

BIG SPRING

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

WEEKEND EDITION

November 29-30, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



SUNDAY 72°-73° SUNDAY NIGHT 37°-39°

INSIDE



Cover Story: Country star Reba McEntire discusses how her hometown upbringing and early rodeo experiences still influence her today.

IN BRIEF

55-Alive

Fifty-five Alive driver safety program classes will be held from 8 a.m. until noon Dec. 11-12 at the Martin County Senior Citizen's Center in Stanton.

You must attend both days to receive a certificate, which will be accepted by most insurance companies for a deduction in premiums for a three-year period.

The cost is \$10 per person. To register, call 432-756-2791, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Boomtown parade

Booth reservations and parade entries for the city of Forsan's annual Christmas in Boomtown Parade are now being taken.

The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6. Booths will be set up around the Forsan Soda Shop beginning at 9 a.m. There is no charge for having a booth.

If you are interested in being in the parade or having a booth, contact Jeff Janca at 457-0303 after 5:30 p.m.

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Vol. 100, No. 14

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.

Major retailers report good sales

Smaller merchants not as optimistic this year

By LYNDEL MOODY Staff Writer

Chilly, early-morning weather didn't keep customers from flooding many of the larger retail stores Friday on a quest for after-Thanksgiving sales, but will the magic continue through the season?

That question drew mixed results from area businessmen and women.

A parking lot full of customers greeted employees of Bealls Department Store as they opened for business at 8 a.m.

"We've been busy all day. It's fantastic," Manager Jay Howell said that afternoon. "It's much better than last year."

Howell said the increase in sales the past week could be an indicator of a good sales season.

"We've noticed a marked turnaround since last week," he said. "Since October and November we've been better but not appreciably better, but in the last

"We've been busy all day. It's fantastic. It's much better than last year."



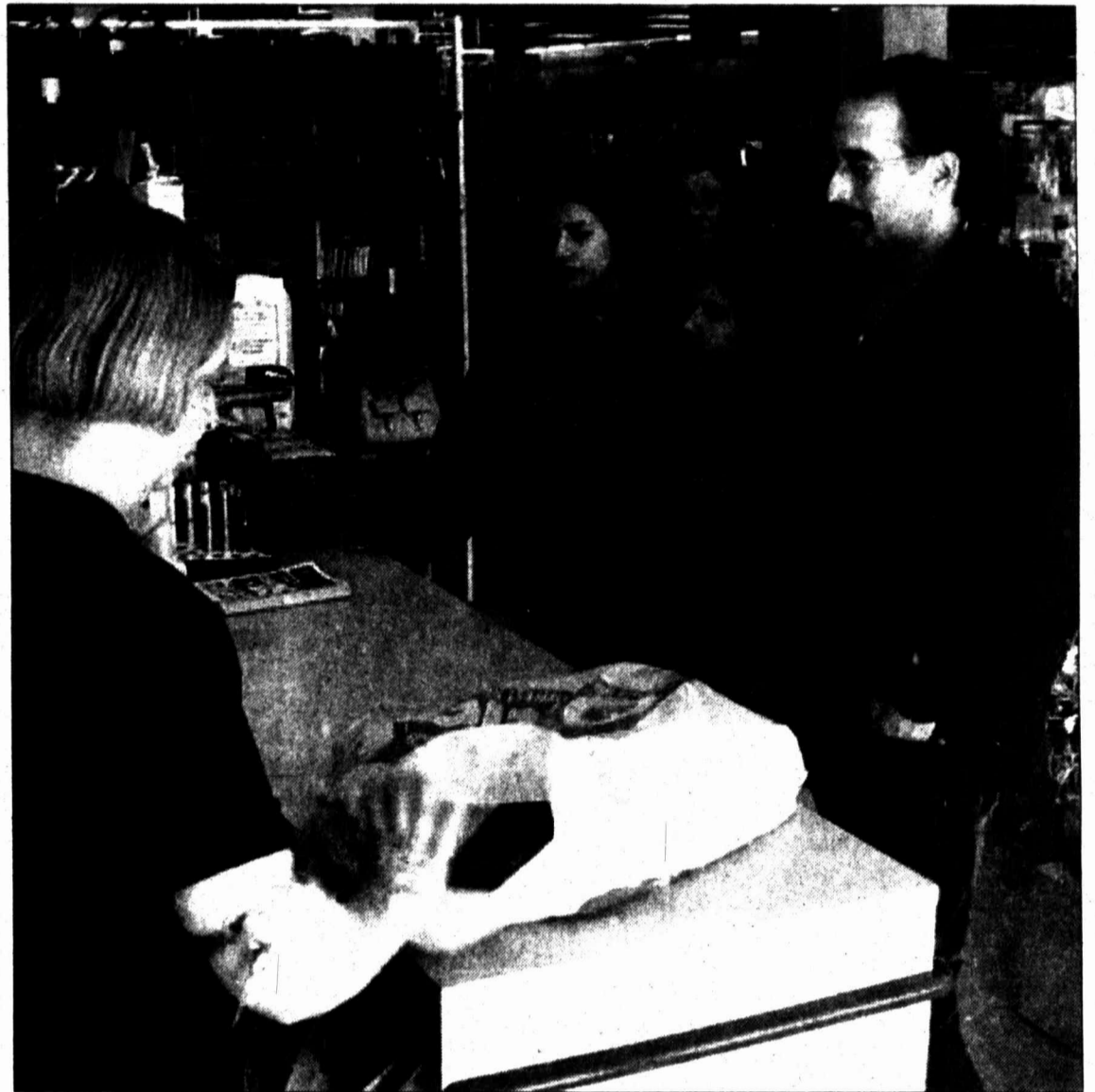
Jay Howell, Bealls manager

week we've noticed a surge. I think we'll end up 25 to 30 percent higher for the day than last year's numbers.

"Last year was a real disappointment," he continued. "Going back to our figures, 2001 was a lot better than 2002, and we should surpass 2001 figures."

Local representatives from national and regional retail stores such as Wal-Mart, Dunlaps and Burke's Outlet Store reported a strong customer turnout Friday morning.

See SHOPPING, Page 3A



Burke's Outlet supervisor Mary Mata bags up some after-Thanksgiving shopping items for Joe Munoz and his daughters Kassi, left, and Samantha, as Margery McCormick waits in the background to check out as well. Burke's Manager Martha Loveless said Friday's shopper turnout was excellent.



USPS Postal Carrier Michelle Castillo loads her mail in preparation for delivery in Big Spring. Castillo and other local mail carriers are bracing themselves for the holiday rush, which is expected to move an estimated 150 million parcels through the nationwide system each day during the height of the season.

THE MAIL

Post office prepares for holiday challenge

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

As the holiday shopping season signifies longer hours and bigger work loads for area retailers, the same is true for the United States Postal Service and its army of carriers and clerks.

According to local post office manager Robert Dale, the holiday season poses many challenges for him and the Big Spring staff, but none that can compare with the volume of mail expected to hit post offices before Dec. 25.

"It's just the sheer volume we have," he said. "From October until December, nationwide we normally move 100 million pieces each day, and then from Thanksgiving to Christmas that increases to 150 million pieces a day."

"So the workload this time of year dramatically

increases.

"That's why it's so important for people to mail their packages early like the advertisements urge them to. There's just a lot of work to complete in a short amount of time."

If you think you have plenty of time to get your parcels in the mail to make the Christmas Day deadline, you probably should reconsider.

"Parcel post packages, which is our cheapest rate, will probably be OK up until the 15th of December," Dale explained.

"If you're mailing a package from Dec. 15th or later, they need to go priority mail. We have a service that we offer for an additional 45 cents called delivery confirmation. Using this system, they can track their parcel through our Web site to see where it's going and when it gets delivered."

"On the 22nd of

See MAIL, Page 3A



DALE

World AIDS Day program planned at VA on Monday

Special to the HERALD

The West Texas VA Health Care System will have a program on behalf of World AIDS Day at noon Monday in the chapel.

The public is invited. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the largest, single provider of HIV/AIDS care in the United States. The VA health care system has been involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic.

"On World AIDS Day, it's important to recognize veterans

with HIV/AIDS who face the challenge of living with HIV every day, and we remember those we have lost to AIDS," said Iva Jo Hanslik, Big Spring VMAC information director. "We recognize the efforts of veterans who have served as advocates to help to continue to improve VA's care and response to veterans with HIV/AIDS."

"We recognize VA providers who have worked to provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art

See AIDS, Page 3A

Gift to the community on stage Saturday night

HERALD Staff Report

Area residents will get to open at least one Christmas present early this year, as the Big Spring Downtown Revitalization Association presents its gift to the community Saturday evening.

For the second year in a row, the DRA will present Lawrence Thibeault and the West Texas Musical Review at the city auditorium at 7.

The musical review will fea-

ture performances from many area celebrities including NewsWest 9 anchors Stephanie Rivas and Jessica Garate, as well as meteorologist Darrell Ward. The show will also feature area performers James Whitmore, Alicia Campos, Linda Lindell, Karen Ward, D.G. Smith, Doug Hartman and Laura Shauton.

Special guests Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will also be on hand to give out special "goodies" to the children in attendance.

Admission to the show is free.

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## Obituaries

### Eugene Rush



Eugene Rush, 81, of Big Spring, died on Thursday, Nov. 27, 2003, in a local hospital. Graveside services will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, 2003, at Trinity Memorial Park, with Dr. Dave Ring, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating.

He was born on Oct. 2, 1922, in Blue, Okla., and married Mary Alice McNew in October of 1952.

Mr. Rush served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, serving in the South Pacific where he saw action in the Marianas, Iwo Jima and Bougainville. He was a locomotive engineer for the Texas Pacific, Missouri Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads until his retirement. Eugene was a member of the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Alice Rush of Big Spring; one son and daughter-in-law, Gerald E. "Jerry" and Vikki Rush of Lubbock; two daughters and sons-in-law, Peggy and Art Jones of Dallas and Ann and Glen Banks of Garland; one sister, Loretta Yates of Concord, Calif.; one brother, Tommy Rush of Midland; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.

The family suggest memorials to the Salvation Army, P.O. Box 1248, Big Spring, 79721-1248. Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com  
*Paid obituary*

### Robert Hudgins

Robert Hudgins, 58, of Mineola, died Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2003, at his home in Mineola. Services will be held at Sand Springs Baptist Church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2003, with Bro. Jim Parker officiating. Visitation will be held Saturday, Nov. 29, 2003, at Beaty Funeral Home in Mineola.

Robert was born on May 4, 1945, in Big Spring, and was a member of Sand Springs Baptist Church. He lived in Mineola since 1978, and was a self employed truck driver. He was also in the US Army Corp of Engineers during the Korean Conflict.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ingrid Hudgins; his parents, father Alvin and Gladys Hudgins of Cabon and mother Wilma and Howard Alley of Mineola; a son, Alvin Hudgins of Mineola; a daughter, Olga Kahl of Grand Saline; four brothers, T.C. Hudgins of Mineola, Tutor Hudgins of Big Sandy, Vince Alley of Corpus Christi and David Alley of England; three sisters, Cecilia "Sissy" Hudgins of Fla., Sonya Yost of Ohio and Beth Bosh of Ark.; and six grandchildren.

Memorials are suggested to the donor's choice of charities.

Arrangements are under the direction of Beaty Funeral Home.

### Hugo G. Campbell



Hugo G. Campbell, 81, of Big Spring, died on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2003. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1, 2003, at Nalley Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel, with Rev. Joel Miller, officiating.

Mr. Campbell was born on Dec. 30, 1921, in Bowie, and married Annette McDonald on Oct. 5, 1946, in Paducah.

Mr. Campbell had lived in Big Spring since 1952. He served in the Air Force as a sergeant during World War II in the Philippines. He later retired as a civil service manager at Webb Air Force Base.

Hugo had also owned and operated a vending business for over twenty-five years throughout West Texas. He was a member of First Baptist Church. He was a member of the Western Drifters Travel Club and an avid hunter.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Annette Campbell of Big Spring; one daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Walt Hanel of Lubbock; two sons, Charles Campbell of Midland and Scott Campbell and his wife Sharon of Austin; one brother and sister-in-law, Douglas and Melba Campbell of Cisco; four grandchildren, Todd Hosmer, Andrew Campbell both of Lubbock, Craig Campbell and Lee Campbell both of Austin; and one great-grandchild, Zach Hosmer of Lubbock.

He was preceded in death by one brother.

The family expresses special thanks to the nursing staff of the Alzheimer's Unit at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family recommends donations be made to the First Baptist Church, 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring, 79720, or the Alzheimer's Association Greater West Texas Chapter, 4400 N. Big Spring No. C-32, Midland, 79705.

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

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## Police blotter

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

- **DAVID JOE VILLAREAL**, 17, of 1309 Wright, was arrested Friday on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.
- **LAURA ELLEN MOORE**, 23, of Lubbock, was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while license suspended.

- **THEFT** was reported:
  - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
  - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
  - in the 100 block of Lamesa.
  - in the 900 block of Willia.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
  - in the 700 block of Gregg Street.
  - in the 500 block of Owens.
  - in the 2000 Block of Scurry.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 400 block of Bell.

## Sheriff's report

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

- **JASON L. WOODRUFF**, 21, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment sentence for possession of marijuana less than two ounces.
- **SHAJARKEI HAMMOCK**, 25, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while license suspended.
- **NICHOLAS CRAIG MILLS**, 23, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- **FABIOLA VALDEZ OCHOA**, 31, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to proceed adjudication.
- **GREGORY SCOTT MARTINEZ**, 22, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.
- **MATTHEW LAWRENCE TABBERT**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of displaying an expired registration, failure to appear and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- **ARTURO ACEVEDO**, 44, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated-second offense.
- **MANUEL ROMERO LOZANO III**, 31, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of no drivers license and failure to appear.
- **RHONDA GAIL LATIMER**, 30, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a Nolan County warrant for theft.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported near Key Energy. Deputies were dispatched, vehicle was located and returned to owner. Offense report to follow.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 900 block of Central. Deputies responded, case number assigned. Offense report to follow.
- **THEFT** was reported in Knott. Deputies responded, met with complainant. Case number assigned, report to follow.

## Take note

☐ **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, you are needed.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

☐ **ROAD TO RECOVERY DRIVERS WANTED.**

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport cancer patients to and from treatments. If you can spare a few hours each month, please consider volunteering to drive somebody along the Road to Recovery. For more information about volunteering or if you are a cancer patient in need of the service, call La Wanda Hamm, 263-7827.

☐ **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families.

Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected.

For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

## Bulletin board

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

**Monday**  
Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. People 50 and older are invited to participate. Call 268-4721.

The public is invited to the evening Lions Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. at La Posada.

Howard County ARC meets at 806 East Third, Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674.

Big Spring Chapter and Council RAM meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic building, 22 1/2 Main.

District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.

**Tuesday**  
Intermediate Line Dance classes meets at 9 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Center. Call 267-1628 for more information.

Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard County Cactus Room.

VFW Post 2013 meets at the VFW Hall at 7 p.m., 500 Driver Rd.

Coahoma Senior Citizens luncheon is at 11 a.m. in Coahoma Community Center.

Big Spring chapter 67 Order of Eastern Star meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

Sheriff's Posse is held at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on Andrews Highway.

American Red Cross, Canterbury S. meets at 1600 Lancaster at 7 p.m.

Alzheimer's Association Greater West Texas chapter meets at 2 p.m. in Howard County Library, 500 S. Main in the conference room.

Gospel singing at Kentwood Activity Center. Guest singers from from Midland and Colorado City starts at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

**Friday**  
AMBUCS meets at noon at La Posada.

## Correction

The Tumbleweed Smith Web site in Friday's story was incorrectly identified as www.tumbleweed.com. The correct Web address is www.tumbleweedsmith.com.

## Weather

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph..Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the mid 60s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the upper 60s.

Thursday through Friday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.Highs in the mid 60s.

## Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 5-6-24-35-37.  
Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Friday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 19-23-26-29. Bonus Ball: 11.  
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.  
Prize: \$250,000.  
Estimated jackpot for Tuesday night drawing: \$200,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-4-3

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10¢ yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$13.25 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Skate Zone employee Brandon Greathouse, right, explains some of the features of a particular skateboard to 14-year-old John Laurence of Abilene. Many area small business owners reported a slow shopping turnout on Friday.

### SHOPPING

Continued from Page 1A

"We're pretty close to last year," said Martha Loveless, store manager of Burke's, located inside the Big Spring Mall. "We've been non-stop since about 11 a.m. We just love it. Being our second year, we didn't think we'd have as many customers, but we really have."

"I got to work at 4:30 a.m. and there were already people waiting," said Jesse Armendariz, assistant manager for Wal-Mart, 201 W. Marcy. The aisles at Wal-Mart were packed with people pushing baskets overflowing with special sale items on electronic

goods, houseware items, bicycles, games and clothing.

