

THURSDAY

December 11, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 37°-39° TOMORROW 56°-59°

BRIEFLY

Holiday contest

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is holding a Christmas Decorating Contest. Categories are residential and commercial, and include religious, lights, original and others. Judging will be held Dec. 16. Inside judging will begin at mid-afternoon; other judging will be held after dark. Entries must be made at the chamber, 215 W. Third.

GIVING



Each day through the holiday season, the Herald will publish locations where you might help others less fortunate. If your organization has an established program to help others and would like to be included in this list, call Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234.

- Angel Tree locations:
• Big Spring Herald (seniors)
• Gale's Sweet Shop
• Big Spring Mall
• Wal-Mart
Salvation Army Kettles:
• Post Office
• Wal-Mart
• Big Spring Mall
• Rip Griffin's Truck Stop
Giving Tree
• Wells Fargo Bank
• Western National Bank
Herald Toy Drive
• Big Spring Herald
Canned Food Drive
• Big Spring Herald

INDEX

- Classified 4-5B
Comics 6B
Wheels 5A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1B

Vol. 100, No. 22

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.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Big Spring Independent School District lead teacher Donna Amonett, left, and Marcy Elementary second grade teacher Sharon McGrievy visit Tuesday during the district's teacher appreciation tea. Refreshments, visitation and a talk with Texas children's author Jo Harper were the order of business. Big Spring schools will release for Christmas break on Dec. 19

Methamphetamine case is not decided by jurors

Two walk, one receives probation, fourth gets two years

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

The unpredictable nature of criminal trials became even more evident Wednesday afternoon as two defendants accused of manufacturing methamphetamine at a Big Spring home were acquitted.

"We're delighted with the court's ruling."



Attorney Don Richard, whose client Carol Kesler was acquitted

Carol Ann Kesler, 27, and Patrick Terrell Kesler, 25, walked out of 118th District Court shortly after being acquitted on the charge of manufacture of a controlled substance, a first-degree felony. The acquittal came following a motion filed by all four defense attorneys involved in the trial late Tuesday afternoon, charging the prosecution had failed to sufficiently prove its case.

Defense attorney Don Richard, who represented Carol Kesler, said it was only a matter of time

before the his client was acquitted following the dismissal of count one of the indictment against her — possession of anhydrous ammonia.

The dismissal came at the close of the state's case on Tuesday.

"You're always glad when your client is out of a case,"

Richard said Wednesday. "You have to remember that the first count against all four defendants had been thrown out prior to today, which left us with the second count, and we were able to show the court there was insufficient evidence to even send to a jury. We're delighted with the court's ruling."

After hearing arguments from both sides, District Court Judge Robert Moore III granted

See METH, Page 3A

Sexual assault trial under way in district court

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Criminal trial proceedings began this morning in 118th District Court as a 23-year-old Big Spring man faces three counts of sexual assault of a child.

Benjamin Edward Moore, of 3605 La Junta, was indicted earlier this year on three counts of sexual assault of a child, a second-degree felony.

Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr is expected to prosecute the case.

"It's alleged that on or about May 26, 2001, the defendant had sexual relations with the victim, who was under the age of 17 years of age," said Orr. "It's a three-count indictment, all of

See TRIAL, Page 3A

Drive-through nativity depicts story of Christ's life

By BILL MCCLELLAN News Editor

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

Seventeen years ago, First Church of the Nazarene leaders had a desire to express the true meaning of Christmas in a unique way.

What: Live Drive-Through Nativity.

Where: Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster

When: 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

It was decided that a nativity might be the answer, and in 1987, the church put together seven scenes and opened them to the public. Much has changed since then, including

changing the name of the church to Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene. Much has changed with the nativity as well. Like the church, it has grown.

The current presentation, which opens Friday, contains 17 colorful scenes, live animals and a cast of more than 130 people. Members of the church spend countless hours on the ever-expanding project.

"This is one of the most unique and capti-

See NATIVITY, Page 3A

Odessa oil man hopes to represent District 31 in the Texas Senate

By BILL MCCLELLAN News Editor

Odessa businessman Kirk Edwards says Texas needs a representative in Austin that understands the needs of the Permian Basin and the Panhandle. "West Texas is at a crossroads. We need to keep diversifying through economic development," said Edwards, who stopped in Big Spring this week. "We need our medical facilities and schools to be the best they can be. We need to be able to attract and retain business and industry."

