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We're Always There

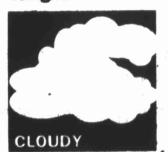
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1,25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY

December 24, 2002

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW 39°-43° 60°-64°

BRIEFLY

Santa's coming!

In a statement released Monday afternoon, worldwide toy disburser Santa Claus said Big Spring children should definitely plan to be in bed early Christmas Eve.

"I'm starting at the International Dateline, of course," said the red-clad sleigh driver. "I'll do each time zone in about an hour, and then head west."

Claus said he'll start work in the Central time zone, which includes Big Spring, at about 10 p.m. and finish up around 11 p.m. before heading on to the Mountain Time zone.

An accident earlier this week at Claus' North Pole workshop will have the elves working late into the evening Christmas Eve. which means Santa may have to make some special trips home to pick up toys as they become ready.

"If you haven't gotten your stocking filled by 11, don't worry," said Claus. "That doesn't necessarily mean you're on the 'naughty' list. Just be sure to be asleep before I get there."

OFFICE CLOSED

The Herald office will be closed on today and Wednesday as we observe the Christmas holiday. We will reopen for business on Thursday. We at the Herald wish you and yours a very merry Christmas.

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Vol. 99A, No. 42

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

My most memorable Christmas

The Herald invited readers to tell about their most memorable Christmas so that we could share their experiences with others.

We hope you will find them as touching and enjoyable as we

Keep Daddy well

ASHLEY N. RUDD I think the most memorable

"On Christmas Eve I told God that all I wanted for Christmas was for everything to be back like it was with my daddy well and back home with us and for him to please not take him to heaven yet."

Christmas for me is the Christmas of the year 2000. My daddy was in the hospital in Midland.

My daddy had been put in the very well and that his body need-

hospital right after Thanksgiving Day. After a few days the doctors put him on life support because they said that he was not doing

ed the rest. I did not understand what they were talking about but I did know that my mother was crying and seemed to be very upset so I knew that there was something very seriously wrong.

My Nanny Rudd and Granddad Rudd came from East Texas and got there on the third day that my daddy was in the hospital. That made me feel very good to

See MEMORABLE, Page 5A

The story of Christmas

From Luke 2: 1-20

nd it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.





Bauer Elementary third graders Nikkl Ramirez, left, Blanca Hilario, Krista Martingz, Sabastian Hernandez, Ariel Marlow, Brian Beauchamp and Mercedes Moncada trim the Christmas tree for the holiday season.

Firefighter of the Year is dedicated, chief says

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Lt. Robert Muller of the Big Spring Fire Department really didn't want to do the interview. The 21-year FD veteran is a little hesitant about seeing his name plastered across the front of a newspaper, but when a firefighter does his job well enough to be voted Firefighter of the Year, what can he expect?

Although Lt. Muller says there's nothing exciting about himself ("No, nothing," he said. "I keep a low profile.") Big Spring Fire Chief Brian Jensen says otherwise.

"From the first day I met the guy, you could tell he had this drive and dedication to his job," Jensen said. "Everybody he ever trained and who's

See FIREFIGHTER, Page 5A

Martin, Glasscock families ensured a brighter holiday

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

STANTON — More than 200 needy families in Martin and Glassock counties will receive Christmas as a result of a community-wide drive.

"We're fortunate because we get real wide-spread, generous support from the community." said Bob Deavenport of the Martin County Community Fund, the organization that col"We're fortunate because we get real wide-spread, generous support from the community."

Bob Deavenport

lected and distributed the food. According to Deavenport, MCCF volunteers were able to

See MCCF, Page 3A

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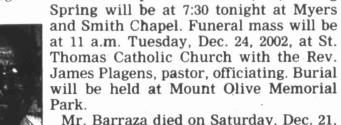
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BIG SPRING ROUND THE TOWN

Obituaries

Raymond Barraza

A vigil service for Raymond Barraza, 79, of Big



Mr. Barraza died on Saturday, Dec. 21, at his residence following a long illness. Born on Dec. 26, 1922 at Loraine, he married Virginia Garcia on July 6, 1979, in Big Spring. He had been a resident of Big Spring

since December 1979 coming from Morrill, Neb. While in Morrill, Neb., he worked as a Foreman for Jordan Agri Chemical Company, retiring in 1974 due

to ill health. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Barraza of Big Spring; five sons, Victor Barraza of Morrill, Neb., David Barraza of Chadwick, Ill., Leonard Barraza of Wyoming, Raymond Barraza Jr. and Johnny Barraza, both of Big Spring; six daughters, Mary Hernandez of Morrill, Neb., Jose Barraza, Julia Barron and Martina Johnson, all of Mitchel, Neb., and Mary Barraza Olivares of Big Spring; two sisters, Ruth Bravo and Carmen Castaneda, both of Bakersfield, Calif.; one

27 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Arrangements are under the direction of Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

brother, Leonardo Barraza of Colorado Springs, Colo.;

Martha Christine Parker

Funeral services for Martha Christine Parker, 67, of Stanton will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002, at First Baptist Church with the Rev. David Harp, pastor, officiating. The Rev. Dennis Teeters, pastor of First Baptist Church of Big Spring, will assist. Burial will be held at Evergreen Cemetery.

Mrs. Parker died on Sunday, Dec. 22, in a Midland

Born on July 9, 1935, in Houston, she married Nolan O. Parker on Dec. 25, 1960, in Amherst.

She graduated from Wayland University of Plainview in 1956. She was a first grade teacher in rural schools near Lamesa, Union, Spade and Dell

She had worked in the Martin County Clerk's office in Stanton for 16 years. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Nolan O. Parker of Stanton; two sons, John Parker of Huntsville, Ala., and Louis Parker of Reno, Nev.; four grandsons; two brothers James Rankin of Amarillo and Stephen Parker of Wortsboro, N.Y.

The family suggests memorials be made to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1168, Stanton 79782 or Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo 79174-

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home.

Dewey Howard

Dewey Howard, 60, of Big Spring, died on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2002, in a local hospital. Funeral services will

> be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002, at the First Assembly of God Church with Rev. R. T. Havener, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

> He was born on Sept. 16, 1942 in Big Spring and married Dorothy Willis.

Dewey graduated from Forsan High School. He worked for the Dr. Pepper Company for 17 years and had also

worked for Parker & Parsley Gas Plant for 17 years, retiring in 1994.

He was married for six years to Marie Conner of San Angelo and lived in San Angelo for four years. They remain close friends and continue to see each other. He was a member of First Assembly of God Church. His hobbies were fishing and all forms of hunting:

birds, deer, turkey and elk. He loved the outdoors and being in the fresh air. Dewey enjoyed making things out of wood, such as picture frames and plant stands.

He enjoyed going for car rides and going down dirt roads he had never been down before, seeing the beauty of the country. He loved his family and friends.

Survivors include his mother, Estelle Howard of Big Spring; two sons, Joel Brent Howard of Big Spring and Carey Brian Howard of Tucson, Ariz.; one brother, Ronald Howard of Big Spring; three grandchildren; one nephew, Vance Howard of Huntsville; two nieces, La Donna Kibler of Madisonville and Rachel Glick of Athens; his close friend and former wife, Marie Conner of San Angelo; and his extended family, Joy Cowen and sons, Tim, Robert and Gene Cowen, all of San Angelo.

The family suggests memorials to: First 'Assembly of God Church, Building Fund, 310 W. Fourth, Big Spring 79720; the American Cancer Society, c/o Lucy Bonner, P. O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121; or to a favorite charity.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch **Funeral** Home Big Spring. www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Friday until 8 a.m. Monday:

• KATRINA RENE BUSTAMANTE, 22, of 406 S. Johnson was arrested on a charge of public intoxica-

• LETISHA KAY BUSTAMANTE, 21, of 406 S. Johnson was arrested on two local warrants.

• ASSAULT BY THREAT was reported in the 3300 block of West Highway 80.

• DISORDERLY CONDUCT — LANGUAGE was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road. • CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:

- In the 1600 block of Avion. A gold 1989 Honda Accord reportedly sustained \$650 damage in the inci-

- In the 3300 block of West Highway 80. \$35 damage was reportedly done to the home.

• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1300 block of South Gregg Street. Several 8-foot light bulbs were broken in the incident for a total \$40 damage. Medical equipment worth \$150, \$108 cash and an undetermined amount of medicine was reported

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1002 N. Main. Someone reportedly forced the front door of the home, causing \$120 damage before stealing household goods worth \$1,848.

• THEFT was reported:

- In person at the police station. Items worth \$339 were reported stolen.

- At Wal-Mart. Electronics worth \$19.94 were reported stolen and later recovered.

• DISTURBANCE OR FIGHT was reported in the 500 block of North Lamesa Drive amd the 800 block of West FM 700.

• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster Street and the 2200 block of

Sheriff's office

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

• GAS THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of North Lamesa Drive.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 100 block of Davis

Road. ONE-VEHICLE ROLLOVER ACCIDENT was

reported near the 184 mile marker on Interstate 20.

 POSSIBLE SUICIDAL SUBJECT was reported in the 100 block of Dover.

Support groups

TUESDAY

☐ TOPS Club TX 1756 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), 5:30 p.m. weigh-in, 6 p.m. meeting, Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, 11th and Birdwell, Call 263-2786 or 263-1340 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

□ AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 615 Settles. Noon Open 12 and 12 Study meeting, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

☐ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

☐ Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Support Group meets at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.