While the bigger stores reported high traffic shopping, many of the town's small, privately-owned businesses told a different story.

"We never do well the day after Thanksgiving," said Gregg Brooks, owner of Blum's Jewelry in the mall.

Brooks, whose business rakes in about a third to half of its profits during the Christmas season, said the upswing usually hits the last few weeks of the season and especially in the last week.

National economic trends are not much of an indicator on how his business will fair, Brooks

added. "Last year, the national economy was down and our business went way up," he said.

Other small businesses owners are just hoping to match last year's sales.

"We're doing real good today, but we're down a little by half," said Melissa Halfmann, owner of Halfmann's Creations on Gregg Street. "This whole season we're down."

Keith Chaney, manager of Chaney's Jewelry at 1706 Gregg St., also reported expected slow sales.

"We usually get most of our business about five days before Christmas," Chaney said. "We'll be lucky if we do the same

as last year."

Dana Dickson, owner of Skate Zone and the Urban Zone, both located in the mall, reported normal sales on Friday as she saw high customer traffic plow through both her stores.

"Sales are fair, but we're a specialty store," Dickson said. "We think the season is going to be great. We're getting lots of traffic though they are not buying so much. We expect it to pick up in the next two weeks and really pick up the last week of December."

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

### MAIL

Continued from Page 1A

December, packages will need to be sent by express mail if it has to be received by Dec. 25. Service in Big Spring is actually a two-day service instead of overnight, like in major metropolitan areas such as Houston or Dallas because of the transportation limitations.

Dale said among the most common mistakes that keep a package from arriving at its destination on time are incorrect addresses and zip codes.

"Incorrect addresses are probably the most common problem we see," said Dale. "We also have problems delivering packages that have the zip code wrong. It really plays an important part in the process, and with all of the automated equipment we have now, it can really slow it down."

### Salute to military

The salute to the military shown during the 2003 Pops in the Park celebration is available for those who would like a copy.

Available in DVD and video, copies of the salute can be purchased for \$20 by contacting Lane Bond at 263-4033, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 215 W. Third or the Big Spring Symphony office at 808 Scurry. Proceeds to go the symphony.

### HEALTHCARE

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Then people say they told me at the window that it would take five days, and it's been 10, and maybe they don't realize one digit was off, and that can cause a big delay in the delivery of that package."

Another common mistake that keeps parcels from reaching their destination is markings on the boxes, said Dale.

"If they have a package and it has symbols or words on the box that are identified as hazardous materials they need to make sure they blot them out or tape them off so the tape doesn't come off," said Dale. "They need to make sure they're secure. It's not so bad that the box has writing or pictures on it, but anything that would be considered hazardous or flammable need to be marked out."

"If it's not, they run the risk of it being returned

to them. Most packages now have to come across the counter, and the clerks will ask them if there's anything hazardous to make sure, and if they notice them on the box they'll notify the patron that they have to be covered up to be able to use the box."

While getting the package to its destination may be a major concern for most holiday shoppers, getting it there in one piece is something Dale said should be a serious consideration when it comes time to pack the items.

"Most of the breakage we see is because they're just not properly cushioned," he said. "There's the bubble wrap and other items that can be used to cushion the object. Also, a good sturdy box or carton is imperative, so it will stand up to

all of the movement through the mail system. You just really need to make sure your parcel is packaged as securely as possible.

"We have some tape and some boxes that we sell. We also have the bubble wrap and other packing items. The only thing we don't have are the really large boxes. I think the largest box we have is roughly 22 inches by 24 inches, but for most people's needs we should have what they're looking for."

For more information on package tracking and holiday schedules, visit the United States Postal Service online at www.usps.com.

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

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### VASCULAR CLINIC IN BIG SPRING

**DO YOU HAVE FREQUENT LEG OR ARM PAIN?  
DO YOUR LEGS HURT WHEN YOU WALK?**

Approximately 8-12 million people in the United States suffer from Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) similar to heart disease in that the arteries supplying the body with blood become narrowed by the build up of cholesterol, blocking the flow of blood to specific areas of the body. PVD is most common in those over the age of 50. Although the cause of PVD is not known, factors such as smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and a family history of heart disease or diabetes contribute to the development of PVD.

For early detection, Dr. Robert McFaul and his staff are interested in offering a vascular clinic on Fridays. For an appointment, please call (432) 263-6018.

**Robert B. McFaul, D.O., FACOS**  
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1501 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (Malone & Hogan Clinic)  
Big Spring, Texas 79720  
Tel: (432) 263-6018

### Blood drive slated on Tuesday

The Big Spring High School Student Council is sponsoring a blood drive for United Blood Drive Services from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday in the high school auditorium foyer.

Donors must be at least 17, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. They must also bring a list of all medications they are presently taking and be prepared to show identification.

To make an appointment, call the high school office 264-3641.

ment, call the high school office 264-3641.

### Foster families

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.

### AIDS

Continued from Page 1A

care for our veterans with HIV/AIDS for the past 20 years. Finally, we all look forward to the day when medical care and science can conquer this epidemic," she added.

VACO has collected electronic materials for field use that include HIV/AIDS resources, ideas for activities, marketing and support, a poster and tentcard, that can be printed or copied. To access these materials, go to the Public Health Strategic Health Care Group Intranet Web site at <http://vawww.vha.va.gov/phshcg/WAD03/overview.htm> or the Internet Web site at

<http://www.pub-lichealth.va.gov/WAD03/overview.htm>.

"We hope that VA staff concerned with HIV/AIDS will find this material useful," Hanslik said.

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288  
Margaret Moore Whitefield, 89, died Wednesday. Graveside services were at 11:00 AM Saturday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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Wed-Sun 2:50  
\*Bad Santa (R)  
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Christmas in the 80's brought us Cabbage Patch Dolls and the Gift of Jesus

Christmas in the 90's brought us Tickle Me Elmo and the Gift of Jesus

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Old-Fashioned-Congregational Caroling Service

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Staff Writer  
After a long wait with Kellogg School District on whether to investigate against "The Mission," Kingston here last week issued an issue against Trustee the Saturday rest of the mission tency & Kellogg pursue major o. In other district that won't equipment. "This National

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Chuck Williams** Publisher  
**John A. Moseley** Managing Editor  
**Susanne Reed** General Manager  
**Bill McClellan** News Editor

OUR VIEWS

# Prescription drug bill is, at the least, a very hopeful sign

The prescription drug Medicare bill that Congress has approved and President Bush has promised he'll sign is anything but perfect. Few laws passed by Congress are. They almost all seem to need a little tweaking... sometimes quite a bit of tweaking.

But the Medicare reform Congress has given us is at least a start.

Maybe not a good start, but a start nonetheless. Certainly, the federal government has taken its own sweet time in trying to do something about the dilemma many senior citizens face — in some cases having to decide whether to buy medicine or food — but it has taken a step.

And for that, on this weekend following Thanksgiving, we perhaps must be thankful.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has the best take on the issue, having taken out full page ads in major newspapers touting the bill's benefits, claiming it's at least a start.

The bill will cost the taxpayers \$400 billion over the next 10 years, and does use taxpayer subsidies to allow private insurers to offer Medicare-style policies. It creates an account in which seniors would pay a certain amount per month and for that fee they would receive discounted prescriptions, and allows tax-free contributions of as much as \$5,000 annually and tax-free withdrawals from the account to pay for medical costs.

But Congress did not address the core issue, which simply put, is the high cost of prescription medications. That's an issue that affects all of us, not just senior citizens.

We can only hope our elected officials will come to grips with that issue and in some way avoid the considerable influence the drug lobby has heretofore wielded.

For the time being, however, we should be grateful for at least a little relief for the nation's elderly population.

Yet at a time when most businesses find that medical insurance plans that include prescription programs for their employees have become the third highest cost of doing business, we believe that it is imperative that Congress and President Bush address a problem we all face.

## LETTER POLICIES

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

## HOW TO CONTACT US

- The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.
- In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:
- In person at 710 Scurry St.
  - By telephone at 263-7331
  - By fax at 264-7205
  - By e-mail to Managing Editor John Moseley at jmoseley@crcom.net or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net
  - By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

# Hammering fellow Republicans

During 14 years in the Michigan Legislature and 11 years in Congress, Rep. Nick Smith had never experienced anything like it. House Speaker Dennis Hastert and HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, in the wee hours last Saturday morning, pressed him to vote for the Medicare bill. But Smith refused. Then things got personal.



ROBERT NOVAK

Smith, self-term-limited, is leaving Congress. His lawyer son Brad is one of five Republicans seeking to replace him from a GOP district in Michigan's southern tier. On the House floor, Nick Smith was told business interests would give his son \$100,000 in return for his father's vote. When he still declined, fellow Republican House members told him they would make sure Brad Smith never came to Congress. After Nick Smith voted no and the bill passed, Duke Cunningham of California and other Republicans taunted him that his son was dead meat.

The bill providing prescription drug benefits under Medicare would have been easily defeated by Republicans save for the most efficient party whip operation in congressional history. Although President Bush had to be awakened to collect the last two votes, Majority Leader Tom DeLay and Majority Whip Roy Blunt made it that close. "DeLay the Hammer" on Saturday morning was hammering fellow conservatives.

Last Friday night, Rep. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania hosted a

dinner at the Hunan restaurant on Capitol Hill for 30 Republicans opposed to the bill. They agreed on a scaled-down plan devised by Toomey and Rep. Mike Pence of Indiana. It would cover only seniors without private prescription drug insurance, while retaining the bill's authorization of private health savings accounts. First, they had to defeat their president and their congressional leadership.

They almost did. There were only 210 yes votes after an hour (long past the usual time for House roll calls), against 224 no's. A weary George W. Bush, just returned from Europe, was awakened at 4 a.m. to make personal calls to House members.

Republicans voting against the bill were told they were endangering their political futures. Major contributors warned Rep. Jim DeMint they would cut off funding for his Senate race in South Carolina. A Missouri state legislator called Rep. Todd Akin to threaten a primary challenge against him.

Intense pressure, including a call from the president, was put on freshman Rep. Tom Feeney. As speaker of the Florida House, he was a stalwart for Bush in his state's 2000 vote recount. He is the Class of 2002's contact with the House leadership, marking him as a future party leader. But now, in those early morning hours, Feeney was told a "no" vote would delay his ascent into leadership by three years — maybe more.

Feeney held firm against the bill. So did DeMint and Akin. And so did Nick Smith. A steadfast party regular, he has pioneered private Social Security accounts. But he could not swallow the unfunded

liabilities in this Medicare bill. The 69-year-old former dairy farmer this week was still reeling from the threat to his son. "It was absolutely too personal," he told me. Over the telephone from Michigan Saturday, Brad Smith urged his father to vote his conscience.

However, the leadership was picking off Republican dissenters, including eight of 13 House members who signed a Sept. 17 letter authored by Toomey pledging to support only a Medicare bill very different from the measure on the floor Saturday. That raised the Republican total to 216, still two votes short.

The president took to the phone, but at least two Republicans turned him down. Finally, Bush talked two Western conservatives — Reps. Trent Franks of Arizona (a ninth defector from the Toomey letter) and Butch Otter of Idaho — into voting "yes." They were warned that if this measure failed, the much more liberal Democratic bill would be brought up and passed.

The conservative Club for Growth's Steve Moore, writing to the organization's directors and founders, said defeat of the Medicare bill "would have been a shot across the bow at the Republican establishment that conservatives are sick of the spending splurge that is going on inside Washington these last few years." Hammering the conservatives to prevent that may have been only a short-term triumph.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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# Horrible, last-minute, life-changing bills

Wow! Not one, but two huge, horrible, last-minute life-changing bills, and the second is even worse than the first! Record-shattering bad legislation immediately eclipsed by record-shattering bad legislation. These Republicans have talent: It is not easy to do this much damage to people's lives with a straight face and that unctuous air of piety.



MOLLY IVINS

I like the timing, too — slipped that Medicare reform bill through just in time for the drug companies, the insurance companies and the HMOs to give loud hosannas around their Thanksgiving tables. Let us hear their hymns of praise, psalms, benedictions and blessings upon the Republican Party rise from their groaning and appreciative boards forever, amen.

Oh, and as for you senior citizens who believed that amusing little claim that you would all benefit from this bill — suckers! According to Public Citizen, pharmaceutical companies have given \$44 million since 1999 — 78 percent to Republicans, 22 percent to Democrats — and spent millions more hiring an army of lobbyists that physically outnumbers the 535 members of Congress. The Health Reform Program of Boston University estimates that of the bill's \$400 billion price tag, \$139 billion will go to increase drug-company profits over eight years, a 38 percent increase in what is already the world's most profitable industry.

But forget about the Medicare bill — it won't take effect until 2006 anyway, so you won't even notice what it does til then. Regard the even more amazing energy bill. In case you haven't been keeping up (and you do have to race to keep up), there is a gaso-

line additive called MTBE that has polluted groundwater across the country. So naturally, the Republicans have put in a provision that would limit the liability of the manufacturers of MTBE — that means you can't sue them for ruining the water — and the bill would give the companies up to \$2 billion in federal aid. Congratulations! That means you, the users of MTBE-polluted water across the nation, will get to pay for cleaning it up.

This is an amazing energy bill because it does not: A) reduce our dependence on foreign oil, B) provide significant new energy sources, C) create many jobs, D) improve the grid system so we won't have more blackouts, E) promote energy efficiency or conservation or F) do anything about global warming.

BUT, it will cost at least \$20 billion in subsidies to fossil fuel companies. Those poor li'l oil, gas, coal and nuclear companies like Exxon/Mobil and General Electric need our help — this is compassionate conservatism.

We would, of course, tell you who wrote this abomination, except Dick Cheney, who headed the task force, doesn't think any of us should know where this law came from, and the Republicans who have been working on it in secret for months met in secret. Democrats were not even admitted to the committee meetings.

The environmental groups are still going through it, finding new horrors hidden away. Greenwire reports, "Section 349 would remove the discretion of the Interior Department to deny applications to drill amid onshore and offshore lands — upon receiving an application to drill in a leased area, the department would have 10 days to determine whether additional information is required to grant a permit. Once the information is provided, the department must approve the application regardless of whether drilling would damage the environment."

I like that. Suppose the additional information required shows the company to be a notorious polluter, responsible for numerous previous spills and even blowouts. Nothing to be done.

The Natural Resources Defense Council reports that the bill rolls back environmental protections to boost oil and gas drilling on American's last remaining wild lands and open spaces. It also means eliminating consumer protections and subsidizing construction of new nuclear plants most Americans don't want, and it means exempting polluters from laws that ensure clear water and healthy air. A provision seriously weakening the Clean Air Act was inserted at the last minute behind closed doors.

And the sin of omission once again outweighs all the sins of commission, even in this stupefyingly bad bill. Our economy wastes more energy than any other country, perhaps as much as half of our total energy. This bill does nothing to encourage energy efficiency or fuel economy standards. The simplest, cheapest thing we can do about energy is save it — but of course if we conserve energy and make our cars more efficient, that means lower profits for oil, gas, coal and nuclear industries.

No wonder the energy companies have given over \$71 million in contributions to politicians, over 80 percent to Republicans, since 1999. They're getting a \$20 billion return on that little investment just in direct subsidies, and there is much more in the bill in indirect subsidies. Folks, it is time to get serious about fixing this system.

To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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## Oil company suit: CISD takes no action

By LYNDEL MOODY  
Staff Writer

After a 30-minute closed session meeting with representatives of Perry & Kellogg LLP, Coahoma Independent School District trustees took no action on whether to hire the law firm to investigate and possibly pursue claims against various major oil companies.

"The item is still open for discussion," said Superintendent Dr. Bill Kingston. "We did not have everybody here last meeting. We will address that issue again at a later date."

Trustees met with representatives of the San Antonio-based law firm Thursday before they headed into the rest of meeting.

In September, Howard County commissioners agreed to enter into a contingency fee agreement with the Perry & Kellogg to investigate and possibly pursue common law claims against major oil companies for alleged underpayment on hydrocarbon mineral interests, including oil and gas.

In other business, Kingston said the district is pursuing a grant opportunity that would fund the purchase of fitness equipment.

"This is a program sponsored by the National School Fitness Foundation,"

Kingston explained. "They have a grant available to school districts all over the United States to provide fitness equipment to help students become more physically fit."

"I think this is a great opportunity for schools," Kingston continued. "The way this works is that we purchase the equipment and they reimburse us."

If the district qualifies for the program, Kingston said, Coahoma ISD will consider making the equipment available to Coahoma residents outside regular school hours.

In other business, trustees approved:

- The hiring of Phyllis Moore as a third grade teacher at Coahoma Elementary.

