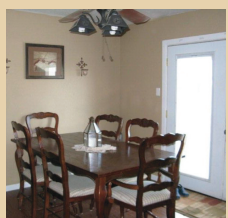
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Buffs claim third at BC Invitational

Herald Staff Report

GAIL — All things considered, third place at the Borden County Invitational isn't anything the Forsan Buffaloes should frown at.

The Buffs certainly answered the call when faced with their toughest challenge of the basketball season to date Friday as they carried a 17-point advantage into intermission over the Class A, Division I second-ranked Roscoe Plowboys.

However, the Plowboys rallied in the third period and controlled the entire second half for a 58-44 victory.

Forsan bounced back from the loss with a convincing 82-32 victory over Wilson in the third-place game.

"This was a good tournament for us," said Forsan Head Coach Terry McDonald. "We played four games and got to see several different styles of teams."

Forsan trailed the Plowboys 10-7 after the opening period

of the first game of the day. However, a 19-9 advantage in the second gave the Buffs a 26-19 lead at intermission.

However, the Plowboys came out of the locker room with a lot of energy and dominated from there.

"We looked like we were about a half step too slow on both ends of the floor in the second half," said McDonald.

Jeremy Robbins led the Buffs with 11 points, while Jeremy Freitag and Evan Burton scored nine apiece.

In the third-place game, Forsan dominated from the word go and really took Wilson out of the game in the second, allowing the Mustangs to score a mere two points in the frame and taking a 42-15 advantage into the locker room at halftime.

"We had a considerable height and depth advantage over Wilson and were able to exploit that," explained McDonald.

The Buffs improve to 10-1 and host the Garden City

Bearcats at 8 p.m. Tuesday. The Lady Buffs are scheduled to play the No. 12 Lady 'Kats at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Forsan 7 19 8 10-44
Roscoe 10 9 22 17-58
Jeremy Freitag 9, Jeremy Robbins 11, Tristian Clay 7, Evan Burton 9, Nathan Atkerson 8.

Forsan 25 17 15 25-82
Wilson 13 2 10 7-32
Jeremy Freitag 2, Mike Hill 2, Jeremy Robbins 13, Jace Sandridge 8, Tristian Clay 11, Ryan Flores 2, Evan Burton 13, Alex Huckabee 5, Zach Dykes 6, Nathan Atkerson 20.

Mirror image

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys would love to become this year's New York Giants, the wild-card team turned Super Bowl champion.

"Yeah, we have talked about that. It is definitely possible to still win a Super Bowl from where we are at," quarterback Tony Romo said. "And it is definitely possible not to win a Super Bowl from where the Giants are at."

The NFC East rivals play Sunday night with their roles reversed from a year ago, when Romo and the Cowboys proved that scenario the hard way.

This time, the Giants (11-2) have already won the division title with three games left, though they are still trying to clinch a first-round playoff bye and the No. 1 seed. And they want to avoid a Cowboys-like collapse down the stretch like the one New York contributed to last season.

Dallas (8-5) was the early division clincher last season and earned the No. 1 seed before losing two of its last three regular-season games. Then the Cowboys lost at home in the playoffs to New York, which was halfway into a four-game postseason road sweep to an unexpected championship.



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo, right, scrambles past Seattle Seahawks defensive end Lawrence Jackson for a first down during the first quarter of an NFL game Nov. 27 in Irving. The Cowboys face the New York Giants Sunday night and are hoping to replicate the path the Giants took to a Super Bowl win last season.

AP photo/Tony Gutierrez

Lady Steers top Maidens

Herald Staff Report

CLYDE — Four squads out of the five-team District 4-4A of the Big Spring Lady Steers are in to qualify for the basketball post-season.

The Lady Steers received encouraging news regarding their chances to advance to the playoffs once district season starts next semester.

Big Spring found out there is at least one team in the league it can beat Friday as the Lady Steers took down the San Angelo Lake View Maidens, 46-36, in the semifinals of the consolation bracket of the Clyde Lions Club Tournament.

"This is a tremendous confidence booster for us," said Lady Steers Head Coach Mike Warren. "We found out we can score against them. Our post play was much better today. Cerbi (Ritchey), Desiree (Anderson) and Lauren (Porras) each had good games inside. We made a lot of shots in the paint."

The victory was also an encouraging sight after the Lady Steers were pummeled by more than 40 points by host Clyde in the first round of the tournament.

The Lady Steers got off to a quick start, something their starting to make a habit of, and held a 9-point advantage after the first period, 15-6. From there, they simply kept pace with the Maidens over the

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 2B

Titans shoot for home-field advantage vs. Houston

By KRISTIE RIEKIN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — In the week leading up to Houston's first meeting with Tennessee, many Texans players were living without electricity and dealing with extensive damage to their homes in the wake of powerful Hurricane Ike.

Things are much better for the Texans as they prepare to host the Titans, having won three in a row, capped by a last-second road victory over Green Bay.

The 12-1 Titans have clinched the AFC South and a bye in the first round of the playoffs, but won't be slowing down as they look to secure home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. The Titans, who have won eight

See **TEXANS**, Page 2B

Bulldogettes in Hooptown finals

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Staff Writer

STANTON — Coahoma's Bulldogettes continued their winning ways Friday and did so against a district foe.

Coahoma blasted the Grape Creek Lady Eagles, 61-46, in the semifinals of the 17th Annual Hooptown Classic in Stanton. The Bulldogettes played for a second tournament championship in as many weeks Saturday as they matched up with Kermit's Lady Yellow Jackets. Last week the Bulldogettes faced Idalou in the finals of the Coahoma invitational, losing the game 50-40.

Results of the Bulldogettes attempt to win Hooptown will be available in Monday's edition of the Herald.

Coahoma started fast, jumping out to an early 11-2 lead as the duo of Kylie Gee and K'Leigh Fowler combined to score 10 points.

Grape Creek had no intentions of going away, though, reeling off a 6-0 run to end the stanza and close the deficit to 3, 11-8, entering the second

quarter.

Berkley Iden began to exert herself in the second as the senior continually slashed her way inside the Lady Eagles defense drawing contact. As a result, Iden found herself at the charity stripe frequently. She hit 5-of-8 during the period, and more importantly placed the inside presence of the Lady Eagles in foul trouble.

Because of Iden's play, and the three off five shooting from behind the 3-point line, the Bulldogettes outscored the Lady Eagles 20-9 in the second period, claiming the 31-17 lead heading into the locker room. The closest Grape Creek would get again was 10 points.

"We are getting better every game," Petty said. "As long as we keep doing that we are going to be alright. These girls just don't quit."

The Bulldogettes were paced by Iden and Fowler, who scored 19 apiece, while Kylie Gee added nine.

Coahoma 11 20 14 16-61
Grape Creek 8 9 17 13-46

Coahoma — Iden 19, Fowler 19, Gee 9, Kalea Neff 8, Shelbi Paige 6; Grape Creek — Jaime Wilson 12, Tiffany Stephenson 11, Jessica Burner 8, Gabby

Rodriguez 2, Natalie Hernandez 2
Three-pointers - C - Fowler (3), Neff (2), Paige (2);
GC - Wilson (2), Stephenson

Wall 41,
Bulldogs 30

For the second consecutive week, the Coahoma Bulldogs found themselves facing off against District 7-2A foe Wall. Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, the outcome Friday was a bit different as the Hawks held Coahoma in single digits in each of the final three quarters, pulling out a 41-30 victory and also handing the Bulldogs their first loss of the year.

"We just couldn't buy a basket tonight and our free throw shooting finally caught up to us," Coahoma Head Coach Kim Nichols said.

Coahoma only managed to hit five shots from the field in the game to go along with a paltry seven of 19 from the charity stripe.

After the two teams fought to a 12-11 Hawks advantage after the first quarter of play, the bottom fell out of the

See **HOOPTOWN**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Big Spring basketball boosters meeting Monday

The Big Spring Steers Basketball Booster Club is holding its first parents meeting at 6 p.m. Monday in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of Steers' basketball players from junior high to varsity are encouraged to attend.

For questions, call Sam Segundo at 268-3025.

Referees needed for YMCA basketball

Anyone interested in refereeing basketball at the YMCA needs to attend a meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the YMCA.

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Lady Steers Booster Club meeting Monday at ATC

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club is holding a meeting at 5:45 p.m. Monday in the ATC

All parents of Lady Steers' athletes ranging from junior high to high school are encouraged to attend.

Holidays to Remember

FAMILY FEATURES

Merry Christmas!

Holiday Fig and Feta Salad

- 6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 10 ounces mixed baby lettuces
- 1 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 24 Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid figs, quartered (stems removed)
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese (Mediterranean flavor or plain)
- 2/3 cup halved pitted Kalamata olives
- Chopped fresh basil, as desired

For dressing, whisk olive oil, lemon juice, honey, garlic and black pepper in small bowl to blend. Set aside.

In large bowl, combine lettuce and onion; toss gently. Add figs, cheese and olives. Add dressing and toss gently. Garnish with basil.

Makes 12 servings.

Snowflake Breakfast Bake

- 3 cups frozen diced O'Brien potatoes
- 2 cups diced fully cooked ham
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 2 cups milk
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup biscuit mix
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray Dimensions Snowflake pan with vegetable pan spray.

Layer potatoes, ham and cheese in prepared pan. In large bowl, beat together milk, eggs, biscuit mix, salt, pepper and basil until blended. Pour into pan.

Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until center is set and edges are lightly browned. Let stand 20 minutes before removing from pan.

Makes 10 to 12 servings.

Make Christmas holidays memorable with a fun, festive brunch. Trim the table with sprigs of evergreen, pinecones and a festive gingerbread house decked out in candy, icing and sprinkle splendor.

The main dish, Snowflake Breakfast Bake, doubles as a delicious centerpiece. Simply layer frozen potatoes, ham and cheese in the snowflake-shaped pan, pour in a mixture of egg, milk and biscuit mix, and bake. Round out the merry menu with tasty, homemade fruit muffins and a mixed green salad. Naturally sweet, nutrient rich dried California figs add flavor and flair to the homemade Fig-Cranberry-Orange Muffins and the Holiday Fig and Feta Salad.

Fig Cranberry Orange Muffins

- 2-2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/3 cups milk
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons grated orange zest
- 1 cup chopped Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid figs (stems removed)
- 3/4 cup fresh, frozen or dried cranberries

Preheat oven to 375°F. Line muffin pan with baking cups.

In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt; make well in center. In separate bowl, combine milk, oil, eggs and orange zest; add to flour mixture all at once. Stir just until combined. Gently fold in figs and cranberries. Spoon batter evenly into muffin cups.

Bake 20 to 22 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out with just a few crumbs attached. Cool in pan 5 minutes. Remove from pan and cool on cooling grid. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Makes 24 muffins.

Visit www.valleyfig.com for additional recipes, cooking and nutrition tips, and the growers' store for holiday baking supplies and gifts.

At www.wilton.com order pans, gingerbread house kits, cookie cutters, Candy Melts and decorating supplies, plus see more entertaining ideas and recipes.



FAMILY FEATURES

Happy Hanukkah!

Host a dessert party for a new spin on Hanukkah celebrations. Sweetly greet guests with an array of dazzling desserts. Brightly decorated in blue and yellow, Hanukkah Sandwich Cookies cut in seasonal shapes with a fig-orange filling share the table with lemony Mini Fig Cheesecake Tarts and shimmering pearl-dusted, candy-coated plump, stuffed figs.

To prepare the stuffed figs, use both golden Calimyrna and dark purple Mission figs. Cut a small slit in the bottom of each and stuff with candied ginger or toasted nuts, then dip into light and dark cocoa and white Candy Melts. When set, brush with Pearl Dust and drizzle with more melted candy, if desired. Store lightly covered at room temperature ... they will remain moist and chewy up to one week.

Guests will delight in every bite!

Visit www.valleyfig.com for additional recipes, cooking and nutrition tips, and the growers' store for holiday baking supplies and gifts.

At www.wilton.com order pans, gingerbread house kits, cookie cutters, Candy Melts and decorating supplies, plus see more entertaining ideas and recipes.



Hanukkah Sandwich Cookies

- Cookies:**
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 3/4 cup (1-1/2 sticks) butter, softened
 - 1 cup granulated sugar
 - 2 eggs
 - 1/2 teaspoon almond extract

- Filling:**
- 1-1/2 cups packed Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid figs (stems removed)
 - 1/3 cup honey
 - 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 3 tablespoons orange juice
 - 1 tablespoon orange zest

In small bowl, combine flour, baking powder and cinnamon; mix well. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and almond extract. Add flour mixture to butter mixture 1 cup at a time, mixing after each addition. Place cookie dough on plastic wrap; shape into a 12-inch disk. Refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 375°F. On well-floured surface, roll out dough to about 1/8 inch thick. Cut out cookies with Hanukkah-shaped cutters, making sure to dip cutters in flour before each use.

Bake on ungreased cookie sheet 9 to 11 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Remove to wire rack; cool completely. Decorate 1/2 the cookies as desired; leave remaining cookies without decoration.

In food processor, puree figs, honey, cinnamon, orange juice and zest until almost smooth. Spread about 1 tablespoon filling on undecorated cookies. Top with decorated cookies.

Makes about 2 dozen 3-inch sandwich cookies.

Mini Fig Cheesecake Tarts

- 2 (9-inch) refrigerated pie crusts

- Filling:**
- 2 cups chopped Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid figs (stems removed)
 - 1 cup water
 - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 1/3 cup granulated sugar
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 4 teaspoons finely chopped fresh ginger
 - 2 teaspoons lemon zest

- Topping:**
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
 - 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 1 tablespoon lemon zest

- Garnish:**
- Thinly sliced dried figs
 - Lemon zest curl

Preheat oven to 375°F. Gently unroll crusts; cut 4-1/2 inch circles, using the 4-inch removable tart pan bottom as a guide. Press each piece into 4-inch tart pan; prick bottom with fork. Bake 15 to 18 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely.

In medium saucepan, combine filling ingredients; stir over medium-high heat until mixture boils. Reduce heat and cover; simmer until figs are tender, about 10 minutes. Remove cover and simmer until liquid is absorbed and filling starts to thicken, about 5 minutes. Transfer mixture to food processor; process until smooth. Set aside to cool.

For topping, combine all ingredients in large bowl; beat with electric mixer until smooth.

Spread cooled fig filling into cooled tart shells. Top with cream cheese topping and spread smooth. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Garnish with sliced fig and lemon zest curl.

Makes 8 4-inch tarts.

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United Country congratulates agent **Richard Key** on receiving the *2008 Rookie of the Year Award* from The Permian Basin Board of Realtors.

Obituaries

Evelyn Frances Redman



Evelyn Frances Redman, 77, of Big Spring passed away Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, in Lubbock Covenant Care Hospital following a sudden and brief illness.

She was born Feb. 20, 1931, in Big Spring. She was the only child of John and Maggie Mae Hutcheson. A Coahoma High School graduate, she lived all her life as a Big Spring local. In 1947 she married Homer Lee Williford Sr. of Austin. They settled here and raised two children together. She was a dedicated wife and mother until the adulthood of her children. Then in 1981, she entered her second marriage with Bradley Redman, until his passing in 1996.

Evelyn spent a lifetime on the love and care of others. She worked for years as a private nurse. When she was not working, she spent many hours as a VAMC volunteer. Beginning in 1986, her dedication to our vets ranged anywhere from 1,750 to 2,500 hours per year and spanned 17 years of service. Activities included everything from handing out gum, candy and personal items to organizing the annual Christmas gift shop.

She helped establish the VAMC travel council. She served our local American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Post No. 506, first as chaplain, then later as president. She was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Those who knew and worked with her, such as Mr. Larry Moore and Ms. Clara Lewis, will sorely miss her.

Those loved ones she is leaving behind include one son, Homer Lee Williford Jr. of Big Spring; one daughter, Susan Barber of Coahoma; a daughter-in-law, Diane Womack; a previous daughter-in-law, Annette Coker; her grandchildren, Todd, Spencer and Jim Coker, Angela Majors, Margie Hamby, Krista Coker, John Williford, Teana Demeny, Brooke Grant, Ricky Vela, Kala Mann and Jerry Ray Mann II, all of Big Spring, Terri Hobbs of Midland, Tammy Jo Lovett of Mansfield and Harmony Tatro of Sterling City; 30 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Those who have passed on before her include her father, John Martin Hutcheson; her mother, Maggie Mae Hutcheson; her first husband, Homer Lee Williford Sr.; her second husband, Bradley Redman; one son-in-law, James Martin Barber; one nephew, Vernon Andrew Blewett; and one granddaughter, Dalana Louise Roberts Barber.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel, with a brief memorial at the Peace Chapel in Trinity Memorial Park. Pallbearers will be Jerry Mann, Todd Coker, Ricky Vela, Jerry Mann II, Luis Villa and Fred Gutierrez Jr.

Memorials may be made to The Kidney Foundation or to the VAMC Christmas Gift Shop.

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

Paid obituary

Michael McCreary



Michael "B. Michael Brown" McCreary, 59, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008, in a Lubbock hospital following a 15 month illness. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Father Bernard Gully, pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Jan. 29, 1949, in Stanton. Michael grew up in Big Spring, graduated from Big Spring High School and attended Howard College. He was working at KBYG Radio Station and had the B. Michael Brown "Ask Your Neighbor" program for a number of years. He was a Catholic.

Survivors include two daughters, Lara Andersen of Georgetown and Lisa Owen and husband, Jeff, of Austin; his mother, Claudia McCreary of Big Spring; one sister, Caryle Smith and husband, Taylor, of Lake City, Colo.; three grandchildren, Eden and Sierra Andersen of Georgetown and Laney Owen of Austin; two nephews, Charles McCreary of Arlington and Michael K. Brown of San Antonio; numerous cousins, and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, B.F. McCreary; and brother, Warren McCreary.

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

Elias Galindo Barrera

A mass in memory of Elias Galindo Barrera, formerly of Big Spring, will be held at 6:15 p.m. Thursday in Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Galindo, who was born Aug. 30, 1934, in Abilene and lived many years in Big Spring, died in Albuquerque, N.M., April 3, 2008.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday:

- ERLINDA RIOS, 20, of 1906 Winston, was arrested Saturday on a charge of evading arrest.
- NAOMI TREVINO, 20, of Amarillo, was arrested Saturday on a charge of evading arrest.
- ANSELMO HILARIO, 24, of 1708 W. Third Street, was arrested Saturday on a charge of hindering an investigation.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
- FRAUDULENT USE/POSSESSION OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION was reported in the 700 block of Galveston.
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT - OFFENSIVE GESTURES was reported in the 2500 block of Wasson.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 600 block of Ninth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1200 block of Gregg Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street.