FRIDAY

□ AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 615 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

☐ Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night No Smoking meeting last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

□ Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. at St.

Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

☐ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to 1noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. to 6 p.m

MONDAY

TOPS Club TX 21 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), weigh in at 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m. at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 West Third.

□ New Voice Club support group for laryngetomees and families. For more information, call 267-2800.

☐ Encourager's Support Group, all widows and widowers are invited, meets 6 p.m. at Santa Fe Sandwich Shop in the Big Spring Mall. More more information call, 398-5522

☐ Project Freedom, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates and times of upcoming groups.

☐ Surviving Pregnancy Loss meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library Committee Room. Call 631-4430 for more information.

□ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from noon to 1 p.m. at 615 Settles. Open meeting on fourth floor at VA Medical Center from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Bulletin board

Herald Features Desk at 263-7331, ext. 238 or email imoseley@crcom.net.

TODAY

Christmas Eve, Santa sighting day

WEDNESDAY

Merry Christmas!

THURSDAY

Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060, 7 a.m.. Herman's Resturant.

Coffee Club, 7 a.m. Gale's Sweet Shoppe, 1706 E FM-700.

Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane, 267-6479.

Duplicate Bridge Club, 1 p.m., Big Spring Country Club, Driver Road.

Masonic Lodge 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.

FRIDAY

AMBUCS, noon, Brandin Iron Inn.

Greater Big Spring Rotary, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, country and western dance, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m, Industrial Park,. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hangar 25 Air Museum located on the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home, open for tours from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

Eagles Lodge, dance, 8:30 p.m., 703 W. Third. Members and their guests are welcome.

SUNDAY

Hangar 25 Air Museum located on the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

MONDAY

Sr. Circle, 4 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Seniors 50 years and older are invited to participate, call 268-

Concerned Citizen's, Fiberflex conference room on Bethel St. in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, p.m.

TUESDAY

Intermediate Line Dance Classes, 9 a.m., Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, Industrial Park, 267-

Big Spring Rotary, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Evening Lions Club, noon, Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, Industrial Park.

WEDENSDAY

Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard County Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Take Note

□ BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers of the children in the community who have been abused and neglected.

For more information on becoming foster/adoptive families call Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669 or 1-800-233-3405.

□ SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

☐ THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, we need you.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

SPRING

Reflecting A Proud Community

915-263-7331 915-263-7335 (Circulation calls only)

	(1 me)	313-204-7203
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John A. Moseley		Managing Editor
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ening in North Kerea, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Monday the United States could fight the war on terror, a war in Iraq and possible conflict with Pyongyang simultaneously.

"We are perfectly capable of doing that which is necessary," Rumsfeld said.

But White House officials emphasized that the United States has no intention of attacking North Korea, and intends to maintain a course of trying to defuse the situation through diplomacy.

Rumsfeld gave no indication the United States was readying military force against a nuclear power plant that North Korea is moving to restart — a step the administration calls fresh evidence of North Korea's new attempts to build a nuclear bomb.

The Clinton administration considered bombing the same site, a nuclear facility at Yongbyon, in 1994, before that crisis was resolved.

"The situation today is somewhat different from then," Rumsfeld said, without elaborating.

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The administration renewed its calls Monday that Pyongyang replace U.N. surveillance gear that it dismantled at a nuclear reactor and refrain from restarting the facility.

Moving ahead to restart the reactor will only deepen North Korea's isolation, senior administration officials said.

But a top Russian diplomat warned the United States that putting pressure on North Korea could heighten

"It is counterproductive and dangerous to blackmail North Korea, with its grave economic position," Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov said..

GOP chooses Frist as new Senate leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans elected Tennessee Sen. Bill Frist as their new leader Monday, ending a two-week political firestorm that brought down former leader Trent Lott and threatened to derail the GOP's efforts to reach out to minorities.

The 50-year-old Frist, a wealthy heart surgeon, will become Senate majority leader when the GOP takes control of the chamber in January.

He was elected during an unprecedented 45-minute conference call among most of the 51-member Senate Republican Caucus.

Announcing Frist's election in a written statement, Sen Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, the No. 3 GOP leader, said the party's top priorities will be extending unemployment benefits for the jobless, and finishing the Fiscal 2003 budget.

"With a renewed sense of commitment, Senate Republicans will also begin work immediately to accomplish an aggressive compassionate conservative agenda," Santorum said.

President Bush issued a statement congratulating Frist and saying the Tennessean "has earned the trust and respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle."

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, said: "With Bill Frist as our new leader, we can now focus our attention on the important issues facing our country.'

Frist, who participated in the call from his Nashville, Tenn., office, is considered an authority on health issues in the Senate. He still keeps his starched white lab coat in the trunk of his car, makes monthly visits to hospitals and clinics and goes on occasional overseas medical missions. When the anthrax scare surfaced on Capitol Hill last year, he worked to calm his colleagues.

The election originally was scheduled for Jan. 6 when all senators return to Washington for the beginning of the new congressional session — but several Republican senators wanted to try and put Lott's controversy behind them.

Speaker-apparent opposed MLK holiday

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas House speaker-apparent Tom Craddick's voting record shows he's a Republican who has often been one of a few opposing measures such as creating the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The record also shows he occasionally bucked fellow conservatives such as voting for the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Craddick, who's expected to be elected House speaker next month, says he's against tax increases, despite a projected budget shortfall of more than \$5 billion.

But he supported a bill in 1997 that included some tax hikes. Republican Party spokesman Ted Royer told the Fort

Worth Star-Telegram that Craddick's conservative record "has been in line with a majority of Texans, which is to the right of center."

But Rep. Pete Gallego of Alpine, the head of the Democratic caucus, said Craddick would have to reach beyond the group of conservatives he has often sided with to ensure a smooth transition to power.

"He's going to have to show more sensitivity to African-Americans and Hispanic-Americans. It's going to be a transition for him from being a leader of a small faction of people to the leader of the whole House." Gallego said.

Some Craddick critics drew parallels to the voting record of Trent Lott, the Mississippi Republican who is stepping down as U.S. Senate majority leader. He's been under fire for comments praising Strom Thurmond's segregationist presidential campaign in 1948.

Craddick "has always been a conservative person and voted against those things that have been near and dear to the hearts of minority citizens," said state Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston.

MYERS & SMITH

FUNERAL HOME

& CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Raymond Barraza, 79.

died Saturday. Funeral

Mass will be 11:00 AM Tuesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Burial

will be in Mt. Olive

Cemetery.

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POSTMASTER: Send changes

Continued from Page 1A

FIREFIGHTER

worked under him - he's real big into this high angle rescue training and vehicle rescue - just admires him and the job that he does and the knowledge he has."

Jensen said the training provided by Muller is critical to the Big

Spring Fire Department. " It's extremely important, he said. "It's

JENSEN

about doing it right. We need to do it so that it's safe for us, first of all, and where it's done in a safe manner so that everybody benefits."

The chief acknowledges that the publicity is hard for Muller to handle.

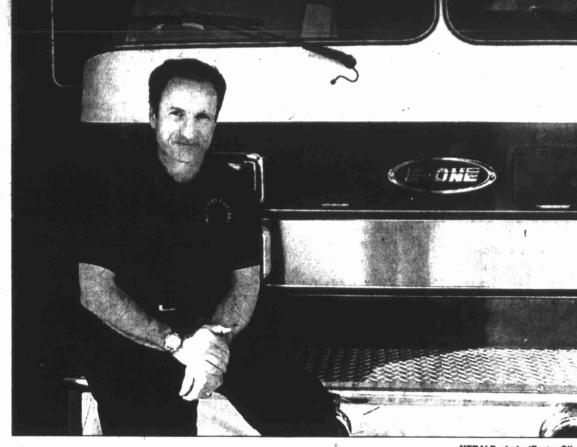
"He's not a fireman for the glory," Jensen said. "He's very dedicated to his job and he knows what he's doing. He's impressive to be around."

Muller said he started with the city of Big Spring in the Street Department before moving over to the Fire Department.

"The Air Force is what got me here," he said. "I was out at the motor pool. I was maintenance, and stuff like that. I've been here since '73."

Muller said he originally got into firefighting because of the excitement involved. When asked about his favorite part of the job, he said talking to the press isn't high on the list.

"The runs," he said. "The fires, which we don't have enough of, which is good, I guess. Good for the citizens but First Responder too. We back up all the antbulances and the EMS calls. The job itself is what makes it fun working



Big Spring Fire Department Lt. Robert Muller poses with a firetruck at the 18th and Main Street Fire Station. Muller — who is in charge of the station — was named Firefighter of the Year by the BSFD. Although he doesn't enjoy the publicity, Muller, a 21-year veteran of the department, opened up a bit during an interview and said he enjoys the excitement of structure fire and search and rescue runs.

here."

fire house between runs.

"Nobody really does," he said. "But we do a lot It's safer because we're really. They're intended of training. We just came back from a class. We pretty stay Maintenance. We have to take care of the firehouse."

A lot of the training, Muller conducts himself.

"I teach high-angle rescue, rappelling," he said. "I teach extrication, vehicle extrication. I teach search and rescue and I ing device first. I guess newsdesk@crcom.net also teach for Midland College, fire science."

The Firefighter of the Year has seen a lot of changes in his years in the department.