- Casting 614 votes for Eddy Course in the Howard County Appraisal District Board of Directors election.

- An agreement with the General Land Office and Reliant Energy to provide electrical power to the district.

- An agreement with the American Red Cross to provide short-term emergency shelter for natural disaster victims.

- A quit claim deed to Michelle Grace for property in the Sand Springs area.

- The district's technology plan for 2003-2007.

## Speech, debate team performs well

Special to the Herald

The Big Spring High School Speech and Debate Team continued to do well by winning the San Angelo Central Texas Forensic Association Qualifying Tournament last weekend. The win marks the fourth time in the past four tournaments that the squad from Big Spring has won the first place sweepstakes trophy.

Leading the Steers this week was junior Manoj Thangam. He won foreign extemporaneous speaking, original oratory and varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate. He also placed second in impromptu speaking and was the tournament's top speaker.

Not to be outdone was Logan Churchwell. This third-year team member placed first in United States Extemp, sixth in original oratory, and was

a semi-finalist in cross-examination debate with his partner James Clark.

Clark also placed sixth in Original Oratory and sixth in United States extemp.

Other award winners for the Steers included: Brett Griffin, who placed first in novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Darryl Newberry, who was a varsity LD Debate quarterfinalist; and Sarah Vela, who placed first in prose interpretation and eighth in United States extemp.

"Everyone contributed," Speech Team Coach Jennifer Adams said. "There was not a single person on the vans this past weekend that didn't add something to our

overall sweepstakes total. We are proud of these students."

Other team members competing were Laura Fitzgibbons, Courtney Hecker, Angela Payne, Joy Seay, Matt Soto, Scott Thomas, Alex Urias and Heath Wilkerson.

Members from the Speech and Debate Team will be traveling to Alpine to compete in the Sul Ross State University UIL Practice Tournament on Dec. 5-6. The entire team will be back to work on Texas Forensic Association State Meet qualifications when they attend the Lubbock High School TFA Tournament on Dec. 12-13.

## Sands' Reid wins two in UIL elementary contest

HERALD Staff Report

Third grader Ryan Reid led the Sands Junior High/Elementary academic team by winning two events in the University Interscholastic League contest held Nov. 11 and Nov. 13 in Klondike.

Reid placed first in third-grade ready writing and spelling at the meet between six West Texas small schools - Sands, Grady, Klondike, Ira, Dawson County and Borden County.

Other first-place finishers were: first-grader Austin Blount, oral reading; fourth-grader Hayden Ware, number sense; fifth-grader Morgan Yarbrough, listening skills; fifth-grader Kelsea Moore, ready writing; sixth-grader Kimberly Wigington, ready writing; seventh-grader Logan Gaskins, maps, graphs and charts; and seventh-grader Richard Lucio, mathematics.

The following are results from the meet:

### First grade

- Oral reading, Austin Blount, first; George Elias, sixth.

### Second grade

- Creative writing, Cornelius Giesbrecht, second; Maria Gonzales, fifth.

### Third grade

- Music memory, team Ryan Reid, Jake Browne and Alma Martinez, fourth.

- Ready writing, Reid, first; Jennifer Franco, fourth.

- Spelling, Reid, first; Preston Zant, third; Browne, fifth; team Reid, Zant and Browne, first.

- Storytelling, Browne, fifth.

### Fourth grade

- Art memory, team Priscilla Ybarra, Zaira Pena, Hayden Ware and Michael

Gomez, second.

- Music memory, team Albert Ybarra, Ware, Pena and Priscilla Ybarra, second.

- Number sense, Ware, first; team, Ware, Albert Ybarra and Michael Gomez, first.

- Ready writing, Ware, fourth.

- Spelling, Ware, second; Pena, third; team Ware, Pena and Gomez, second.

### Fifth grade

- Art memory, team Landon Parker, Caleb Lester, Morgan Yarbrough and Celeste Hamilton, third.

- Listening skills, Morgan Yarbrough, first; Parker and Kelsea Moore, fifth; team Morgan Yarbrough, Parker and Moore, first.

- Maps, graphs and charts, team Parker, Morgan Yarbrough and Meagan Yarbrough, third.

- Music memory, team Hamilton, Meagan Yarbrough, Abby Pena, Moore and Quinton Solano, fifth.

- Number sense, Parker, fourth; team Parker, Morgan Yarbrough and Meagan Yarbrough, third.

- Ready writing, Kelsea Moore, first.

- Spelling, Meagan Yarbrough, second; Morgan Yarbrough, sixth; team Meagan Yarbrough, Morgan Yarbrough and Hamilton, second.

### Sixth grade

- Dictionary skills, Noemi Martinez, second.

- Listening skills, Kimberly Wigington, fourth; Eva Aguinaga, sixth; team Wigington, Aguinaga and Ashli Stockton, third.

- Maps, graphs, and charts, Wigington, third.

- Music memory, team Stockton and Aguinaga, fifth.

- Mathematics, Martinez, second; team Martinez, Wigington and Abril Garcia, second.

- Number sense, Wigington, fourth; Martinez, fifth; team Wigington, Martinez and Garcia, third.

- Oral reading, Stockton, fifth.

- Ready writing, Wigington, first.

- Spelling, Martinez, second; Wigington, sixth; team Martinez, Wigington and Garcia, second.

### Seventh grade

- Calculator, Mason Park, sixth; team Parker, Tamara Nichols and William Carson, third.

- Dictionary skills, Nichols, fourth; team Nichols, Logan Gaskins and Carson, third.

- Editorial writing, Nichols, third; Carson, sixth.

- Listening skills, Carson, second; Jesse McDonough, fifth; first team Carson, McDonough and Richard Lucio.

- Maps, graphs and charts, Gaskins, first; Parker, second; Nichols, fourth; first team Gaskins, Parker and Nichols.

- Mathematics, Lucio,

first; Gaskins, fifth; Nichols, fifth; team Lucio, Gaskins and Nichols, first.

- Modern oratory, Lucio, fifth.

- Number sense, Gaskins, fourth; team Gaskins, Parker and Lucio, second.

- Oral reading, Brittini Blagrave, fifth; Carson, sixth.

- Ready writing, Nichols, third; Blagrave, sixth.

- Science, Parker, second; Carson, fifth; team Parker, Carson and Gaskins, third.

- Spelling, Gaskins, second; Miranda Gutierrez, fifth; team Gaskins, Gutierrez and Carson, second.

### Eighth grade

- Impromptu speaking, Mary Rogers, fifth.

- Maps, graphs and charts, Ronnie Peacock, sixth.

- Science, Peacock, fifth.

LET'S REMEMBER  
*Together*

For some, it has been a difficult year and the holidays—traditionally a time of celebration—can magnify a tragedy or loss. We've found that remembering a loved one with a special tribute or a memorial service often helps families work through difficult times. If you have lost a loved one, please join us for our holiday program and we'll take a moment to remember and celebrate that life... together.

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Funeral Home & Crematory

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*What:* Service of Remembrance  
*When:* Sunday, December 7  
2:00 p.m.  
*Where:* Nalley-Picke & Welch  
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*Who:* Rev. Ken McMeans will  
have words of comfort to  
families who have lost a  
loved one during the year.  
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will be served.

RSVP: to Nalley-Picke & Welch  
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by Wednesday, December 3

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# Bush was ready to pull plug on Baghdad visit if word leaked out

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE (AP) — Three hours from landing on a high-risk visit to Baghdad, President Bush was most anxious about keeping it a secret.

“I was fully prepared to turn this baby around, come home,” Bush said later aboard Air Force One. To everyone’s amazement the secrecy held.

The world did not learn that Bush had spent 2 1/2 hours in a Thanksgiving Day visit to troops in Baghdad until his jumbo jet was again in the air, flying back to the United States, where he arrived early Friday, making it back to his ranch in Texas shortly before day-break.

As the president was cheering up soldiers in a mess hall in Baghdad, newscasters back home were reporting that he was enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with his family at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. That was what reporters had been told by White House officials.

Bush said he thought Americans would be understanding about the deception because it was important for soldiers at risk to know that the commander in chief and the country supported them and appreciated their sacrifices.

He told reporters that Americans understand that if the trip had been announced “it would have

put me in harm’s way. It would have put others in harm’s way, including yourselves.”

Speaking to reporters in Crawford on Friday, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, who accompanied the president to Baghdad, said the troops’ reaction, “the total surprise and the kind of wonder, made the whole thing worth it.”

She dismissed the idea that some of the administration’s critics might deem the trip a political stunt.

“Let the chips fall where they may,” Rice said. “But for the American people, I don’t care what your party, they know that the president of the United States, as commander in chief, going to see these troops is an important step.”

The bold nature of the trip, with television networks broadcasting the news on a day when most Americans were at home with families watching football or parades, could give Bush a PR boost at a time of steadily increasing casualties among U.S. troops and polling that shows postwar Iraq becoming more of a liability for the president.

Behind the trip were weeks of top-secret planning, doubts and last minute questions. It began in mid-October when chief of staff Andy Card asked Bush whether he would be interested in going to Baghdad for the

holiday.

“Yes, I would,” Bush replied. “Except I don’t want to go if it puts anyone in harm’s way. I said it’s very essential I understand all aspects of the trip, starting with whether or not we could get in and out safely.”

If word leaked out of the trip, Air Force One could become a prized target for terrorists and Saddam Hussein loyalists.

Bush said he was “the biggest skeptic of all” about whether the trip could be pulled off. He questioned military commanders and the civilian administrator in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, and even sat down with the pilot of Air Force One, Col. Mark Tillman, to go over details.

Three hours from Baghdad, Bush still was

concerned about secrecy.

He questioned his secret service agents and they checked with officials on the ground. No leaks. Bush said he had been prepared to pull the plug if the secret were out.

Air Force One, with its lights off and window shades pulled down, landed in darkness. Bush’s motorcade from the plane sped across the unlit tarmac at Baghdad airport, to a mess hall where 600 soldiers were waiting impatiently for Thanksgiving dinner.

Bremer told the soldiers it was time to read a Thanksgiving message from the president, a task reserved for the most senior official present.

“Is there anybody back there more senior than us?” Bremer said, standing alongside Lt. Gen.

Ricardo Sanchez, commander of coalition forces in Iraq.

With that, Bush stepped from behind the stage and electrified the crowd.

“I was just looking for a warm meal somewhere,” he joked to the cheering crowd.

Addressing troops from the 1st Armored Division and the 82nd Airborne, and other units, Bush said he brought a message from home: “We thank you for your service. We’re proud of you and America stands solidly behind you.”

Bush said the terrorists and insurgents were testing America’s resolve and “they hope we will run” from Iraq.

“We did not charge hundreds of miles into the heart of Iraq, pay a bitter cost of casualties, defeat a

ruthless dictator and liberate 25 million people only to retreat before a band of thugs and assassins,” the president said.

The remarks brought the soldiers to their feet.

“It was a pleasant surprise,” said Master Sgt. Michael Johnson of Turlock, Calif.

“They had us waiting so long I started to get (mad). But it’s not so often you get to meet a president.”

Bush served mashed potatoes for 10 minutes and then ducked into a meeting with national security adviser Rice, along with Bremer, Sanchez and four members of the Iraqi Governing Council.

Five reporters, five photographers and a camera crew and producer, sworn to secrecy, accompanied the president on the trip.

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## Woman trampled in rush at Wal-Mart Supercenter

ORANGE CITY, Fla. (AP) — A mob of shoppers rushing for a sale on DVD players trampled the first woman in line and knocked her unconscious as they scrambled for the shelves at a Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Patricia VanLester had her eye on a \$29 DVD player, but when the siren blared at 6 a.m. Friday announcing the start to the post-Thanksgiving sale, the 41-year-old was knocked to the ground by the frenzy of shoppers behind her.

“She got pushed down, and they walked over her like a herd of elephants,” said VanLester’s sister, Linda Ellzey. “I told them, ‘Stop stepping on my sister! She’s on the ground!’”

Ellzey said some shoppers tried to help VanLester, and one employee helped Ellzey reach her sister, but most people just continued their rush for deals.

“All they cared about was a stupid DVD player,” she said Saturday. Paramedics called to the

store found VanLester unconscious on top of a DVD player, surrounded by shoppers seemingly oblivious to her, said Mark O’Keefe, a spokesman for EVAC Ambulance.

She was flown to Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach, where doctors told the family VanLester had a seizure after she was knocked down and would likely remain hospitalized through the weekend, Ellzey said. Hospital officials said Saturday they did not have any information on her condition.

“She’s all black and blue,” Ellzey said. “Patty doesn’t remember anything. She still can’t believe it all happened.”

Ellzey said Wal-Mart officials called later Friday to ask about her sister, and the store apologized and offered to put a DVD player on hold for her.

Wal-Mart Stores spokeswoman Karen Burk said she had never heard of a such a melee during a sale.

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## Woman escapes abduction in Fertile, Minn., 45 miles from North Dakota disappearance site

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

**FERTILE, Minn.** — Less than a week after a North Dakota college student disappeared from the shopping mall where she worked, a young woman leaving work at a store 45 miles away was abducted, but was able to escape, police say.

Polk County Sheriff Mark LeTexier said it was too soon to connect the kidnapping late Friday in Fertile and the suspected abduction Nov. 22 in Grand Forks, N.D., of Dru Sjodin, a University of North Dakota student. But he said investigators were converging on this northwestern Minnesota community of fewer than 1,000 people.

"They'll be working 100 miles an hour on this," he said.

The young woman, who was not identified, told authorities she was walking to her car after leaving work at a Hartz grocery store Friday when a man abducted her, LeTexier said.

She was able to escape when his car slowed down, and she ran to a

nearby house to get help, authorities said.

She said the vehicle smelled of cigarette smoke, but she apparently was not able to give police a further description of the man or the car, which sped away.

"She just ran," LeTexier said. "She didn't look back."

The sheriff said the woman received medical attention. He did not elaborate on any injuries.

Sjodin had finished her shift at Victoria's Secret at the Columbia Mall in Grand Forks and had gone shopping just before she disappeared. Her boyfriend told authorities he was talking to her on her cell phone when the conversation abruptly ended after she said "Oh my God" or "Oh no."

Sjodin's car was found in the mall parking lot, and police have said there was no sign of a struggle.

The search for Sjodin has been centered on Fisher, Minn., about 10 miles east of Grand Forks, where a call was traced to her cell phone.

# Police link two highway shootings; aren't able to rule out possible ties

By JOHN MCCARTHY

Associated Press Writer

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — It's a nightmare scenario: someone taking potshots at drivers going by a five-mile stretch of highway. One woman is dead, and Mary Hammond isn't risking it. The 46-year-old and her husband are using back roads to get to work. "I've got two kids to raise," she explained.

Authorities said for the first time Friday they had linked the Nov. 25 death of Gail Knisley to at least one of 10 other reports of shots fired at vehicles along the same highway — and they said the shooting was not an accident. Police won't use the term "sniper," but they say more of the shootings could be connected.

"You just can't believe someone would be sick enough to be shooting at cars," Missi Knisley, Knisley's daughter-in-law, said Friday. "It's a nightmare."

Extra patrols have been assigned to the leg of the highway, but those who live, work and travel through the area are nervous.

"We're living in a bad time," acknowledged Helen Speakman, who lives near the highway.

She said she won't be bullied into changing her routine.

"You never know what's going to happen, no matter where you live," she said, speaking through

her storm door.

The first reported shooting on the southern section of Interstate 270 or in its immediate area was in May. A second occurred in August and the rest have been in the last

**"It didn't miss my face but a couple of inches at most. It was really luck on my part and ineptness on his part."**

William Briggs,  
Vietnam veteran

seven weeks. The shots have been fired at different times of day, piercing trucks, cars, vans and pickups, shattering windows and flattening tires — and killing Knisley.

The vehicles hit include a UPS delivery truck, a Coca-Cola truck and a horse trailer.

No one besides Knisley has been injured in the shootings.

Authorities have released few details, saying only that tests on the bullets connected two shootings and declining to speculate on the type of weapon. Police did not identify the shooting linked to Knisley's.

Authorities on Friday asked whoever is responsible to call the sheriff's office.

Chief Deputy Steve

Martin also advised the public to watch for changes in the behavior of friends and relatives and note if someone is missing work or appointments, shows excessive interest in the shootings or changes appearance.

It's unclear whether there is one shooter or more, Martin said.

He said authorities have received more than 150 tips. Department crime analysts also are reviewing this year's vandalism reports to see if any fit the pattern, police spokesman Sgt. Brent Mull said.

The stretch of highway in question runs through a sparsely populated area that includes woods frequented by hunters and people practicing target shooting and a few residential neighborhoods.