Take Note

• Donnavan J. Silvas, 1, of Big Spring, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2008 in a local hospital. The parents are in need of help with burial expenses. All donations can be made at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory of Big Spring.

• The purpose of life is a life of purpose. Join Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring Volunteer program today. We request potential volunteers not to volunteer for one year after a significant loss. Come by 1008 E. Third St. or call (432)517-4073.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglect children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming in Howard County and 20 volunteers are needed. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Robyn LaForge at (432) 683-1114.

• The Big Spring Salvation Army will be conducting free blood pressure and glucose screenings Dec. 31 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Army's Corps Building, located at 811 W. Fifth St. The screenings are being sponsored by In-Home Care. For more information, contact the Salvation Army at 267-8239.

• West Texas Opportunities Inc., through a Job Access Reverse Commute project with the Texas Department of Transportation offers transportation to employment in Midland, on a limited schedule, Monday through Friday each week. This fixed route currently leaves Big Spring at 7 a.m. and makes a stop at the EZ Rider bus connection in downtown Midland. The route leaves Midland for the return to Big Spring at 4:15 p.m. As a promotional introduction, no fare is charged. Beginning April 1, the daily fare will be from \$3 to \$8, round-trip, depending on the number of passengers using the service. For more information, call Victor Enriquez, JARC coordinator, at West Texas Opportunities, (800) 245-9028.

• 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 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. 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.

Your Local Weather

Sun 12/14	Mon 12/15	Tue 12/16	Wed 12/17	Thu 12/18
73/37	44/31	64/45	65/51	68/46
Mostly sunny skies with gusty winds. Warm. High 73F.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 30s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	Mostly Cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 50s.	Morning clouds followed by afternoon sun.

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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

MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.
- Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
- Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
- The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Restaurant, 1300 S. Gregg. Everyone is welcome. Call 263-3869 for more information.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- The American Cancer Society meets at noon at the Home Hospice office for lunch and its monthly meeting. For more information, call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.
- 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, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- 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.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Mega Millions lottery: 10-16-19-27-48; Mega Ball: 25.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night: Winning numbers drawn: 12-5-16-19-14. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-1-4-1. Sum It Up: 12.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-1-1. Sum It Up: 6.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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HOOPTOWN

Continued from Page 1B

Coahoma attack with the Bulldogs managing to score just six points in the second period.

However, the Hawks were not able to deliver the knock out punch, scoring just 10 points in the frame, pushing the advantage to 22-17 after 16 minutes of play.

Wall extended their lead to 42-35 in the third before outscoring the Bulldogs 9-5 in the final eight minutes to claim the win.

"Both teams looked tired tonight," Nichols commented. "We have played a lot of games this week and I think it is starting to show."

Wall's Justin Walling led all scores posting 15, while Cody Sheppard led the Bulldogs with 11.

Coahoma faced Sands in the third-place game at the Hooptown Classic Saturday.

Coahoma 11 6 8 5-30
Wall 12 10 10 9-41

Coahoma - Sheppard 11, Hunter Williams 5, Jovi Paniagua 4, Isaac Garcia 4, Josh Paniagua 3, Braden Griffin 3;

Wall - Schooley 17, Justin Walling 15, Grant Wilde 4, Reid Niehues 3, Brandon Willman 2

Three-pointers: CHS 3 (Jovi Paniagua, Josh Paniagua, Griffin); Wall 6 (Schooley 3, Walling 3)

Stanton Hooptown Classic
Friday's boys boxes

Championship Bracket
Wall 45, Sweetwater 42

Wall 14 8 5 18-45

Sweetwater 9 12 8 13-42

Leading scorers: Wall - Bennett 16. Sweetwater - Schooley 16.

Reagan County 66, Sands 60 (3 OT)

Reagan Co. 16 6 17 13 4 2 8-66

Sands 12 14 11 15 4 2 2-60

Leading scorers: RC - Hernandez 18. Sands - Jesus Gomez 17, Ethan Zant 17.

Consolation Bracket
Seagraves 76, Stanton JV 40

Stanton JV 11 10 3 16-40

Seagraves 20 20 25 11-76

Stanton - Grayson Gray 11. Seagraves - 11.

Stanton 65, Grape Creek 59

Stanton 20 10 14 21-65

Grape Creek 11 13 15 20-59

Leading scorers: Stanton - Tyler Fulton 21. GC - McCall 15.

Sweetwater 33, Stanton 26

Sweetwater 6 8 11 8-33

Stanton 7 6 4 9-26

Sweetwater - Birdwell 10. Stanton - Fulton 10.

Saturday's games

Third-place game
Coahoma vs. Sands, 4:30 p.m.

Championship game
Wall vs. Reagan County, 7:30 p.m.

Friday's girls boxes

Championship Bracket
Grape Creek 36, Tahoka 30

Grape Creek 10 4 12 10-36

Tahoka 11 7 6 6-30

GC - Wilson 15. Tahoka - Helm 16.

Kermit 51, Stanton 48 (2 OT)

Kermit 12 10 7 11 3 8-51

Stanton 11 7 12 10 3 5-48

Leading scorers: Kermit - Montoya 12. Stanton - Kelsey Jones 16.

Consolation Bracket
Sands 73, Sweetwater 56

Sweetwater 13 20 16 7-56

Sands 10 22 23 18-73

Sweetwater - McKinney 31. Sands - Britany Blagrave 25.

Brownfield, Midland Christian 34

Mid. Christian 8 10 10 6-34

Brownfield 14 13 8 16-51

Leading scorers: MCS Smitherman 12. Brownfield - Nolan 9.

Saturday's games

Guarantee game
Midland Christian vs. Stanton, 9 a.m.

Third-place game
Grape Creek vs. Stanton, 3 p.m.

Championship game
Coahoma vs. Kermit, 6 p.m.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B

straight on the road, could do it this week with a win coupled with a Pittsburgh loss.

"There's definitely going to be no letup," linebacker Keith Bulluck said. "Someone has to lose and we have to win. ... We're going to take care of Houston and let everything else take care of itself."

Tennessee knows this is a better team than the one it faced in September. The Texans were forced to play their first three games on the road because of the hurricane and started 0-4, but have since won six of their last nine.

"They put 500 yards of offensive up against the Packers in a game the Packers needed to win," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said. "They're different. They came here under a very difficult set of circumstances early in the season with the hurricane. They've gotten all those things put behind them for the most part and they're healthy and they're playing very well."

Coach Gary Kubiak won't make excuses for his team's performance in that ugly 31-12 loss, but did acknowledge it was a tough time.

"Trying to get guys ready to play when their families were having problems at home ... was the most difficult thing," he said. "As far as doing our job and getting ready to go play the football game, we handled that. We just didn't play good enough to win."

The Texans have been eliminated from playoff contention, but are still trying to finish with their first winning record after going 8-8 last season. They'll have to win each of their remaining games to do that.

"They can still put together a winning season, so I think that's what they're looking to do," Bulluck said. "They would have to get a win against us in order to keep continuing with that, so we definitely know they're going to come out gunning."

Kubiak hasn't beaten the Titans since taking over the Texans and they've won seven straight against their division foe. Houston's last and only wins against Tennessee came when it swept the 2004 series.

"They've just outcoached us," Kubiak said. "They've outplayed us. They've done a heck of a job. They've got a fine football team. They're very consistent. They don't hurt themselves. So, you're going to have to be extremely good to beat them."

Houston was buoyed last week by the return of Matt Schaub, who had missed the previous four games with a knee injury.

He returned to throw for a franchise-record 414 yards and help Houston gain 549 total yards, also a franchise best.

While the Texans put up eye-popping passing numbers, the Titans do most of their damage on the ground.

Tennessee put up 527 yards rushing in the last two games, but perhaps even more impressive is its run defense, which has allowed just 58 yards in the last two.

That should make for an interesting matchup this week between two of the top runners in the AFC. Tennessee's Chris Johnson and Houston's Steve Slaton, a pair of rookies, have each gained more than 1,000 yards and are second and third, respectively, in the AFC.

Slaton is the only player to run for more than 100 yards this season against Tennessee after gaining 116 yards earlier this season in his first NFL start.

Kubiak sees a lot of similarities between the players.

"They're both big play guys from a speed standpoint," Kubiak said. "When they came out, that was the strength of both of them. I think the fact that how big of a factor they've played on their teams this year so quickly has probably been a surprise to everybody, but (they are) two fine young players that have bright futures."

Slaton's development has been key for a team that has been shaky at the position because of injuries since 2006, and hadn't had a 1,000 rusher since 2004.

"(Slaton's) meant a whole lot to our whole team," Schaub said. "Just being able to get him the football and him being patient enough to let the holes develop. He creates a lot of mismatches in the passing game when teams try to match him up with a linebacker."

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

final three frames.

The Lady Steers wrapped up tournament play Saturday, playing in the finals of the consolation bracket.

They'll play again at 6 p.m. Tuesday, paying a visit to the Snyder Lady Tigers. Big Spring opened its season

hosting Snyder and defeating them, 41-39.

Lake View 6 10 9 11-36
Big Spring 15 11 10 10-46

Lake View - Bree Portillo 2, Beth Cazares 2, Kristen Moses 10, Jaelyn Williams 15, Whitney Olness 2, Mercedes Reyes 5.

Big Spring - Taylor Seaton 2, Desiree Anderson 11, Bridgette Tuitt 8, LaShaunte Anderson 4, Cerbi Ritchey 6, Crystal Woodson 9, Lauren Porras 6.

3-point goals - BS 0, LV 1 (Reyes). Free throws - BS 10-16, LV 5-16. Total fouls - BS 16, LV 14. Fouled out - None.



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Was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**



2004 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT - Tan w/Tan Cloth, Great Little Truck, All Power, CD, Low Miles.

Was \$12,995 **NOW \$11,975**



2004 Ford Ranger S/C XLT - White w/BlackTan Cloth, Like New, One Owner, Great Truck, Only 63,000 Miles.

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Holiday festivities abound Sunday



Courtesy Photo/Lane Bond

Bill and Sharon Wiese have decorated their home for the holidays. This is just one of the many sites to see during the Holiday Tour Homes.

The Big Spring Symphony Guild's Holiday Tour of Homes is Sunday

Open for public touring this year for the Big Spring Symphony Guild's Holiday Tour of Homes are 304 Todd Road, the home of David and Nancy Foster; 720 Colgate, the home of Richard and Jeanie Knocke; 715 Edwards, the home of Bill and Sharon Wiese; 117 Main, the Courtyard and Hardware Store, renovated by Kay Moore, Leslie Elrod and Max Moore; and 2605 Ann Drive, the home of Lane Bond.

Art work by members of the Big Spring Art Association will be displayed at the Bond home where Howard County Fair Queens Kady Knox (2007) and Theresa Turner (2008) will serve as hostesses.

Tickets are \$10 and money raised from the event helps to support the Big Spring Symphony. This year's tour will be from 2 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. There will be a reception afterward at First Presbyterian Church, Runnels and Eighth St., from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. A hand bell concert will be held at 4 p.m.

Tickets are available at the following locations:

First Bank of West Texas, 607 Scurry; Blum's Jewelers, inside the Big Spring Mall; Faye's Flowers, 1013 Gregg St.; Big Spring Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third St.; and the Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry. Tickets will also be available at the doors of the tour homes during the event.

Sunday is Last Night for Drive Through Nativity

Last time to enjoy the The First Church of the Nazarene's Drive Through Nativity is Sunday.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and last until 9:30 p.m. at the church, 1400 Lancaster. Thirteen scenes with live animals and a cast of more than 100 people depict many Biblical events pertaining to the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ. Admission is free to the nativity but donations, which go toward financing the next year's event, are accepted.

Enter the nativity by approaching west on Martin Luther King Boulevard, than south on Lancaster to the church. A CD and printed program will be provided. The program is an estimated 10 minutes but the wait time to enter the nativity may be much longer.

Festival of Lights to brighten Big Spring Monday

The Comanche Trail Festival of Light will begin Monday evening and continue nightly through Dec. 21. Admission is free but donations are accepted to help fund for the cost of the more than 1 million lights that illuminate the city park during the holidays.

A gift shop will be open this year providing Christmas ornaments, T-shirts and coffee mugs for purchase. Santa is expected to stop by the gift shop this year Dec. 22-23.

Almost 20,000 people representing 41 states and 16 foreign countries have visited the festival in past years.

All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue seeks donations: aluminum cans, used cell phones and ink cartridges

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.

Reader's Corner

"Jesus"

When I hear your name I feel a overwhelming sense of need to get down on my knees and thank you for the gift of life that you gave to me and all others. I don't pretend to understand why you chose to die so that i could live because i'm not sure i could give up my life for someone that I didn't know so that they could live, but you did and my savior. I thank you for the gift of life that you gave so freely to me and all others

"A Savior has been born to you he is Christ The Lord"
Luke 2:11

by — Lana f. Anguiano
Dec. 08

"No Wings"

My Angels don't have wings or halos, But I know that they are Angels because of the kind things

that they do for others. They expect no payment for

what they do. Because of the kindness that lives in their hearts. They are the special angels that God lets live on earth to help others in

need to a little kindness. No my Angels have no wings or halos, But I know that they are real Angels because of the kindness that they give to others.

Written to honor all my Angels who have touched my heart with their kindness

— by Lana f. Anguiano.



'Sickle of Light'

The old moon slowly waning
Way up in the sky
dim lights, dimly shining
Cast out an eerie light

You could hear a dog a whining and wailing in the night on the ground two people laying there in the dim moonlight

So tragic was the story two people lost their lives the blood ran like a river upon the ground that night.

The moon looked down in sorrow there is its waning light watching there from heaven It shed real tears that night.

— By Bernice Reed Jones
Sept. 23, 1995



Contact the Herald
at 263-7331

5 Generations



Onita Wilson was recently visited by her children from out of town to celebrate 5 generations.

Front L to R: Keesta Sawyer, great granddaughter, Hobbs, NM., Baby Elizabeth Sawyer, great-great granddaughter, Hobbs, NM., Tonya Taylor, granddaughter, Hobbs, NM.

Rear L to R: O'nita Wilson 75 year old Mother, Big Spring, Texas, Carolyn Christian, daughter, Gilmer, Texas

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Storm blacks out 1.25 million in northeast U.S.

By **KATHEY McCORMACK**

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — Utility crews worked through a night of hand-numbing cold in the Northeast but they still had a long way to go before restoring power to all of the more than 1 million homes and businesses blacked out by a huge ice storm.

In New Hampshire, where more than 370,000 customers still had no electricity Saturday, Gov. John Lynch urged residents still without power to make overnight plans early.

"I think there were a lot of people who decided to just stick it out and stay home last night hoping that power would be restored today, but I think people have to assume that power will not come back today and seek shelter," Lynch said.

Utilities say it will be days before all service is restored.

Temperatures dipped into the teens Friday night and early Saturday in northern New England, forcing many people out of their homes and into shelters.

About 60 people spent the night at the Rochester, N.H., Middle School, including Debbie Reed, 57, who left her apartment Friday afternoon when she started seeing her breath.

"I still don't have power. I can't shower, I can't cook, I can't do much of anything," she said. "My plan is to go home and see how long I can stand it. If the power isn't back on by tonight I'll come back here. It's so cold I can only stand it for so long."

The ice storm compared with some of the Northeast's worst, especially in New Hampshire, where more



AP Photo/Stephan Savoia

Guillermo Bello drags a trash can under a tree heavily laden with ice in a yard he is cleaning in the aftermath of an ice storm on Grafton Street in Shrewsbury, Mass., Friday morning.

than half the state — 400,000-plus homes and businesses — was without power at the peak of the outage. Far fewer customers were affected by the infamous Ice Storm of '98, when some residents spent more than a week in the dark. New Hampshire opened at least 25 shelters.

People lost power as far south as Pennsylvania, but most of the outages were in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine and New York.

"This is pathetic," said Bob Cott of Portland, Maine. "I'm already sick of winter and we have nine days to go before it

officially begins."

At least one death was blamed on the storm: New Hampshire officials said a man died of carbon monoxide poisoning after turning on his generator when his power went out Thursday night.

Both Lynch and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick declared states of emergency Friday and called up members of the National Guard. Maine Gov. John Baldacci declared a limited emergency allowing utility crews to work longer hours.

"All of the resources at our disposal have been made

available to try to get the roads clear and power restored," said Patrick, adding that it would be "ambitious" to think power would be restored by Monday to the 350,000 homes and businesses that lost service in his state.

"This is not going to be a couple of hours," Patrick said. "It's likely to be several days."

An army of utility crews from across the East, Midwest and Canada headed into the region to help restore power.

By Saturday morning, crews had restored power to about 150,000 homes and businesses

in Massachusetts, but more than 200,000 still were in the dark.

Peter Judge of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency said that despite the cold, fewer than 1,000 residents took advantage of the 40 shelters set up across the state.

In Maine, about 176,000 homes and businesses still were without power Saturday, mostly in Central Maine Power's service area. At its peak on Friday, 220,000 CMP customers were in the dark. Maine officials say 150 to 200 people spent the night in shelters.

Vermont utilities reported just under 15,000 customers were without power Saturday morning.

Central Vermont Public Service Corp. had 33 line crews from western Pennsylvania helping its workers repair power lines.

A number of retirees also pitched in, said CVPS spokeswoman Christine Rivers.

"We'd put one line up, and it seemed like another would break," said CVPS Springfield Operations Supervisor Stan Tucker. "It seems like every line has multiple problems."

In eastern New York, National Grid and other utilities reported more than 255,000 customers without service.

"Trees were down on all the roads," said Miguel Figueroa, 28, as he waited for coffee at a Starbucks in Colonie, N.Y. "... I couldn't even get on the Thruway today."

About 4,700 customers lost power in Pennsylvania, most of them in the Poconos, and some 17,000 customers were blacked out in Connecticut.

BOND

Continued from page 1A

increase in project-related costs, such as supplies and fuel, and had planned for such a contingency. However, Sparks said cost increases in the past year and half have

not been as high as expected.

"Estimates have been fairly consistent to our original projections," Sparks said. "We had anticipated and planned for increased costs ... but as fuel prices keep coming down, we hope that works in our favor."

Also Monday, the board will

welcome a new member when Larry McLellan is sworn in as the new District 3 trustee. McLellan was recently appointed to replace longtime trustee Harold Davis, who died in October after more than 30 years service to Howard College.