Edwards, a Republican, is a candidate for District 31 in the Texas Senate. He's one of five men who have announced their candidacy in the Jan. 20 election to fill the seat

"I'd like to go to Austin and stand up for the Permian Basin and the Panhandle and be a voice for the people of this area."



Kirk Edwards, Odessa businessman

held by Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo. Bivins, who has been nominated as the United States ambassador to Sweden, is resigning effective Jan. 12.

"I'm concerned about

See EDWARDS, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Big Spring High School theater students Tacha Martinez, left, Gloria Garibay, Stephanie Franco and Tapley Holguin act out a scene from "South Pacific" which begins its run tonight at the high school auditorium, 707 11th Place. Performance times are set at 7 tonight through Saturday night and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens. Children 12 and younger are admitted free.

Leadership Big Spring sets graduation tonight

HERALD Staff Report

The Leadership Big Spring program, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, will be graduating 17 members today.

The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Country Club.

2003 Leadership class members include Nancy Alkire, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas Veterans

Home; Michele Beach, VA Medical Center; Gary Bishop, Western Container; Orin Carmen, Alon Refinery; Kurt Coor, State National Bank; Mike Cox, Western Container; Wanda Gamble, VA Medical Center; Terry Hanson, Howard College; Scott Holley, VA Medical Center; Sammy Hunnicutt, Power Resources; Allen McGee, Federal

See LEADERS, Page 3A

Next Generation Day allows eighth graders to look ahead

By LYNDEL MOODY Staff Writer

Around 600 area eighth graders will take a glimpse into the future Friday as Howard College promotes higher education by holding Next Generation Day.

"This is an effort to bring every area eighth-grade student to our campus for a day to give them some insight into what they might want to do for the future," said Jan Foresyth, director of

institution of advancement.

The program is meant to spark interest in the young students about attending college and to begin helping them plan for that possibility, Foresyth said.

"Anybody can go to college," Foresyth emphasized. "We're trying to give them information to help them make future decisions for themselves. So many times we have students come on our

See STUDENTS, Page 2A

D E C

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Obituaries

Rudolph A. "Rudy" Claveran Jr.

Rudolph A. "Rudy" Claveran Jr., 68, of Big Spring, died on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Felix Cubelo officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. A rosary will be held Friday, Dec. 12, 2003, at 7 p.m., at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Mr. Claveran was born to Sara Arista and Rudolph L. Claveran Sr. on May 2, 1935, in Big Spring.

Rudy was employed by the Veteran's Administration Medical Center for 29 years. Twelve years were at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Tucson, Ariz., where he retired in 1995. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1953 to 1955. He loved coaching Little League baseball. He was a member of the Catholic church.

Survivors include his wife of 27 years, Kay Claveran of Big Spring, four daughters and their mother, Maria Elena Hernandez, Joanne (Claveran) Garcia and her husband Edward, Delma (Claveran) Haro and her husband Henry, Norma (Claveran) Cervantes and her husband Tony, all of Big Spring, and Belinda (Claveran) Castillo and her husband Milton, of Midland; two step-daughters, Joy Linn Landis and her husband Forrest of Tucson, Ariz., and Dianne Hatch and her husband Rod, of Groves; one step-son, Kevin Murphy and his wife Shirley, of Big Spring; two brothers, Albert Claveran and his wife Rosie, of Fort Worth, and Wally Claveran and wife Pam, of Bettendorf, Iowa; one sister Lupe Burton, of Richmond, Va.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one daughter, Rosalita Claveran.

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

C.C. Cline

Mr. C.C. Cline, 75, of Midland, died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003, in a Midland hospital. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Colorado City Cemetery under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Mr. Cline was born to Jessie and Shirley Colder Cline on June 28, 1928, in Richmond. He married Betty Hill on Nov. 5, 1954, in Carlsbad, N.M. They lived in Big Spring for 40 years before moving to Midland, then Colorado City, and back to Midland. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and a good father and family man.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Cline of Midland; two daughters, Peggy Cline and Brenda Cline, both of Midland; two grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two sisters, Pauline Damon of Summersville and Everly Harmon of Victoria; two brothers, B.R. Cline of Needville and Johnny Cline of Summersville; and numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Troy Hooser, three brothers and one sister.