"Training has pronot good for us. We do gressed over the years. Our equipment has gotten better. Trucks have gotten better," he said. "The technology has just gotten better. When I started we reserve

Everything's automatic. not that big of a nuisance, much better trained and for our protection." our equipment is much better."

One advance making the job safer is the Firefighter of the Year Personal Alert Safety System, or PASS device.

"They have about a 20second delay where if you're not in any motion we're not really used to them yet. We'll be at a

had standard shift fire scene at night and we'll Muller said he doesn't trucks. We've only got be standing around talklike sitting around the one now, and that's a ingand everybody's PASS truck. device will go off. They're

> Jensen said firefighters nominate three or four of their own for the honor each year, then the honoree is chosen through a popular vote.

Contact Staff Writer they go off," he said. Roger Cline at 263-7331 "They have a little warn- ext. 232 or by e-mail at

NORMAN HARRIS, M.D.

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"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

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

Hank Bond

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

Bill McClellan **News Editor**

OUR VIEWS

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

te take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa

Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun it's so.'

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon,

115 West 95th Street"

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, and ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you every see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the won-

ders there are unseen and unseeable in the world. You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what make the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

"Is there a Santa Claus?" is the question Virginia, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Phillip F. O'Hanlon, put to the editor of the (New York) Sun in September, 1897. Her letter was received by Edward P. Mitchell, who turned it over to his associate, Francis Pharcelius Church, to answer.

With some reluctance Mr. Church undertook the assignment. The product of his fine nature, mellow wisdom and sound craftsmanship was the editorial article "Is there a Santa Claus?" — the most famous editorial article that has ever been written. It first appeared in the New York Sun in 1897 and has since been produced in every conceivable form, in every

quarter of the globe. The publication of Virginia's question and Francis Pharcelius Church's response is an annual tradition at the *Herald*. We hope you enjoy it.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

In your presence, Lord, every thing is possible. may we always feel you presence.

Twas about time for Ch

t was about time for Christmas, and all through the house, A creature was stirring, but it wasn't a mouse; I knew right away it was my wife's

She thought we were sleeping, and so she was up

The dog was a gift; it was coercion, really, A woman can pout, 'til a man gets downright silly. And now the wife was

snoozing; she was really sacked out. She wouldn't have awoke from less than a

MCCLELLAN Yes, her in her night-

gown, I in my BVDs, We had finally settled down to

catch some Zs; When off in the kitchen there arose

such a clatter, I rolled from the bed to see what

was the matter. Away down the hall, my head in a

I reached the kitchen...and stepped in a puddle.

The glow from a nightlight illuminated the room,

So how come I stumbled over the I fell in a sprawl, my legs were not

On the way down, my nose hit the

My head was a spinnin' and when I

came to rest

Four miniature dog feet stood on my chest. With a lick and a bark, she bound-

Into the living room, she ran to

play.

More rapid than mouses, that rat terrier ran, Me on the follow, rolled newspaper

in hand. "Stop, Skeeter! Stop, Dog! Stop, Pup!

Halt, Pooch! Halt, Girl! Oh, come'ere, you mutt! "Get off the new couch! Now let go

of that curtain! Ohhh...If I ever catch you, you're

gonna' be hurtin'" As winds of a Texas tornado do fly, She spun round the room, down low

and up high. Then up on the countertop, that puppy went

She stopped for a second. I thought she was spent.

I make a quick lunge, she ducked me and then Yawned when I dove through the

flour bin. As I drew out my head and was

turning around, She made for the presents, in a sin-

gle bound. I was covered with flour, from my

head to my toes, My robe in tatters, and blood on my

A bag full of toys, she grabbed with I nabbed her, I thought, but instead

got the tree. The ornaments, they broke, as they began to fall;

The lights, how they fizzled, and

that is not all.

When I reached for the plug, to turn the bulbs out,

What flowed through my body, but electricity, so stout! As smoke encircled my head like a

That dog held my big toe, tight in

her teeth. "Skeeter," I moaned, "I give up. Oh,

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Skeet, I give in." So she bit my swollen nose, and

nipped at my chin. She spoke not a word, but went back to work,

Down came the stockings; it took just a jerk.

Then up from the hall, came the sound of feet,

Momma, it seemed was awake from her sleep.

"Now you'll get it pup," I announced with glee.

Then Skeeter walked over and put her little head on my knee. She looked up at my wife - so inno-

cent - and at me, so, so sad. And it didn't take long, to know I'd been had.

Then came the wife's voice, so strong and so clear.

"Bill, you leave that puppy alone!

You hear!" And I exclaimed to myself, as they walked out with a strut,

"Don't leave any gifts, Santa; just PICK UP THE MUTT!" Bill McClellan is news editor of the

Herald. He can be reached at 263-7331. ext. 235 or at newsdesk@crcom.net. His personal Web page is located at http://users.apex 2000.net/mcclell/

ADDRESSES

GEORGE W. BUSH

President The White House Washington, D.C.

RICK PERRY

Governor State Capitol, Room 2S.1

P.O. Box 12428 Austin, 78711 Phone: (512) 463-2000

 KAY BAILEY **HUTCHISON**

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 ROBERT DUNCAN Senator Texas 28th District 401 Austin, Suite 101 Big Spring, 79720.

Phone: 268-9909; (800)

322-9538; (512) 463-0128. DAVID COUNTS

Representative Texas 70th District P.O. Box 338 Knox City, 79529 Phone: (940) 658-5012.

Missile defense system will be deployed

ver since President Ronald Reagan proposed his Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) in 1983,

opponents dubbed the system "Star Wars," deriding it as unworkable on the one hand and likely to begin a new arms race on the other. Interestingly, they were right about it being unworkable in 1983. But if it was unworkable, how could it start an



JACK ANDERSON

arms race? Now, President George W. Bush has given the Pentagon authorization to build a "modest" anti-missile system by the end of 2004. This is a far cry from Reagan's SDI that was intended to provide an anti-missile shield for the nation - but then, the threat is different today. The Soviet Union is gone, and with it America's primary nuclear threat.

The threat in 2002 is posed by North Korea, Iraq and Iran. China is a nuclear power, but not at all along the magnitude of what the Soviet Union was. So America's current nuclear problem is based upon threats from rogue nations. There is historical justification for concern.

In the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. America and the Soviet Union faced off, but underlying all of the diplomatic and military maneuvering was the concept of mutually assured destruction (MAD). Neither the Americans nor the Soviets were, in the final analysis, willing to blow each other up. The same could not be said for Cuba's dictator, Fidel Castro. Soviet archives that have opened up in recent years prove that Castro was urging the Russian military officials in charge of the missiles in Cuba to launch a first nuclear strike against the United States.

It is this kind of rogue behavior that poses the real nuclear threat today from such unstable leaders as North Korea's Kim Jong Il, Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Iran's ruling mullahs. To thwart this threat, something considerably less than SDI is needed.

However there's a larger question of whether or not any missile defense system will work, and how much money we are willing to spend to find out. In fact, five of the last eight tests of a groundbased system have been successful. This is based upon the same concept as the Patriot anti-missile system that was employed in the 1991 Gulf War, and not the ultraexpensive space-pased system envisioned by Reagan.

A high-ranking government physicist explained to us that the space-based system is theoretically impossible with the state of current technology. A land-based system is another matter, but it is also incapable of providing complete protection or even timely protection. Still, it is better than the zero protection the nation now

So, it comes down to money. The Bush administration has spent \$8 billion on the anti-missile system over the last two years. This is an almost insignificant percentage of the federal budget, and therefore very affordable. Presumably, the budget for the next two years will be higher, but also not significant.

This leaves only the arms race question: There is no nation with which to race. Will China be greatly concerned if the United States deploys a system to shoot down a few missiles? What would the Chinese do if they were concerned? The last nation to enter an arms race with U.S. was the Soviet Union, and it bankrupted them. And do we need to fear an arms race with North Korea, the source of most rogue-nation missile production? Hardly.

Prediction: The missile defense system will be deployed, and it will provide an important deterrence to the axis of evil powers that pose a nuclear threat.

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e them both there with us, but I know it could not be good because when I saw Nanny Rudd talking with the doctors she looked very worried and sad. I knew then something was very wrong because my Nanny Rudd is a very strong woman and I had never see anything make her look so worried.

My Granddad, who usually cuts up with my sister and I, was very quiet and did not smile very much at all.

My Grandma Patsy was over there a lot and gave me lots of support during the time my daddy was in the hospital. I was always glad to see her when she could come over. At times, she would pray with me for my daddy to get well. Grandma Patsy kept telling me to always keep the faith.

About five days before Christmas I heard the doctor tell my mother that should make arrangements because they did not think that my daddy was going to make it. My mother fell to a chair and began to cry and Nanny Rudd looked as though she was in shock or as though she was far away in her mind so that she did not have to hear what the doctor was telling them.

On Christmas Eve I told God that all I wanted for Christmas was for everything to be back like it was with my daddy well and back home with us and for him to please not take him to heaven yet, that if he would do that I I was born and raised in would not ask for anything for Christmas. On Christmas Day, my Uncle George and Aunt Christy ** came" over and made Christmas for my little sister and I at the hospital. I treasure that in my heart because that was so thoughtful of them both and had made our day.

Every day after that I would ask God to not take my daddy away from us because he always took care of us and loved us without question. Whenever I would have a bad day or something was wrong he would always make it all right or seem like what I was worried about at any time was not

On the 30th of December I got my wish and my daddy woke up and looked at me and I knew then that he was going to be all right and that he was going to be coming home with us.