McLellan will serve until the

next general election in 2010, at which time an election will be held for the remainder of the District 3 unexpired term. He has indicated he would likely be a candidate for the seat.

In other business, trustees will consider:

- The college's audit.

- Bus replacement schedule.
- Personnel matters.
- Catalog and handbook changes.

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

ANGEL

Continued from page 1A

decided to extend it to Tuesday," said Tompkins. "We have 703 angels — that's 603 children and 100 area seniors — in the program, and we've received about 45 percent of them back. I've had a few people call and say they were going to bring the angels and

gifts in over the weekend, but we're still a long way from making our goal."

The annual program — which provides Christmas gifts for area low income children and seniors that might otherwise go without during the holiday season — got under way last month when Salvation Army officials began taking applications for the program.

Adopting a holiday

angel is simple, according to Tompkins.

"They just take the Angel card from the tree and purchase Christmas gifts for that child or senior," said Tompkins. "It doesn't necessarily have to be what's listed on the angel card. Once they purchase the items, they will attach the card to the gifts and bring them to our office, or drop them off where they got the card from. It's very important that

they tape or tie the card to the gift, however, so we can make sure it goes to the correct child."

Tompkins said more than 100 angels were still on the trees late Friday afternoon.

"The shortfall we're seeing so far is a combination of angels that simply haven't been taken off the trees, and angels that have been taken but not returned with the gifts," said Tompkins. "So it's real-

ly hard to know where we stand right now."

Trees are located at the local Wal-Mart SuperCenter, Bealls Department Store and Maurice's clothing store, according to Salvation Army officials.

For more information on the Angel Tree program, call 267-8239 or stop by the Salvation Army office, located at

811 W Fifth Street.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

PORN

Continued from page 3A

Abilene; Barron Lynn Boyd Jr., 30, of Colorado City; and Trey Dustin Taylor, 22, of Cisco.

Hagan, 40, was immediately remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal's Office. He faces a maximum sentence of 100 years in prison, a \$1.5 million fine, and a lifetime of supervised release. Judge Cummings ordered a pre-sentence investigation with sentencing to be scheduled after that investigation is completed, expected to be sometime in January.

Specifically, the jury

convicted Hagan on five counts of receipt of child pornography, one count of possession of child pornography and one count of possession of child obscenity. From Jan. 4, 2007, through June 6, 2007, Hagan collected over 1,500 images of child pornography from the Internet onto his personal computer, according to officials with the U.S. Attorney's office.

According to Roper, the case was brought before the court as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse.

Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state

and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, said Roper, as well as identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe

Childhood, visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

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

Jackie Christine Rupard

August 28, 1940 - December 13, 1983



If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane,
I'd walk right up to heaven and bring you home again.
And if love could have saved you,
you would have lived forever.

We miss you Muma,
Christy, Kathie, Suzanna and Mike

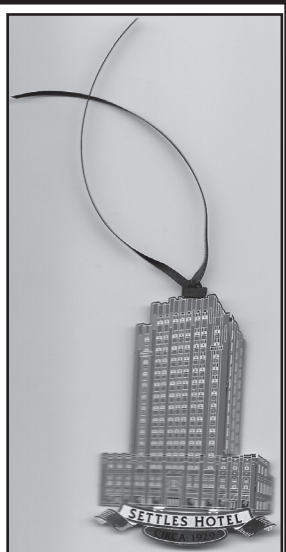
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Farewell to Texas Stadium

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — The line is so arrogant, yet so fitting. After all, this is the home of the Dallas Cowboys, the place where they became "America's Team."

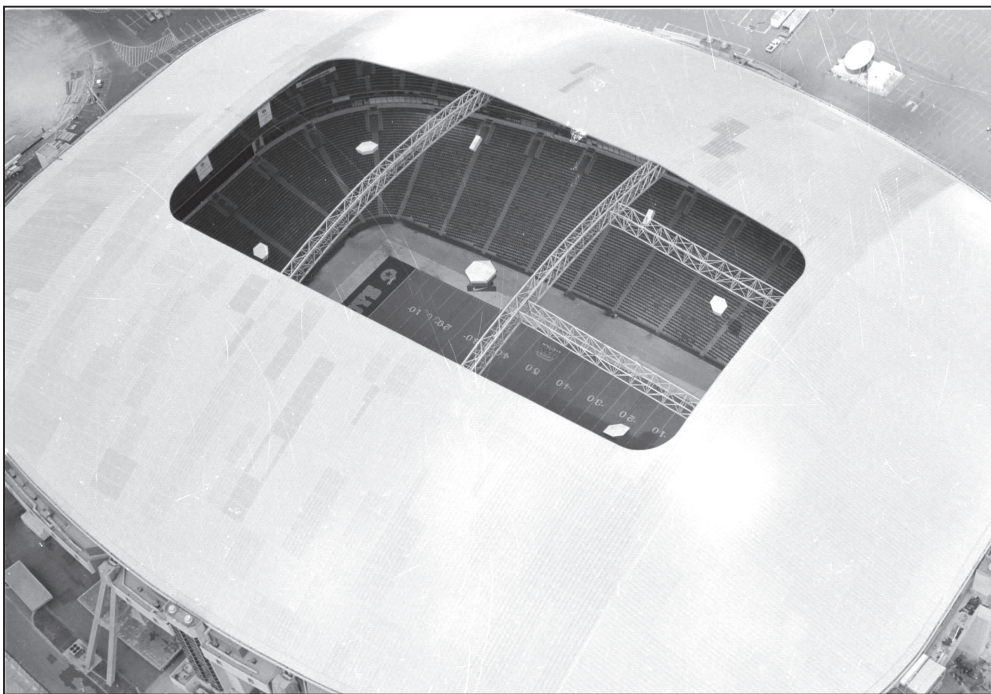
But the snarky saying shouldn't be this building's epitaph. Because, for better or worse, this place changed the business of pro sports.

Start with team's the grandiose nickname and with this being the birthplace of the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders. Then realize that seat licenses basically started here. Luxury suites already existed, but never to the extent Texas Stadium had them — 176 at first and 360 now, still among the most. And, by leaving its namesake city for a suburb, the Cowboys were part of the first wave of a migration that's still happening.

Those things can all be traced to the start, in 1971. Then along came Jerry Jones in 1989 and, soon, more shake-ups followed.

Jones raked in big bucks from Pepsi and Nike by making them the official sponsors of Texas Stadium, a clever way of circumventing the league's revenue-sharing plan. The NFL was doubly rankled because Jones was exploiting a loophole and doing so with the top rivals of league sponsors. The NFL sued him, he countersued them, and, ultimately, he changed the way all teams do business.

As for the building's architectural quirk of the partial dome, that didn't exactly catch on. But it still looks great on television. And as often as the Cowboys have been on TV, even the most casual observer needs only a glimpse of a game to know where it's being played. Texas Stadium's hole



AP file photo/Bill Waugh

In this May 1995 file photo, Texas Stadium in Irving, the home field of the Dallas Cowboys where the NFL team has played since 1971 is shown. This is the last season to play in the stadium before moving to their new facility

in the roof is as symbolic of pro football as Wrigley Field's ivy-covered walls are of baseball or the old Boston Garden's parquet floor was of the NBA.

Anything else stick out over the last 38 years?

Oh yeah, the teams, players and games have been pretty good, too.

For all its big-picture significance, Texas Stadium mostly will be remembered for Roger Staubach handing off to Tony Dorsett and throwing deep to Drew Pearson, and for Troy Aikman handing off to Emmitt Smith and throwing slants to Michael Irvin. And the Doomsday Defense and guys like

Bob Lilly, Randy White and "Captain Crash," Cliff Harris.

It's Tom Landry roaming the sideline in his fedora and Jimmy Johnson ruling with an iron fist and a helmet of hair. It's a young Bill Parcells coaching on the visitor's side, then leaving decades later from the home side.

It's Thanksgiving afternoon.

"Wow, it's Texas Stadium," Smith recalls saying to himself the first time he walked in, hours after being drafted. "I was in awe."

Although the Super Bowl never was played here, five Super Bowl champion banners hang around the open-

ing in the roof. Another sheet honors Smith becoming the NFL's career rushing leader, almost directly above where the record-breaking run occurred.

Texas Stadium once hosted a Pro Bowl, plus several movies and TV shows. An overhead shot of the stadium was part of the opening montage of the prime-time soap opera "Dallas."

Even in the heyday of J.R. Ewing, pro wrestler Kerry Von Erich was just as popular locally. He had a title match against Ric Flair at Texas Stadium and drew 43,000. (Any guesses who won?)

Around the same time, SMU challenged for a couple of national championships while playing at Texas Stadium.

Legend has it those "Pony Express" teams of Eric Dickerson and Craig James had a higher payroll than the Cowboys.

Hundreds of high school playoff games have been played there, and every kid who suited up went home with an incredible memory and a neat souvenir: his own nameplate above his locker. While they rarely used the same locker as Staubach or Aikman, plenty of guys remember it that way.

Other than the roof, the next-best symbol is the giant blue star logo right at midfield.

No visitor can resist standing on it and gazing up through the roof and around at the Ring of Honor: "The most exclusive and prestigious collection of NFL names this side of Canton, Ohio," crows Jones. Heck, Terrell Owens did it in the middle of

See **FAREWELL**, Page 4B

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

"I do see where guys can kind of look at the way we went about our season last year and use that as motivation," defensive end Justin Tuck said.

"It does not surprise me because the example has been out there and I'm sure used by a lot of the teams in the league that feel like they're in position," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said.

The Giants will be at Texas Stadium for the final time, their first trip there since that January playoff game provided a bitter ending to Dallas' 13-win season that included two double-digit victories over New York in the regular season.

"I don't have any fond memories of that place, except beating them in the playoffs," receiver Amani Toomer said.

New York clinched the NFC East title last week despite a loss to Philadelphia that snapped a seven-game winning streak. That's because the Cowboys lost later that day in Pittsburgh after blowing a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter.

Tuck said there was no celebration by the Giants for winning the division, but that he's not too bothered by the loss to the Eagles.

"Because it settles us back and puts us back in that mode we've got to play every game and go win it," Tuck said. "We did get hot at the right time (last year). Hopefully we can do that again."

The Giants dominated Dallas 35-14

on Nov. 2, but that was when the Cowboys were still without Romo and in a miserable slump. That loss dropped Dallas, which went into the season as a decided Super Bowl favorite, to last place in the division.

Dallas then got a much-needed open date and Romo back from that broken pinkie on his throwing hand. The Cowboys followed with three straight victories, and were about to make it four in a row until Pittsburgh scored its only two touchdowns in a late 24-second span, the second on an interception return.

"I know we have the capable talent and ability on this team to play like we did three or so quarters," Terrell Owens said this week. "We've got to learn somehow, some way to finish games. ... (Our defense) put us in position to win a game. As an offense, I take it personally, because we let those guys down."

As for T.O.'s sideline outburst at receivers coach Ray Sherman after he wasn't the target of Romo's game-sealing fourth-down incompleteness, Owens insisted he was venting about the overall frustrations — and not about the last pass being intended for somebody else.

Owens described the team's mood as "jolly" and said the Cowboys were confident and looking forward to challenges they face.

While Romo's return has certainly sparked the Cowboys since their 2-4 midseason slump that made them chasers instead of leaders, an improved defense has also had a significant impact.

In New York, the Cowboys allowed 200 yards rushing. They have since given up only 268 yards rushing combined to four opponents who have

averaged only 272 total yards.

Brandon Jacobs ran for 117 yards against Dallas, but it wasn't clear if he would play this week because of lingering aches in both knees. Of course, the Giants are already without receiver Plaxico Burress, suspended for the rest of the season because of that gun incident.

Dallas wasn't sure about its own bruising halfback, Marion Barber, because of the broken right pinkie toe and calf problem that developed when he altered how he ran because of the

toe.

New York can't knock the Cowboys out of the playoffs this week, but can make it more difficult for them to make the playoffs. Dallas' remaining games are against Baltimore and Philadelphia, another division rival and wild-card hopeful.

"For us personally, it's just getting back on the right track, playing Giants football," Tuck said. "It just so happens we're playing Dallas, but I don't think our focus is anything to do with Dallas."

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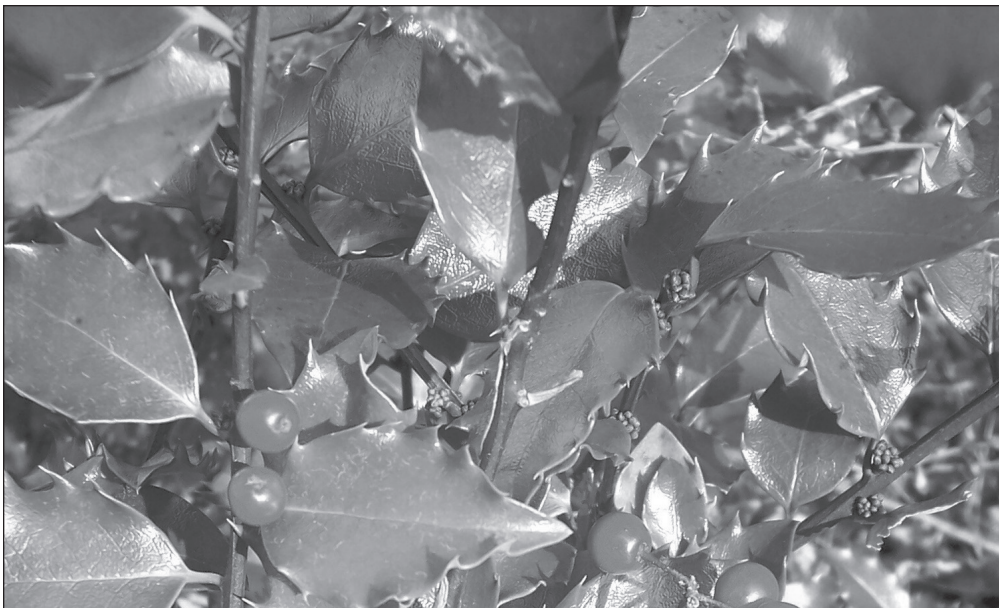
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Menus

<p>Big Spring Senior Citizen's Center Monday Lasagna with meat, steamed cauliflower, tossed salad/dressing, garlic bread, strawberry shortcake Tuesday cheeseburger on bun, ketchup, mayonnaise or miracle whip, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, pickles, baked tator tots, peaches and cream Wednesday sliced ham, ranch-style beans, seasoned greens, biscuits, margarine, cherry cheesecake Thursday beef & vegetable stew, deviled egg salad, cornbread, margarine, tossed salad, dressing, fruited gelatin, marshmallows Friday roast turkey & dressing, green beans, Waldorf salad, WW roll, pumpkin pie</p> <p>Forsan ISD Monday Breakfast cereal, toast, juice, milk Lunch chicken fajitas, refried beans, seasoned corn, orange smiles,</p>	<p>chocolate pudding cups, milk. Tuesday Breakfast sausage on stick, juice, milk Lunch pigs in blankets, pinto beans, baked chips, pineapple-orange salad, milk Wednesday Breakfast cheese omelet, toast, juice, milk Lunch meat and bean chalupas, Spanish rice, lettuce and tomatoes, Rosie applesauce, milk Thursday Breakfast muffin, yogurt, juice, milk Lunch chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, hot rolls, strawberry shortcake, milk Friday Breakfast cinnamon rolls, juice, milk Lunch submarine sandwich, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, tater tots, baby carrots w/ranch, brownies, milk</p>	<p>Coahoma ISD Monday Breakfast donuts, ham, applesauce, milk Lunch spaghetti, corn, apple turnover, bread, milk, corn dogs Tuesday Breakfast biscuits, sausage, gravy, apple juice, milk Lunch smothered steak, creamed bread, potatoes, peaches, milk, burritos Wednesday Breakfast sweetened rice, ham, juice, milk Lunch pizza, salad, apples, milk Thursday Breakfast Pop Tarts, applesauce, sausage, milk Lunch hamburgers, chips, lettuce, pickles, tomatoes, oranges, milk Friday Breakfast waffles, sausage, syrup, juice, milk Lunch ham and cheese sandwich, chips, pickle spears, fruit cups, milk</p>
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(AP Photo/Lois Barber)

This photo shows a female American holly plant. When the pilgrims landed on these shores, in December 1620, they may well have seen American holly (*Ilex opaca*), which grows all along the East Coast, from Florida to Maine, and their Christmas tradition continued.

Holly plant's symbolism at Christmas traces back for centuries in Europe

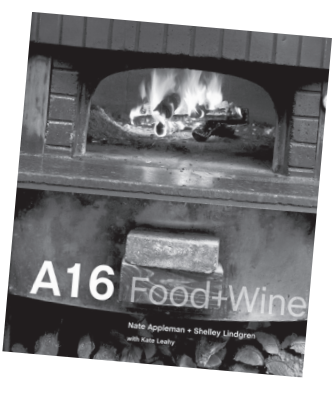
By LOIS BARBER
For The Associated Press
English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) has been a symbol of Christmas for centuries in Europe. Fashioned into wreaths, its spiny leaves and red berries symbolized a crown of thorns and drops of blood. Its green leaves and ability to produce fruit even in coldest winter evoked the promise of everlasting life. When European settlers arrived in America, their Christmas tradition continued with American holly (*Ilex opaca*), which grows all along the East Coast, from Florida to Maine. Holly at Christmastime became so popular in the early 20th century that it spurred a rash of thefts from private landscapes and forests. Holly trees were cut down and removed, and fashioned into decorations that were sold. Maryland and Delaware passed laws prohibiting the sale of fresh holly in an effort to stop the vandalism and preserve the natural landscape. Long before the settlers found a decorative use for holly, Native Americans brewed tea made of holly leaves to treat coughs. The berries were used for buttons or left for animal consumption. They are an important source of winter food for many birds, although they are toxic to humans. Hollies are slow growers but can eventually reach a height of 40 to 50

feet, with a spread of 18 to 30 feet. They require both male and female plants to produce berries. While both produce creamy white flowers in late spring, only the females produce fruit. One male plant is required for pollinating up to eight female trees. A ratio of 1:3 male to female trees is about the optimum number for pollination and production of berries. Some varieties produce yellow berries, so if you are growing holly for traditional holiday decorations and want red, check the label or buy when the berries are on the plant to be sure of their color and if it is a female plant. Hollies like full sun and acidic soil with a pH of 3.5 to 6. They will tolerate partial shade, but may develop leaf spot diseases and produce fewer berries. Unpruned, their natural form is a pleasing pyramidal shape, but if you must prune, note that berries appear on the current year's growth. Pruning is best done in December; pruning after flowers form in the spring will mean fewer berries. The Romans gave boughs of hollies to friends during the Festival of Saturn, the winter solstice holiday celebrated in late December. It was meant to bring protection and good luck. The Druids believed that hollies represented foresight: facing hardships or sacrifices now for something better in the future.