Knisley, a homemaker who lived about 40 miles away from Columbus, didn't like to drive in the city and was being chauffeured Tuesday by her friend Mary Cox. After Knisley's checkup following minor surgery on her nose, the two had planned to go to lunch and go Christmas shopping.

They were talking when they heard a pop.

"What was that? What was that?" Knisley, 62, said before slumping forward, according to the recording of Cox's 911 call.

Hours later, a GMC Jimmy was hit nearby, deputies said. The same

day a tractor-trailer driver for Coca-Cola Co. found a hole in the rear door of the trailer after making deliveries along I-270.

Four days earlier, Edward Cable was headed home to southern Ohio when he heard a noise in his minivan. He found a bullet hole and shell fragment about 16 inches behind the driver's seat.

Trucker William Briggs was hauling two empty trailers back from Roanoke, Va., about 11:30 p.m. on Oct. 19 when his driver's side window exploded.

Briggs had just entered I-270 from U.S. 23 and was in the center of the three westbound lanes. He kept driving, assuming he had been hit by a rock, and turned on his dome light to search for the stone but couldn't find it. A few minutes later, stopped at a truck terminal, he discovered the bullet.

"It didn't miss my face but a couple of inches at most," said Briggs, a Vietnam veteran from suburban Hilliard. "It was really luck on my part and ineptness on his part."

Briggs drove past the site of his shooting the next night and says he isn't afraid to travel the outerbelt.

"They didn't get me over there, they're not going to get me here," he said, referring to Vietnam.

"Being shot at once — the odds are astronomical it's going to happen twice."

## Jury deciding professor's fate

**LUBBOCK (AP)** — The FBI swept into this quiet college town the day after Dr. Thomas Butler reported 30 vials of plague — the Black Death — were missing from his lab and possibly stolen. President Bush was briefed out of concern that terrorists may have been involved.

"My only reason for reporting the missing vials was public safety," Butler, a senior Texas Tech University researcher, would later say. "I consider safety to be the most important thing."

But the FBI and federal prosecutors believe otherwise. The 62-year-old microbiologist has been in federal court most of this month, on trial for allegedly lying to investigators, smuggling plague samples into the country, defrauding Texas Tech out of hundreds of thousands of dollars and cheating on his taxes.

If convicted of just a few of the 69 counts, Butler faces several years in prison.

Yet it remains unclear — the case went to the jury last week with deliberations due to resume on Monday — what exactly

happened to those vials of plague.

Investigators ruled out terrorist involvement shortly after Butler reported the samples missing in January.

And Butler claims he doesn't know. He says the FBI coerced him into signing a statement in which he said he accidentally destroyed the samples.

One thing is certain, though: Even if he's acquitted, Butler's distinguished career battling the plague is in tatters. He's no longer allowed into his own lab, and Texas Tech is trying to fire him.

The reversal of fortune is stunning for a man whose reputation in the small field of plague research had been impeccable.

Butler's supporters in the scientific community — they are many and influential — think he's guilty of nothing more than bureaucratic misdeeds in mishandling plague samples and the complicated paperwork now required in a post-Sept. 11 United States.

They say he's being made a scapegoat.

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## IN BRIEF

### Area tournaments ready to tip off soon

Basketball season will get under way in earnest next week when two of the state's top small-school basketball tournaments begin.

In Garden City, 16 teams will compete in the Bearkat Classic beginning Dec. 4.

Forsan will be among the teams competing in the Borden County Tournament, which also begins Dec. 4.

### BSYBA registration set for Dec. 1-13

Registration for the Big Spring Youth Basketball League will run from Dec. 1-13 at the YMCA. Youths between the ages of 5 and 14 are eligible to participate.

Players will be divided into age groups based on the eligibility date of Aug. 1, 2004. The registration fee is \$20 per player. Financial assistance is available for those unable to afford the fee.

Boys and girls must participate in a skills evaluation and player draft on Dec. 20. Games will begin Jan. 17.

Adults interested in volunteering as a coach or referee should apply at the YMCA.

### Lady Steers to face Lamesa on Dec. 2

The Big Spring High School Lady Steers basketball team will square off against the Lamesa High School Lady Tors on Dec. 2 in Lamesa.

Big Spring is slated to tip off at 8 p.m. The Big Spring JV will begin play at 6:30 p.m.

### Quarterback Club to meet on Dec. 1

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will hold a meeting Dec. 1 at the BSHS Athletic Training Complex to begin preparations for the football banquet and to hold officer elections. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

### New classes now forming at YMCA

Registration for classes in gymnastics, swimming, martial arts and women's weights is now being held at the Big Spring Family YMCA.

Gymnastics classes include Kidnastics for preschoolers, ages 5 and younger, and regular gymnastics and tumbling classes for boys and girls 6 and older.

For more information contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

### Basketball officials needed for season

Basketball officials are needed for the upcoming season.

Persons interested in officiating local games this fall should contact Adam Rodriguez at 263-8731 (home) or 517-0300 (cell).

## ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule			
Nov. 29			
Event, Time	Station		
Spurs vs. Warriors, 9 p.m.	1490		
Nov. 30			
Event, Time	Station		
Torres vs. Falcons, 11:45 a.m.	94.3		
Dec. 1			
Event, Time	Station		
Spurs vs. Clippers, 9 p.m.	1490		
Dec. 2			
Event, Time	Station		
Mavericks vs. Wizards, 7 p.m.	1490		
Dec. 3			
Event, Time	Station		
Spurs vs. Lakers, 7 p.m.	1490		

## HC's Sykes inks deal with Jacksonville

By TOMMY WELLS  
Sports Editor

Jon Sykes took the road less traveled to the Division I basketball ranks. He didn't play high school basketball and wasn't heavily recruited.

In fact, if it wasn't for his mother, the Roswell High School standout probably wouldn't have even played at the college level. He was just looking to go to school at Howard College.

Fortunately for the Hawks, Pam Sweeney felt her son — tall 6-foot-9 of him — could play. Thus, while her son was attend-

ing orientation, she approached HC officials about giving her 6-foot-9 son a chance to try out. It's been a move that has helped both Sykes and the Hawks.

Sykes, who helped carry the Hawks to within a game of the national tournament last year, turned his mother's confidence into a Division I scholarship last week when he inked a deal with Jacksonville University in Florida for next season.

"I'm excited about signing," said Sykes, the first HC player to sign with a four-year school this year. "It's a really good opportunity with the coaching staff and

graduation rate there."

Beginning life as a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference's Jacksonville Dolphins will be a far cry from his start with the Hawks.

After getting permission to try out with former head coach Chris Jans, Sykes quickly became part of the team.

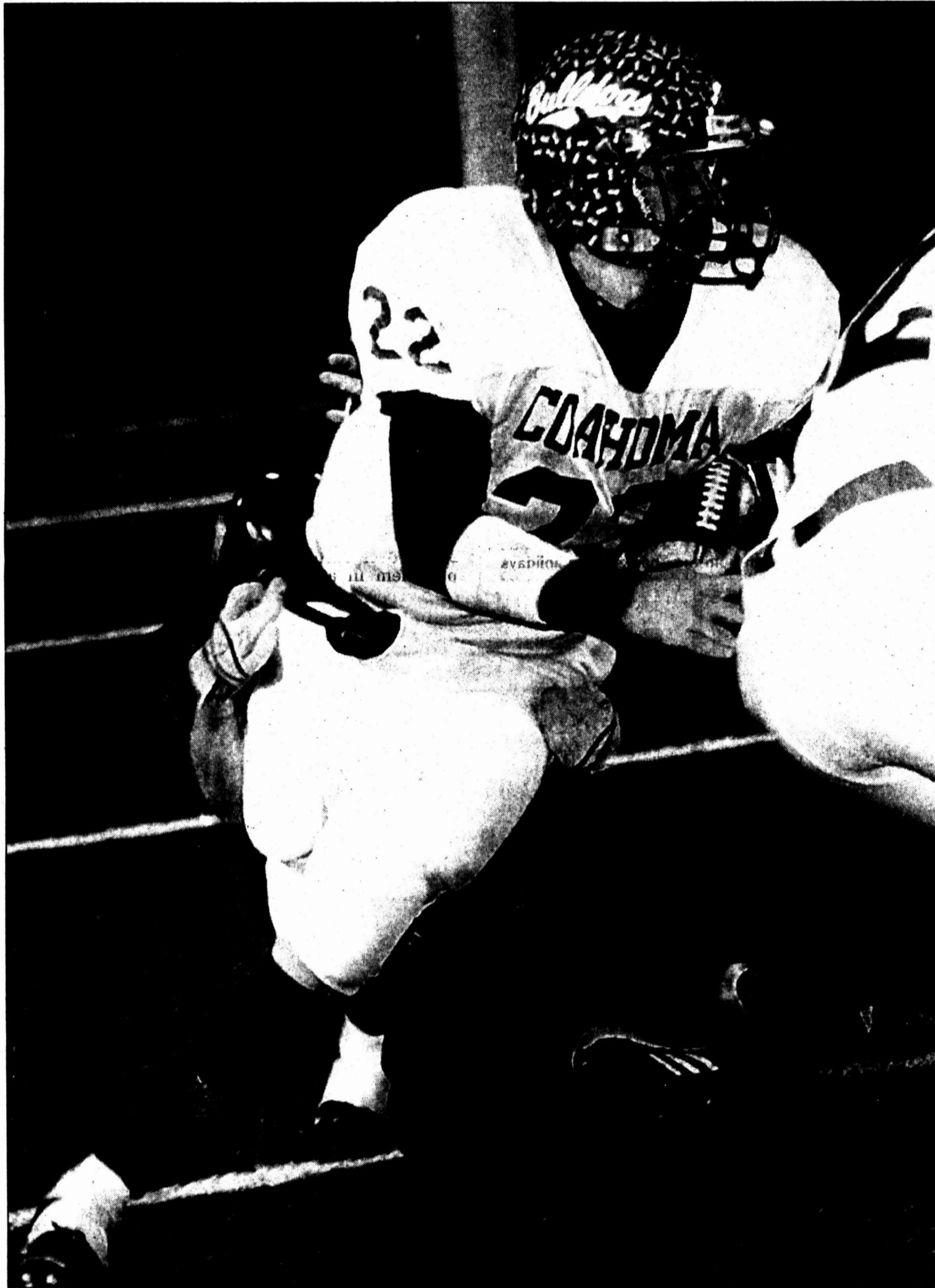
"I just knew someone that went to school here and this is where I wanted to go," he said. "I went to orientation and my mother went to meet with coach (Jans) and told them I was big and could play."

See SYKES, Page 9A



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooner  
HC sophomore Jon Sykes signed with Division I Jacksonville.

## Coahoma rally falls short



Coahoma's Kelby Kemper looks for a place to run after hauling in one of his 12 passes Friday night at Lowery Field. Kemper had 239 yards receiving in the Bulldogs' 35-27 loss to Panhandle in the Class 2A regional finals.

## Panhandle weathers CHS rally for wild win

By TOMMY WELLS  
Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — The Coahoma Bulldogs found themselves in a classic battle with the Panhandle Panthers Friday night at Lowery Field that resembled a gunfight in the Old West. Two teams with quick-strike offenses and more than enough big guns.

Unfortunately for Coahoma, the Panther had one bullet too many.

The Panhandle Panthers used two first quarter turnovers to build a huge lead that enabled them to weather an impressive second-half Coahoma rally and escape with a shaky 35-27 victory in the regional round of the Class 2A playoffs.

The game turned out to be an aerial war as the two teams combined for 82 passes and 857 total yards.

With the victory, Panhandle improved to 13-0 and will advance to face either Holliday or Sonora in the state quarterfinals this week. Coahoma finished its season at 10-3.

Advancing was the farthest thing from the Panthers' minds in the second half, however. It more of a fight to just survive the Bulldogs' high-octane offense. Coahoma managed to score twice in the fourth quarter and put itself within striking distance with 2:27 left when Coahoma quarterback Sam Tindol took the snap from center and worked his way into the end zone from three yards out. Tindol passed to Kelby Kemper for the

See COAHOMA, Page 10A

## Dodge City upend HC women in first round

By TOMMY WELLS  
Sports Editor

The Dodge City Community College Lady Conquerors staged a late second-half charge Friday afternoon and claimed a 59-55 win over the Howard College Lady Hawks in the opening round of the Lady Conqs Thanksgiving Classic in Dodge City, Kan.

With the setback, Howard College fell into a second round showdown against Connor State.

Howard College, which has dropped four of its last five games, stayed close throughout the con-

test thanks to solid performances from Desiree Bostice and Karen Valentine.

Bostice finished the contest with a game-high 17 points. Valentine, a sophomore forward, added 14 points.

Dodge City, now 8-0 on the year and ranked among the nation's top 35 teams, was led offensively by Elena Diaz's 11 points.

Howard College, which is scheduled to host Weatherford College in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Dec. 6, saw its season record slip to 7-6 overall.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooner  
Sophomore Karen Valentine goes for a loose ball during recent HC action.

## Schilling gives his OK to trade to BoSox

BOSTON (AP) — Arizona right-hander Curt Schilling accepted a trade to Boston after agreeing to a contract extension that could keep him with the Red Sox through the end of his career.

The teams agreed to the deal Monday, but the 37-year-old Schilling had to waive the no-trade clause in his current contract for it to go through.

The Red Sox sent Casey Fossum and righty Brandon Lyon to the Diamondbacks, along with minor league pitcher Jorge De La Rosa and a minor leaguer to be

named.

A baseball source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that Schilling's extension guarantees him \$25.5 million in 2005 and \$13 million in 2006. It also includes a \$13 million option for '07 that could become guaranteed if Schilling meets specified performance levels.

Last season, Schilling made just 24 starts and missed six weeks after breaking a bone in his right hand. He went 8-9 with a 2.95 ERA and struck out 194 batters in 168 innings.

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# Benson carries Texas to 46-15 rout of Aggies

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — The Texas Longhorns will be cheering for hated rival Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game. Just don't expect them to sing "Boomer Sooner" anytime soon.

No. 6 Texas solidified its place in the Bowl Championship Series standings Friday with a 46-15 win over Texas A&M. Now the Longhorns (10-2, 7-1 Big 12) want No. 1 Oklahoma to take care of business against Kansas State to prevent any Big 12 chaos in the BCS.

"If that's what it takes, I'll be a Sooners fan for a week," said cornerback Nathan Vasher, who tied the school record with his 17th career interception in the third quarter.

"I'm sitting here with one of the best teams in the nation," Texas coach Mack Brown said after the Longhorns moved a

step closer to at-large bids to the Fiesta of Rose bowls and the first BCS game in school history. The Longhorns are No. 6 in the BCS standings.

"Now we have to watch and hope the system works," he said.

Cedric Benson ran for 283 yards and four touchdowns for the Longhorns, who needed to throw only eight passes. He scored on runs of 21, 4, 8 and 35 yards.

Benson ran for 205 yards in the second half against the nation's 95th-ranked defense. He also broke the record of the most rushing yards against the traditionally tough Wrecking Crew defense, surpassing former Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams' 259 yards in Texas' 1998 win.

"I wasn't going to be denied today. It's a rivalry game," said

Benson, who has 1,277 yards this season.

"I sensed they were worn out after the first couple of plays in the first quarter," he said. "This wasn't the usual kind of A&M team."

Terrence Murphy led A&M (4-8, 2-6) with seven catches for 150 yards.

The Aggies' fourth straight loss in a series that dates to 1894 was a bitter end to a disappointing first season under coach Dennis Franchione.

A&M wanted a quick turnaround after last season's 6-6 finish under R.C. Slocum but stumbled badly down the stretch. The Aggies lost their last three games to finish with a losing record for the first time since 1982.

The Aggies wanted at least to spoil their rivals' BCS plans.

A&M players gathered in a

huddle at midfield during pregame warmups and exchanged taunts with several Longhorns before coaches from both teams broke it up. The crowd of 84,094 at Kyle Field furiously waved their "12th Man Towels" after the Aggies' second touchdown made it 20-15 in the third.

But every time A&M seized momentum with a turnover, Texas took it right back by creating one of its own.

Tim Van Zant's muffed punt return set up Benson's second touchdown and Vince Young's 2-point conversion run with 10:33 left in the third put Texas ahead 28-15.

"It takes the wind out of your sails," Aggies offensive tackle Alan Reuber said. "It wasn't the back breaker, but you can't have that many mistakes and keep up."

Vasher's interception in the end zone killed a third quarter drive that could have pulled the Aggies within a touchdown.

The Longhorns added two more touchdowns and a field goal late to blow it open as Benson pounded through tackles and churned up yards and time with every carry.

The easy finish mirrored Texas' fast start. Young threw a 60-yard touchdown pass to tight end David Thomas on Texas' second play from scrimmage.