For God letting me keep my daddy and him coming home with us I will always remember that as The Most Memorable Christmas I have had. The best gift I could have gotten that year was my laddy back.

Poignant Christmas

BARBARA BYERLEY DRAPER

This morning I read in local newspaper about sharing favorite Christmas memories with

others. Every Chrismas holiday, as far back as I can remember, I've either placed or received a telephone call from my parents, trying to be the first to say, "Christmas Eve gift." This year I'll call friends and other family member as I lost my dad, M.E. Byerley Jr, Nov. 24, 2001 and my mom, Billie Harper Byerley, May 11,

This Christmas will be filled with many memories of past Christmas hol-

Merry Christmas and a "Christmas Eve gift" to all of Big Spring.

Black Jack trees

NORMA PERKINS

Oklahoma and the Black Jack trees are as plentiful there as the mesquites are in Texas.

The year was 1930. There were five of us kids then. I'm the oldest and I was 7. We lived out five miles west of Pawnee. Oklahoma, and there was plenty of Black Jacks around there. The only big tall "Christmas" trees we saw then were in our one-room school house. During this particular holiday season, Daddy went out into the woods to get us a Christmas tree, but instead of bringing in a little green cedar, here he came carrying this little Black Jack tree. At

ves turn a light brown. So, we strung strings of

The boys got a little bag of marbles and a small pocket knife and pocket comb.

popcorn and strings of cranberries and put on that little tree.

That same year The Lions Club became very dear to my heart. Those years, girls usually got a set of jacks and a jump

The boys got a little bag of marbles and a small pocket knife and pocket

Club brought out a big were talking together for

standard or custom-made sizes,

Keep out the rain, birds, squirrels

and other debris from your fireplace

WE SELL GAS LOGS and

PERFORM CHIMNEY SWEEPS

See our ad on page 202 of (see

box of things. There were gloves, warm neck scarves, dolls and toy telephones for us girls. There were gloves, socks, knit caps, footballs and twowheel metal scooters for the boys.

And for the babies were warm little suits, blankets, colorful soft rubber balls, tinker toys and pretty rattles, and for Mama and Daddy, socks and gloves and two pumpkin pies in regular pie pans (no foil pans those days.)

I can still see all those nice presents and how pretty the white popcorn and red cranberries looked on that little brown tree.

A short time before my That year the Lions Daddy died in 1988, as we

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the very last time about in and let it play. the "Good-old days," I thanked him again for the prettiest little Christmas tree we had ever had. He looked at me with a sweet smile on his little face and said, "It was a pretty little tree wasn't it?"

Blue radios and lighted trees

PEGGY COTTONGAME

When I was a little girl it was such a special time for me.

I had been wanting a radio. We didn't have a lot of money to buy things with, but this particular Christmas I woke up to sweetest music. I looked over on my dresser to see a blue radio. That was the prettiest radio I ever saw. My father had plugged it

When I was 35 I still had that little radio. Then somebody stole my little

I guess it was silly for me to get so upset about something like that, but to me that radio had a very special meaning.

Another thing that comes into my mind is, on the courthouse corner there was a large tree they always lit up. It was so beautiful with all the colored lights.

When they constructed the new courthouse the tree was gone.

That was always a great time. Everybody in town went down to see the lighting of the tree.

I guess the houses that decorated each Christmas is the highlight of Christmas



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Celebrate the true spirit of christmas by remembering that God's son was born to Mary. Such a marvellous gift Mary held in her arms and that we hold in our hearts Mary Christmas. Merry Christmas.

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A Sailor's Christmas

Author unknown

Twas the night before Christmas, and he lived in a crowd,

In a 40-man berthing, with shipmates so loud.

I had come down the exhaust stack with presents to give,

And to see just who in this rack did

I looked all about, and a strange sight lay alone, I did see,

No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree. No stockings were hung, just boots close at hand,

On the bulkhead hung pictures of far distant lands.

He had medals and badges and awards of all kind.

And a sobering thought came into my

For this place was different, it was do dark and dreary,

I had found the home of a sailor, this I could see clearly.

The sailor lay sleeping, silent and alone,

Curled up in his rack, dreaming of

The face was so gentle, the berthing in such good order,

But not how I pictured a United States

sailor. Was this the hero whom I saw on TV? Defending his country so we all could be free?

I realized the families that I've seen this night.

Owed their lives to these sailors who

were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play,

And grownups would celebrate a new Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed the freedom each month of the year,

Because of the sailors, like the one

lying here. I couldn't help but wonder how many

On a cold Christmas Eve, on a sea far

from home. The very thought brought a tear to my

I dropped to my knees and started to

The sailor awakened and I heard a rough voice,

"Santa, don't cry, for this life is my "Defend the seas this day, the peace do

I keep.'

The sailor then rolled over and drifted

I couldn't control it, I continued to

I kept watch for hours so silent, so And we both shivered from the night's

cold chill. I didn't want to leave on that cold,

dark night, This guardian of honor so willing to

Then the sailor rolled over and with a voice soft and pure,

Whispered "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas... All is secure."



of children.





Sale Starts Thursday, December 26th Door Opens at 10:00 am

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> Congratulations, Jeanie. We're proud to have you on our team!



Grady schools collected canned food for the Martin County Community Fund to distribute to needy families this Christmas. Classes with 100 percent participation will receive a banana split party later in the school year. Pictured among the collected food Items are students Erica Bracken, Andrew Swinson, Mandy Webb and Ashton Houston.

MCCF

Continued from Page 1A

provide more than 200 families with food and 130 children with toys this year, thanks to the contributions of Grady and Stanton schools and numerous community

organizations.

tions and other sources, supported by community the MCCF distributed a contributions. For more total of 24,178 pounds of food and personal items 3254. December alone. Deavenport said.

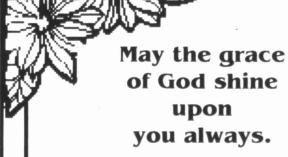
food and personal items ext. 234, or by e-mail at to needy families in

Glassock and Martin From donated contribu- counties monthly and is information call, 756-

Contact Staff Writer The MCCF provides Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, newsdesk@crcom.net



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In this season of wonder we wish you a multitude of Blessings. Merry Christmas!

From all of us

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life is suspicious of cheating husband's recent activities

Dear Annie: Twenty-five years ago, my husband, 'Charles,' confessed he was having an affair and asked for a divorce. I agreed to it and said I would take the children back to my hometown, closer to my parents. The next day, Charles did a complete turnaround, telling me he made a mistake, he loved me and he wanted to stay with me. I took him back, and we haven't discussed the subject since.

Now I have this weird feeling that he is up to something again. I can't explain my suspicions, but something is not right. I confronted Charles, but he insists he is faithful. I am having a hard time trusting him, and I constantly ask where he's been, who he's seen, and so on. I am going crazy. Please help. -Cheating Husband's Wife

Dear Wife: Although you should pay attention to your instincts, don't make any rash assumptions without proof. You can hire a private detective if you think Charles is sneaking around, or you can start going through his pockets, credit card bills and e-mail. However, if you find nothing, you will still be suspicious.

Please make an appointment to see a marriage counselor to discuss your anxieties. Ask Charles to go with you, but if he refuses, go alone. You need help from an impartial observer who has all the details.

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se

Dear Annie: I recently met a girl online, and we clicked right away. We've been talking for two months, and although we have yet to meet each other in person, the connection is solid.

Tell me, Annie, how much personal information should she have at this time? I've had a rather checkered past and broken a few laws. I feel it is only fair that she know everything about me, but I am afraid it will make her run

in the other disection. It seems as a live known and loved her forever, and she says she feels the same way. It might be a match made in heaven, but I'm worried about the skeletons in my closet. Please help. — Worcester, Mass.

Dear Worcester: Be honest. If you have been married before, have children or were convicted of a crime, she should be aware of these things upfront. She does not need to know the name of every girl you dated, how many parking tickets you've paid or how much money you have in the bank.

If this woman is still interested, great. If not, at least the relationship is new enough to end it before you've invested too much. Good luck.

Dear Annie: I am newly engaged and very excited. The problem is "Bobby's" mother. In the past three years, Bobby has spoken to her only a few times and has yet to tell her of our engagement. He still harbors some resentment over her hurtful actions during his parents' divorce.

Bobby loves his mother and wants her to attend the wedding, but he does not want to include her in any of the pre-wedding planning. However, he is afraid she will be so hurt at the exclusion that she will cor- ner him during the reception and begin crying. How can we prevent this? Your advice would be much appreciated. — Trying to be Fair in Oshkosh, Wis.

Dear Oshkosh: Obviously, Bobby is still angry about the divorce, but you should consider your wedding an opportunity to smooth over the rough



Annie's Mailbox

spots. Surely there are wedding plans that Bobby doesn't need to handle. Can she come with you to select the flowers or your dress? Can she help address invitations from home? There are ways to include Mom while minimizing her contact with Bobby. As her new daughter-in-law, you will be in a position to help mend their relationship. Please try.

Dear Annie: My fiance and I have known each other for seven months. Two weeks before he proposed, my mother died by suicide. I thought he picked a rather inappropriate time to ask me to marry him, but I was still numb from the tragedy, and he convinced me it was the right thing to do. He talked about how much better it would be for me to move out of my parents' home, where my mom's death occurred.