Give the gift of inspiration with new cookbooks

By J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor
Most of these tomes (all 20 pounds of them) are too big to be stuffed in any stockings, but if you're still searching for holiday gifts for your favorite foodie, here are some of this year's most interesting offerings.

trated and while some a r e involved, many are classic, simple dishes easily made at home (such as Bucatini with Oven-dried Tomatoes, Garlic, Chilies and Bottarga).



"Alinea" by Grant Achatz (Ten Speed Press, 2008)
This is coffee table art for the cook who enjoys a serious dose of science with dinner. Achatz is a leader in the so-called molecular gastronomy movement, which uses funky tools such as "anti-griddles" (they freeze) and ingredients like Ultra-Tex 3 (a tapioca starch) to prep are foods in unusual ways (such as vapors and papers).



Though jammed with recipes from Achatz' restaurant of the same name, this is a cookbook few will cook from. But it is a fascinating glimpse into the mind of a man who clearly enjoys playing with his food.

"BakeWise" by Shirley O. Corriher (Scribner, 2008)
Baking is a science, and if you don't understand the principles at play in a recipe, it's easy for everything to go wrong. Which is why Corriher's book is nothing short of brilliant. While many baking cookbooks that attempt to explain the science behind the recipes veer uncomfortably into textbook mode, Corriher keeps it chatty and informal. Each recipe includes a short section called "What This Recipe Shows," in which Corriher briefly explains what is happening. Her Southern Biscuits recipe, for example, explains that low-protein flour produces tender, moist biscuits. The result is that simply by following a recipe a home cook can learn volumes about baking and why it works the way it does. And what a delicious way to learn.

See **COOK-BOOKS**, Page 10C

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Victim Right

A victim of crime is defined by Chapter 56 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as (1) someone who is the victim of sexual assault, kidnapping, or aggravated robbery or who has suffered bodily injury or death because of the criminal conduct of another, (2) the close relative (spouse, parent, adult brother or sister, or child) of a deceased victim or (3) the guardian of a victim. The law also applies to victims of juvenile crime, including victims who suffer property loss.

The State of Texas intends that victims of crime receive the following safeguards, assurances and considerations:

Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 56 Texas Constitution, Article I Section 30

- Receive adequate protection from harm and threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts;
- have their safety considered by the magistrate when setting bail;
- receive information, on request, of relevant court proceedings, including appellate proceedings, of cancellations and rescheduling prior to the event, and appellate court decisions after the decisions are entered but before they are made public;
- be informed, when requested, by a peace officer about the defendant's right to bail and criminal investigation procedures, and from the prosecutor's office about general procedures in the criminal justice system, including plea agreements, restitution, appeals and parole;
- provide pertinent information concerning the impact of the crime to the probation department prior to sentencing;
- information about the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund and payment for a medical examination for a victim of sexual assault, and, on request, referral to social service agencies that provide additional assistance;
- information, on request, about parole procedures; notification of parole proceedings and of the inmate's release; and the opportunity to participate in the parole process by submitting written information to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for inclusion in the defendant's file for consideration by the Board prior to parole;
- a separate or secure waiting area at all public court proceedings;
- prompt return of any property that is no longer needed as evidence;
- have the prosecutor notify, upon request, an employer that the need for the victim's testimony may involve the victim's absence from work;
- on request, counseling and testing regarding AIDS and HIV infection and testing for victims of sexual assault
- request victim-offender mediation coordinated by the Victim Services Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- be informed of the use and purpose of a victim impact statement, to complete a victim impact statement and to have the statement considered before sentencing and acceptance of a plea bargain and before an inmate is released on parole.

A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim may be present at all public court proceedings, with the consent of the presiding judge;

A judge, attorney for the state, peace officer, or law enforcement agency is not liable for a failure or inability to provide a service enumerated herein.

Victims should also know that they can have a victim advocate accompany them during the sexual assault exam if an advocate is available at the time of the examination.

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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

Shop locally this Christmas

It's almost an annual tradition in this space — the Christmas season arrives and we here at the Herald encourage our readers to "Shop Big Spring First" — and we're doing so again. But this season, there's a little added incentive thanks to the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's "Chamber Bucks" program.

The Chamber is partnering with a dozen local businesses that will honor the "Chamber Bucks" gift cards which are available at the Chamber's offices through Jan. 31 and can be purchased in \$5 increments.

The businesses that will be honoring the "Chamber Bucks" cards include Bealls, Blum's Jewelers, Elrod's Furniture, Hangar 25, Harris Lumber and Hardware, the Heritage Museum, Higginbotham Bartlett Building Center, Inspirations Flowers & Gifts, J. M'Kai Boutique, Johansen's Landscape and Nursery, the Red Mesa Grill and Suggs Hallmark.

Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde insists that the cards could be anything from "stocking stuffers to gifts for hard-to-shop-for friends and teenagers who want everything."

We couldn't agree more.

Now, we're not about to tell our readers they should buy all their Christmas gifts in Big Spring. That's often difficult to do, and to be honest, that's probably not going to be possible for at least one or two of the members of our editorial board.

However, we do encourage our readers to shop locally first. And, if at all possible, we encourage you to take advantage of the "Chamber Bucks" promotion.

Not only will you be helping insure the success of local businesses, but there's an added bonus for purchasing the gift cards. For those who purchase \$50 or more of the "Chamber Bucks," the Chamber will provide \$5 gift cards from either Wal-Mart or H-E-B.

We can't think of a time any of us have ever gone to Wal-Mart or H-E-B that we would have liked to have had an extra \$5 to spend.

How about you?

A true tale of Tall and Old

Folks at the Guinness Book of World Records may want to consider adding a new category. How about one for convalescent centers with the most residents listed in the revered book?

Were there such a category, Heritage House Convalescent Center of rural Shelbyville, IN, would claim the honors.

For three decades, it was much like thousands of other care centers across the land. "Business as usual" changed, though, when Edna Parker became a resident a dozen years ago, then Sandy Allen seven years later. The pair created media frenzy. Press reps have thronged from around the globe with their cameras, lights and microphones. Sandy and Edna both were Guinness record holders. The former, you see, stood a quarter-inch over 7-7, and the latter was 115 years of age....

For almost a year, the two notable residents held records simultaneously. Sandy was heralded as the world's tallest woman for 32 years. Edna held the age distinction when her predecessor died last year.

That's when the media crescendo peaked. The native Indianans graciously received numerous press guests and dignitaries, patiently discussing their respective lives. They described how they managed to "fit in" with their 90 or so care center brethren, whose backgrounds varied greatly from their own.

Bill Pierce, Heritage House administrator, says day-to-day activities have quieted greatly since their passing. Sandy died at age 53 on August 13. Edna passed away on November 27, just five months shy of her 116th birthday. Pierce says that residents miss the "buzz" created by the two women who were visited by the governor, Guinness reps and media guests from every continent—guests who Pierce describes as being "cooperative,

well-intentioned and courteous."...

...

Now, only memories remain. But what precious memories!

Pierce recalls Edna's annual birthday parties, replete with gifts, well-wishes, cards and a host of visitors.

They came from all around, including nearby Franklin College. That's where Edna completed her two-year program in teacher education back in 1911. For many years, she was oldest graduate of the 174-year-old college, Indiana's first co-educational institution....

...

Education was one of Mrs. Parker's passions. She taught in one-room schools for several years before marrying her former husband, who died 69 years ago. Though she had no use for alcohol or tobacco, she credited education as the key to her long life. She reflected warmly on her beloved alma mater, always hammering home the importance of continuing to learn.

Though she needed assistance to move about in her final months, Edna is remembered for her independence and determination to assist her fellow care center residents during most of her time there. One friend prizes vivid mental pictures of the little lady pushing others' wheelchairs down the hall. Edna outlived her two sons and maintained her farm home into her 99th year.

"She brightened many moments," Pierce said. "We marveled at her recitation of lengthy poems from memory. Many times when I arrived at work around 6:30 a.m., Edna was already up and about, encouraging others with poems."...

...

Sandy dealt far longer with her problematic state than Edna did with old-age issues.

With a pituitary gland tumor that triggered excessive growth, she was more than seven feet tall upon entering Shelbyville High School. Despite numerous illnesses that caused her to shoot skyward and weight that reached well over 400 pounds, she endured life with good humor and dogged resolve, par-

ticularly after Guinness recognition. She wrote a book, *Cast a Giant Shadow*, and was featured in movies and documentaries. Sandy was forever visiting schools, sharing her strong beliefs that "it's okay to be different."

One day while admiring a friend's wedding gown, Sandy joked that she'd likely never wear one. "Your 'Prince Charming' may yet ride in on a white horse," the bride said. Sandy joked that it was just as likely to be an "eight-foot guy straddling an elephant!"...

At Sandy's memorial service, friends spoke of heaven's many unknowns.

"But we know who the tallest angel is," one beamed.

She was interred in her hometown cemetery in a custom-made coffin centered in four grave plots....

As Christmas approaches, Heritage House is now more like others throughout the country. It is arrayed with strings of garland, a Christmas tree and a crackling fire. Soft Christmas music softens the air. Residents are playing games of Skip-bo, taking meals and medications on schedule and enjoying friendly conversations, just like always.

In their rooms, they're looking again at pictures of loved ones—after they find their glasses. They'll spend more time than the rest of us reading—and re-reading—Christmas cards, waiting until January, or later, to add them to their small collection of "things" in the top drawer.

Big in their minds are gigantic memories of two departed friends from Heritage House who brought celebrity to residents' lives, one by being very tall, and the other, very old. And neither one permitted their situations to outlive their usefulness....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker and writer in the Metroplex. He welcomes inquiries and comments. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

YOUR VIEWS

To the editor:

I'm sure that everyone in Big Spring is as thrilled as I that finally we may be able to get our roads repaired as the city council and the citizens of Big Spring have approved the grant for road crews to began working on our roads.

While this is all well and good, I believe there is more to be addressed here before the city jumps right into this project. A couple of years ago, I remember another project like this in which we were repairing FM 700. I remember how that project dragged on and on and on, and I believe it took over a year.

This is what needs to be addressed — the time span in which this project will occur.

Last year, I lived in New Hampshire, where it snows and freezes a lot — and I mean a lot. Every year, frost causes the roads to break up far worse than any of the damage here, and yet those construction crews up there can have a road stretch that spans miles repaired in about a quarter of the time it takes crews here to repair less than a mile.

This is what we need before starting this project. We need serious construction crews who can really get out there and do work, so we as citizens don't have to wait two years to travel down the north end of Douglas.

I know I'm not the only one who feels this way about the project, so please publish an article or send me an e-mail of how we could get the city to make sure they get hard-working, quality construction crews.

John Spence
Big Spring

To the editor:

On behalf of my entire family, let me say, "Thank You" and "Well done" regarding this weekend's Christmas Parade.

As usual, it was wonderful and we all greatly enjoyed it. I did not envy the task of the judges in deciding the winner of the lighted category — there were so many terrific floats from which to choose.

Occasionally, we did wish that the signs giving the name of the organization responsible for a float were larger — they were sometimes hard to read in the twilight.

Staging this parade year after year as the *Herald's* gift to our community is a monumental task, I'm sure. Just know that, as far as the Howells are concerned, anyway, your efforts are appreciated!

Kim Howell
Big Spring

To the editor:

I received a new SuddenLink bill in the mail and found that my internet and cable was going up \$4.11 per month. Even though this isn't the first time my bill has increased, it was substantially higher than the last increase.

Each time there has been a rate increase, I have paid it, thinking of those on fixed incomes who can't keep affording these increases, although cable, Internet and phone calls are the only things that may keep these people connected with the outside world in their senior years.

I looked at the bill closer ... and read that there was an increase of \$2.70 per month in basic cable service and \$1.04 per month in Internet service, with taxes, fees and surcharges adjusted, etc,

followed by, "Customers who subscribe to one of our multi-product bundle packages will not be included in these price adjustments."

So I called the number listed and asked what a bundle was, which was two or more services with SuddenLink.

I subscribe to Internet and cable. However, my bundle lapses unless I renew it every 12 months, something that I failed to know had to be renewed each year. How many of you know that?

Consequently, by calling, I lowered my rate nearly \$11 per month. Of course, they did not offer to pay back the overages for the past few years I have been paying for what I thought was a bundled package. Nor would they have given back the \$4.11 per month increase had I not questioned the rate increase.

I want all of you who have cable, Internet, phone service with SuddenLink or a combination thereof to call SuddenLink and renew your bundled package to find additional money you can put in your pocket rather than in SuddenLink's bank account.

Then donate your new-found savings to a charity or church of your choice.

Sarah Higgins
Big Spring

To the editor:

I have been in a wheel chair off and on because of my legs being messed up, but now I can't walk five feet without passing out.

I have pulmonary arterial hypertension. There's is no cure.

See **LETTERS**, page 5A

ADDRESSES

P.O. Box 2910
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Cowboys deny reports of locker room rift

By PAUL J. WEBER

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Wade Phillips insisted there are no rifts in his locker room, Jerry Jones dismissed rumors of inner turmoil, and Roy Williams wore a Santa hat but hardly sounded merry.

This is how the Dallas Cowboys made their case Friday that everything is just fine at Valley Ranch.

Before a pivotal game Sunday night against the NFC-leading New York Giants, the Cowboys fended off questions about divisive secret meetings, an unhappy Terrell Owens and cornerback Terence Newman's frank comments about accountability.

It began with individual

meetings Owens, Williams and wide receiver Patrick Crayton had with Cowboys offensive coordinator Jason Garrett this week. The Cowboys characterized the meetings as normal, but the timing hinted at frustrations over their roles.

That followed a report by ESPN, citing anonymous sources, that quarterback Tony Romo and tight end Jason Witten sketched out plays in private meetings. The Dallas Morning News and Fort Worth Star-Telegram also reported, again using unnamed sources, that the Cowboys receivers felt Romo favored Witten in games and practices.

In last week's loss to the Steelers, Romo targeted

Witten on his last of three interceptions.

He also threw incomplete to Witten on fourth down in what was the last gasp for Dallas.

Owens didn't speak to reporters in the locker room Friday, and Williams and Crayton stayed mostly on-message about playing the Giants. The Cowboys held a team meeting Friday morning, but neither Phillips nor players provided much details.

Deluged with questions about whether the Cowboys (8-5) are trying to mend divides at a crucial point in the season, Phillips dismissed the reports as non-issues and inventions of the media. Witten leads the Cowboys

with 64 catches. Owens is second with 55 receptions and has nine touchdowns, the most on the team.

Jones said he visited with Owens at practice Thursday, but the Cowboys owner said he never discussed with his star player whether he was concerned about Romo's relationship with Witten. Jones said they talked about the team and preparation.

Reports of locker room troubles come at a particularly inopportune time for Dallas. With three games left, the Cowboys can hardly afford to lose their focus if they want to make the playoffs.

Dallas would sneak in as the final wild-card team if the playoffs began this week. But Atlanta has an identical

record, and Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington aren't far behind.

In yet another issue, Friday began with Newman telling ESPN that coaches need to be accountable for their mistakes as much as the players, though he didn't cite any specific examples.

He later told reporters in the locker room he said those remarks publicly in hopes those in the organization would hear his comments and adhere to them.

"The players for the most part are always saying 'Hey, that's my bad,'" Newman said. "I think we just need to own up when we don't do something we're expected (to do). That's for everybody."

FAREWELL

Continued from Page 1B

a game. Twice. While on the other team.

"The first time I walked into the Cowboys' stadium I was like 'Wow, I'm really a professional football player,'" said Cris Collinsworth, a former NFL receiver who is now an analyst for NBC and NFL Network. "Every time I've been there I look around. It would be like going to the Grand Canyon and not looking down one more time."

John Madden first visited the stadium as coach of the Oakland Raiders. He recalls the problems caused by the shifting sun, which left part of the field in shadows and other parts in blinding light. Play calls were made based on whether teams were going into or out of the light.

In his second career as a broadcaster, Texas Stadium was much more comfortable and far less challenging.

"The booth was the best in the business," he said. "It was not only the biggest, but it was the only one that had a bathroom in it."

What's often forgotten is that the Cowboys weren't a glitzy franchise when they moved into Texas Stadium.

They hadn't won a Super Bowl. Cheers were led by teenagers. And the club's reputation was for not being able to win the big one, thus the derisive nickname "Next Year's Champions." In fact, nine months before moving in, they lost the Super Bowl to Baltimore on a field goal with 5 seconds left.

The Cowboys came to life in 1960, playing out of the Cotton Bowl. They shared that college football landmark with the AFL's Dallas Texans until

Lamar Hunt took his club north and made them the Kansas City Chiefs in 1963. A few years later, Cowboys founder and owner Clint Murchison Jr. wanted a new stadium.

Dallas leaders refused. Folks in Irving smiled. A plan was developed to have season-ticket owners pay \$250 to \$1,000 for a "seat option bond" that wouldn't bear interest, but would guarantee the right to keep buying season tickets. The bonds raised about \$31 million of the building's \$35 million cost.

Construction began in January 1969. Between union strikes and bad weather, it wasn't ready for the start of the 1971 season. But it was close enough for Billy Graham to hold a 10-day crusade that September.

When the Cowboys finally moved in, they were in awe.

"I remember we went to practice there and Bob Lilly says, 'I wonder if it's OK if we spit on the carpet?'" Because it just seemed like we were in an opera house or something," former running back Calvin Hill told a team publication.

They sure got comfy quickly. Duane Thomas ran 56 yards for a touchdown on the Cowboys' fourth play of their first game. They beat New England 44-21, lost in Chicago the next week, then didn't lose again, securing the NFC title with a home victory over San Francisco. Two weeks later, Dallas won its first Super Bowl title.

While Staubach and Landry took care of things on the field, club president Tex Schramm handled everything off it.

In 1972, Schramm got rid of the "CowBelles & Beaux" — local high school girls and boys who'd rooted them on since the early days at the Cotton Bowl — and brought in an all-female troupe of models and dancers. Cheerleading hasn't been the

same since.