Paid obituary

Mattie Taylor

Mattie Taylor, 68, of Big Spring died Wednesday evening, Dec. 10, 2003, at Hospice House in Odessa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-6-20-25-31. Number matching five of five: 3. Prize per winner: \$14,063. Winning tickets sold in: Edinburg and Eules. Matching four of five: 115. Prize: \$165. Matching three of five: 3,619. Prize: \$12. Matching two of five: 39,382. Prize: \$2. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-18-26-41-44. Bonus Ball: 15.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$30,351. Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 14. Prize: \$1,967. Number matching four of five: 503. Prize: \$118. Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 478. Prize: \$110. Number matching three of five: 20,692. Prize: \$5. Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 5,826. Prize: \$5. Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 27,196. Prize: \$3. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$22 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-0-8

Read the *Big Spring Herald* For all of your news, sports and local information

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M-F 9-5:30	Pergo Snap	Wilsonart
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	\$1.49 sf	Vinyl
		\$7.49 yd

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. today:

- **JASON CAREY**, 22, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on three local traffic warrants.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1700 block of FM 700.
 - in the 3300 block of FM 700.
 - in the 2300 block of Wasson.
 - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
 - in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **FIGHT IN PROGRESS** was reported in the 8300 block of the Interstate Highway 20 North Service Road. Deputies responded, second party was gone upon arrival. No report taken.
- **THREATS** was reported in the 600 block of Kenneth. Deputy responded, incident report to follow.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3100 block of Lintner. Deputies responded to the call, which was to a mail box. Report to follow.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the area of Texas Avenue. Deputies responded, the burglary happened approximately two days ago. Report to follow.

From Page One

STUDENTS

Continued from Page 1A

campus who say they can't afford to go to college or their parents can't afford to send them.

"That's not true," Foresyth continued. "We're trying to reinforce that to all the students, especially those who have a mindset that they can't go for some reason."

In an effort to encourage that misconception, Greg Brooks, president of the Big Spring Rotary Club, will present two eighth graders each with a \$1,000 scholarship.

"Eighth graders in the area were given a questionnaire to complete through their English teacher," said Foresyth, past-president of the Big Spring Rotary Club. "Those questionnaires were turned into the Rotary Club scholarship committee and were narrowed down."

Students are expected to participate from Big Spring, Coahoma, Stanton, Forsan, Ackerly, Garden City, Lenorah and Sterling City.

The program begins at 9 a.m. in the Dorothy Garret Coliseum.

"We'll have opening remarks at that time and then we'll present the Big Spring Rotary Club scholarship," said Shirley Lee, director of information and marketing.

Following the presentation, members on the Prison Impact Panel will discuss the choices they made in their life which led to their incarceration, Lee said.

"From there we'll break up into two discussion sessions," said Lee. "One will talk about career and college exploration and the other will talk about how to pay for college."

After the sessions, the students will tour the campus.

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

Correction

An article reporting the Community Parade float results in the Monday edition of the *Big Spring Herald* identified New Hope Christian School as New Hope Christian Church. The school's float earned third place in the church/school division.

Local Briefs

One free ticket to the Big Spring High School theater department's production of "South Pacific" is available to the first eight callers.

Callers must reach Herald Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, personally and not her voice mail.

The first performance will be held tonight at 7 at the high school auditorium, 707 11th Place, and the play runs through Saturday night. There will also be two matinee performances at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Bulletin board

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

Today
Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479 for more information.

Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. at Herman's Restaurant.

The Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. at Gale's.

The Genealogical Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library.

Masonic Lodge B40 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 50s. South winds 5 to 15 mph shifting to the north in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 Percent. Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows around 30.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s.

From Page One

EDWARDS

Continued from Page 1A

the VA Hospital," said Edwards, who also said that during his many years in the oil industry he has become familiar with Howard County. "I am a big supporter of the Big Spring Refinery and what it does for the local economy."

"I'd like to go to Austin and stand up for the Permian Basin and the Panhandle and be a voice for the people of this area. I understand the principles and values of these people and would take those principles and values to Austin," he added.

Edwards began his career as a petroleum engineer with Texaco Inc. in the early 1980s and for a decade was an executive with Key Energy and Odessa Exploration. He is currently president of The MacLondon Companies — named after he and his wife, Lori's two daughters, 10-year-old McKenzie and 9-year-old London. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of Odessa.

Edwards is a former Odessa city council member, past president of the Permian Basin International Oil Show and current vice present of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association and the Greater Odessa Chamber of Commerce.

Other candidates who have announced they are seeking Bivin's post are Odessa businessman Bob Barnes, Midland Mayor Mike Cannon, Midland businessman Don Sparks and former Amarillo Mayor Kel Seliger.