I have since had second thoughts and am regretting my decision. I am 24 years old, with a college degree and a good job. He is 31, inconsiderate and disrespectful, and his horrible credit rating is destroying mine. Our new \$300,000 house and the new car he bought are in my name. Even if I wanted to leave him, I could not afford all of this on my own. When it comes to handling our bills, he is totally immature. I have to remind him constantly to pay his share of the mortgage. Also, he has never said a kind word about my mother. He will not permit me to display any pictures of her in our house. He says it's maudlin. I feel trapped. All of my

friends tell me to get out of this relationship, but it's hard when he threatens to crash the new car and burn the house down. He's not kidding, either. Any advice? -- Sleeping with the **Enemy** in Colorado

Dear Colorado: Your fiance sounds like a potential abuser, and you need to get out of this relationship NOW. Talk to a lawyer about disentangling your finances from his. You may need to sell the house and the car, or put them in his name. If he threatens to hurt you in any way, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233) (TTY: 1-800-787-3224) (www.ndvh.org), and ask for help in removing, yourself physically from this

volatile situation. Dear Annie: My wife, "Linda," was born in Nebraska 30 years ago and put up for adoption at birth. A wonderful couple took her in and raised her to become the lovely woman I fell in love with. We now have two children of our

Linda always wondered why her birth mother gave her up, so a few years ago, she did a search through original adoption agency. The agency located her birth mother, but informed Linda that the woman does not wish to have any contact with us. This upset Linda deeply, and she hasn't been the

same since. The adoption laws protect the birth mother and most-

ly ignore the rights of the child. If the right people read this, maybe things will change while all the parties involved are still alive. --Montreal, Canada

Dear Montreal: The adoption laws are not the problem here. The birth mother was informed that her biological daughter was searching for her, and if she wished to initiate contact. no one prevented her from doing so. Linda may not like it, but her birth mother has the right to maintain her privacy. Sad to say, not all anticipated reunions turn out well.

Your wife is entitled to her medical history, and the birth mother should provide this. Linda cannot, however, demand a relationship, no matter how much she believes her birth mother "owes" it to her. Since Linda cannot get past this huge disappointment, please urge her to seek professional help.

Dear Readers: Christmas is near, and many of you are going to church and spending time with your families, some of you are enjoying a day off, and others are busy, working at businesses that stay open on the holiday. Some of you

are neither celebrating nor using the day to relax, and are simply getting along as best you can.

We thought we'd simply let you have some fun with a letter we received via e-

Dear Annie: A friend sent me this quiz, and I wanted to share it with as many people as possible in time for Christmas. Your column reaches a lot of folks, so would you please print it? We could all use a good laugh. - Suzie in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Suzie: We loved it. Thanks. A merry Christmas and a happy holiday season to all our readers.

Holiday Songs Final Exam

The following are alternate titles for several wellknown Christmas carols. See if you can figure them out. (The answers are printed at the bottom of the column, for those who might want to cover them up.)?

1. Miniscule hamlet in the **Far East**

2. Quadruped with crimson proboscis

3. Yonder in the haystack

4. Five p.m. to 6 a.m. with-

out noise

, 5. Adorn the vestibules 6. Exuberance directed to the planet

7. Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing

8. Monarchial trio 9. Assemble, everyone who believes

10. Hallowed post meridian 11. Fantasies of a colorless

December 25th 12. Tin tintinnabulums 13. A dozen 24-hour Yule

periods 14. It befell during the transparent bewitching

hour 15. Homo sapien of crys-

tallized vapor 16. I spied my maternal parent osculating a fat man in red

17. Perambulating through a December solstice fantasy

18. Aloft on the acme of the abode

Answers:

1. O Little Town of Bethlehem

2. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

3. Away in a Manger

4. Silent Night 5. Deck the Halls

6. Joy to the World 7. Hark the Herald Angels

8. We Three Kings 9. Come All Ye Faithful 10. O Holy Night White Christmas

11. I'm Dreaming of a 12. Silver Bells

13. The Twelve Days of Christmas

14. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear 15. Frosty the Snowman

16. I Saw Mama Kissing Santa Claus

17. Walking in a Winter Wonderland

18. Up on the Rooftop

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@attbi.com, 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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Reader responds and offers a 'solution' for those called by the wrong name

Dear Prudence: After reading the letter from the woman who is enraged at the fact that her mother-in-law continues to spell hername incorrectly, I felt the need to respond and perhaps provide a solution. I understand where she is coming from, though I'm not as angry as I am amused.

One of my co-workers insists on calling me a different name nearly every time we speak. The names he calls me are actually not that different from my own. For example, if my name were Raquel, he'd probably call me Rachel. Considering the fact that my co-worker and I are both reporters and our names are in the newspaper at least once a day and we have been working together for a year and a half — I see no reason for him to get my name wrong.

My own family members spell my name incorrectly all the time, so I've gotten used to it. At the very least though, they are consistent in their errors. So I decided that from now on, every time he calls me the wrong name, I will call him the wrong name. The plan is that when he finally corrects me. I'll correct him good-naturedly, of course, so that he knows there aren't any hard feelings. People tend to respond better, I find, when you approach them with humor. Another Deviated D

Dear An: Prudie likes your style and, of course, agrees with you about humor, both as a weapon and a tool. Also, as the child of a man who called someone Ernie for 15 years — when it was not his name — Prudie has empathy for anyone who can't get a

name right. The bottom line to this quirk, most likely, is that if the name "gets in" wrong, it stays wrong.— Prudie (not Trudy), nomi-

Dear Prudence: I have been dating my boyfriend for five years, and we are very happy and still young (in our 20s). We want to make sure we are settled before we take the plunge because neither of us wants to deal with divorce. The problem is that my boyfriend's new stepmother is bombarding us with constant talk about marriage and kids. We attended a friend's wedding recently, and now she uses that as a "weapon" to get us hitched. She has made it her mission to see us married off and starting a family.

We don't feel ready for such a big step yet. How do I get her and her grown

kids to leave us alone about it? I am fed up with all the pressure. Thanks for the advice. — Happily Unwed Dear Hap: Since the step-

Dear Hap: Since the stepmother (and a new one, yet) does not know from omerta, here are your options . . . and they all relate to who tells her to pipe down about a subject that's none of her business. You and the beloved might ask his father to pass on your wish for sllence. If this doesn't work for you, then your

beau could explain your wishes. If HE is not comfortable with this, then how about you?

There is no need to be shy about putting this weddingobsessed woman in her place.



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Big Spring girls will play in Abilene tourn. The Big Spring Lady Steers will travel to Abilene Friday to play in the Abilene Invitational Basketball Tournament.

The Lady Steers' next game will be Jan. 3 when they open District 4-4A action at home against the Lake View Maidens. The games are scheduled to start at 6 p.m. in the Big Spring Junior High School gym.

Steers return to play in Lamesa tourney

The Big Spring Steers will travel to Lamesa Thursday to play in the Lamesa Invitational Basketball Tournament.

The Steers' next game will be Jan. 3 when they host Abilene Wylie in the Steer Gym. The games are scheduled to start at 2:20 p.m.

wa teams to play n hoop tournaments

basketball eams will return to action with a flurry Thursday by participating in three tourna-

The Forsan and Garden City boys and girls will compete in the Sterling City Tournament.

Sands will play in the Post tournament, while Stanton and Coahoma begin play in the Iraan and Reagan Co. tourneys, respectively.

Players of the year unveiled by magazine

Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine announced the winners of its 2002 Players of the Year for each classification of UIL football.

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icants

The 2002 Players of the Year awards were selected in balloting by a panel of statewide media members.

Chase Wasson of Southlake Carroll was the Class 5A recipient, while Denton Ryan's James Battle took the 4A honors.

Other winners were" Jasper lineman Jorrie Adams in 3A; Bangs' Marcus Draper in 2A; Chilton's Chris James in 1A and Whitharral's Brandon Hoskins in 1A six-man.

ON THE AIR

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	Sports Broadcast Schedule	200
1	Dec. 23	9
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	Dec. 26	2000
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	Dec. 28	200
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Playez, Raiders grab 3-on-3 crowns

The Playez edge Mavs for Goliad 3-on-3 title

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor King Midas would have been impressed with Ryan Klaassen:

Like the king, everything Klaassen has touched this year has turned golden.

As a football player, Klaassen helped led the Packers to a 34-0 win in the West Texas Area Championships. capped that effort last week by helping lead the Playez to the 2002 Goliad 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament championship.

Klaassen, along with sixth period teammates Cade Hollandsworth, Kade Parker, Jordan Pointon and Suraj Patel, downed the Mavericks in the finals of the boys' 16-team bracket.

The Mavericks consisted of first period Chris classmates Brooks, Hutton Evans, Cameron Hughey and Sidney Parker.