A few years later, the combination of the star players in the huddle and the sexy gals on the sideline made the Cowboys more than a local sensation. A producer at NFL Films realized the big crowds they drew everywhere they went and dubbed the club "America's Team." Schramm knew marketing gold when he heard it.

Hill's comparison of Texas Stadium to an opera house is apt because, from the start, patrons weren't the raucous types like the Cotton Bowl regulars.

From the bonds to the luxury suites, it took good money to be a die-hard fan. That's still true, with Jones inviting the most privileged guests on the field several hours before kickoff.

Women treat it like a society ball, wearing their finest fur and shiniest diamonds. The scene used to drive Johnson bonkers. Rival coaches weren't thrilled either.

"I was scared to death that someone would just get clobbered — and then whoever did the clobbering would get hurt," said Mike Holmgren, who brought the Packers to Texas Stadium for some huge games in the 1990s and visited recently with the Seattle Seahawks. "(Now) I think you see more teams doing it. Heck, we do it. Everyone does it. It seemed like Jerry did those things first; I mean, he was a little bit ahead of the curve that way."

Clint Longley. Leon Lett. George Teague. Of all the games and plays at Texas Stadium, those guys represent the most talked-about moments.

Longley was "The Mad Bomber," a rookie from Abilene Christian who'd never thrown an NFL pass until he replaced Staubach against the rival Redskins on Thanksgiving 1974. He came in trailing 16-3 in the third quarter and led Dallas to a 24-23 victory with two touchdown passes, including a 50-yarder to Pearson with 28 seconds left.

The 1993 Thanksgiving game was going to be memorable simply because of a snowstorm. The Cowboys appeared to have beaten Miami 14-13 after blocking a last-minute field goal, then Lett inexplicably went sliding through the wintry mix and touched the ball. The Dolphins recovered, kicked again and won 16-14.

Teague's scene came in 2000, when he "defended the star" with a blindsided hit on T.O. during his second midgame, midfield celebration.

"It just happened," Teague said years later. "No regrets."

Next season, the Cowboys will move into another new stadium in another suburb. The \$1.1 billion, 100,000-seat palace in Arlington already has lured a Super Bowl, the Final Four and the NBA All-Star Game.

It will have a hole in its roof, too; a retractable one. That's not even the most stunning part. Just wait until you see the high-def TVs hanging above the sidelines.

But first, two games remain at Texas Stadium: Sunday night against the Giants and next Saturday night against the Baltimore Ravens. (Even if Dallas makes the playoffs, a home game is extremely unlikely.)

There's still time for another great memory or two, perhaps even an unforgettable farewell.

Here's an idea: When time runs out against the Ravens, a spotlight shines on Don Meredith's name in the Ring of Honor. Then Dandy Don himself appears, clutching a microphone and crooning the ditty he used to sing on "Monday Night Football." "Turn out the lights, the party's over ..."

AP Sports Writers Stephen Hawkins in Dallas and Gregg Bell in Seattle contributed to this story.

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HERALD photo/Brandy Martinez

Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks, with scissors, is joined by college and Chamber of Commerce officials during ribbon cutting ceremonies to mark the opening of College at the Mall. The office will house the college's continuing education classes while renovation work continues at the college campus.

Debate flares over Tenaska

BY BRIAN MCCORMACK
Sweetwater Reporter

SWEETWATER — Tenaska, an energy company headquartered in Omaha, Neb., has decided on Sweetwater for a location for their 600-megawatt clean coal burning plant.

Seeking tax abatements, Tenaska representatives laid out their proposal to the Nolan County Commissioner's Court Monday, which would give them a tax break to the tune of 75 percent for at least the first 10 years of operation.

Judge Tim Fambrough held a public hearing, prompting numerous area residents to speak out against the construction of the plant. The concerns brought up by the citizens ranged from the environmental and health impacts a coal burning plant could have, to the effect it would have on the wind farms that have sprouted up around Nolan County.

As the debate came to a close, the commissioners tabled the abatement request at the behest of the protesting citizens. The commission concluded that further studies needed to be conducted before the abatement is granted. The public also requested a forum for further discussion, and Tenaska agreed to bring in some officials who are more adept at understanding the scientific aspects of the plant.

Tenaska plans to build an innovative facility by industry standards. The plant will boast technology that would capture and store carbon dioxide which would then be shipped via pipeline to the permian basin. The recycled Co2 would be sold to oil companies who can use the gas for advanced oil recovery.

According to Chris Shields, an attorney for Tenaska, the process of carbon capture requires the coal be burned in a "clean-

er" manner, and that the concept would be the first of its kind on a commercial level. "The reusing of carbon dioxide requires cleaning beyond the environmental standards in place," Shields said. "It will be a cleaner burning plant than any other of its kind."

Tenaska officials also stressed that that it hopes to be a positive force in Nolan County. The construction of the plant will require about 1,500 workers. And once it is built, over 100 permanent jobs will be available within the facility.

Helen Manroe, Manager of Business Development says that Tenaska has a good record with the communities it conducts business in.

"Tenaska is a very responsible corporate citizen," she said. "Anywhere we go."

Despite the advances in tech-

See **TENASKA**, page 5C

TWC sets 2009 insurance tax rates

Special to the Herald

AUSTIN — The minimum Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax rate paid by Texas employers in 2009 will be 0.26 percent, up from a 25-year low in 2008. The new rate is the first increase in the employer UI tax rate since 2004, the Texas Workforce Commission announced today.

The 2009 rate also reinstates the replenishment tax component of the tax rate, which TWC temporarily suspended in 2008 due to strong economic conditions in Texas. The rate increase reflects higher UI benefit outlay in recent months. The taxes replenish the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund which provides UI for Texas

workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own.

The minimum tax rate of 0.26 percent is paid by nearly 278,000 employers, or 74 percent of all experienced-rated employers. An employer paying the minimum tax will pay \$23.40 in tax per employee in CY 2009.

Texas employer UI taxes at the minimum rate remain lower than many other states. Ohio employers at the minimum tax rate pay \$63 per employee; Arkansas employers at the minimum tax rate pay \$90 per employee; and California employers at the minimum tax rate pay \$105 dollars per employee.

The maximum UI tax rate, paid by 3.3 percent of Texas'

experience-rated employers, is 6.26 percent, up from 6.10 percent in 2008. The average tax rate of 0.99 percent for 2009 is up from 0.92 percent in 2008, while the average experience tax rate of 0.78 percent for 2009 is up from 0.65 percent in 2008.

The components of the 2009 tax rate are:

- The general tax rate – based on claims against an employer's account. If TWC has paid benefits to former employees who were laid off or separated through no fault of their own in the past three years, then those employers will pay a general tax.
- The replenishment tax rate

See **TWC**, page 5C

Retail sales, wholesale prices fall again in November

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers reduced their spending at retail stores again in November while the costs of goods before they reach store shelves also continued to drop, more bad signs in a recession that appears to be deepening.

Businesses also cut their inventories by the largest amount in five years, the government said Friday, a sign the recession will force further cuts in production.

The numbers came as White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said the Bush administration is considering using the Wall Street rescue fund to prevent U.S. automakers from failing.

The Senate late Thursday rejected the \$14 billion auto-industry bailout bill after the United Auto Workers refused to accept Republican demands for swift wage cuts.

News of the Senate vote sent world stock markets down Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped about 120 points in early trading.

General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC executives have said they could run out of cash within weeks without government help. Ford Motor Co., which would also be eligible for federal aid under the bill, has said it has enough cash to make it through 2009.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department reported Friday that retail sales dropped by 1.8 percent in November. The decline, which was slightly below the 1.9 percent dip that had been expected, was the fifth straight monthly drop, a record stretch of weakness.

The downturn was led by a 2.8 percent fall in auto sales, which had been expected since automakers had reported that November was their worst sales month in more than 26 years.

The Producer Price Index, which tracks costs of goods before they reach consumers, fell 2.2 percent last month as gasoline and other energy prices retreated, according to the Labor Department. That followed a record 2.8 percent plunge in wholesale prices in October, and November's price drop was larger than

the 2 percent decline economists expected.

Falling prices might sound good for buyers, but a prolonged, widespread decline would do serious economic damage, dragging down incomes, clobbering home prices even more and shrinking corporate profits.

The Commerce Department also said businesses slashed the inventories they hold on shelves and back lots by 0.6 percent in October, three times the 0.2 percent decline

See **PRICES**, page 5C

Energy Watch



Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a senior vice president of Investments of A.G. Edward's Midland office. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.

Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior assistant to the branch manager. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.



Today's oil market psychology remains overwhelmed by worries over demand (or lack thereof) amid the global economic downturn which has contributed to crude prices falling around 70% since July. The dominant factor for the market remains fear of a worsening global recession.

As crude oil closed below \$44 a barrel for the first time in almost four years and gasoline closed under a dollar a gallon many are asking where is the floor? If we look to OPEC for guidance, OPEC President, Chakib Khelil was recently quoted as saying "there is no floor to the price of oil and "it can drop to a very, very low level."

It is unclear what Khelil defines as a "low" level but at this point \$35 crude is possible if not probable. Today the trend continues downward with negative global momentum. Many experts believe global demand will shrink in 2009 as economic growth slows to its weakest level since 1982.

We've noticed the one thing that isn't shrinking in the U.S. economy these days is the size of the stimulus packages that financial "experts" say are needed to turn this whole mess around. With auto sales dropping, payrolls plunging and manufacturing contracting, economists from across the political spectrum are raising the ante on how much the government should lay out. Some are now calling for at least a \$1 trillion boost. Kenneth Rogoff, a Harvard University professor who was an adviser to Republican presidential candidate McCain, and Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize winner who served in President Clinton's White House, are among those who say President-elect Obama should push for a package of that size. "They need a stimulus of \$500 to \$600 billion a year for at least two years to counter what is going to be a collapse in consumption," said Rogoff, a former chief economist at the IMF.

We feel that in the bigger economic picture, there remains a psychological tug-of-war between hope that the recession will end six to nine months from now rather than several years from now. Continued bad economic news is helping the guys in the black hats while multiple giant stimulus programs are supporting the white-hats.

Most economists we respect see bad news at least into mid-to-late 2009. Also, so far this year, several attempts at "the" bottom have failed and we believe that should be respected. There are many massive and new economic stimulus programs on the table and being discussed. Some may work, others will not, and it will likely take investors a number of months, perhaps to Spring 2009, to develop confidence as to when the economy will hit its trough. Therefore, several more months of volatile actions appears very likely. During this time, we encourage you to count your blessings, enjoy the holidays and all the while keep the negative hype in perspective.

Portions of this article were produced Dec. 5, 2008, by Al Goldman, Wachovia Securities Chief Market Strategist. Its publication is a collaborative effort and the information is obtained from sources considered reliable, however accuracy is not guaranteed by A.G. Edwards. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results and additional information is available upon request (432)684-7335. Opinions and estimates are as of a certain date and subject to change without notice. Investments can fluctuate in price, value, and/or income and you may get back less than you invested. A.G. Edwards is a division of Wachovia Securities, LLC.

News in brief

2 ex-cheerleaders reach agreement on hazing charge

HOUSTON (AP) — Two former high school varsity cheerleaders could avoid charges of hazing other cheerleaders in suburban Houston after a judge approved a pretrial agreement Friday.

Former Morton Ranch High School cheerleaders Hayley Spincer Davis, 17, and Adelynn Frances Garner, 18, agreed to complete a one year diversion program. If they successfully comply with conditions in the agreement by December 2009 prosecutors would dismiss the criminal case, Harris County District Attorney Kenneth Magidson announced in a news release.

Magidson reached agreements with the teenagers' defense attorneys that call for at least 60 hours of community service, a written public letter of apology, obeying all laws and voluntarily testifying at any trials arising from the case.

Davis and Garner are among seven Morton Ranch High teens indicted on misdemeanor hazing charges after a police investigation at the Katy Independent School District. The ex-cheerleaders are accused of restraining several junior varsity cheerleaders, blindfolding them, binding their hands and pushing them into a swimming pool in an off-campus incident.

If convicted, the teens face up to six months in jail and a fine of \$2,000. The agreements Friday do not affect the status of the other five.

Sanderson bank closed

SANDERSON (AP) — Sanderson State Bank was closed Friday by the Texas Department of Banking, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation was named receiver.

The Pecos County State Bank in Fort Stockton assumed all of Sanderson's deposits, including those that exceeded the deposit insurance limit.

The bank will reopen Monday morning as a branch of the Pecos bank, and customers should have uninterrupted access to their funds, state banking officials said.

As of Friday, the bank had deposits totaling about \$27 million, including \$16 million in brokered deposits.

Over the weekend, customers of Sanderson State Bank will have access to all of their money by writ-

ing checks or using ATMs or debit cards. Checks drawn on the bank will continue to be processed. Loan customers should continue to make their payments as usual, according to the FDIC.

Sanderson, about 275 miles west of San Antonio, is a town of about 800 people.

Texas State offers free tuition to new freshmen

SAN MARCOS (AP) — Texas State University will cover tuition and mandatory fees for incoming freshmen whose families make \$25,000 or less, officials announced Friday.

"Bobcat Promise" starts next fall and is geared toward students who are Texas residents that have been admitted to the university and have submitted a federal application for financial aid.

Eligible students must complete at least 30 credit hours each academic school year, maintain a 2.0 — or "C" — average and continue to have an adjusted gross family income of \$25,000 or less. Students could qualify for up to eight continuous long semesters. Only undergraduates are eligible.

Similar programs exist at other Texas schools. The Texas A&M University System announced a new program this month that pays tuition and mandatory fees for incoming freshmen whose families make \$30,000 or less.

Inmate cleared by DNA freed on bond

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man who spent five years in prison for the sexual assault of an 8-year-old boy was freed Friday after DNA evidence which had gone untested until recently showed he didn't commit the crime.

Ricardo Rachell did not stop to talk to reporters after he walked out of the Harris County Jail Friday evening. But Rachell's sister said his family always believed he was innocent.

"The whole family is very glad he's been exonerated," said Phyllis Glenn as she whisked her brother into a waiting car. "It's a day we've been waiting for."

Earlier on Friday, a judge approved a personal recognizance bond for Rachell so he could be free while his attorney begins the legal process

required to overturn a 2003 conviction on aggravated sexual assault. Rachell, 51, was transferred from a state prison to the Harris County Jail earlier this week.

He did not appear at a brief court hearing where he was given a bond. Rachell waited about eight hours after the bond was approved for his paperwork to be processed and his family to drive in from suburban Houston to pick him up.

He has served five years of a 40-year sentence. "This is a horrible mischaracterization of justice I think on everybody's part," said Deborah Summers, Rachell's attorney. "It's this kind of case that really is frightening for our system."

Summers said she plans to file paperwork to both overturn Rachell's conviction and ask for a pardon, which the Harris County District Attorney's Office has indicated it will support.

In the case, the victim was taken to a vacant house and sexually assaulted after being told by the man that he would pay him for help with removing some trash. The next day the boy's family called police and the child identified Rachell.

Although DNA from both the attacker and Rachell was collected after the 2002 attack, no tests were ever performed.

Roe Wilson, chief of the district attorney's legal services bureau, said the DNA evidence was never tested because the boy and a young companion both identified Rachell as the attacker. Wilson said it was a mistake not to test the evidence.

LETTERS

Continued from page 4A

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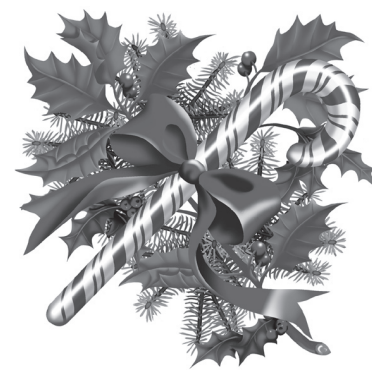
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Aldo Gustavo Galindo, 922 Jeter, Odessa
James Randal Gardner, PO Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.
Claudet Garza, E. Elm, Apt. 10, Laredo
Raul Gonzales, 2106 Johnson, Big Spring
Naomi Gonzales, 1606 E. Fifth, Big Spring
Jeffrey M. Grams, 224 Lelon Lane, Springtown

Gabriel Guerrero, 411 N.E. 10th Street, Big Spring
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa
Dana L. Holguin Havink, 600 Star Linda CT. Unit B, Arlington
Kristin Hawkins, 405 N. Moss Lake Road, Big Spring
Rickie L. Henderson, 205 Providence Road, Big Spring
Gerald R. Hodges, 4312 Crane 1104, Houston
Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 1502, Big Spring
Lucas Shane Hughes, 3906 Connally, Big Spring
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Hwy. 7, La Grange
Sharon Annette James, 1215 Cedar, Colorado City
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
Julie L. Johnson, 2504 Ent, Big Spring
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Robert Michael Kleck, P.O. Box 35, Rotan
Lynda Kynam, 2503 Central, Big Spring
Eloy Escobar Leal, 1806 E. 11th Street, Big Spring
Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock
Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa
Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland
Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa
Carrol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder
Betty Jane McWilliams, 2503 Fairchild, Big Spring
Ebaline Flores Mendoza, P. O. Box 291, Mertzon
Mari Montemayor, 627 State Street, Big Spring
Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas
Angela Moreno, 1712 N. Third Street, Lamesa
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland
William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring
Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway Rd, Big Spring
Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford, Big Spring
Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road Apt. 226, Big Spring
Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock
Gustabo Alfredo Rios, 1804 Scurry, Big Spring
Anna Alicia Robles, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 304, Big Spring
Jose Antonio Rodriguez, 1309 Wright, Big Spring
Veronica Rodriguez, 3010 Cherokee, Big Spring

Sofia Romero, 409 N. Ave Q, Lamesa
Robert Christopher Rosamond, 801 Lancaster / 1501 E. Sixth Street, Big Spring
Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1420 E. Sixth Street #10, Big Spring
Blanca L. Saenz, 1202 N. Sam Houston Ave., Odessa
Rudy Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton
Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20th Street, Big Spring
Stephanie Serrato, 1203 E. Mobile, Big Spring
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring
Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook Road, Big Spring
Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City
Robert Lee Summers, 2404 S. Monticello, Big Spring
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene
Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois #16, Midland
Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave M, Snyder
Alicia M. Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio
Tyler J. Voss, Fannin Co. Rd 4925, Leonard
Chrissy Sue Ward, 1003-2 CR 175, Colorado City
Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa
Jerry Lee Wrightsil, 2816 Ridge Road, Ft. Worth

County Court Decisions:
Judgment and Sentence: David Arthur Wittrein, driving while license invalid, \$100 fine, \$274 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: David Arthur Wittrein, bail jumping and failure to appear, \$328 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Josue Daniel Rosas, criminal mischief - more than \$50 less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Jose Rivas, driving while intoxicated, \$500 fine, \$443 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Robert Diaz Jr., unlawfully carrying a weapon, \$500 fine, \$278 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: David Arthur Wittrein, bail jumping and failure to appear, \$328 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Terrence Ali Young, failure to identify - giving false information, \$250 fine, \$328 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Terrence Ali Young, evading arrest or detention, \$1,500 fine, \$328 court costs, 90 days

in jail.
Probated Judgment: Carlos O. Vargas, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$278 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).
District Court Filings:
Esequiel Chavarria vs. Ronda Roberts Chavarria, divorce.
Isabel Sanchez vs. Pedro Sanchez, divorce.
Allison R. Redding vs. Ricky Edwards, protective order.