Candidates who plan to run for the seat must file their applications with the Secretary of State no later than Monday, Dec. 22.

Early voting for the election begins Monday, Jan. 5, and continues through Friday, Jan. 16.

Contact Bill McClellan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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The Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press, Texas Press Association, Inland Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Newspaper Association of America, Small Newspaper Federation, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and American Newspaper Association.

Published afternoons Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings, except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted. Postmaster: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas. USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-8811

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HENRY BACKES

METH

Continued from Page 1A

a directed verdict. Kessler, acquittal of all charges, but similar verdicts year-old Rachel Savala and 43-year-old Grant Cory Perdue facing the same charges.

With the jury for more than an hour, the trial of the Keslers' immediately became awkward situation attorney Robert who represented and Tim Yeats, represented Savala.

"If you bring back in and tell the jury of the defendant, been given a directed verdict and are innocent the other two they're going to actually think the are still on trial guilty," Miller asked the court.

Miller requested a trial — a request

NATIVITY

Continued from Page 1A

vating presentation the Christmas story where," said J. Huff, pastor. The scene is beautifully painted and decorated to authentically represent the ancient buildings and places of years gone by.

A trail of luminary leads motorists through presentation. The property depicts the prop Christ's birth, the ney of Mary and the birth of Christ flight into Egypt King Herod's matation of the m first born sons, the fixation, his resurrection and ascension in heaven.

At the start of the presentation, motorists offered the use of compact disk or cassette to play in their cars. Available in English, Spanish, the narrator explains each scene.

The drive nativity is held from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. through Sunday church parking lot.

LEADERS

Continued from Page 1A

Bureau of Prisons Medina, city of Big Spring; Brian M. KBST; Shelly Alon Refinery; Tagge, So. Collegiate Institute for the Deaf; Brick Cornell Correctional Sheila Tripp, Corrections. All fulfilled requirements and completed their contract project, which was

Pizza

Thurs.-Fri.
Night Bu
5:30 pm-9:30
All The Pizza, Past
Dessert, You C
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Terry Kinsey.....
Español.....
We accept cash-

METH

Continued from Page 1A

a directed verdict for the Keslers, acquitting them of all charges, but denied similar verdicts for 18-year-old Rachel Francis Savala and 43-year-old Grant Cory Perdeu, also facing the same charges.

With the jury waiting for more than an hour to restart the trial, the issue of the Keslers' acquittal immediately became an awkward situation for attorney Robert Miller, who represented Perdeu, and Tim Yeats, who represented Savala.

"If you bring the jury back in and tell them two of the defendants have been given a directed verdict and are innocent, and the other two weren't, they're going to automatically think the two that are still on trial are guilty," Miller argued to the court.

Miller requested a mistrial — a request that was

denied. Moore said he had given the matter thought prior to his decision to acquit the Keslers and offered a simple way to explain the situation to the jurors.

"I will instruct the jurors that the continuation of the trial for the remaining defendants is in no way an indication of guilt or innocence," said Moore.

That wouldn't become necessary.

Only moments after Judge Moore finished with his ruling on the directed verdict, negotiations on a plea bargain between the remaining two defendants and District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson began.

Perdeu pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of manufacture of a controlled substance, less than one gram, a state-jail felony. He was sentenced to two years in a state prison, with 126 days credited to his sentence for jail time awaiting

trial. One of the provisions of the agreement was Perdeu would have to serve the sentence in its entirety, with no time taken off his sentence for good behavior or other incentives.

Savala pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of methamphetamine, less than one gram, also a state-jail felony. As part of the plea bargain, Wilkerson dropped the manufacturing charge against her and she was sentenced to two years in state prison, which was suspended in lieu of four years probation.

"The office standard for us is to try to get eight to 10 years on a meth lab, and with two-years state jail we're significantly under that, at least in terms of the actual sentence," he said.

Wilkerson said his intention from the beginning was to present the facts of the case and let the jury draw its own con-

clusion as to the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

"Went into the trial knowing we had a situation where we had a methamphetamine lab and we had five people in reasonable proximity of the lab," said Wilkerson. "Our real goal from the beginning was to just throw this in front of the jury and see who they want to find guilty."

"As we concluded the state's evidence the judge granted motions for directed judgment for two of the defendants and that left us with two."

"There are the things that I know, and the things that are evidence before the court. That sort of narrowed things down so we could maneuver in trying to approach justice."