The tournament was held after school over a 4-day period from Dec. 9-12. Teams qualified for the event through round-robin pool play in their respective classes. Like The Playez, the

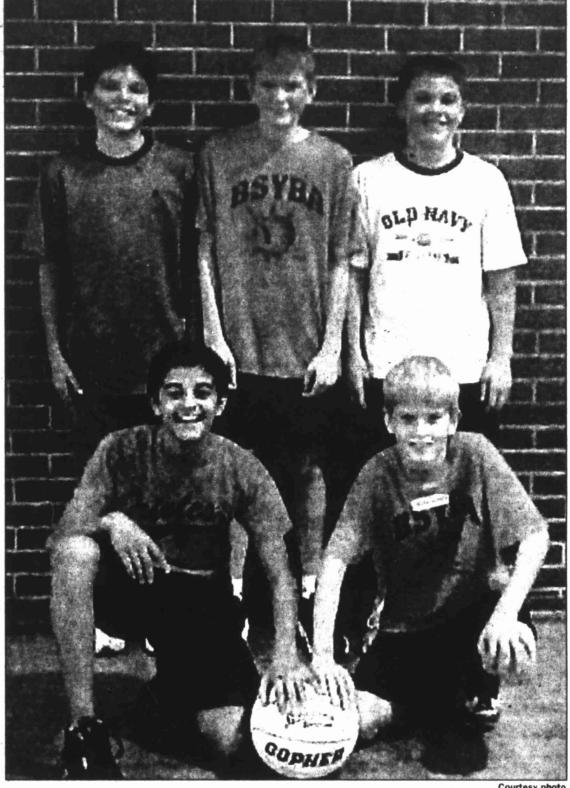
Red Raiders were the top finisher in their bracket. The seventh period foursome of Breanna Conner Carlita Green, Megan Hilario and Shelbi Stewart held off the Lady Hawks to win the girls' title.

The Lady Hawks, also from the seventh period class, were made up of Shawnte Lopez, Ashley Miramontes and Crystal Woodson.

The Spurs — a team. made up of Coby Landis, Thad Loftis, Todd Pace and Eric Valle - took third in the boys' bracket, placing just ahead of the Bucks' squad of Zach Stephens, Jeremy Solis, Rance Terry and Mykel Wagner.

The fifth-period Hot Shots garnered thirdplace honors in the girls' bracket. The team of Andrea Claxton, Bailey Fox, Ariel Johnson. M'Lin Swinney and Brittani York, edged out the Bad Girls for third. The Bad Girls, a fourth period squad, was made up of Courtney Strait and Kimberly Gutierrez.

The American Beauties team of Mariah Duenez, Ashley Castillo and Marisa Mendoza finished fifth overall.



The Playez captured the boys' championship in the Goliad 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament recently by downing the Mavericks in the finals. Members of the team include (front row, left to light) Suraj Patel, Kade Parker, (back row) Ryan Klaassen, Jordan Pointon and Cade Hollandsworth.



The Red Raiders captured the girls' championship in the Goliad 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament recently by downing the Lady Hawks in the finals. Members of the team include (front) Megan Hilario, (standing, left to right) Carlita Green, Shelby Stewart and Breanna Conner.

Rangers ink all-star reliever to 1-year pact

ARLINGTON (AP) -The Texas Rangers signed closer Ugueth Urbina to a one-year, \$4 million contract with another \$500,000 deferred. Urbina, a two-time All-Star whose 40 saves for Boston last season tied for third-best in the American League, went 1-6 with a 3.00 ERA last season. He had 19 straight saves from April 12-July 3, and blew only six chances all season.

In other baseball transactions, former Gold Glove infielder Neifi Perez signed a two-year contract with the San Francisco Giants.

The Giants claimed Perez off waivers from the Kansas City Royals last month.

Perez hit .236 with 37 a three-team trade.

RBIs in 2002. Kansas City acquired Perez, the 2000 NL Gold Glove winner at shortstop for Colorado, during the 2001 season in

Hall of Fame already has started contacting its 58 living members, hoping to set up a meeting for them with commissioner Bud Selig next month to discuss Pete Rose's possible reinstatement.

The target date for the meeting is Jan. 17 in Los

the group can make it.

Rose and Selig are negotiating a possible end to the permanent ban the career hits leader agreed to in 1989 after an investigation of his gambling. Because he's banned, Rose cannot appear on the Hall ballot.



teams will open conference play a week later.

Jones: Decision will 'be quick'

IRVING (AP) L Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones didn't hire or fire anyone Sunday and might not for another week.

Jones said Dave Campo likely will remain the team's coach through the season finale Sunday in Washington. He made no promises beyond that, except to say a decision "is going to be very quick."

"I want to be real clear about something: I have not made up my mind about what we're going to be doing with our head coach," Jones said. "There will be a time frame and it will be soon, just by the nature of it."

Jones apparently began interviewing potential replacements last week when he spent five hours with Bill Parcells.

Fox reported on its NFL Sunday show that a source who spoke with Jones and Parcells on Saturday night said they've agreed to everything except the final contract figure, with a ballpark figure of \$3.5 million.

Jones, however, said earlier Sunday that teams are now required to contact the commissioner's office before changing coaches and that he hasn't started that process!

"Nor have I made up my mind that I want to start," Jones said.

Asked if a change would be made before the Redskins game, Jones said: "I don't think that would be the case. I can't think that would be the case."

Campo is 15-32 going into the final game of his third season. His job security has weakened throughout an ugly threegame losing streak.

Since blowing a 10point, fourth-quarter lead against San Francisco in part because of a coaching decision Jones disagreed with, the Cowboys have lost 37-7 to the New York Giants and 27-3 to the Philadelphia Eagles.

By losing to the Eagles on Saturday night, the Cowboys have at least 10 losses for the third consecutive year, a first in franchise history.

Jones met with Parcells on Wednesday, three days after Dallas lost to the Giants.

Parcells has been a winner everywhere he's been, taking the New York Giants to two Super Bowl titles then getting the New England Patriots into the Super Bowl and the New York Jets to the AFC championship.

He's also been a tease, such as last offseason when negotiations with Tampa Bay broke down in the late stages. It was the second time he jilted the Bucs, and he's done the same to Atlanta.

Hiring someone

Parcells' stature would

probably require Jones

giving up some control

within the organization.

and it would cost more

than he's spent on coach-

Hall members may meet Jan. 17 NEW YORK (AP) - The Angeles, provided most of

> The Howard Lady Hawks will return to action Jan. 3 in Hillsboro to face the Hill Lady Rebels. The HC

A big contract for Parcells - or another high-profile coach might not be the only expense. Many assistant coaches have deals for

See COWBOYS, Page 2B

ordan scoring like 'Air' old for surging Wizards

30 points one night and then followed with 33. Could 40 be next?

"You mean 40 years"

No. that's already scheduled for Feb. 19. How about 40 points? "It may come," Jordan said. "Pay attention."

The knees are holding up, and Jordan is doing just fine in his final NBA season. The most remarkable stat: In eight sets of back-to-back games, Jordan is averaging more points (17) on the second night than on the first (14).

Last week, there were special circumstances. Jordan matched his career low with two points on Sunday against Toronto, so he felt he motivated to come back with season highs on Tuesday against Atlanta and Wednesday against Memphis.

"I don't know how he does it," coach Doug Collins said. "I don't know where the will and the spirit and the energy



Michael Jordan, shown during his days as a star for the Chicago Bulls, has averaged more than 20 points a game over his last four games

and it all comes from. But he's the most resilient, proudest man I've been around ever. He's amazing."

Jordan scored his 63 back-to-back points against the Hawks and Grizzlies in 73 minutes. a work rate far exceeding the plan Collins had for this season. But both said that Jordan was get ting "easy minutes," that he wasn't having to work hard driving to the basket because his jump shot was falling and his teammates were contributing.

Jordan is averaging 32 minutes per game, but the number has risen significantly since he became a starter 10 games ago. He's averaging 17 points per game.

"The thing about me is that I don't think you know where I'm going to help the team, but you know I'm going to help the team," Jordan said. "That's the thing that I like about my personality and the way I play."

"I'm not going in with the notion of trying to increase my scoring. that's never a purpose of going into a game. I'm going in to win," Jordan said. "And whatever it takes for me to help this team win, be it scoring - I think I've proven I can score — or if I score two points. I can keep everybody involved and still be successful."

Calvert edges Sanderson for '02 national six-man championship

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

The Calvert Trojans are making a living off narrow wins over the Sanderson Eagles.

Calvert, which rallied from a 32-0 deficit to claim a 51-46 victory over Sanderson in the Texas six-man state championships, was named the 2002 six-man national champion by Six-Man Illustrated — by the narrowest margin in the poll's 10-year history.

The Trojans received 12 of the 27 first-place votes cast and rolled up 588 points — just 21 more than Sanderson.

The Six-Man Illustrated poll is formulated based on voting by six-man coaches and media members in the United States and Canada. Last season, Whitharral was voted the No. 1 six-man team.

Calvert finished the year with a perfect 14-0 record.

The Gateway Christian Warriors finished third in the final poll. The New Mexico state champs collected two first-place votes and rolled up 512 points.

Despite falling early in playoffs, Whitharral Panthers still finished fourth. The 2002 state and national champions was among the state's leaders in total offense and defense before an injury to star Brandon Hoskins led to a stunning

Whitharral, TX (1) 6. Peetz. CO (1) 18. Pt. Elliott, TX 19. Guthrie, TX

Other receiving votes: Newcastle, Raymore, SK; Litchfield, NE; Black TX; Abilene Christian, TX; Rochelle,

upset loss to Fort Elliott. The Richland Spring Covotes, last year's national runner-up, placed fifth in 2002. Richland Springs finished the year at 13-1, falling to Calvert in the semifinals.

The Coyotes coached by Doyle Clawson, who helped Panther Creek win back-to-back

Big Spring Herald

national crowns in 1992 and 1993.

The Peetz Bulldogs were the top rated Colorado team in the rankings, checking in at No. 6 with 397 points. The Bulldogs ended Idalia's stranglehold on the Colorado title this past season.