Marriage Licenses:
Kenneth Joseph Land, 19, and April Lynn Baker, 27, both of Oklahoma.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Paul Belyeu
Grantee: George King and Amy King
Property: Lot 7, Block 4, Mesa Addition
Date: Dec. 5, 2008

Grantor: Jean Broughton, Josh Wilson, John T. Ferguson and Lonnie Newton
Grantee: Charles Ray Kinard and Archie B. Kinard
Property: A tract out of Section 28, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 5, 2008

Grantor: George E. Wilson and Irene Wilson
Grantee: Sean Bouchereau
Property: Lots 1-3, Block 6, Fairview Heights
Date: Dec. 5, 2008

Grantor: Robert Marquez
Grantee: Julian Chavez
Property: Lot 3, Block 7, Earles Addition
Date: Dec. 8, 2008

Grantor: Marcos Rocha Jr.
Grantee: Dianne Austin
Property: A 3.5 acre tract out of Section 24, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey; and a 1.8 acre tract out of Section 24, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 8, 2008

Grantor: Terry D. Barton
Grantee: Robert Rister
Property: Lots 11 and 12, Block 5, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: Dec. 8, 2008

Grantor: Robbie Phernetton and Anglia Phernetton
Grantee: Tierra Group LLC
Property: Lot 1, Block 9, Wrights Airport Addition
Date: Dec. 8, 2008

Grantor: Robbie Phernetton and

Anglia Phernetton
Grantee: Tierra Group LLC
Property: Lot 2, Block 9, Wrights Airport Addition
Date: Dec. 8, 2008

Grantor: Robbie Phernetton and Anglia Phernetton
Grantee: Tierra Group LLC
Property: Lot 11, Block 3, Earle Addition
Date: Dec. 8, 2008

Grantor: Robbie Phernetton and Anglia Phernetton
Grantee: Tierra Group LLC
Property: Lot 26, Block 7, Stanford Park
Date: Dec. 8, 2008

Grantor: David Parrish
Grantee: George Morgan
Property: A portion of Lot 4, Block 2, Lockhart Addition
Date: Dec. 8, 2008

Grantor: Rhonda Smith
Grantee: Michelle Hamby
Property: Lot C, Block 2, Highland Addition
Date: Dec. 9, 2008

Grantor: Michael V. Creel and Joye Jayne Creel
Grantee: Joe Rodriguez
Property: A .5 acre tract out of Section 7, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 9, 2008

Grantor: Ola M. Jackson
Grantee: Fred Weatherby and Amy Weatherby
Property: A .8 acre tract out of Section 19, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 9, 2008

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Jean Broughton, John Wilson, John T. Ferguson and Lonnie Newton
Grantee: Sonny Glen Kinard
Property: A tract out of Section 28, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 4, 2008

Grantor: George E. Wilson and Irene Wilson
Grantee: Leslie Kay Elrod DBA LKE Properties
Property: Lot 8, Block 1, Jerald Smith Addition
Date: Dec. 5, 2008

Grantor: Jimmy Anderson and Cristi Anderson
Grantee: Billy R. Walton
Property: A 4.5 acre tract out of Section 45, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 9, 2008

PRICES

Continued from page 4C

economists expected. It was the biggest cut in inventories since August 2003.
Inventories are closely watched signals of business confidence. When companies are reducing their stockpiles because they are worried about future sales, it can further depress overall economic growth.

The reports come a day after the Labor Department said initial jobless claims rose to the highest level in 26 years, though the work force has grown by about half over that time.
The latest economic data illustrate the negative cycle currently bedeviling the economy: consumers tighten their belts as the unemployed — and those who fear for their jobs — spend less, reducing retail sales and leading companies to cut back further.
Most Americans expect the

jobs situation to get even worse, according to a poll released Thursday by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. More than 60 percent believe unemployment will increase next year, and 73 percent plan to cut back on holiday gifts this year.
The jobless claims data were worse than already downbeat projections. Initial applications for unemployment benefits rose to a seasonally adjusted 573,000, the Labor Department said.

TWC

Continued from page 4C

— charged to all employers to cover unemployment claims not charged to a specific employer. This tax tends to rise following economic slowdowns when claims increase and businesses close.
• The employment training assessment — charged to all employers who are eligible for a computed tax rate to finance the Skills Development Fund and the Texas Enterprise Fund. The employment training assessment calculation is a separate line item on the Employer's Quarterly Tax Report.

TENASKA

Continued from page 4C

nology the plant will utilize — and the positive impact it could have on the local economy — several citizens remain skeptical. Local attorney David Hall believes that the plant shouldn't be receiving a tax abatement greater than those granted to the wind companies.
Hall was also unimpressed by Tenaska's responses to the tough questions which were lobbed at them saying, "They didn't know how much coal they would be burning, or how much water it would take to cool it. They didn't know how many train cars of coal that will be brought in each day."
Elaine Starkey, another citizen who gave a heartfelt presentation on the myriad of problems the coal plant could potentially bring, happens to live a mile from the plant's future location.
Starkey's family has owned the property they reside on for nearly 100 years. She said that the construction of the coal plant would alter her

plans to stay at the location. "We intended to live here the rest of our lives," she said. "If the coal plant gets built here, that will be impossible."
Starkey said her main concern is the fact that Tenaska's plant will be a polluter. "Do we want the pollutants in our air?" she asked. "Arsenic, mercury, coal dust; what will that do to our environment? What would it do to the wildlife around here?"
Tenaska officials say they sympathize with those who have concerns, and that they have taken appropriate steps to ensure that the quality of life won't decrease as a result of their plant. "We are cognizant of our impact on the community," Manroe stated. "We respect opinions, and we will further discuss with the citizens their objections to the plant."
The company is also subject to the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Both organizations have standards in place as far as emissions

and pollutant levels that businesses can release.
Tenaska representatives say that in addition to abiding by the state and federal regulations, they will be emitting far less pollutants than the national average due to the design of the plant and the capture of the Co2.

To subscribe, call 263-7331

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.

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

www.bigspringherald.com

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the jack of clubs, South following with the deuce. How would you play the hand?

West ♠ Q 8 5 3 ♥ A K 4 ♦ A K 9 ♣ A K Q	East ♠ A 6 2 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ 8 4 2 ♣ 7 6 4 3
---	---

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Notrump, and North leads the jack of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

West ♠ J 7 ♥ A K J 3 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ A Q 9 5	East ♠ A K 10 3 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A 5 2 ♣ J 6 4 2
---	--

1. Win the club lead with the queen and play the ace next. If both opponents follow suit, cash the king of clubs, hoping for a 3-3 division that will give you your ninth trick.
If the clubs prove to be divided 4-2, lead a low spade and also play low from dummy! Then, after winning the heart or diamond return, play a low spade to the ace. Assuming nothing noteworthy occurs, next lead a spade toward your Q-8.
This line of play will make the contract if: (1) the opposing clubs divide 3-3; (2) either opponent has the singleton king of spades; (3) either opponent has the doubleton king of spades; (4) the opposing

spades divide 3-3; (5) South has any number of spades including the king.
Note that your low spade play from each hand the first time you lead the suit covers the case where North has the K-x, which you wouldn't discover if you started the suit by playing the ace and another spade to the queen. This delicate safety play significantly increases your chances of making the contract.
2. The contract cannot be defeated, regardless of how the opposing cards are distributed. Win the diamond lead with the king and play the ace of clubs followed by a low club toward dummy. If the missing clubs are divided 3-2, you have 12 easy tricks, so let's assume they're 4-1 or 5-0.
If North is four or five clubs to the K-10, he cannot afford to go up with the king at trick three because then you'd have 12 tricks. Let's therefore say he plays low on the second club, and you win the trick with dummy's jack. After South shows out, you return to your hand with a diamond and lead the jack of spades, planning to finesse if North follows low. This assures you of 12 tricks wherever the spade queen is located.
If South is the one with four or five clubs to the K-10, he wins dummy's jack of clubs with the king, but this leaves you with a marked finesse against South's ten for your 12th trick.

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CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

**Kids Submit Your Entry
Color 1 Block & Bring To
The Big Spring Herald
By**

**Monday, Dec. 22, 2008
5:00 p.m.**

**1ST PRIZE: \$50.00 GIFT CARD
2ND PRIZE: \$35.00 GIFT CARD
3RD PRIZE: \$25.00 GIFT CARD**

COLORING CONTEST RULES:

1. Contest open to children ages 10 and under. Relatives of newspaper employees or contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
2. Contestants may use crayons, colored pencils or markers. Adults may assist in completing the contest entry form, but not in the coloring.
3. Limit one entry per child. Entries will not be returned.
4. All entries must be turned in by Dec. 22, 2008, 5 p.m.
5. Submissions are considered property of this newspaper and may be printed by this newspaper.
6. Decision of the judges is final.

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263-3333

City Of Big Spring
310 Nolan
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Chamber of Commerce
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Medicine Center Pharmacy
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Big Spring Living Magazine
Kim Klug
263-7331 ext. 231

Jewels By Park Lane
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(432) 634-9893

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to: THE BIG SPRING HERALD
710 SCURRY ST.
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

Merry Christmas and Good Luck!

DEADLINE: MONDAY, DEC. 22ND

CLASSIFIEDS

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Help Wanted

NEED WATER Well pump person. Call (432)517-0510.

BLUE BELL Creameries is seeking a responsible, dependable Full Time Shipping Clerk. Position involves physically working with ice cream products in a cold environment. Must be 18 years old and have reliable transportation. No experience necessary, we will train. We offer competitive pay and great benefits, including medical, paid vacation, retirement and more. Apply in person at 401 East I-20.

Help Wanted

Part-Time

Field Service Rep

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EOE M/F/D/V
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NOW ACCEPTING resumes for plant operator and telemetry/measurement specialist @ natural gas processing plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Salary DOE Send resume to: Plant Supervisor 11703 E. FM 846 Coahoma, TX 79511 or fax 432-399-4290.

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Vocational Service Tech: Provides instruction and directs the trainee in the accomplishment of a specific job. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Hours vary. Salary \$8.20-8.75hr (\$17,052.00-18,192.00 annually) Benefits.

Residential Support Technician: Position provides services within the community and in the home to individuals with mental retardation. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Hours vary. Salary \$8.20-8.75 hr (\$17,052.00-18,192.00 annually.) Benefits.

Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling **JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE**

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Newsday Crossword SATURDAY STUMPER by Daniel R. Stark

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | |
| 1 Grating | 1 Tape holder | 12 Direct |
| 7 Its flag has an Osage shield | 2 Rushed | 13 Nice neighbor |
| 15 Small bones | 3 Efficacious | 14 One with a bass line |
| 16 One going along | 4 Observance | 20 Silver compound |
| 17 Liquid and solid | 5 Where lugers are seen | 24 Mechanic's offer |
| 18 Tailor's job | 6 Part of RSVP | 25 Hopper |
| 19 Started back | 7 Part of a fall | 27 Hoedown attendee |
| 20 Accelerator products | 8 Asian titles | 29 Orb |
| 21 Square thing | 9 Circuits | 32 Hardened |
| 22 Catch in pots | 10 Go ___ | 34 Help |
| 23 Unfortunate folks | 11 Caduceus owner | 36 Coming-out party |
| 25 It follows that | | 37 Crack |
| 26 High-school class | | 38 Prepare to take off |
| 28 Neruda opus | | 39 Guarded to the max |
| 29 Shepherd | | |
| 30 Sushi serving | | |
| 31 Less dense | | |
| 33 Where Birmingham is | | |
| 35 Required | | |
| 40 Make stronger | | |
| 42 Coastal flyer | | |
| 43 Camera hog | | |
| 47 Live | | |
| 48 Innocent | | |
| 49 Small arm | | |
| 50 Parts of opera houses | | |
| 52 Heel | | |
| 53 Cover | | |
| 54 Character | | |
| 55 2007 Tony winner as Rose | | |
| | | 41 Least slanted |
| | | 43 Gardener's device |
| | | 44 Disentangle |
| | | 45 Caused squinting |
| | | 46 League of Nations home |
| | | 50 Sparkling less |
| | | 51 Porcupine quill |
| | | 54 Shed |
| | | 56 Cookout inconveniences |
| | | 58 "Wild sort of devil" of song |
| | | 59 Word in a Tolstoy title |

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Ike wreckage attracting thousands of tourists

GALVESTON (AP) — Janet Oostenbrink came to see the sights. Actually, the Canadian was on Galveston's seawall to see what sites were no longer there.

"It's amazing," said Oostenbrink, who was visiting from Edmonton, Alberta. "You talk about the power of the ocean, and you see that there is nothing you can do to stand against it."

She didn't come to the United States just to see what destruction Ike had brought to Galveston. She was visiting fellow Canadian Beth Wiebe in Spring, and the two were curious just what was left of Galveston. They had seen plenty of images on TV, but standing on the seawall and seeing what was left of Murdoch's Pier and the damage to the Flagship Hotel they decided the television images didn't do the storm justice.

"We just didn't realize it impacted this area," Wiebe said. "It is so different from what we have in Spring."

The Canadian women are not the only tourists who are making trips to the island to see what was destroyed, what was damaged and what survived Ike. They also wouldn't be the first disaster tourists.

From the site of the

WorldTradeCenter towers in New York to the Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans to far off places such as Chernobyl in the former Soviet Union, communities that have endured horrible destruction are attractions for many visitors.

Some make trips out of curiosity. Others come to see history firsthand. For many, it's an educational experience.

But is there a line between insensitive voyeurism and education?

"For a year, I refused to show the destruction, but people started asking so we had to show the areas," said Javier Cuellar, owner of Dixie International Tours in New Orleans. "It's part of our history now. Tourists now don't want to see the destruction; they want to see the recovery of the area and how we are rebuilding."

For a while, though, destruction was the tourism attraction in the Crescent City.

"Some companies almost immediately they were taking people to the 9th Ward, places that were so bad," said Cuellar, who has been in the touring business in New Orleans for 20 years.

So in addition to stops in the French Quarter

and along the riverfront, Dixie Tours also makes stops in the Lower 9th Ward, along the levee system and at the Superdome.

Cuellar pointed out that New Orleans is a tourist town, not unlike Galveston, and that a tour operator has to adjust the sites visited to what the visitors want to see. While his tourists, who are mostly from Mexico and Europe, want to see the areas that sustained the worst damage, Cuellar's tour guides stress the rebuilding process and the resiliency of New Orleansians.

"My guys, they add their own stories, what they went through," Cuellar said. "Then they tell people how they are doing now."

But he notes the tourist business in New Orleans is nowhere near what it was pre-Katrina.

"Some of it you have to blame on the economy the way it is right now but the crowds just aren't the same as before," he said. "Many people still think it is not safe to come here. They heard about the killings, and they think we have people dying of malaria. I constantly have to tell people we don't have malaria down here."

RoShelle Gaskins

is used to shutting down rumors, too. The public relations manager for Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau has been on the road the last two weeks drumming up the island's tourist business.

The first thing she has to do is convince people Galveston is indeed open. The delayed and well publicized re-entry plan for Galveston and the Bolivar Peninsula left many with the impression the island was either a wasteland or not welcoming guests.

While there are not ways to accurately track it, tourism officials say there is definitely an interest in post-Ike Galveston as a tourist destination.

"Many people are surprised Galveston is even open," Gaskins said. "They ask us, do we still have beaches, do they have to wear masks (and) is it safe to come here."

Gaskins and Moody Gardens' marketing manager, Jerri Hamachek, made stops in Austin, College Station and Victoria telling tour operators, church groups, chambers of commerce, civic groups and anyone who would listen Galveston is indeed open and welcoming tourists.

"Of course, we have to say that The Strand is not really open because it took on so much water and that there are restaurants that have not opened up yet because they are still making repairs," Gaskins said.

Still, the curiosity about what is not here or what is damaged is first on many people's minds.

"We are getting a lot of curiosity," Gaskins said. "They ask, 'What really happened to Murdoch's or the Balinese Room?' And we see it with the press we take on tours. We have to go to the seawall, and they all get out and take 10 pictures. Then we have a lot of people asking if that shrimp boat is still in the parking lot of Willie G's (near the waterfront)."

Galveston has been promoting a form of devastation tourism for years. From movies to the tours at Bishop's Palace and Ashton Villa to the historic homes tour, the 1900 Storm is a part of the Galveston tourism machine.

One cannot visit the island's historic East

End without seeing plaques that designate the homes that survived the great storm in 1900. Along the seawall, statues and markers also tell the story of destruction and recovery.

Still, Gaskins and others are not in the business of promoting Ike's destruction.

"We have to be realistic, though," she said. "We are not going to go out there and promote anything negative. It's finding the balance of explaining it ... is what is the challenge."

When it comes to promoting the city, however, island tourism officials may have no choice. That's because meeting planners and tourist groups are already inquiring.

Whether to promote the devastation the island suffered was a hot topic at the most recent Galveston Parks Board meeting. Officials acknowledged more and more convention planners who contact local tourism sales representatives are asking where they can take guests to see the hurricane damage.

Tribes fight to revive gambling

LIVINGSTON (AP) — Preschoolers on the Alabama-Coushatta reservation play beneath a leaky roof and beside aging emergency exits. Tribal members who seek treatment for diabetes and cancer at the nearby health clinic share the facetious warning, "Don't get sick after June" — money may run out for the year.

A tourist train once lured visitors and their dollars to the reservation but today sits idle in its tunnel, weeds choking the tracks. A once-grand outdoor amphitheater is falling apart.

These sad conditions worry Alabama-Coushatta leaders, but they say the American Indian tribe's history is proud and its destiny is hopeful.

What they want now is the Legislature to help them relaunch a shuttered casino that drew big-spending gamblers to their remote East Texas land.