Benson made it 14-0 when he capped a 95-yard, 13-play drive with his 21-yard burst through the middle, breaking two tackles 5 yards past the line.

Young set up the Aggies' first touchdown when he fumbled on the Texas 8. Reggie McNeal, who rotated at quarterback with Dustin Long, scored on an option keeper three plays later.



Gary Miller and the Big Spring Lady Steers will return from the Thanksgiving holidays with a heavy workload. The Lady Steers will begin the week by traveling to Lamesa for a bout Tuesday. After Lamesa, the BSHS girls will travel to San Angelo to participate in the San Angelo Invitational.

# Parcells still embarrassed after Cowboys' Thanksgiving debacle

IRVING (AP) — Bill Parcells isn't having trouble expressing his emotions about his team.

The Dallas Cowboys coach went from pure elation to bitter disappointment — in just five days.

With the traditional Thanksgiving Day game providing an opportunity to showcase all they have accomplished in their first season under Parcells, the Cowboys struggled in every aspect of the game and lost 40-21 to Miami.

"I'm a little embarrassed by this ... go out here on Thanksgiving in a national game and play like this," Parcells said. "We were just awful."

The Cowboys were coming off an impressive 24-20 win over Carolina that put them in a four-way tie for the NFC's best record. The coach was so choked up and proud after

Sunday's game that he couldn't express to his players just how much the win meant.

After the debacle against the Dolphins, he's not so sure about his team anymore.

"We've still got a lot on the line and I don't know whether we can do it or not," Parcells said. "I thought after last week we might be able to, but after this, I'm not sure. It's typical of being a young team, you get on a seesaw and sometimes you can't get off."

The Cowboys (8-4) have lost three of six since a five-game winning streak.

"We can't let this beat us into the ground," tight end Dan Campbell said. "This is the push now. This is it, this is what it is all about. We get to the month of December with a chance to get in the playoffs. Even after as

bad as we played, that's what we have."

Dallas plays three of its last four games on the road.

Philadelphia has a half-game lead over the Cowboys in the NFC East. The Eagles, who are at Carolina on Sunday, have won six straight since losing Oct. 12 at Dallas.

Parcells still won't say the "P-word", but he knows what the Cowboys have to do to make the playoffs.

"We've got to probably win two out of four to get into the tournament," he said, adding they will have to win three or maybe all four remaining games for their first division title in five seasons.

"We still have a good opportunity," he said, "but frankly if we don't play a lot better than we played, it won't make any difference."

# Mavericks not sure when Nowitzki will return

DENVER (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki didn't play against the Denver Nuggets on Friday night and the Dallas Mavericks aren't sure when the All-Star forward will return.

Nowitzki sprained his right ankle Wednesday night against Phoenix when he was called for an offensive foul in the first quarter. He had to be helped from the floor and was still walking with

crutches Friday morning.

Mavericks coach Don Nelson said Nowitzki won't play Saturday against Minnesota.

"Looks like a while to me," Nelson said. "He was on crutches today,

which isn't good."

Nowitzki is Dallas' leading scorer at 19.2 points per game and is second on the team with 7.3 rebounds.

# SYKES

Continued from Page 8A

"I was paying for college and it just worked out I could get a scholarship and play," he said.

Sykes, who played a key role last season in helping Howard College roll to a 29-4 record and a berth in the Region 5 Tournament championship game. He averaged approximately six points a game as a freshman.

This season under new head coach Jim Lewis, Sykes has helped power the Hawks to a solid start. Through Howard College's first five games, he is averaging eight points and ranks fourth in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference in shooting percentage at 62.5.

He is also second among conference players in rebounding, collecting 7.75 boards a night.

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COAHOMA

Continued from Page 8A

two-point conversion seconds later, pulling the Bulldogs to within eight, at 35-27.

Panhandle managed to slow the bleeding from there, however. Sy Slover, one of 20 seniors on the PHS roster, fielded a high hop on Coahoma's ensuing outside kick attempt.

Three plays later, Slover drove the final nail into the Bulldogs' season by turning a short pass into a first down at the Coahoma 42 with less than 40 seconds to play.

The Bulldogs, who rolled up more than 400 all-purpose yards in the contest, owned the initial 10 minutes of the fourth quarter. Trailing by a 28-13 margin at the end of the third, Coahoma reeled off two touchdowns in the initial 10 minutes of the fourth to set up the dramatic ending.

Clay Grant provided the spark the Bulldogs had been searching for with 7:18 to play by recovering a muffed snap on a punting attempt at the Panhandle 16.

Two plays later, Grant turned the opportunity into points by taking a handoff from Tindol on a draw play and raced into the end zone.

The Bulldogs, unfortunately, didn't get the bounce — or any bounce — they wanted on their ensuing sides try. The ball scooted along the artificial turf, traveling just six yards before Panhandle managed to fall on the ball.

Panthers tailback Erik Vance came up big from there. On a first-down play from the Coahoma 24, he raced 24 yards for a

touchdown. Vance's TD gave Panhandle a seemingly safe 35-19 lead with 4:41 remaining.

Coahoma had other plans.

After opening their ensuing drive with an incomplete pass, the Bulldogs shifted into high gear offensively. On second down, Tindol scrambled for a gain of 27 to the CHS 48. Four plays later, he lofted a 31-yard pass to Kemper, moving the ball to the Panhandle six. A

Brock Sherwood, held the upper hand in the early minutes of the third quarter. The Panthers took the second-half kickoff at its own 20 and marched 80 yards in 14 plays to build a 28-7 lead.

Panhandle receiver Caleb Coffman capped the Panthers' only scoring drive of the period by making a juggling catch in the end zone on a 3-yard pass from Sherwood.

The Bulldogs answered right back. Coahoma, on its next series, drove 71 yards in 10 plays to pull to within 28-13.

Tindol, who rushed for a team-high 86 yards on 26 tries, began the march with back-to-back runs of six and five yards. From there, he hooked up with Nick Molina and Lance Roberts with passes of nine and 15 yards, respectively, to move the ball to the Panhandle 36.

After a 22-yard strike to Kemper had moved the ball to the Panther 22, Tindol took the offense on his own shoulders and scrambled 20 yards to the PHS 2.

Two plays later, Tindol rifled a two-yard pass to Kemper in the corner of the end zone for a touchdown.

Overall, Tindol finished the game by completing 20-of-42 passes for 331 yards.

While the fourth quarter may have belonged to Coahoma, the decisive first 24 — courtesy of two first-quarter miscues by the Bulldogs — belonged to Panhandle.

Coahoma appeared to have gotten its offense untracked on its second series of the contest. Tindol hooked up with junior receiver Adrian Abrego for a 38-yard gain. Tragedy followed, however.



Coahoma quarterback Sam Tindol scrambles through the center of the line for a short gain during the third quarter Friday night. Coahoma finished the season at 10-3.

er. After making the reception, the Panhandle defensive backs managed to strip the ball free. The Panthers' Robert Hightower scooped up the ball at the 23.

Panhandle, the District 6-2A champion, didn't let the opportunity slip away. Seven plays later, running back Neil Packard turned a sweep around the left side into a 29-yard touchdown run and a 7-0 Panhandle lead with 4:19 to play in the first.

Coahoma came away with a big defensive play as well moments later. Kemper intercepted a Sherman pass late in the

frame and gave the Bulldogs a first down at their own 42.

The Bulldogs' didn't enjoy the same luck after the turnover, however. After a six-yard run by Tindol had moved the ball near midfield, Slover quieted the large Coahoma crowd by stepping in front of an errant pass and returning the ball 51 yards for a touchdown.

Slover's return staked Panhandle to a 14-0 lead with 15 seconds left in the first quarter. It didn't take long for Coahoma to answer back. Just three play after Slover's interception

Kemper on a short pass along the right sideline. Kemper turned the pass into a 73-yard touchdown run by working his way back across the field and down the Panhandle sidelines.

The Panthers, whose closest previous game had been a 33-23 win over Canadian in district play, regained the momentum on their ensuing drive. Panhandle went 68 yards in six plays before Sherwood found Slover in the end zone on a first-and-goal call from the CHS 2.

Sherman finished the game by completing 21-of-41 for 259 yards.

Panhandle 35, Coahoma 28

Summary table showing scores by quarter for both teams.

SCORES BY QUARTER

Detailed table showing scores by quarter for both teams.

TEAM STATISTICS

Summary table comparing team statistics like First Downs, Rush Yards, etc.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Table listing individual player statistics for both teams.

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# Joy to the world From The Living Christmas tree

By Lyndel Moody  
HERALD Staff Writer

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: Come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God:*

*It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." Psalm 100, verses 1-3.*

For years, Crossroads voices have lifted up to the heavens in songs of praise celebrating the birth of Christ in the traditional First United Methodist Church sponsored Living Christmas Tree.

This golden event turns silver this year as preparations for the 25th anniversary presentation schedules and practices are busily underway.

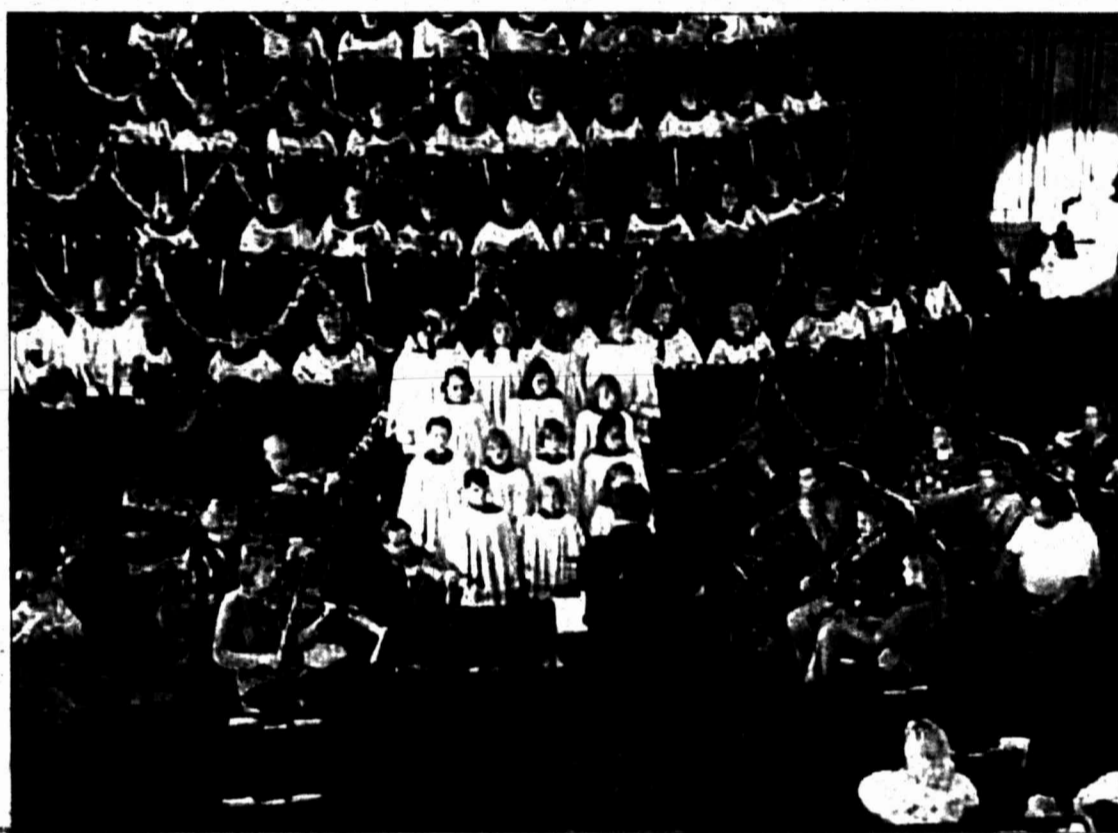
"We tried to encompass many different aspects of Christmas and the way people celebrate Christmas which led to our theme 'Come All Ye Faithful,'" said coordinat-

**This year's Living Christmas Tree will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7. Tickets can be obtained by calling the church office, 267-6394. First Methodist is located at 400 Scurry.**

ing director Laurie Churchwell.

Literally hundreds of volunteers are involved with the Christmas holiday production which includes a cast of more than 30 actors and 100 singers.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed for the production helping to organize, to negotiate the contracts of professional musicians, to build the set and towering tree that holds the 100 singers and to recruit vol-



File photos

The evening's presentations are elegantly and expressively performed by The Living Christmas Tree choralers and musicians.

unteer performers from around the community.

The production is a collaborative process, said

Minster of Music Jim Wright.

"This year collaboration went a little further because some of the idea of we had about the 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful' theme," Wright said.

Churchwell said this year's event was inspired by a particular arrangement of the song which has been performed by Celine Dion.

"It incorporates our organ, a symphony and a big choir," Churchwell said. "It's a perfect song to open our show with."

The tradition was born in 1979 and was undertaken by the church's minister of music Charles Parham at the time.

That year the tree held only 60 singers and Parham had difficulty finding singers to fill all the spots.

As the years progressed, the program began to grow, adding more spots for singers and more elaborate scenes.

The Dora Roberts Foundation subsidizes the project.

"Most of the funds come from the grant," Wright said. "That's why it's a gift to the community."

For this special presentation, many of those who

where responsible for the program getting off the ground, including the late Dorothy Garrett, will be honored during the event.

On average, more than 2,000 people attend the 1-hour and 15-minute presentation which is performed on Saturday and Sunday nights.

"The first 30 to 40 minutes of the performance is more family oriented," Churchwell said.

Although the church doesn't charge admission to the event, those attending must have a ticket because space is limited. During the Saturday, Dec. 6, rehearsal which begins at 2 p.m., the public is invited to attend.

"We do that because many people can't get out in the evening or maybe that's the only time they can come to see the show," Wright said.

"Normally we have 300 to 350 people to watch the rehearsal.

This year's Living Christmas Tree will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7. Tickets can be obtained by calling the church office, 267-6394.

First Methodist is located at 400 Scurry."

PAGE DESIGN/MARSHA ALLEN



File photo

Practice leads to perfection. From a previous performance Andra Rodden practices her harp repertoire for the performance.



### A history: the Christmas Tree

Why do we have a decorated Christmas Tree? In the 7th century a monk from CREDITON, Devonshire, went to Germany to teach the Word of God. He did many good works there, and spent much time in Thuringia, an area which was to become the cradle of the Christmas decoration industry.

Legend has it that he used the triangular shape of the Fir tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The converted people began to revere the Fir tree as God's Tree, as they had previously revered the Oak. By the 12th century it was being hung, upside-down, from ceilings at Christmastime in Central Europe, as a symbol of Christianity.

The first decorated tree was at Riga in Latvia, in 1510. In the early 16th century, Martin Luther is said to have decorated a small Christmas tree with candles, to show his children how the stars twinkled through the dark night.

In the mid 16th century, Christmas markets were set up in German towns, to provide everything from gifts, food and more practical things such as a knife grinder to sharpen the knife to carve the Christmas goose! At these fairs, bakers made shaped gingerbreads and wax ornaments for people to buy as souvenirs of the fair, and take home to hang on their Christmas trees.

The best record we have is that of a visitor to Strasbourg in 1601. He records a tree decorated with "wafers and golden sugar-twists (Barleysugar) and paper flowers of all colours." The early trees were biblically symbolic of the Paradise Tree in the Garden of Eden. The many food items were symbols of Plenty, the flowers, originally only red (for Knowledge) and White (for Innocence).

Tinsel was invented in Germany around 1610. At that time real silver was used, and machines were invented which pulled the silver out into the wafer thin strips for tinsel. Silver was durable, but tarnished quickly, especially with candlelight.

Attempts were made to use a mixture of lead and tin, but this was heavy and tended to break under its own weight so was not so practical. So silver was used for tinsel right up to the mid-20th century.