Texas superpowers from Valley, Sands and Gordon finished at No. 7. No. 8 and No. 9, respectively.

The Highwood Mountaineers, who won the sixth Montana state championship, rounded out the SI Top 10.

Canadian Loreburn also collected one first-place vote. The Aztecs, who won their record eighth title in November, was 16th over-

Calvert will be presented the national six-man championship trophy on July 26 at the half of the annual All Americas Bowl, which will be played in Big Spring.

Sanders to come out of retirement?

Deion Sanders could be on the verge of returning to the National Football League.

Sanders, on Sunday, said he may coming out of retirement to join the Oakland Raiders. He retired after the 2000 sea-

Sanders finished his career with 474 tackles. and 48 interceptions.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 7 two more years and they would have to be paid off, too, if the new coach wants to bring in his own staff. That leads back to the control factor as Jones has often dictated the staffs.

"I think you're touching on issues that are legitimate things I've got to consider," he said.

Is Jones ready to break his own mold? Can he?

"I am what I am," Jones said. "I would have to change what I've been all my life. But I don't know if I am what I'm perceived

"I've had some good things happen that I've gotten to be part of. There was a lot of give and take. I'm a salesman and there's nobody that can get to me quicker than another good salesman.

"But the facts are that I'm the ultimate decisionmaker as long as I own the team. That's not an issue in any way that I know of."

When Jones squabbled with Jimmy Johnson over credit for the team's success in the early 1990s, he once said 500 people could coach the Cowboys. He's since changed his stance, saying Sunday that "I've always thought that coaching was very important."

"I've seen 'elite coaches' go into situations and not have success, so I don't think it's a magical solution," Jones said. "But certainly people that can motivate players and bring out the best in them and plan and organize, make strategic decisions there are people who do that very well and

those people are very valuable.' Campo said he hasn't decided whether to discuss his status with the team this week. Players

were off Sunday. "There's a chance I might address it, but I don't have any answers, so I can't address it too much," he said.

As for the Redskins, the Cowboys have handled them regardless of their coach. Dallas has won 10 straight, dating to the Barry Switzer era.

"I fully expect our guys to be ready," Campo said. "There shouldn't be any question of the confidence level."

Another motivator is that this will be players'

last chance to prove they deserve to return next

"There's guys that are truly, really on the bubgame will mean a lot to them."

What about for a head coach on the bubble? "I'm not going to get

ble," Campo said. "This into that," he said.

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Philadelphia at NY Giants Minnesota at Detroit Kansas City at Oakland Atlanta at Cleveland

Baltimore at Pittsburgh Cincinnati at Buffalo Dallas at Washington Miami at New England

Tennessee at Houston Jacksonville at Indianapo Arizona at Denver Green Bay at NY Jets Seattle at San Diego Tampa Bay at Chicago San Francisco at St. Loui

POWER POINTS OFFICIAL RULES

Object of the game is to amass as many of the 36 possible points as you can. Simply review the sek's schedule of games, listed on entry form, and decide which game you are SUREST of picking a winner in. Write the name of your projected vinner on the 16-point line. If that team wins its game that week, you win 16 points. Write the name of your second-surest winner on the 15-point line, and so on down to the 1-point line, which game you figure to be a toss-up. Next, fill in Tiebreaker 1, the total points scored by both teams in the week's tesignated game. If this step falls to produce a winner, the judges will apply Tiebreaker 2, total offensive yardage from scrimmage in this game. If a winer still doesn't emerge, a drawing will be held imong those contestants still tied. Decisions of the udges are final. The weeldy Southwest region wi

ner of the contest will receive \$ 1,000.

2. Any entry form that does not contain a legible

name, address, etc., will be disqualified. 3. Entries that fail to forecast a winner from each and every game will be disqualified, as will entries that fail to distinguish between the Jets and Giants

of New York and other similar teams. 4. No points are awarded on tie games or in case any game is not played for any reason during its scheduled week

5. Entering POWER POINTS constitutes permis sion by contestant for his or her name and photograph to be used for news and reasonable promotional purposes at no charge. 6. Employees of this newspaper and their imme

diate families are ineligible to participate 7. Any inquiry about or protest of weekly results must be made by noon on the Friday following the announcement of winners.

forms will be accepted. Enter contest by dropping entry form into POWER POINTS container, participating co-sponsors. 9. Weeldy deadline for cntry will be 2 p.m. Fridays

except when noted otherwise on weekly

10. Neither this newspaper nor any co-spons will be responsible for illegible entry forms or those

lost, stolen or damaged in any way. 11. Limit: one entry per person per week. Eac entry must represent the original work of other entrant; "group" entries, "systems" or other attempts to enter multiple entries will be disqual fied. Filling out extra forms and putting your friends

and relatives' names on them violates this rule. A such entries are destroyed prior to grading. 12. Contestants must have reached the age 8. No purchase necessary. Facsimile game entry eight (8) years by the Sunday of any week's play

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A Happy New Year!



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size of the United States.

Louisiana Purchase and doubled the

Explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began preparing an expedition to explore this wild

• In December 100 years ago, Orville and Wilbur Wright invented

• Ford Motor Co. sold its first car in

the first successful powered and

July 100 years ago. It used a new

• In November 75 years ago,

character in the first cartoon with

• The United Nations has named

means of manufacturing: mass

Mickey Mouse was born as a

at's Happening in 2003

March

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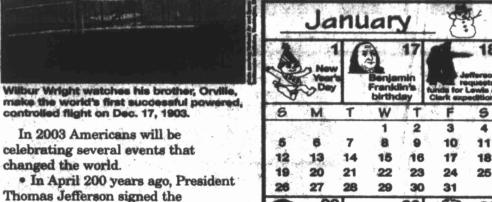
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Keep this 2003 calendar and watch for coming special events.



10

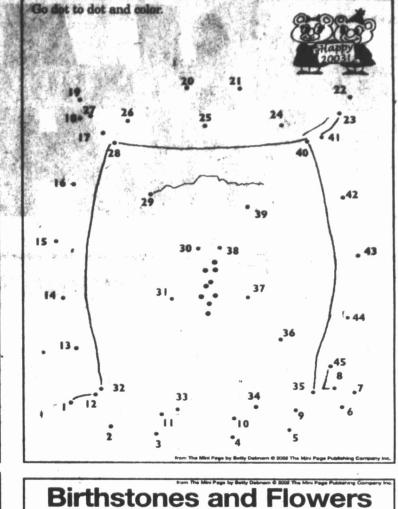
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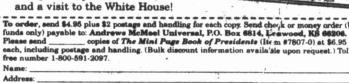


2003 as the International Year of Fresh Water. The Mini Page Book of Presidents

Learn all about

- each of the presidents...
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- Dates of presidential terms
- Important achievements Stories about the many roles

of the president, the electoral vote process, political terms, and a visit to the White House!



First day of Rookie Cookie's Recipe **New Year's Chocolate Snowballs**

You'll need: • 6 ounces semisweet chocolate pieces

• 1/3 cup evaporated milk • 11/4 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted

• 3/4 cup chopped pecans • 31/2 ounces sweetened flaked coconut

1. Combine chocolate pieces and milk in a saucepan over

low heat until chocolate melts. 2. Remove from heat and stir in sugar and pecans.

3. Chill for 1/2 hour.

4. Roll into 1-inch balls. 5. Roll in coconut.

6. Store in refrigerator. Makes 1 dozen.

February January Amethyst for Garnet for < dependability Primrose Snowdrop March **April** Aquamarine Diamond for **Violet** May June **Emerald** Moonstone for love for health valley Rose July August Peridot for Ruby for contentment married happiness Gladiolus Larkspur September October Sapphire for good thinking Opal for hope Calendula December November Turquoise for success Topaz for loyalty

Chrysanthemum

Hundreds of years ago, people believed that birthstones brought good luck. (Some still do!) Each

month has a flower, too.

month has a stone that stands for something good. Each

What is your birthstone? Do you know someone who was born

in each month? Write his or her name in the blanks below.

All the following jokes have something in common Can you guess the common theme or category? Mark: What is the first one in the bathtub called? Mary: The ring leader!

Daniel: What do you take when you have phone in your bathtub? Denise: Babble baths!

Wesley: What do lizards put on the walls around their bathtub? Winton: Reptiles!





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Words and names that remind us of special days are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward and some letters are used bytes. See if you can find a HOLLDAY FARTH.

Mini Styly and her friends are planning son new calendar. See if you can find: • man in	the moon • frog
2003 Calendar	• mushroom • key • fish • peanut • caterpillar • ladder • kite • cat • number 3 • word MINI • dog's face • pig's face • olive • bell • carrot • toothbrush • strawberry • question mar

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Citizenship Day	First day of fall	Jewish New Year								
For family members' and friends' birthdays										
										
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The Mini Pa	age is created ar Betty Debnam									

Staff Artist

Associate Editors

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stand and grow. The two of you might decide to explore somewhere totally new together. Learn to walk in your partner's footsteps as well. VIRGO

ural willingness to under-

opens doors for you. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-2-So-so: Average: Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) **** Extremes punctuate last-minute happenings, as well as your whole day, for that matter. Others might really enjoy being with you. Be ready for the unexpected with a loved one. Someone close

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could be so generous that you are surprised by what comes up. Tonight: Just let it all happen.