"In the end we'll be successful. It's just not easy," said tribal council chairman Carlos Bullock, who is working with the Tigua tribe of El Paso to get an Indian casino bill passed when lawmakers convene in January. Both tribes' casinos were closed in 2002 by court orders sought by then-Attorney General John Cornyn.

Indian leaders argue the creation of Texas' state lottery opened the legal door for their casinos. But after the court disputes with the state, they're trying — again — to persuade lawmakers to approve Indian casino gambling.

"We are lining up our ducks," said Carlos Hisa, lieutenant governor for the Tigua

tribe, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo. Both tribes have hired prominent Austin lobbyists and consultants, some with close

ties to Republican Gov. Rick Perry. The politically savvy tribal leaders grew wise about the legislative world the

hard way, through past defeats and costly connections to convicted Washington ex-lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

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News in brief

Administration unwilling to see automakers fail; working on conditions, timing of bailout

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration simply wasn't willing to stand by and watch the American auto industry financially collapse — the stakes were too huge.

So the administration committed Friday to step in and help avoid the collapse of the industry that was once the backbone of the nation's economy. Administration officials are talking with those automakers about conditions that must be met to get the aid and have not made final decisions on the size or duration of the help.

"A precipitous collapse of this industry would have a severe impact on our economy, and it would be irresponsible to further weaken and destabilize our economy at this time," Bush spokeswoman Dana Perino said. She noted that in normal times the administration would prefer to let the markets determine the fate of private firms, but these times are far from normal.

She said that because of the current

state of the economy the administration would consider various options, including use of the TARP program, which has been aimed at bailing out the nation's finance system. TARP is the \$700 billion Troubled Assets Recovery Program, the financial industry bailout plan enacted in October and the White House has long insisted that money should be reserved for stabilizing markets.

Perino said that while "the federal government may need to step in to prevent an immediate failure, the auto companies, their labor unions, and all other stakeholders must be prepared to make the meaningful concessions necessary to become viable."

Republicans criticize Obama aides' refusal to discuss review into contacts with Ill. governor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are criticizing President-elect Barack Obama's silence over contacts his aides may have had with disgraced Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, saying he is breaking promises to bring

openness to government.

"While it is encouraging that the president-elect has stated his office will disclose contacts with the scandal-ridden governor, it remains disappointing that his actions are in response to political pressure," Republican National Committee Chairman Robert M. "Mike" Duncan said.

"Americans expect the highest degree of transparency from their elected leaders, rather than promises of openness on the campaign trail," he said.

Obama said Friday he will release in a matter of days the results of an internal investigation into what conversations his aides and advisers may have had with Blagojevich, who has been accused of trying to sell Obama's Senate seat.

Obama's staff has declined to respond to even basic questions, like who is conducting the probe, how long it will take, what issues are being explored and whether they are working with federal investigators. While Obama has promised openness throughout his service, his staff has locked down on inquiries for now.

Embattled Illinois Gov. Blagojevich makes brief appearance at courthouse

CHICAGO (AP) — Gov. Rod Blagojevich finished his work week in a federal courthouse, attending to duties in his newfound role of criminal defendant as the attorney general asked the state's highest court to have the scandal-ridden governor stripped of his powers.

The trip to the courthouse capped a tumultuous week for the governor, who rebuffed calls to resign and faced the growing threat that lawmakers could launch impeachment proceedings as early as Monday. He visited a department that supervises criminal defendants and prepares reports about them to help the court on issues such as bail.

Blagojevich showed no sign of backing down from his critics, even signing a bill that extends insurance coverage for autistic kids in what represented a clear sign that he's still in charge. As he left his office Friday, Blagojevich refused to answer questions from reporters, saying only, "I'll have a lot to say at the appropriate time."

Prosecutors have accused Blagojevich of a litany of corruption allegations, including putting President-elect Barack Obama's Senate seat up for sale, strong-arming the owners of the Chicago Cubs and threatening to withhold millions of dollars from a children's hospital.

As the turmoil deepened, the state hurtled toward an extraordinary constitutional showdown. Attorney General Lisa Madigan asked the Supreme Court to declare Blagojevich unfit to serve, declaring that "the state government is paralyzed."

Gates arrives in Iraq to prepare for troop cuts; presses neighbors to fight terror

BALAD, Iraq (AP) — Defense Secretary Robert Gates urged Middle East nations to support the fight against terror Saturday then traveled to Iraq to meet with commanders as the U.S. prepares to cut its troops levels and begin to pull forces out of the cities.

The unannounced visit to Iraq on Saturday comes as President-elect Barack Obama prepares to take office and begin to implement what many expect will be an accelerated withdrawal of troops. During Obama's presidential campaign, he said he wanted combat troops out of Iraq in 16 months, but he has also said he would listen to the advice of his commanders on the ground.

A security agreement between the U.S. and Iraq mandates that combat forces leave the cities by next June, and leave Iraq in three years.

Earlier in Bahrain, Gates urged Middle East nations to help fight the spread of violent extremism by funding and training Afghan security forces and reaching out more aggressively to the fledgling government in Iraq.

Gates also assured the gathering of Persian Gulf leaders in Bahrain that Obama will continue the U.S. commitment to the Middle East, including efforts to fight terrorism and develop a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

Zimbabwe blames its cholera epidemic on biological warfare

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — The Zimbabwean government on Saturday accused the West of deliberately starting the country's cholera epidemic, stepping up a war of words with the regime's critics as the humanitarian crisis deepened.

The state-run Herald newspaper said comments by the U.S. ambassador that the U.S. had been preparing for the outbreak raised suspicions the West had waged "serious biological chemical war."

Zimbabwean officials often blame their country's troubles on the West. Their stranglehold on most sources of news to which ordinary Zimbabweans have access makes such rhetoric an important tool for a regime struggling to hold onto power.

After the first cholera cases, U.S. and other aid workers braced for the waterborne disease to spread quickly in an economically ravaged country where the sewage system and medical care have collapsed. Zimbabwe also faces a hunger crisis, the world's highest inflation and shortages of both the most basic necessities and the cash to buy them.

The Herald quoted the information minister, Sikhanyiso Ndlovu, as blaming cholera on "serious biological chemical war."

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Sunoco Logistics PLANT SUPERVISOR needed for Ameri-Tech Building Systems. Experience required in Portable Metal Building Manufacturing. Competitive Salary and Benefits available. Email to kwr_atbs@yahoo.com or fax to 254-938-2762. EOE Drivers: Dedicated Runs with Consistent Freight, Top Pay, Weekly Home-time & More! Werner Enterprises 800-346-2818, x151 SHELL STAR STOP looking for new team members. Full & Part time Cashiers. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment. WANTED DRILLING Supervisor with at least 7 years experience. For Sharp Image Energy Inc. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 1888, Big Spring, Tx. 79721.

Items for Sale 2 NEW Twin Mattress Sets, will separate, and take \$95 per set. Factory Sealed. 432-664-8980. Cherry sleigh-bed solid wood still in box with mattress set, both new \$395. 432-664-8980. 4PC LEATHER Sofa and Love brand new has Warranty Will take \$650. 432-664-8980. 3 pcs King Pillow Top Mattress Set still in plastic w/Factory Warranty. \$235. 432-664-8980. FIREWOOD FOR Sale. \$300.00 per cord, \$175.00 per half cord. Call 432-213-3399. FIREWOOD. SEASONED OAK FIREWOOD. Satisfaction Guaranteed. \$325.00 Full Cord & \$180.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-8297. NO SPRINGS or coils MEMORY FOAM mattress set, pressure relieving sleep, New with warranty, \$385. 432-664-8980. NEW Canopy Bed with Mattress Set, Still pkgd brand new. \$289. 432-664-8980.

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Items for Sale

PIANO FOR Sale! Great for beginners. Call (432)267-2833 after 5:30 p.m.

QUEEN MATTRESS with box both are new with warranty. \$135. Frame available. 432-664-8980.

Brand New 5pc Micro fiber Sofa/Love seat, with Warranty. \$550. 432-664-8980.

SHELLED PECANS. Excellent quality. Call (432)267-1180 or (432)816-4644. Delivery twice weekly on orders over 2 lbs.

Lost and Found

\$400 REWARD- Brittany Spaniel "Luke" (Liver & White), 2 years old, male, red collar no/tags. Last seen near Jeffrey Rd. Please call 432-416-0118 or 263-0926.

LOST AROUND Nov. 15th on Tubb Loop Rd (Sandsprings). White cat, has tags. Call (432)213-0064.

Miscellaneous

COMPLETE BEDROOM suite, cherry bed, dresser, mirror, nightstand, List. \$1900. Sell \$875. 806-549-3110..... QUALITY BEDROOM set, Cherry finish, complete. Never used!!! \$499. 806-549-3110.....

DINETTE SET and chairs, stone top BRAND NEW!!! Medium brown. \$260. 806-549-3110.....

ELECTRIC ADJUSTABLE bed & queen foam mattress, NEW!!!! \$990. 806-549-3110.... CHERRY (solid) pedestal dining table, chairs, lighted china cabinet, NEW!! \$990. 806-549-3110.....

On the Farm

HUNTER'S Special! EZELL KEY FEED & GRAIN 98 Lancaster (432)267-8112 Big Spring, Texas 79720 NOW OPEN TILL 4:00PM ON SATURDAYS We have Deer Corn \$9.00 We also will be carrying Moormans Pig Feed We have all your Feed Needs COME SEE US!!!

MODEL 640 Ford Tractor. \$2,400.00. Runs good. Call 432-263-6297.

Pets

FREE PUPPIES! Blue Heeler & Australian Shepherd mixed. Male and female. 6-1/2 weeks old. Call (432)816-4366.

Real Estate for Rent

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD • Swimming Pool • Private Patios • Carports • Appliances • Most Utilities Paid • Senior Citizens Discount • 1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS 800 W. Marcy Drive 263-5555 267-5444

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!! \$100. off 1st month rent! SUNSET RIDGE APARTMENT 2911 West Hwy 80 Big Spring 432-263-2292 1 Bdrm \$350 month 2 Bdrm \$395 month !!!!!!! Now Available !!!!!!!

THE OFFICE Building, 710 Gregg Street, for lease, excellent space for a medical doctor or lab available, also have individual offices starting @ \$250. per month with bills paid. Call (432)770-5656 or (432)517-0038. Broker/ Owner.

Real Estate for Rent

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX Swimming Pool Carports, Most Utilities Paid, Senior Citizen Discounts 1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths Unfurnished KENTWOOD APARTMENTS 1904 East 25th Street 267-5444 263-5555

2200 SQ. ft. building for lease in a high traffic area @ 1307 Gregg St. Front & rear parking available. Please contact Lucy @ 432-263-5000 for mor information.

308 W. 15th Street, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$700.00 Month, \$500.00 deposit. Call (432)466-1696.

602 1/2 GEORGE- Close to College. 1 Bedroom House. Carport, CH/A. \$550.00 month plus deposit. No pets. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

COAHOMA ISD 3 Bedroom 1-1/2 bath, CH/A, fenced front yard. Call (432)714-4910.

HOUSE FOR Lease, Kentwood 2513 Carol. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, 2 car garage. \$900. month. Call (432)270-7706.

SHORT TERM Leases. Furnished houses for rent. All bills paid. Call Leslie, (432)213-0909.

SOUTH PLAINS APTS. 3304 West Hwy 80 Efficiency 1, 2, & 3 Brdms. Now Available 432-714-4840 559-309-1968

Real Estate for Sale

1 ACRE with water well and septic. \$8,750., 8/10th of acre for \$5,000..... Mobile home Space for rent. \$150.00 month & up. Call (254)643-1145.

NEW TO THE MARKET 5.8 ACRES, 2 miles North of Town. \$12,000.00. Call (432)213-1187.

BY OWNER Ranch style brick. 3 bedroom, 3 bath, jetted tub, fireplace, sunroom. 3-1/3 acres, storage, barn. Coahoma ISD (Derrick Rd.). Reduced \$179,900. (432)264-0330, 816-9969.

BY OWNER--- 2600 Carelton 3 Bedroom, 2 bath w/covered carport. New A/C unit. New carpet and paint. All New Appliances. Remodeled kitchen and baths. No Owner Financing. Please call 432-213-2681.

FORECLOSURE! 3 bdrm. Only \$33,120! Must see! For listings 800-544-6258 ext. F906.

HERE'S FLORIDA! Florida Manufactured Home Magazine. A guide to finding and buying a manufactured home in the Sunshine State. Call to request your FREE copy today! Toll Free: 1-888-739-3530 Or Visit our website www.flmanufacturedhomes.com

OWNER FINANCED HOUSES. Easy Terms. Low Down Payment. Bad Credit OK. Call Lana at TruStar Realty (432)264-8166.

LARGE 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, 4 car garage, fireplace in living room and basement. Amenity Galore. 3 plus acres, 2 large shops and Rentals. Coahoma School District. Reduced \$275,000. Owner Finance Call (254)643-1145.

OWNER FINANCE, 3,000 sq. ft. duplex. \$6,750. down, \$800. per month. Call (432)714-4555.

OWNER FINANCE. 1524 East 17th. Large 2 bedroom, with garage. Deserving Buyers. Call for information, (325)277-4923.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS \$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP. ALL BILLS PAID 538 Westover 263-1252 Housing Assistance Accepted

Answer to previous puzzle MACH MESAS INKS ECHO AETNA NEAL THEPUREAND THRU REFER MAD ERAS ODS SIMPLERTRUTH CANE SNIP SUMO RAN ERNIE ISRARLYPUREAND CAIRO CUR TWAS SAAB LAMS NEVERSIMPLE OUT AVON CSI OPINE SATE OSCARWILDE ADES TERRY PEEN LEDS STOKE PEER

Don't throw those unwanted items away! Sell them! Call 263-7331 and place your garage sale in the Herald Classified section and receive a Garage sale kit Free! Call Today!

Real Estate for Sale

OWNER FINANCE. Fixer Upper! Low monthly. Low down. 1300 & 1302 Wright. (325)277-4923.

SALE BY Owner: Remodeled 4/2/2 2495 sq. ft. home with 3 living areas. New patio and large storage building. Landscaped, with large oak trees and well maintained yard. Quiet street, great for young family. 432-213-3544.

OWNER FINANCE, Low Down, Low Monthly, Easy Terms. 1505 Cherokee- 3/2, 808 Settles- 3/2. Call Trent 512-426-1850.

WE BUY HOUSES and LAND. Any Condition. Tax Liens No Problem. Call (512)940-5200, 432-631-8100.

Services Offered

WILL PUT up Christmas Decorations- lights, yard deco, etc. Call Justen at 432-264-7523.

Vehicles

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

Legals

AMERICAN SELF STORAGE Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, American Self Storage which is located at 3314 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on Saturday, January 10, 2009, at 3314 East F.M. 700 Big Spring, Texas. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property may be sold item by item or in batches, or by the space. All sales are subject to Texas State Sales Tax. Sale is on the contents of: Tenant: Unit #37 Monica McGruder Tenant: Unit #89 Lorley Lane Tenant: Unit #152 Rejenia Anderson Tenant: Unit #20 Michael D. Norris Tenant: Unit #63 Vicky L. Bradley Tenant: Unit #215 Amanda Wallace #5994 December 14 & 21, 2008

CITY OF BIG SPRING INVITATION FOR BIDS SECTION 00020 ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS The City of Big Spring is soliciting sealed bid proposals for 2006 Bond Project Street Reconstruction. This project includes three (3) separate proposals as follow:

- (1) Proposal A- Reconstruction of Streets and Miscellaneous Concrete Flatwork; (2) Proposal B- Improvement for ADA Accessibility along Lancaster Street; and (3) Proposal C- Improvements for ADA Accessibility around City Hall.

Contractors may submit bids for one, two, or all three proposals. A pre-bid conference is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at City Hall. Bid opening will be at City Hall, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2009. Bid security in the amount of five percent of the bid submitted is required. Bidders are expected to inspect the job site and to inform themselves of all local conditions. Payment and performance bonds will be required in accordance with Article 5160, V.A.T.C.S., as amended by House Bill 344 passed by the 56th Legislature, Regular session 1959. Copies of the plans, specifications and contract documents may be obtained from Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., 4222 85th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79423 upon a refundable deposit of \$50.00 for each set of documents.

City of Big Spring, Texas Honorable Russ McEwen, Mayor #6006 December 7 & 14, 2008

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, AAA Mini Storage which is located at 3301 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on December 22, 2008, at AAA Mini Storage, 3301 East FM 700, Big Spring, TX 79720. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space. Alpine Cardiovascular Jason Hopper Claudia Martinez Marsha Carter Scott Knight #6005 December 7 & 14, 2008.

Want to have the adventure of a lifetime without all the fuss? Read!

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Permian Basin Region Planning Commission (PBRPC) has completed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for State Planning 9 consisting of 17 counties located in the Permian Basin. This report is available for review and comment by the public for a period of 30 days commencing December, 2008 to January, 2009. To request a copy of the CEDS report to review or to make a comment, please contact PBRPC, Attn: Virginia Belew, P.O. Box 60660, Midland, TX 79711, 432/563-1061.

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Janie E. Acosta if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

Being the N/50' of the NE/4 of Blk 17, Amended College Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$5,165.12, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against JANIE E. ACOSTA and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on April 30, 2007, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. JANIE E. ACOSTA for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5347 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 25 day of November, 2008 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 25 day of November, A.D. 2008. Brandie Martinez, Deputy Clerk of the District Court Howard County, Texas, 118th Judicial District. #6003 December 7 & 14, 2008

PUBLIC SCHOOL LAND LEASE Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners' Court of Kent County will receive sealed bids until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 22nd, 2008 for grazing and/or hunting leases on Public School Land owned by Jayton-Girard I.S.D. Located in Dawson and Martin Counties. The Commissioners Court will consider bids on price per acre and improvements on land for a length of term of seven (7) years (no options) beginning on January 1st, 2009 and ending on December 31st, 2015.

Details regarding location of the 5000 plus acres of land, and other considerations may be obtained from the office of the Kent County Judge. Variations from bid specs will not be considered. The Kent County Commissioners' Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids and accept the most advantageous to the Jayton-Girard I.S.D. Jim C. White Kent County Judge, P.O. Box 6 Jayton, TX 79528, (806)237-3373. #6009 December 7 & 14, 2008

Equal Housing Opportunity logo

Equal Housing Opportunity logo

Equal Housing Opportunity logo

Equal Housing Opportunity logo

For a mere 50K, you get a 4-day inauguration trip

By PETER YOST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The inauguration committee of President-elect Barack Obama, who ran on a platform to change the way business is done in Washington, is selling four-day packages of four tickets to his historic swearing-in ceremony and parade plus some extras in exchange for \$50,000.