**Menus**

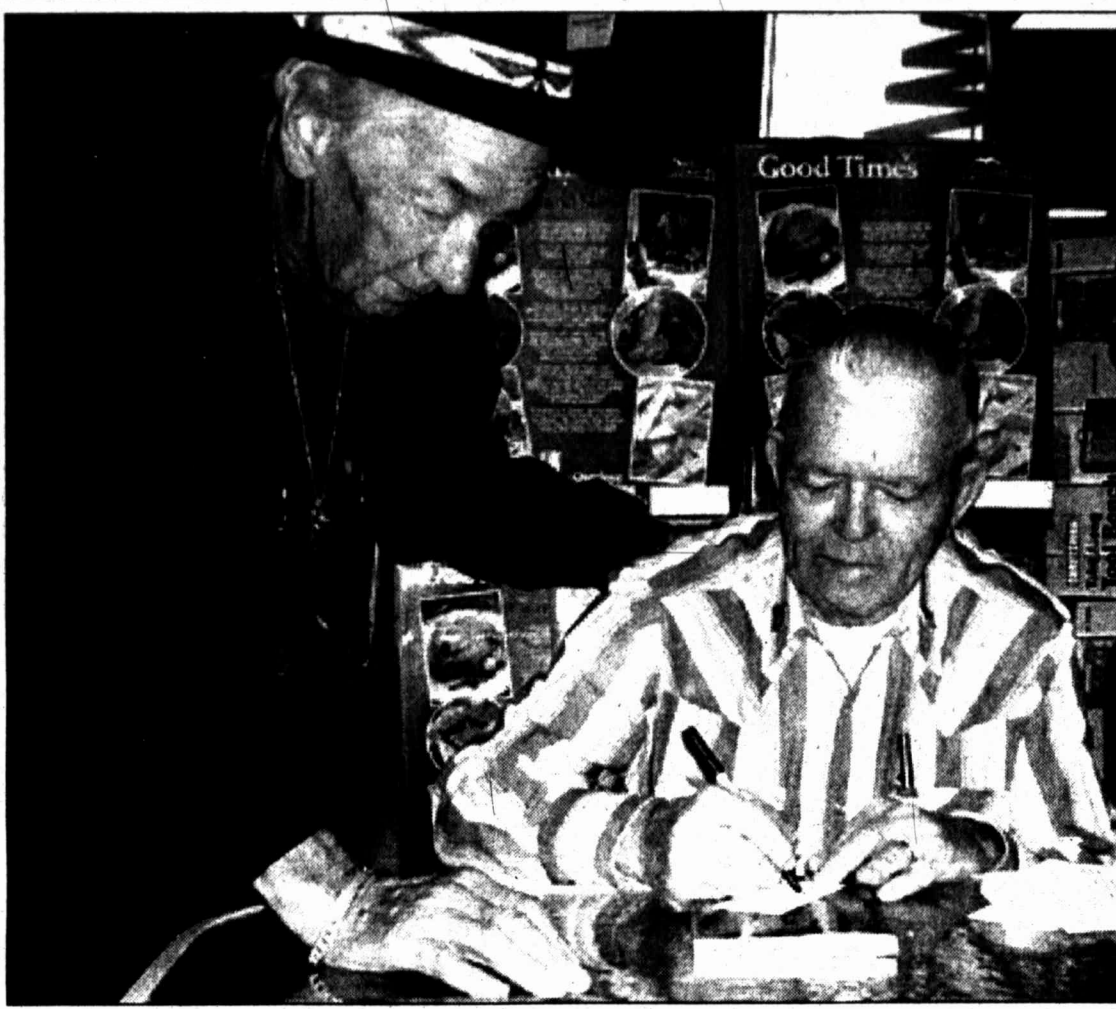
**Westbrook ISD**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**MONDAY**-Cereal, toast, jelly, juice, milk.  
**TUESDAY**-Cinnamon rolls, juice, milk.  
**WEDNESDAY**-Sausage, biscuits, jelly, juice, milk.  
**THURSDAY**-Pancake on stick, juice, milk.  
**FRIDAY**-Dry cereal, toast, jelly, juice, milk.  
**LUNCH**  
**MONDAY**-Chicken strips, gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, hot rolls, honey, milk.  
**TUESDAY**-Tacos with cheese, salsa, corn, lettuce, tomatoes, brownies, pears, milk.  
**WEDNESDAY**-Pizza, vegetable salad, peaches, milk.  
**THURSDAY**-Stew, cornbread, blackeyed peas, banana pudding, milk.  
**FRIDAY**-Hamburgers with cheese, French fries, vegetable fixings, cake, milk.

**Big Spring ISD**  
**LUNCH**  
**MONDAY**-Corn dog, blackeyed peas, apple, juice.  
**TUESDAY**-Spaghetti w/meat sauce, breaded okra, Jello w/mixed fruit, corn, garlic roll.  
**WEDNESDAY**-Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, California veggies, rosy applesauce, roll.  
**THURSDAY**-Nacho Grande, border beans, grapes, peaches.  
**FRIDAY**-Pizza, garden salad, French fries, cookie.

**Sands CISD**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**MONDAY**-Pancakes on a stick  
**TUESDAY**-Breakfast pockets  
**WEDNESDAY**-Muffins  
**THURSDAY**-Danish  
**FRIDAY**-Cereal  
**LUNCH**  
**MONDAY**-Bar-b-q on a bun, fries, ranch style beans, pineapple, milk.  
**TUESDAY**-Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit, milk.  
**WEDNESDAY**-Tacos, salad, pinto beans, cornbread, cake, milk.  
**THURSDAY**-Stir fry, rice, broccoli, carrots, squash, crackers, peaches, milk.  
**FRIDAY**-Pizza, corn, salad, fruit, milk.

**New Hope Christian School**  
**MONDAY**-Frito pie, salad, pineapple, lemonade.  
**TUESDAY**-Sloppy joes, green beans, pineapple, fruit punch.  
**WEDNESDAY**-Rigatoni, salad, bread & butter, peaches, lemonade.  
**THURSDAY**-Hot dogs, mac & cheese, celery sticks, pineapple jello, fruit punch.  
**FRIDAY**-Bean & cheese burrito, refried beans, apple slices, lemonade.

**Coahoma ISD**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**MONDAY**-Pancake, sausage on a stick, syrup, juice, milk.  
**TUESDAY**-Sweetened rice, sausage, juice, milk.  
**WEDNESDAY**-Eggs, sausage, juice, milk.  
**THURSDAY**-Donuts, sausage, fruit, milk.  
**FRIDAY**-Poptarts, fruit, sausage, milk.  
**LUNCH**  
**MONDAY**-Chicken nuggets, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, milk.  
**TUESDAY**-Homemade burritos (corn dogs), baked beans, apples, chocolate cake, milk.  
**WEDNESDAY**-Nacho grande, apple cobbler, salad, milk.  
**THURSDAY**-Hamburgers, tater tots, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, pudding, milk.  
**FRIDAY**-Cheeseburger pockets (burritos), fries, oranges, milk.



Big Spring author Roy Simmons signs a copy of his book for Edward Eugene Jones at Sears on Saturday. Simmons is the author of "The Ancient Muleskinner," "Bloody Footprints" and "Dynamite."



Howard County Librarian Karen McIntyre, 5-year-old Tristan Hendrickson, middle, and 7-year-old Ashton Hendrickson interact with Bingo the Dog Thursday during the library's puppet show, one of the many activities the library held during National Children's Book week.

**Club news**

**DAAR meet**  
 The Capt. Elisha Mack Chapter of the Daughters of the American Republic (DAAR) met on Nov. 8 at the Big Spring Country Club. Members present were Sue Ann Damron, Mary Schuelke, Katie Lara, Fern Alexander, Carole Lawson, Charlene Ragan and Sherri Key. Two guests were present. They were Luci Gabehart of Big Spring and Ned Crandall of Big Spring. Five members of the Chapter attended a tea in San Angelo on Oct. 13. The tea honored the TSDAR state officers. Before the business meeting was conducted, Mr. Crandall led the members and guest in a medley of patriot songs. Ann Damron Witherspoon was nominated as our Junior of the Year. Ann is the daughter of John and Sue Ann Damron. Charlene Ragan and Sue

Ann Damron served refreshments at the Veteran Administration Medical Centers Veterans Day Celebration on Nov. 11. Fern Alexander read some statistics on the fighting forces and on the recognition of Unknown Soldier, a part of this newsletter contained the following information. "It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to

demonstrate." It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag. Who allows the protester to burn the flag." Charles M Province, in the Federalist Anyone interested in becoming a member of the DAR can call Mary Schuelke at 432-353-4337 or Sue Ann Damron at 432-393-5790. These ladies will be glad to give you any information on the process of becoming a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**Don't mess with Irish mom**

Often siblings try their parents' stamina. Sound familiar?

One person in our family siblings did not wish to try was Mom. She was Irish and, although mild mannered, she could be hell on wheels when crossed.

One such confrontation comes to mind today, merely because some antics 7-year old granddaughter Teagan is trying on for size with her Mom, Brandi, look and sound like a tape rewound from youthful days spent with Mom so many years ago.

A sassing mouth was not something Mom endured for too long. She would give a couple of warnings and then it was too late, should a sass be heard at an inopportune moment for the sibling and presented an ideal opportune moment for Mom's style discipline.

She stood 5 ft. 5 inches tall. She was athletically built, having performed in swim meets and swimming pageants all during her youth and early adulthood. With her stout physique she maintained our lawn...it was immaculate all the time. She loved working in the garden, and fond memories of her working in her roses linger til today.

Having experienced several sassings from her 12-year-old female child (me), Mom firmly instructed, "don't sass me anymore, young lady. One day you're going to sass me one time too many, miss, and you won't know what hit you."

The stern warning went unheeded by her daughter. She's just bluffing, was the cavalier thought from her 12-year old female offspring.

You remember how it was at 12. We knew everything, listened very little. We wanted every-



SEASONINGS  
MARSHA ALLEN

thing and we gave very little attention to anyone but self.

Twelve is the time when the juices start flowing and we don't know what to do with them. We strain to understand the body fluids our blossoming youth-to-adult bodies are beginning to make. We feel incorrupt-

ible and immortal. Once while Mom was ironing in the living room...that was where the ironing board always seemed to be located; she could listen to her radio in peace in there while doing the chore no housewife seems to like: ironing.

Mom yelled to the kitchen for her 12-year old daughter to finish the task of cleaning the kitchen.

As the 12-year old passed her in the living room, the reply was something on the order of "in a little while."

This was not a wise response, especially with the recent warning against sassing.

An otherwise Irish Mom had had her fill of back-talk from her young charge.

Like a rattlesnake's swift strike against its prey, her powerful Irish backhand caught her young sibling across the mouth and sent the petite 98-pound body sailing across the living room, and sent it reeling straight into a far wall.

The scrawny body literally slid down the living room wall like spaghetti dripping from a spoon.

Rubbing the throbbing chin area, the youngster hurriedly got up and straightaway headed toward the kitchen to complete the previously requested task as fast as possible.

The house was silent as a tomb. Mom's wrath had reached its zenith, with a fast backhand she delivered swiftly and accurately.

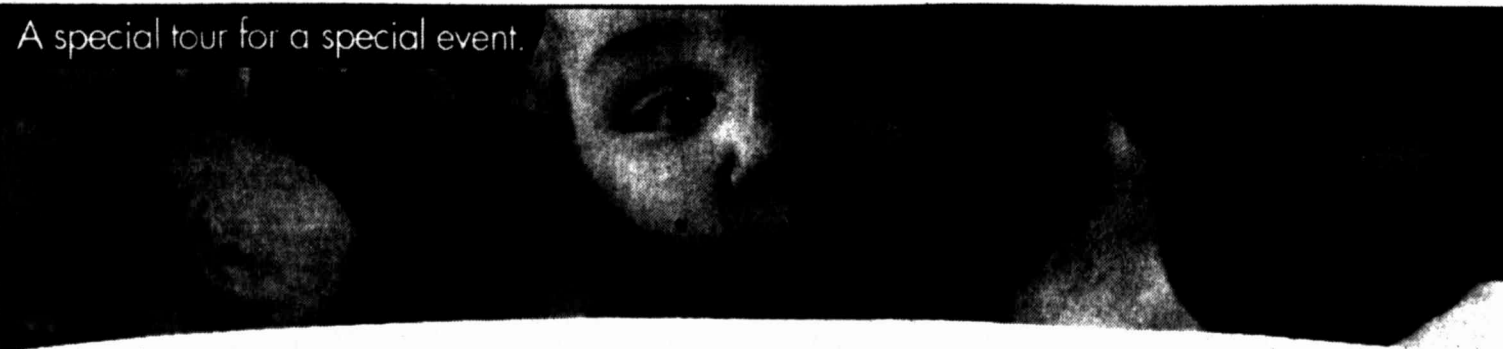
Calmly she continued to finish her ironing chores without breaking stride. It was the last time Irish Mom's warnings were tested.

**'Living Christmas Tree' will be performed next weekend**

Performances of the Living Christmas Tree are Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at First Methodist Church located at 400 Scurry. This

annual Christmas season event is popular so phoning reservations for tickets will help confirm seating. Call the church for more information, 267-6394.

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# Weddings

# Engagement



Mr. and Mrs. Khas Baker

## Watkins and Baker

Amanda Watkins of Ackerly and Khas Baker of Big Spring were united in holy matrimony at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2003, at Hillcrest Baptist Church, with Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Jeff Watkins of Ackerly and Mary Watkins of Seminole. She is the granddaughter of Wayne and Patty Watkins of Sherman and Herbert and Reba Hicks of Seminole.

The groom is the son of Jesse and Connie Baker of Big Spring. He is the grandson of Audie Baker of Big Spring and the late Alvin Baker and Lee Winchester of Midland and the late Kenneth Winchester.

The bride was given in marriage by her parents and wore a white satin gown with an overlay of knitted lace. She wore a headpiece trimmed in white beads, baby's breath and red and pink roses with a shoulder length veil.

The bride also wore a blue garter given to her by her mother and a necklace, earrings and bracelet of crystal and white pearls given to her by the groom's mother. She carried a bouquet of red and white silk roses accented with baby's breath, ivy and white bead trimmed silver leaves all tied with sheer white ribbon.

Rebecca Fuqua of Big Spring served as maid of honor. She wore a black floor length dress and carried red roses tied with sheer green ribbon.

Cory Baker of Big Spring, brother of the groom, served as best man. The groom and best man wore black shirts, jeans and red rose boutonnières.

Flower girl was Jaden Wilson of Stanton, cousin of the groom. She wore a pink dress with a pink rose headband in her hair.

The couple took their vows beneath a peaked archway adorned in white tulle, ivy, red and pink roses, black and silver ribbon and red bows. Their unity candle table was trimmed with black and red ribbon, and a pink bow.

Following their double ring ceremony, a reception was held in the fellowship hall of Hillcrest Baptist Church. The hall was decorated with ivy and red, pink and white roses.

Each dinner table was covered in white and had a vase atop a mirrored base wherein was perched a floating rose accented with red and white candles in the center. Rose petals were scattered throughout the hall.

The bride's cake was a three staggered tier white cake decorated with baby's breath, green leaves and red and pink roses. It was topped with a Kim Anderson figurine depicting a kissing bride and groom. The groom's dessert was a cheesecake topped with cherries.

An elegant silver coffee service, crystal punch bowl with silver ladle and miniature Kim Anderson figurines decorated the table that was covered in a lace applique table cloth with roses etched in it. The music was a collection of the couple's favorite love songs. The groom dedicated "As Far as it Goes" by George Strait to the bride for their special dance.

After a wedding trip to Dallas the couple made their home in Big Spring.

## "A Tuna Christmas" is a hilarious mystery

"A Tuna Christmas", the hilarious sequel to the hit comedy "Greater Tuna", makes a debut at the Odessa High School

Auditorium for a limited two-day engagement, Dec. 9 and 10. Tickets are available by calling The Globe Theatre, 432-332-1586 in Odessa or 432-580-3177 in Midland and the Permian Basin region, or visit the Web site [www.GreaterTuna.com](http://www.GreaterTuna.com).



Joe Sears (Bertha Bumiller) and Jaston Williams (son Stanley Bumiller)

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Private First Class and Mrs. Joe Holguin Jr.

## Choate and Holguin

Amber Marie Choate of Big Spring and Pfc. Joe Manuel Holguin Jr. of Coahoma were married March 23, 2003, at the home of the bride's mother. The Rev. David Ring officiated the ceremony as the bride was given in marriage by her grandfather, Bill Hipp.

The bride is the daughter of Darla Estill of Big Spring and Dusty Choate of Big Spring. She is the granddaughter of Bill and Darlene Hipp of Big Spring and Carroll and Joyce Choate of Big Spring.

The groom is the son of Manuel and Mary Holguin of Coahoma and the late Sylvia Holguin. He is the grandson of Teresa Booth of Stanton and the late Cruz Holguin of Stanton.

The couple was united in marriage while Holguin was home on leave, after which he will be deployed to South Korea.

Upon arrival of Pfc. Holguin in early December the couple will be honored with a reception hosted by the bride's grandparents at the Big Spring Country Club.

## Local, worldwide group observes candle vigil for child loss

The Compassionate Friends 16th annual Christmas Candlelight Remembrance Program will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2 in the chapel of the First Baptist Church.