Horoscope

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **** Your extra efforts make a big difference in how you handle someone. Others could be a bit uptight, but your creative and dynamic approach loosens up the moment. Your caring seems to warm up a close, uptight associate. Tonight: Use your imagination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) **** Opt to stay close to home. Everything seems to fly in many different directions. You attempt to achieve key results involving an important person in your life. Recognize your limits within the immediate situation. Tonight: Share your feelings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) **** Stay cheered up no matter what goes down or what others might think. Your ability to share feelings on a deeper level wins you quite a few friends. Touch base with the many you really care about. Tonight: Finish off last-minute errands.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** Hopefully you have saved some extra funds to handle last-minute expenses. Consider getting a couple of last-minute presents just in case you forget someone or something. Visit with a friend you really care about. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.)

Be sure to mention

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22) ***** Your smile wins many favors. Right now. use that gift to help others relax and make lastminute decisions. You might be a bit overwhelmed by all that you hear. Be sensitive to someone who might not be quite as happy as you are.

Tonight: Do more sharing. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** Take your time before you decide which path to follow. Step back and do some hard thinking. Perhaps you have pushed someone away without intending to. Tonight: Lay back for now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Join your friends. Make the most out of an opportunity that heads your way. You could be a bit tired or dragged down by recent holiday celebrations. Understand what is enough. Think through a decision. Tonight: Where the gang is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** You really want to make an effort toward others. Touch base with a loved one who means a lot to you, who might not be part of your personal holiday celebration. Take time for those who are a part of your life, but not in your immediate circle. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Consider your options involving a loved one at distance. You manage to take care of and touch base with those who are close to you. A change in plans might prove delightful and quite rewarding. Don't get stuck. Tonight: Try something totally different.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** Others come forward, and you will choose whom you want to be with. You enjoy relating on a one-on-one level most. Opt for more togetherness. Work as a team with a key partner. You'll enjoy yourself to the max. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) **** Respond to inquiries. What's going on behind all the questions is that others want to know that you're OK with the holiday season. Make an extra effort to respond to the many inquiries. Make decisions carefully in the next few days. Tonight: Where your friends are.

BORN TODAY

Singer Ricky Martin (1971), John, King of England (1167), billionaire Howard Hughes (1905)

Jacqueline Bigar is on Internet http://www.. jacquelinebigar.com.

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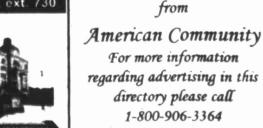


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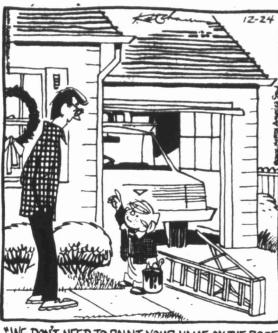
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O :PM	Life-Bonnie	Funniest Holl- day Moments	Great Perform-	Santa Is Com- ing to Town	Guardian (CC)	Life-Bonnie Less-Perfect	Life (CC) (DVS)	Places (CC)	Navidad Mag- ica Disney	(CC) Movie; Twas	Only Live Twice (CC)	Mayle: The Distinguished	ers (CC)	(:45) Movie:	Southwest	Shadideton	Detectives	(DVS)	While You Were Out
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.PM		Spin City (CC)	Rocks With Wings (CC)	Caroline Rhea Show (CC)	Service Street Smarts	Christmas Eve	at St. Peter's Basilica	(:35) Movie:	Misa del Gallo del Papa	Lizzie Jett Jackson	Her Majesty's Secret	Separation (CC)	QuickFlick Movie: Spy	Movie: Meet the Parents	Church	(CC)	Detectives	Movie: A Christmas	While You Were Out
	Cowboy	Beyond	"	Paid Program	Ent. Tonight	Christmas in Grandview	(12:05) To Be Announced	Trading Places (CC)	:	Proud Family Boy World	Service (CC)	Movie: Lucky Numbers	Kids (CC)	(CC)	Update With Promise	Movie: Shackleton	FBI Files	Story (CC) (DVS)	White You Ware Out

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HUNG A RIGHT

IN PEORIA.

DOES THAT MEAN

I WON'T HAVE TO

CHOP WOOD?

HAGAR



BLONDIE



WHERE'S DAISY'S CHRISTMAS IT WAS SO BEATEN UP,



 \mathbf{BC}





IF YOU'RE BAD

SANTA WILL LEAVE

YOU COAL.



WIZARD OF ID





SOCKS ARE USUALLY IT LOOKS LIKE I'M ON SALE BY THEN. GETTING SOCKS AGAIN.

People In The News

By the Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) _ A visit by Bono and Ashley Judd hasn't raised much money for a Lincoln organization that advocates for AIDS-stricken children in Africa, but it has brought attention to the group's cause.

Bono and Judd appeared Dec. 1 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Lied Center. Since that visit, the Lincoln-based Save Sub-Saharan Orphans said it has received \$406 in new

Still, SSSO President Nelson Okuku Miruka has said the visit on World AIDS Day was a success because it called attention to his organization, which hopes to build a \$100,000 orphanage in Kenya.

The not-for-profit group has raised nearly \$21,000 from grants and donations, and more events planned.

LOS ANGELES (AP) Magician David Copperfield was taken to a Canadian hospital after stopping midway through a performance, his tour spokesman.

Copperfield, 46, was doing the second of three scheduled shows Sunday at the Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton, Alberta, when he decided he couldn't continue.

"He was up until 4:40 a.m. rehearsing on Saturday after doing three shows," said agent Phil Lobel, who's based in Los Angeles. "Copperfield maintains a physically demanding schedule of more than 500 shows, which clearly took its toll today.'

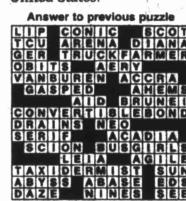
Copperfield, who began performing at 12 and was youngest magician the admitted to the Society of American Magicians, planned to resume his Canadian tour Monday barring any further complications," Lobel said.

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) "Crocodile Dundee" star Paul Hogan was recovering in a hospital Monday after suffering a slipped disc while wrestling with furniture.

The 63-year old Australian actor was admitted recently to St. Vincents Private Hospital in Sydney for treatment of the back injury he sustained while moving furniture.

The hospital issued a brief statement saying the actor would be back on his feet within a few weeks.

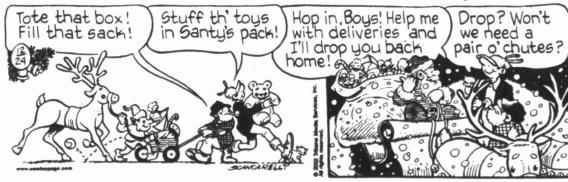
Hogan rose to global fame in the '80s with the "Crocodile Dundee" movies as Mick Dundee, the tough but good-natured crocodile hunter who becomes a heroic fish out of water when he leaves the Outback for the United States.



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



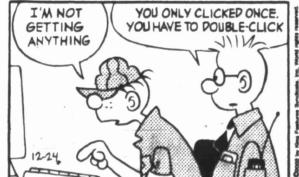
HOW'S HE GONNA

TELL 'EM

SNUFFY SMITH









HE CAN'T

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Gives a yank 6 H.S. juniors'
- exams 11 Needing to
- be refilled
- 14 Exhaust
- 15 Like some beer
- 16 Israeli weapon 17 Do day-camp
- craft work
- 19 Chili __ carne 20 Occupational
- suffix
- 21 Locality
- 22 Business abbr.
- 23 Actress
- Basinger
- 26 French port
- 28 Director Spike
- 29 Large Asian lake
- 31 Nonexistent
- 34 Short scene
- 37 Angelou works
- 41 Opera singer
- 43 Newspaper notice
- 44 Concise
- fruit
- 47 Bargain event
- 50 Getty of The
- Golden Girls
- 52 Sibling, for
- 54 Actress
- 57 Was ahead
- lioness

- 62 Swiss peak 63 Good manners
 - 68 Actor Mineo
 - 69 Italian city
 - 71 CBS logo

 - for short

- 2 Letters on a
- 3 __ Misérables
- 6 Batman
- darts

- 4 Gospel writer
- limit
- sound effect
- 70 Seer's card
- 72 3/17 honoree,
- 73 Garden tool

DOWN

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- postage stamp
- 5 Goes over the

- 7 Shifty one
- 33 King in India
- 40 At the summit
- 46 Mediterranean
- 48 Penta- + 1
- short
- Amanda
- 58 Zodiac sign 59 Born Free
- 60 __ Vegas

SHAQ ATTACK by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman

- 8 Video game
- pioneer
- 9 Place to play darts
- 10 "I can't hear you!"
- 11 "The First Lady
- of Television" 12 Atmosphere
- layer
- 13 React, as to a pun
- 18 Most loyal 23 Gold measure
- 24 Angry
- 25 Comic strip
- character of
- 27 The __ Gun
- yore
- (Nielsen film) 30 Minor error

32 Not tight

(occasionally) 36 Tribal symbol 38 Choreographer

35 Once __ while

- Agnes de __
- 39 War horse 42 Act as retailer
- 45 Waits for 49 At full throttle
- 51 Qualities 52 Unimpressed
- 53 Electrical
- circuit 55 Seize by force 56 West Side
- Story song 61 Lose it
- 64 Explosive letters
- 65 Time period
- 66 Grass square 67 Sault __ Marie

23 24 25 33 40 52 |53 59 62 63

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