The deal does represent a change. President Bush charged \$250,000, selling his supporters a much bigger menu of inaugural goodies that featured more tickets, more events and more contact with the president and vice president.

On Friday, members of the Obama National Finance Committee were spreading the word about their package to friends and associates around the country. The money the inaugural committee raises will help pay for the festivities.

"We've been waiting for this day for eight years," crowed committee member Michael Caplin, when contacted by The Associated Press about the offer he was e-mailing to friends and associates.

The five-figure deals were being peddled at the same time a congressional proposal that would have banned the resale of inaugural tickets died in the Senate.

The bill's sponsor, Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, was prepared to rush the bill through, but it was pulled at the last minute.

Feinstein had modified the legislation to allow for ticket sales by the presidential inaugural committee. However, technical issues remained that couldn't be resolved in time to get the bill through both chambers of Congress before the end of the year, said Howard Gantman, staff director of the Senate Rules Committee.

Gantman said that the legisla-

tion will be reintroduced next year because of ticket-scalping over the Internet at astronomical prices and that Feinstein still hoped to see it enacted before the inauguration.

Late Friday, Obama's inaugural committee disclosed the names of 243 donors who together contributed at least \$9.7 million to the committee.

They included Hollywood personalities Robert Zemeckis, Sharon Stone and Jamie Foxx, each of whom gave Obama's committee \$50,000. In addition, financier George Soros and four family members gave a combined total of \$250,000.

Of the donors identified, 169 contributed the maximum \$50,000 each and 43 of them gave \$25,000. Obama's inaugural committee provided the names, employers and amounts for anyone who gave more than \$200.

The committee has said it will not accept contributions from corporations, political action committees, labor unions, current federally registered lobbyists, non-U.S. citizens or registered foreign agents.

"The 4-ticket Inaugural Package offered by the Presidential Inaugural Committee costs \$50,000," Caplin wrote in his e-mail.

The package includes a nightclub performance on Jan. 17 and brunch the next morning, plus nighttime VIP seating at a concert that probably will take place at the Lincoln Memorial.

The fun on Jan. 19 includes candlelight dinners around town with members of Congress.

The Inauguration Day agenda includes four tickets to one of the 10 official balls in addition to tickets for the swearing-in and parade seating.

The Bush inaugural package four years ago featured a \$250,000 package of four seats to the president's swearing-in ceremony, 10 VIP seats at the inaugural parade and two tickets to an underwriters' luncheon featuring the president and vice president.

Visit us
online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

Give yourself the gift of beauty.

Save up to \$100
on your *Restylane*® or
Perlane® treatment
and wear your gift everyday!

This holiday season, tell your loved ones you'll forgo gifts of fashion and jewelry in favor of *Restylane*®. They will be delighted to give you a gift you really want. With just one treatment, *Restylane*® smooths away moderate to severe facial wrinkles and folds, such as the lines from your nose to the corners of your mouth (nasolabial folds).

A *Restylane*® Rebate is our gift to you

We'd like to provide you up to \$100 in savings on a *Restylane*® or *Perlane*® treatment. You can receive a \$50 rebate on a 1-mL syringe or a \$100 rebate on two 1-mL syringes. To qualify, receive your treatment November 17, 2008, through January 4, 2009, and postmark your rebate submission by January 5, 2009. Your *Restylane*® Holiday Rebate Coupon is waiting for you at our office. For Offer Terms and Conditions, click the link below.

We look forward to helping your season be merry and bright—with the vibrant, youthful look you want. Call our office today to schedule your treatment.

Happy Holidays!



Body Focus Medical Spa

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Restylane®
redefining beauty™

Perlane®

18173

Big Spring Symphony Orchestra and Chorus



Keith Graumann
Music Director and Conductor

with



Midland Festival Ballet

THE NUTCRACKER BALLET

Saturday, December 20

7:30 pm

Big Spring Municipal Auditorium

TICKETS AVAILABLE

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce
Blum's Jewelers
Big Spring Herald Office
Faye's Flowers
First Bank of West Texas (all branches)
or at the door of the Municipal Auditorium
the night of the performance

ADMISSION

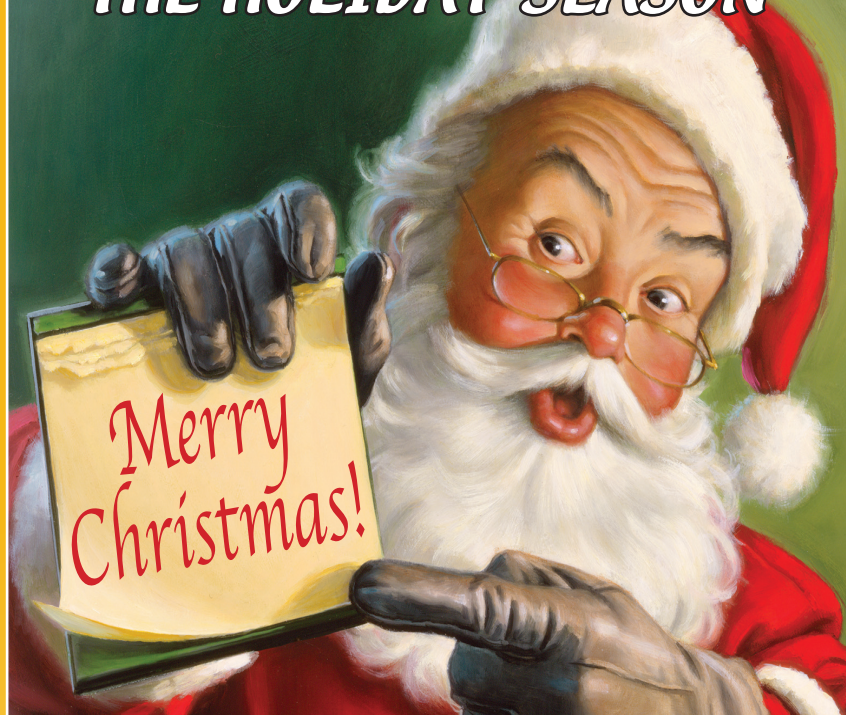
Adult	\$15
Senior Citizen	\$10
Student	\$5

For more information,
call (432)264-7223



15106

WITH MANY THANKS AT THE HOLIDAY SEASON



Thank You To
All Who Assisted With
The Christmas Parade

Judges: Lane Bond, Jan Hansen,
Bebe McCasland.

Bob Brock Rondel Brock provided vehicle for
Grand Marshals

Grand Marshals: Commissioner Bill &
Mrs. Crooker

Big Spring High School Band

Porter Henderson Implement (Nate Avey)
provided the Gators

Compass Hospice - Pat Nunez & Angelica
Duebler served refreshment to the judges.

Howard County Sheriff's Dept.

Santa & Mrs. Santa - Mr. and Mrs. Roger Cline

Santa's Elf - Jeremy Gutierrez

Cody Hughes pulled Santa's Sleigh

Tom Gutierrez provided trailer for Santa's
Sleigh

Rick Nunez, Jr. assisted w/line up

Reba Smith assisted w/line up

The Media Company - Brian Ivanchan provided
Professional Decals

Big Spring Police Honor Guard

City of Big Spring/Police Dept.

Citizen Patrol/ Academy

Tx. Dept. of Public Safety

Tx. Dept. of Transportation

15300

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Cancer moon is an agoraphobic absolutely no desire to overcome it. Why venture out when there's so much to do at home? Even the sun in



HOLIDAY MATHIS

outgoing Sagittarius is starting to cozy up to the idea of bundling up and watching the world from a window. Make your environment as soft, warm and inviting as possible and then stay in.

ARIES(March 21-April 19). Your routine gets whipped around by the needs of those much younger or older than you. Like a well-designed roller coaster, the extremes of the day are timed so as to achieve the most surprises and thrills from you.

TAURUS (April

20-May 20). Your interests lead you to activities that are different from the norm. Groups and gatherings are featured. You enter with such intensity that someone may be scared off. Good. The people left are so much fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Listening is so simple and important to what happens today. Those who can forget themselves and get involved in another person's story will be richly rewarded. Lean forward, ask questions and don't interrupt.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've had to cheer yourself on for weeks now and you've become an expert motivator in the process. You're now in the perfect frame of mind to seize a financial opportunity and run with it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Get out and say hello to the sun. If you can't see where he is, throw your arms open to embrace his general direction. Your energy system is recharged by exposure to full-spectrum light.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're impressionable now so avoid mopes. They'll only bring you down. Surround yourself with the kind of people who laugh often. You need to see the twinkle in your own eyes reflected in someone else's.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Whether you reach out to a distant friend in a far-off place in the world, or wave to the neighbor, your essence is felt. Make sure it's the kind of energy you want to share because you can't help but do so.

SCORPIO(Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In a parallel universe, all the people you say you will "meet for coffee" are actually met. And nobody works. In this reality you have a much stronger sense of purpose, so don't feel bad about dropped social promises.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Cleanup projects renew and refresh more than just your home. As you knock the dust off the rafters and shine up the

coffee table, your spirit gleams, too. Let young people help you. Make a game of this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you let others know you can change for them, they'll ask you to do so. Consider whether deep down you really want to do things differently. Maybe what you really want is someone to accept you as you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Books make better friends than actual friends do today, only because your expansive mind is looking for more than a supportive conversation. You mentally download a world of information.

PISCES(Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be asked to do what you immediately recognize as a bad idea, and yet, it's hard to say no. The faster you say it, the better. Use humor and warmth in your refusal, but do refuse.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: It's the last week of the season and presents aren't the only thing getting wrapped

up as we head toward the winter solstice on Dec. 21. Decisions will be made and resolutions go down on a list. A last burst of industrious energy goes into our work as we prepare for things to change in the new year. Through Dec. 19, Mars in Sagittarius gives a push to our spirit of competition, though it's not as supportive a nudge as many of us were hoping for. The warrior god squares off with Saturn and the effect is more the kind of thing that happens between rambunctious teenage boys who feel they have something to prove. Challenges are thrown down and egos get involved. At some point nobody really wants to "fight," but there's no turning back. The positive thing about this rumble (which for many of us will occur not between people but against the forces of circumstance and/or the warring elements in our own heads) is that there will definitely be a lesson learned as a direct result of having to face

down the challenger. Conflict shows us our weakness so that we can work on becoming stronger and moving more gracefully through life.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "High School Musical" star Vanessa Hudgens is on a fast train to the top. She's a fiery Sagittarius with four Capricorn luminaries in her chart that act as a grounding rod. It's an auspicious combination instilling Hudgens with the work ethic and drive needed to handle a lifestyle that only gets busier and more complex. Lovely Libran beau Zac Efron helps her stay breezy.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, 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.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: For the last five years, I've dated several girls. Three of them, during the course of our individual relationships, turned up pregnant. I was a man about it and stepped up all three times. I took care of the mothers, paid all of the medical bills and even asked one of the women to marry me.

I was surprisingly repaid. One child was born with a completely different skin color than either the mother or me. After another was born, a man showed up claiming to be the father. And one woman admitted she had been pregnant even before we met. DNA tests proved that none of these children were fathered by me.

Last week, my fiancée, "Ari," went to the doctor and discovered that she is expecting. Because of my past experiences, I'm worried the baby is not mine. I have known Ari for 13 years and have no reason not to trust her, but I also had no reason to distrust any of those previous girlfriends. Is it wrong of me to want a paternity test or to postpone our wedding until the baby is born? -- Soon-To-Be Father?

Dear Dad: Auditioning for "The Jerry Springer Show"? Haven't you ever heard of using protection? You must have a sign on your head saying "easy mark." Maybe Ari is the real deal, but with your track record, it would be foolish to assume so.

Yes, get a paternity test. Yes, wait until the child is born before getting married if you think Ari may have cheated. She should trust you enough to know you will step up to the plate if the child is yours. And we seriously suggest you discontinue sleeping with every woman you meet and use condoms when you do have sex. It's the only way you will stop being played.

Dear Annie: Last Christmas, I spent the day with my sister and her family. I had purchased a purse for my 18-year-old niece, only to be told by her mother that her taste ran toward Coach or Chanel, and would I please take it back. I did so and sent



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

my niece a gift card to replace the "unwanted" present. For her birthday, I didn't want to repeat my mistake so I

gave her another gift card. I never received a thank-you note for either.

I realize teenagers are sporadic about writing notes, but I question my sister's example to her daughter of not accepting a gift graciously, whether you like it or not.

Since Christmas is coming soon, should I just stick with the gift card or chance another returned present? If I do the latter and get the same result, how should I respond? -- Past Present

Dear Past Present: Your sister and her daughter have terrible

manners. If you wish to get your niece a gift, buy whatever you like and make sure it comes with a gift receipt. If she doesn't like it, let HER return it and get whatever she prefers. To you, her only words should be: "Thank you so much for the lovely gift."

Dear Annie: I am responding to the letter from "Buried in Paper," whose husband never throws anything away and the clutter has taken over the spare bedroom. My husband thought I wrote that letter since it described him so well.

I decided that in order to deal with my hus-

band's home office, I would simply keep the door closed. However, his mess spread to the garage, in the boat, under the boat, and now we can't even find the boat.

Here's my solution to the lost guest room: When the kids come for an overnight visit, I make him pay for a room at a local hotel. This isn't an ideal answer, but it is a compromise that works. -- A in Texas

Dear A: This is a compromise that works for you, but your husband really could use some help. Try the Obsessive Compulsive Foundation

(ocfoundation.org).

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Seen Around Town



The Williams family and friends turned out in force Thursday night for the annual Big Spring State Hospital party for the patients. Pictured at top is Shirley Kontz, left, and Dorothy Harry. At right is Wanda Chapman, Harry and Murlene Williams, who is the mother of the three other women. The event is sponsored by the BSSH volunteers

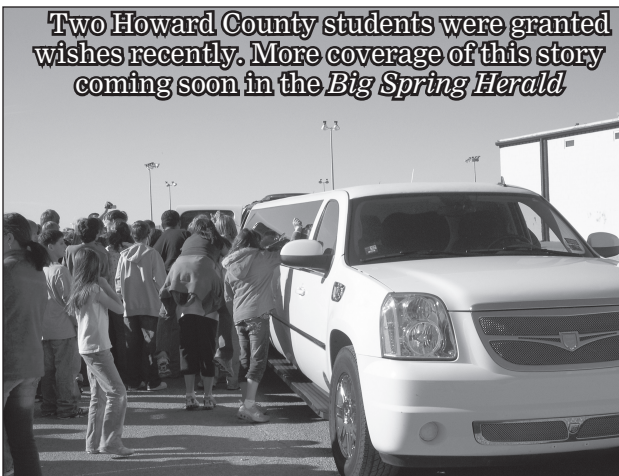
HERALD Photos/Lyndel Moody



Two Howard County students were granted wishes recently. More coverage of this story coming soon in the *Big Spring Herald*

Students and staff along with Make-A-Wish representatives surprised 14-year-old Corbin Foster pictured at top with his mother, Shelia, at a pep rally Friday afternoon. Foster will be going to Disney World for a family vacation. Following the celebration, the family was whisked off by a stretch limousine.

HERALD photos/Lyndel Moody



LETTERS TO SANTA

Don't Miss This Section
Sunday, December 21, 2008

Area Schools Students, Submit
Their Letters To Santa Claus

“DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2008”

Advertisers, Don't Be Left Out!

18984



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Local resident Marj Carpenter and former *Herald* reporter signs a book for Jerry Worthy Tuesday afternoon while Rosa Rickabaugh looks on. Copies of Carpenter's books are available for purchase at the Heritage Museum. She has earned more than 150 writing awards.

Dear Santa,
I have been very good most of this year. Will you wake me up when you come? I have a gift for you and something for the raindeer. Can you bring a football for my brother so he can stop bothering me? I sent 2 letters to you Santa.

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts I got last year. I still have most of them. I'd like a puppy, a game and a new bike. If you want to bring more stuff it's ok with me. I know I sent a letter before but this new list is what I really want. Thank you Santa.

With Love,
Sam

Letters to Santa



A Keepsake Section
Of Holiday Wishes From
the kids who can't wait for
Christmas!

Publication Date: Sunday Dec. 21st
Advertising Deadline: Wed. Dec. 17th

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COOKBOOKS

continued from Page 3C

“Rachael Ray’s Big Orange Book” by Rachael Ray (Clarkson Potter, 2008)

If your loved one could give a hoot about the science and just wants to know how to get a great dinner on the table, check out Ray’s latest offering, a nice — and nicely illustrated — assemblage of real food for real people. This one has something for every-

one — 30-minute meals, vegetarian, kosher, meals for one and a whole chapter on awesome burgers, including Turkey Bacon Double Cheese burgers with Fire-roasted Tomato Sauce and Citrus Slaw.



If Only She Were a Goalie!

Dear Margo: I have been dating a guy for two years, and when we met, everything was perfection. We have had ups and downs, of course, but I feel there’s one thing that is always putting a strain on our life:

My boyfriend is totally obsessed with the Pittsburgh Penguins. Everything he does revolves around them, from the clothes he wears each day (always a Penguins hat and/or shirt) to the car he drives (his license plate boasts the name of his favorite player) to his room, which is covered floor to ceiling with 8 by 10 pictures, jerseys in cases, pucks, sticks, game-used skates and hockey cards.

He needs to go to all

the home games (42-plus over eight months), and he goes alone because he only has one ticket. His hockey mania takes a huge toll on our relationship because it involves a large chunk of time away from “us.” We both work and go to school, so our time is limited, but the Penguin season in the mix makes it much worse.

I end up feeling unimportant to him — almost as if he has a second girlfriend and he’s cheating on me with “her.” Please help me find a way to make him understand my feelings and to lessen the strain on our relationship.

— Off-Season-Only Girlfriend

Dear Off: You have my sympathies. A former husband was also obsessed with hockey ... about which I knew nothing. In fact, I remember watching the first game he took me to for a while and then blurting,

“My God! They’re on

skates!” I suspect that even if your boyfriend had two tickets it would not solve your problem. Your guy sounds like such a jock and a fanatic that my hunch is the romance cannot last.

No offense, but the Penguins seem to have edged you out in terms of where he puts his energy and spends his time. I suspect he already understands your feelings, and that a relationship is not so important to him.

I am guessing the only way you could see more of him is if you ran the Zamboni machine. — Margo, acceptingly

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers’ daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearmargo@creators.com. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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