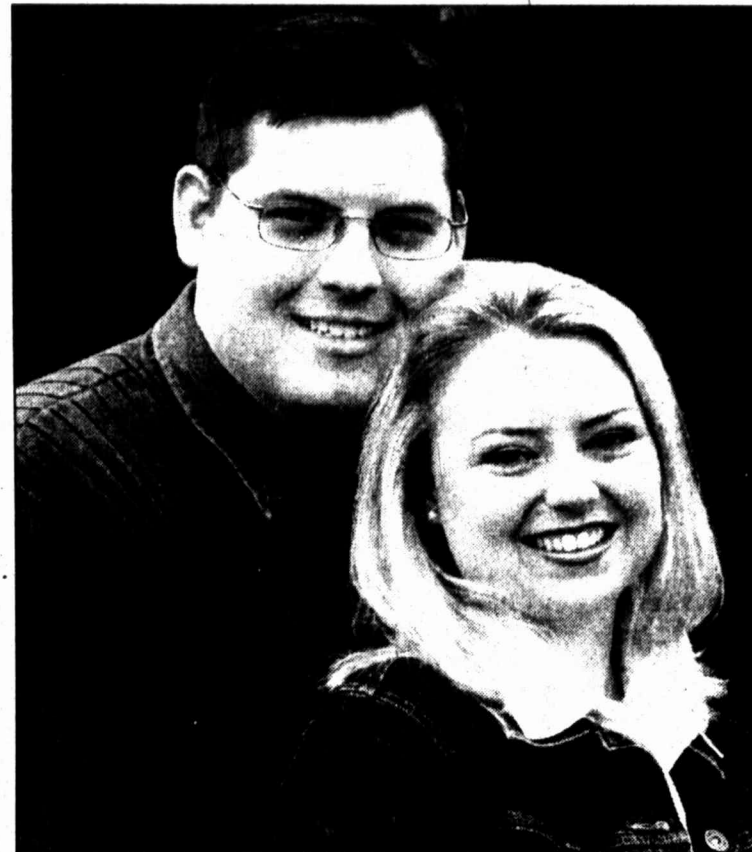
Approximately 30 countries worldwide participate in the annual event, lighting candles in remembrance of the loss of a child. Candles remain lit for one hour beginning at 7 p.m.

As candles flicker in one time zone, they are then lit in the next, thus creating a virtual 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues worldwide.

The U.S. Senate passed a resolution, S. Res 196, proclaiming Dec. 14 as "National Children's Memorial Day."

Nationwide approximately 600 local chapters observe the day in myriad ways, some holding organized vigils and others lighting candles within a family or friendship gathering.

Worldwide Candle Lighting is observing its



Sally Averitt and Scot McPhetridge

## Averitt and McPhetridge

Sally Ruth Averitt and Scot Hunter McPhetridge will be married Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Lewisville.

The bride elect is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bill Averitt of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Mrs. Ruth Averitt and the late Mr. B.D. Averitt of Waco and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Strickland of San Angelo. She is a 1998 graduate of Presidio High School and a 2002 graduate of Howard Payne University with a bachelor degree in music education. She serves with the Denton Independent School District.

The prospective groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted McPhetridge of Alvin and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ted McPhetridge Sr. of Alvin and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mathis of Hempstead. He is a 1999 graduate of Alvin High School and will graduate December 2003 with a music education degree from Howard Payne University. He is self-employed.

## Mormon Tabernacle choir enters The Hall of Fame

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Mormon Tabernacle Choir's weekly radio program, which went on the air three months before the 1929 stock market crash, will be inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame next year.

Mormon choir the National Medal of Arts in a White House ceremony, and a new exhibit marking the radio program's 75th year just opened at the Museum of Church History and Art.

The program, broadcast from the historic Tabernacle on Temple Square, features choir selections and a brief inspirational message. President Bush this month awarded the

Other hall of fame inductees include Jack Benny, George Burns, Bing Crosby, Benny Goodman, Paul Harvey, Bob Hope, Edward R. Murrow and Red Skelton.

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## CUTTING EDGE, THEY'RE NOT

Blue Bell prefers to do things the old-fashioned way

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

To find a major company in the United States that doesn't want to be on the cutting edge of technology and innovation may sound like a rather strange resume, but that's exactly the attitude that has made Blue Bell Ice Cream famous.

Faron Bell is the Blue Bell sales manager for the company's Big Spring distribution center, and although the facility that Bell works at doesn't actually make the ice cream, they take pride in their work and the way their company does business the "old fashioned" way.

"Blue Bell is not one of these dynamic companies that pushes new innovations in production or every aspect of it," said Bell. "They are much more conservative, and they pride themselves on doing everything the old fashioned way. The equipment we use in Brenham is not always the latest, greatest technologically advanced equipment, not because we can't afford it, but because we prefer that old fashioned, hands-on feel."

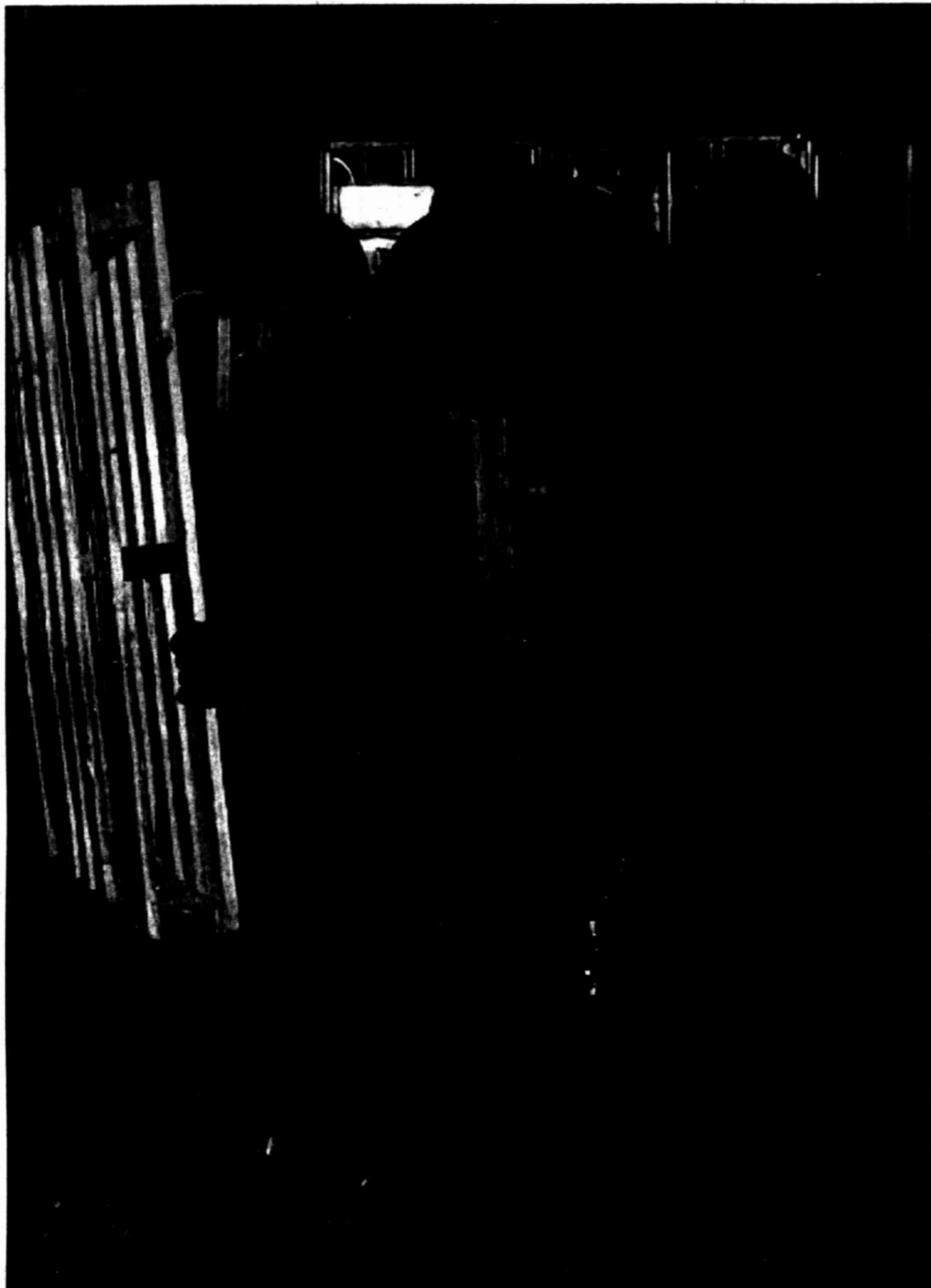
"Our whole image is built upon not being a sterile, mass producing type. It's more of a hands-on company that takes pride in what we do, and we're not so much concerned with coming up with the latest, greatest computer technology. We use innovation where it can help us, but we pride ourselves on the old fashioned side of the business."

Bell said the Big Spring Office is basically the crossroads for their West Texas operations, and along with a number of satellite offices helps keep the Permian Basin in ice cream.

"This is the West Texas branch



BELL



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Members of the Blue Bell Creamery staff work to unload and load a truck that's part of their intricate regional delivery system. Although the ice cream is produced at "The little creamery" in Brenham, the Big Spring office acts as a distribution center for a large part of the Permian Basin.

of Blue Bell," said Bell. "Here at the branch office we cover all of West Texas. Basically this is the administrative portion of our See BLUE BELL, Page 5B

## Coahoma native named maintenance supervisor for county TxDOT division

Special to the Herald

James Gilbert, a native of Coahoma, has been named Howard County maintenance section supervisor for the Texas Department of Transportation.

In his new position, Gilbert supervises the day to day operations of the Howard County maintenance crew in maintaining the interstate, federal, state and farm to market roads in the county.

Gilbert began his TxDOT career in the Howard County office in August 1992.

He has served as maintenance technician, working on traffic signals, helped in the office, inspected and processed utility and driveway per-

mits as well as having been a crew leader on several maintenance projects.

A 1983 graduate of Coahoma High School, Gilbert graduated from Angelo State University in 1987 with a bachelor of business administration degree. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1988 and served as an interior communications petty officer on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln until being discharged in 1992. During his tenure with the Navy, he was involved in the Gulf War.

He and his wife, the former Shele Reid of Coahoma, have two daughters, Shelby and Sydney.

In his spare time, Gilbert enjoys restoring antique tractors, golfing, camping and collecting NASCAR toys and memorabilia.



GILBERT

## State says anti-spam law enforcement will be difficult

DALLAS (AP) — Although a state law designed to regulate and limit unwanted e-mail took effect Sept. 1, officials said it could be months before they begin to pursue violators.

It took Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott nearly 17 months to file the first lawsuits accusing companies of violating the state's no-call list, which went into effect July 1, 2002.

Abbott, who filed the lawsuits against 15 companies on Tuesday, said the state eventually expects to pursue those who illegally distribute unwanted junk mail.

Under the new law, it is illegal in Texas to send unsolicited e-mail that uses misleading subject lines or offers unlabeled obscene material. The law also requires mass e-mailers to remove names from their lists within

**"A lot of spam emanates from outside the state and even emanates from outside the country, which makes it more difficult for us to track down the wrongdoer and hold him accountable."**

three days of being notified.

"We have a lot of spam forwarded to our office, complaints and concerns about spam," Abbott told The Dallas Morning News for a Friday story. "It is a growing concern and a growing problem in the state of Texas that we are now devoting resources to and we'll be addressing as quickly as possible."

See SPAM, Page 5B

## Stocks finish flat Friday in light post-Thanksgiving trading

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks finished essentially flat on Friday in very light post-Thanksgiving trading, as the market struggled to find direction in an absence of economic news.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 2.89, or 0.03 percent at 9,782.46.

Broader stock indica-

tors were narrowly mixed at the end of Friday's abbreviated trading session. The Nasdaq composite index rose 6.95, or 0.4 percent, to 1,960.26. The Standard & Poor's 500 index finished the day down 0.25 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,058.20.

For the week, the Dow finished 1.6 percent high-

er, the Nasdaq advanced 3.5 percent, and the S&P gained 2.2 percent. It was the first winning week in three weeks.

For the month, the three main gauges finished mixed, with the Dow slipping 0.2 percent, the Nasdaq gaining 1.5 percent, and the S&P rising 0.7 percent.

The drift in stocks during Friday's session reflected a day with almost no market-shaping news. The exceptions were President Bush (news — Web sites)'s surprise trip to Iraq (news — Web sites) and the dollar's drop to a new low against the euro, continuing a recent trend.

## Biosecurity practices protect livestock and poultry health

Special to the Herald

At 1,200 pounds, cattle look tough...but these animals, just like horses, sheep, goats, poultry and other livestock can be "taken down" by just a few unseen bacteria, viruses or parasites, whether they're introduced intentionally or accidentally. By making some simple changes, however, you can ensure that your animals are afforded an extra measure of health protection.

Biosecurity practices don't have to be cumbersome, confusing or expensive, according to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. In fact, a small tub, a gallon of bleach or disinfectant, and a brush will go a long way toward protecting your livestock from "outside" disease. Your premise needs to be a "safe" area and biosecurity practices are the barriers you can use to keep disease out.

boot. You wouldn't think of eating off the floor at the local coffee shop, livestock market...feed store or grocery. But, if you walk around these places in your work boots, then head home and work with your animals, you may be tracking "germs" on the soles of your shoes to your pasture, animal bedding or any livestock feed you step in.

Don't take unwanted "guests" to your animals. Either keep a pair of boots or shoes to wear only on your own premise, or clean and disinfect your footwear before heading out to check on livestock.

Where have your hands been? Handling animals at the livestock market? In Great Britain, foot-and-mouth virus was spread at the livestock auction by buyers inspecting the mouths of hundreds of sheep.

2. Don't haul home disease. Car, truck or trailer tires can harbor "germs,"

See SECURITY, Page 5B

1. Give "germs" the

## WELCOMING A NEW BUSINESS



HERALD photo/Christy Hernandez  
Ambassadors welcome Curves, 421 Main, as a new business in Big Spring. Pictured from left are Shirley Lee, Chris Moore, Becky McCauley, owners Chad and Tamara Fouts, Raul Marquez, manager Kathy Roberts, Debbye Valverde, owner Keith Dove, Joann Hyer and Clarence Hartfield.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Hot Checks/Warrants  
issued:

The addresses listed are  
the last known addresses.  
If there are any problems  
with this list, please call  
264-2226.

Acedo, Felisha, 307  
Berkshire, Crosbyton  
Cruz, Eric Lee, 517 11th  
Street, O'Donnell  
Enfinger, Diana, 1710  
Young, Big Spring  
Flores, Luis Carrillo, 2519  
Hunter Drive, Big Spring  
Freeman, Ricky Z., 301  
Reed Street, Big Spring

Hernandez, Melissa, 2705  
Catalina, Odessa  
Hernandez, Robert, 601  
34th Street, Snyder  
Jaramillo, Roberto, 3100  
Ave. B., Snyder

Jefferson, George A., 6200  
Seaford Road, Arlington  
Jordan, Lahoma, 1417 E.  
11th Place, Big Spring  
Martinez, Albert Jr., 818  
E. 35th Street, Lubbock  
Nabarrette, Angel, 4100  
Brick Plant Road Apt. 34,  
Snyder

O'dell, Sarah, 1209 S.  
Gary, Monahans  
Olivas, Elizabeth, 1608 E.  
Sixth Street, Big Spring  
Ortega, Sophia, 1707  
Purdue, Big Spring  
Parker, David, 109 Nelle  
Lane, Martindale

Perez, Katherin Hardin,  
4908 Parkway Road, Big  
Spring  
Riojas, Jose L., 4309

Lewis Street, Christoval  
Ripple, Joshua T., 3818  
Old Angleton Road, Lake  
Jackson  
Roberts, Mrs. Raymond,  
1460 Hwy. 33, St. Lawrence  
Vega, Carlos, 1507 W.  
Cherokee, Big Spring  
Vela, Elizabeth, 1012 N.  
12th Street, Lamesa  
Velasco, Rachel C., 1506  
Virginia, Big Spring  
Ward, Jeannie Marlene,  
609 Craigmort Ct., Big  
Spring

County Court Rulings:

Probated Judgment:  
Marissa Jane Adam, driv-  
ing while intoxicated-open  
container, \$1,500 fine, \$276  
court costs, 180 days in jail  
(jail time suspended, six  
months probation).

Probated Judgment:  
Nicholas A. Lopez, posses-  
sion of marijuana less than  
two ounces, \$500 fine, \$261  
court costs, 180 days in jail  
(jail time suspended, 24  
months probation).

Judgment and Sentence:  
Rickie Dell Hair, criminal  
trespass of a habitation,  
\$500 fine, \$261 court costs,  
90 days in jail.

Probated Judgment: Isaac  
Vidana, driving while  
intoxicated, \$1,500 fine,  
\$276 court costs, 180 days  
in jail (jail time suspended,  
12 months probation).

District Court Filings:

Betty Ann Long vs. Lloyd  
Dean Long, divorce.

Amy Hernandez vs. Jorge  
A. Hernandez, divorce.

U.S. Bank National  
Association (as trustee) vs.  
Kevin L. Pirkle, forfeit.

Richard Secrest vs.  
Robinson Drilling of Texas  
Ltd. and Atropos Oil,  
injury/damages.

Melonie Molina vs.  
Rosendo C. Rodriguez, fam-  
ily protective order.

Benita Kay Salazar vs.  
Christopher Michael  
Salazar, family protective  
order.

State National Bank vs.  
Quinton Airhart, Gayland  
Airhart, John Addison,  
J.E. Airhart Randell  
Sherrod and Big Spring  
Livestock Auction Inc.,  
accounts, notes and con-  
tracts.

Marriage Licenses:

Chad Byron Smith, 23, of  
Stanton, and Rachelle  
Nicole Guinn, 18, of Big  
Spring.

Craig L. Rosenberry, 23,  
and Monica D. Miller, 23,  
both of New Mexico.

Warranty Deed:

Grantor: Roger Maxey  
Pinson  
Grantee: James Radford  
Pinson  
Property: Lot 142,  
Tarrytown Addition,  
Lubbock

Date filed: Nov. 7, 2003

Grantor: Paul Shaffer and  
Clyde McMahon Jr.  
Grantee: Noble  
Construction Inc.

Property: A tract in NW/4  
of Section 3, Block 32, T-1-  
S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date filed: Nov. 10, 2003

Grantor: Mark Morgan  
and Bill Price Jr., execu-  
tors of the estate of  
William Johnson Harris  
Grantee: Jimmy Miller  
Property: Lot 2, Block 26,  
Monticello Addition  
Date filed: Nov. 10, 2003

Grantor: Harold James  
Cain and Virginia Ann  
Cain Tucker  
Grantee: Jimmy Miller  
and Elen Miller  
Property: Lot 4, Block 2,  
North McEwen Addition  
Date filed: Nov. 10, 2003

Grantor: Maxine  
Holcombe, Samuel J. Bell,  
John T. Bell, Ellen Bell  
and Janet Vaughn  
Grantee: Mick McDaniel  
and Cathy McDaniel  
Property: A 25.387 acre  
tract out of the eastern  
part of Section 13, Block 33,  
T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date filed: Nov. 12, 2003

Grantor: Clyde McMahon  
Supply Co.  
Grantee: Preston and

Keisha Harrison

Property: A 47.30 acre  
tract out of W/2 of section  
41, block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR  
Co. Survey  
Date filed: Nov. 13, 2003

Warranty Deed with  
Vendor's Lien:

Grantor: Big Spring  
Bonded Warehouse and  
Storage Inc.  
Grantee: Linda Banks  
Property: Lots 14 and 15,  
Block 2, Original Town of  
Big Spring  
Date filed: Nov. 7, 2003

Grantor: Curtis Ben  
Bowlin and Max Ann  
Bowlin  
Grantee: Denys Steward  
Property: An 8.84 acre  
tract out of the SW/4 of  
section 3, block 32, T-1-S,  
T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date filed: Nov. 12, 2003

Grantor: Karen Sneed  
and Kimberly Willems  
Grantee: Wayne Butts  
Property: Lot 18, Block  
30, College Park Estates  
Date filed: Nov. 13, 2003

Grantor: Sentinel  
Development Corp.  
Grantee: Chad E. Kemper  
and Kelli J. Kemper  
Property: Lot 10, Block 2,  
Clawson Subdivision  
Date filed: Nov. 14, 2003

SPAM

Continued from Page 4B

He said there are "some  
things that we're working  
very intensely on," but  
they have no immediate  
plans to take legal action.  
The law says unsolic-  
ited advertising must carry  
the note "ADV:" in its  
subject line, and mes-  
sages with sexual materi-  
al must say "ADV: Adult  
Advertisement." Backers  
of the law hope those  
notes will help Internet  
service providers and  
spam-filtering software  
remove spam before it  
gets to recipients.

Violators can be fined  
\$10 for each mislabeled,  
unsolicited e-mail mes-  
sage, up to \$25,000 per  
day.  
Cracking down on  
spammers will be more  
difficult than chasing  
telemarketers, Abbott  
said.

"A lot of spam emanates  
from outside the state  
and even emanates from  
outside the country,  
which makes it more dif-  
ficult for us to track  
down the wrongdoer and  
hold him accountable,"  
he said. "We're all look-  
ing for ways that we can  
be more effective at doing  
that."

"Later on E.F. Kruse,  
who was the father of  
Howard and Ed Kruse,  
who run the company  
now, came back from  
World War I and was  
looking for something to  
get into. He had an offer  
to be a school adminis-  
trator at the time, or become  
the manager of Blue Bell.  
He chose Blue Bell  
because he thought it  
would be more challeng-  
ing, and in those days the  
company was really strug-  
gling. He took the compa-  
ny and turned it around,  
making it profitable."

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

BLUE BELL

Continued from Page 4B

branch with the office  
manager and all of the  
files. We take all of the  
phone calls for all of the  
satellite stations, and we  
have our local trucks  
here, including Big  
Spring, San Angelo,  
Midland-Odessa and  
Hobbs coming here,  
which is about eight  
trucks.

"The other trucks in the  
branch are actually on  
location at our satellite  
facilities, which we call  
transfer stations, all over  
West Texas. We're really  
spread out here, and  
that's really unusual for  
a branch. Most of our nor-  
mal branches in the other  
locations are concentrat-  
ed in one place, and all of  
the trucks go to that  
branch to load and things

like that."

Over the years the avail-  
ability of Blue Bell Ice  
Cream has grown consid-  
erably, spanning the  
coastal states between  
Texas and Florida. "As a  
company, we're in fifteen  
different states," said  
Bell. "We cover the south  
and south eastern portion  
of the United States. We're  
only in about 17 to 20  
percent of the geo-  
graphic area of the United  
States. We go all the way  
from Texas to Florida,  
covering parts of  
Louisiana, Mississippi  
and Florida in between.  
We also cover some areas  
in Tennessee and  
Georgia, but mainly the  
south eastern portion of  
the U.S."

If keeping track of the  
number of flavors Blue  
Bell keeps a area grocery  
freezers stocked with is

tough to keep track off,  
Bell said it's no easier for  
them.

"In our ice cream line  
we have new flavors com-  
ing and going all of the  
time," said Bell. "That's  
the neat thing about Blue  
Bell. We have roughly  
half of our flavors rotat-  
ing, so that gives our cus-  
tomers something new to  
go into the store and look  
for. We may not have that  
particular flavor that they  
tried six months ago, but  
we'll have something new  
for them to try. We do  
have our standard line-  
up, which includes all of  
our basic flavors such as  
our homemade vanilla  
and Dutch chocolate, but

roughly half of the others  
will be rotating in and  
out.

"Some of the ice creams  
will be seasonal according  
to the ingredients, such  
as our peachés ice cream  
which is made only dur-  
ing peach season. It's a  
challenge to keep track of  
them all, especially for  
our shipping manager,  
but it's rewarding for our  
customers because they  
can go down to the gro-  
cery store and find some-  
thing new. It's not the  
same old thing, which is  
what you get into with a  
lot of different items in  
the grocery store."

Blue Bell Creameries  
has maintained it's

"roots" in Texas since the  
early 1900's, something  
Bell said has a lot to do  
with the success of their  
many products.

"In 1907 Blue Bell was  
founded as a creamery in  
Brenham," said Bell.

That's where our roots  
are. Most of our products  
are still made in  
Brenham, and our main  
creamery is there. We  
made butter to begin  
with. We didn't even  
begin making ice cream  
until 1911, when we began  
making it at the rate of  
two gallons per day. They  
would hand crank it,  
using the old tub to pro-  
duce it and sold it strictly  
on the side.

SECURITY

Continued from Page 4B

too. Taking a few min-  
utes to spray disinfectant  
over your tires can kill  
the "germs" you've  
picked up in the parking  
lots, on dirt roads or in a  
friend's pasture.

3. Bucket brigades &  
tool trades.

Borrowing equipment  
or tools from a neighbor?  
Don't bring these items  
home until you've  
washed off the "crud"  
and sprayed the equip-  
ment with disinfectant.

4. Trash & Garbage:  
"Bag it."  
Control refuse on your  
premise. Don't haul  
home trash or garbage  
from your office, store or  
another site, unless it's  
bagged in plastic and  
sealed.

4. Tourist or terrorist?  
Be aware of who is on  
your property. Strangers  
lurking near your fence  
line could be innocent  
tourists admiring the  
scenery and your  
stock...or they could have  
sinister intentions. Ask  
questions — or call the  
local law enforcement  
officials. These days, it  
pays to be alert — and  
justifiably suspicious.

6. Padlock your perime-  
ter.

Lock your gates. Keep  
feed sacks and veterinary  
supplies in a secure loca-  
tion. Don't tempt some-  
one to tamper with feed,  
supplements or medi-  
cines.

7. Give 'germs' space.

Newly acquired ani-  
mals should be isolated  
for at least two weeks to  
ensure you don't intro-  
duce disease to your  
main herd or flock.  
Although it's not  
required, unless you  
import animals from out  
of state, you might con-  
sider having your private  
practitioner inspect ani-  
mals prior to, or shortly  
after, making a purchase.

8. Report signs of dis-  
ease immediately.

Don't wait to report  
unusual signs of disease  
to your private practi-  
tioner or the Texas  
Animal Health  
Commission (TAHC).  
TAHC or U.S.  
Department of  
Agriculture veterinarians  
will work with you and  
your private veteri-  
nary practitioner at no charge  
to take samples for diag-  
nostic testing.

Why be Concerned?

• A foreign animal dis-  
ease outbreak could stop  
Texas' interstate and  
international livestock  
and poultry trade "dead  
in its tracks."

• Early reporting is the  
most important step in  
eradicating a disease out-  
break. Don't be afraid of  
crying "wolf."

• There is no charge for  
TAHC or USDA veteri-  
narians to work with you  
and your private veteri-  
nary practitioner to con-  
duct a disease investiga-  
tion.

• Don't take shortcuts.  
Livestock health regula-  
tions were developed to  
protect herds and flocks.

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**Newsday Crossword**  
**STUMPER** by D.R. Sta  
Edited by Stanley Newman

<b>ACROSS</b> 1 Gives out free tickets 7 Futile 15 Canine coat 16 Nutty liqueur 17 Twice as 18 Dotted line? 19 '50s campaign name 20 Amazon port 21 Memorable time 22 Permit holder 24 Ancient redhead 26 Modify copy 28 London flashlight 32 Idyllic place 35 Professor's perk 36 Dustups 37 \$10,000 bill portrait 39 Carpe 40 Service of a sort 42 Popular fish 44 Through 45 Pate protection 46 Not timid 48 Hockey stat 52 Spanish rum 55 Smoked, maybe 57 Add up 58 Tropical trees 60 Show place 61 Rueful	<b>DOWN</b> 1 Kind of lever 2 Electrical post 3 CNN name 4 Makes red 5 Worked on brakes 6 Conjuring 7 Shrink from 8 Diner fare 9 Not as ruddy 10 Recluse 11 Day's work for Armstrong 12 Tours "to be"	<b>31</b> Top draw <b>34</b> Brave New World panacea <b>20</b> Feeling no shame <b>23</b> Fiat <b>25</b> Salon item <b>27</b> Break off <b>29</b> Tumbledown building <b>30</b> Manitoba tribe <b>31</b> Adjustable edges <b>32</b> Gourmet appetizer <b>33</b> Mideast gulf <b>34</b> Hog site <b>35</b> What sides may come to	<b>38</b> Green stuff <b>41</b> School <b>43</b> Fix unalterably <b>45</b> Waders <b>47</b> More abrupt <b>49</b> Either Apple founder <b>50</b> Controls <b>51</b> Twist things <b>52</b> Enthralled <b>53</b> Done with <b>54</b> Pop singer Hendryx <b>56</b> Medici in-law <b>59</b> Not mil. <b>60</b> Latin conjunction
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IN RE CONSERVATION AND OF WEST OF CRUDE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
The sun in Sagittarius infuses us with more energy than we can put to good use.



Joyce Jillson

Stop and be thoughtful instead of frittering it away. The Pisces moon illuminates life's delicious ironies. Be careful not to point fingers under this wise sign because karma has an instantaneous quality - you'll do exactly what you accuse someone else of!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're fortunate to have a down-to-earth family. Also, you've attracted friends with whom you can have conversations about a wide range of subjects and who understand that a rewarding life is about more than money.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Ease into life even though others seem to belly-flop with a gigantic splash. Recent changes will still take a while to get used to. Honor your own sense of timing. The superficial abounds tonight - don't let it get you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People are friendly. Someone looking to make a business connection may present a false front, but you'll get around that with your usual grace. Any knowledgeable and attentive person can have a happy intimate relationship.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't let anyone or anything get in the way of achieving your goals. This will guarantee you the respect you deserve. You owe someone a dinner or two, and this would be the ideal night to return the favor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's lucky to think long term in all pursuits today, especially love. You are extremely persuasive. A family conflict is resolved with a contest. A lively discussion

tonight will clear the air, especially if a Libra is involved. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're a star and will seem to have your own satellites. Perhaps you'll be made painfully aware that people love to be looked after, but uphold your own boundaries, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Project independence, and paradoxically, you get help. Having parties, big or small, is work, but it pays off in a terrific feeling about who you are and the value you bring to others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your love life picks up when you attend a show or find another way to inspire yourself creatively. An Aries makes eyes at you - it's worth considering. Your self-worth shouldn't be based on what you own.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Romance thrives when you relax and trust one another. Feeling frustrated could mean your standards are ridiculously out of range. Get down to earth - take a walk, and talk to people who think differently from you.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
\$1,000 Total Move in Cost
On each remaining 3 New homes on 1300 Block of Marijo. Reasonably good credit required.

Stephens Ranch Hand Real Estate
199 acres Coleman County w/10 acres lake. Great hunting & fishing. \$1250.00 per acre.

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5 pc Sectional Sleeper Sofa. \$300. Call 432-263-8222

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The Unknown Heirs of Myrtle McMaster, Deceased, Defendants in the Cause Numbered and Entitled Below.

PUBLIC NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Commission of the City of Big Spring, Texas, for the construction of the wastewater holding basin.

PUBLIC NOTICE
IF A CONTINUATION IS NEEDED
The hearing will be held to consider the application of Brigham Oil & Gas, Inc. to consider temporary field rules for the Oilfield Conservation Field.

Answer to previous puzzle
ELBA PEA ATMOST
BULB IMP PEWEE
BAABECUE PAWNEE
SUBORNS REST

CHRISTMAS GIFTS
Russian Nesting Dolls in Lacquer boxes. Hand Painted Prices \$8-\$65. 1405 Princeton Sat. & Sun 9-5

WEDDING CAKES!!
Sik florals, arches, candelabras. The Grishams. 432-267-8191

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I've been reading with interest the letters about abused men. I'm a woman, and I'd like to tell you my side. I had been in a few abusive relationships before, where I was the victim.



ANNIE'S MAILBOX

After buying our fourth set of dishes, a friend suggested counseling for battered women. I said, "He never hits me." She replied, "Yes, but YOU have been hit before." So I went, and it was the smartest thing I've ever done.

We soon will be celebrating 20 years of a great marriage. I hope those abusive women will see themselves and get help. - Ex-Abuser With a Full Set of Dishes

Dear Ex-Abuser: THANK YOU for pointing out that abused women can become abusers without realizing the underlying reasons. You may have saved some marriages today. Bless you for writing.

Dear Ranger: Many readers suggested walkie-talkie devices instead of more expensive cell phones. We appreciate the great idea and are happy to pass it along.

HILLSIDE PROPERTIES
Homes With Alarm Systems
2 - 3 - 4 - 5, Even 6 Bedrooms Available
Rent - Rent-to-Own or Buy With Owner Financing
Swimming Pool - Basketball & Volleyball Courts
24 Hour Emergency Maintenance
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COUPON GOOD FOR ONE 4 LINE 3 DAY GARAGE SALE AD FOR \$10.00
INCLUDES FREE GARAGE SALE KIT Limit One Per Customer Expires 12-12-03
Just Clip The Coupon And Bring It To The Big Spring Herald Classified Advertising Department. BUT DON'T WAIT OFFER EXPIRES DEC. 12, 2003

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No. 43175
IN THE INTEREST OF KRISTINA RENEE STORIE and JUSTIN WAYNE CARL, CHILDREN IN THE DISTRICT COURT 118TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS
ORIGINAL PETITION FOR TERMINATION AND ADOPTION OF CHILDREN
Discovery in this case is intended to be conducted under level 2 of rule 190 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

TOO LATES
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Call Doris (263-6525 or 263-1284) regarding price drops on nice 3, 4, or 5 bedroom homes.

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