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

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A

which is for sexual assault of a child."

Although the victim's age, which was 15 years at the time of the offense, makes the legality of consent a moot point, Orr said he fully expects it to become an issue during the trial.

"Under the law she's not old enough to give consent. I know there's going to be some discussion about that at the trial," Orr said. "Even in cases where consent is not a defense legally, it is usually brought up to excuse or mitigate the conduct of the defendant in the minds of the jurors. It's my belief there will be an attempt to bring that in to the picture at some point."

Local attorney Tim Yeats will serve as Moore's defense council. The jury was selected

Monday.

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

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NATIVITY

Continued from Page 1A

vating presentations of the Christmas story anywhere," said J. Roger Huff, pastor. "Every scene is beautifully painted and decorated to authentically represent the ancient buildings and places of years gone by."



HUFF

A trail of luminary leads motorists through the presentation. Scenes depict the prophecy of Christ's birth, the journey of Mary and Joseph, the birth of Christ, their flight into Egypt following King Herrod's proclamation of the murder of first born sons, the crucifixion, his resurrection and ascension into heaven.

At the start of the presentation, motorists are offered the use of a compact disk or cassette tape to play in their car stereo. Available in English or Spanish, the narrative explains each scene.

The drive-through nativity is held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday in the church parking lot at 1400

Lancaster. It takes about 15 to 20 minutes to drive through the presentation.

"If you have hearing impaired friends, plan to bring them on Friday," said Huff, "as we will offer sign interpretation for them at each scene so they, too, can enjoy the wonderful narration that accompanies this event."

The entrance to the drive-through nativity is best approached from the west on Martin Luther King Boulevard, with a south turn on to Lancaster.

The event is free though there is an opportunity to make a financial contribution at the exit for those who wish. The contributions enable the church to continue the tradition each year.

"We cordially invite everyone to this wonderful 17th annual Drive-Through Nativity," said Huff. "We are sure it will warm your heart and bring you back to the reality of the true meaning of Christmas."

For more information about the Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene's Drive-Through Nativity, call the church at 267-7015.

Contact Bill McClellan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

LEADERS

Continued from Page 1A

Bureau of Prisons; John Medina, city of Big Spring; Brian Michaelz, KBST; Shelly Parker, Alon Refinery; Edward Tagge, SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf; Brick Tripp, Cornell Corrections; and Sheila Tripp, Cornell Corrections

All fulfilled their requirements and completed their community project, which was land-

scaping the entrance to the West Side Daycare Center.

The chamber is accepting applications through Dec. 19 for the 2004 class that will begin Jan. 8.

Terri Davis, Howard College assistant professor of business, will lead the leadership skills for 2004.

The cost to participate in Leadership Big Spring is \$300, which includes all materials for the class, transportation and meals.

Those interested should call the chamber office at 263-7641.

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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.

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Susanne Reed
General Manager

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Another great weekend set in Big Spring

No rest for those who are having fun. If you thought last weekend's festivities with the community parade and Living Christmas Tree were spectacular, you are right. But the celebration of the season doesn't let up one bit as we head into another weekend.

One of the most beautiful presentations in our area is the Drive Through Nativity, put on by the Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene. Motorists drive by 17 live scenes that recreate the story of the life of Christ. First began in 1987 with seven scenes, it now boasts a cast of more than 130 people. It runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights from 6:30 until 9:30.

Something new this year will be a program commemorating 100 years of powered flight. The public is invited to the Big Spring Air Terminal on Saturday to view static aircraft displays, see demonstrations of the weather system, watch the video "Kitty Hawk" and partake of free hot dogs and soft drinks — as long as they last. This special program begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. It promises to be very educational and a whole lot of fun.

Also Saturday, the Big Spring Mall will be having special events all day. In addition to sales put on by the mall's merchants, booths selling craft items and art will be open. Santa will arrive at 11 a.m. and greet children until 7 p.m.

A wonderful experience — and one that is for a good cause, as well — is the Big Spring Symphony guild's Holiday Tour of Homes, which takes place from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday. There are three beautiful homes this year, all ready to welcome you. Tickets, at \$10 each, are available through the Guild, First Bank of West Texas, Faye's Flowers and Dunlaps. The tour really is remarkable and the funds go to help the Big Spring Symphony.

Finally, it's not really on the weekend, but Monday marks the official beginning of the Festival of Lights this year at Comanche Trail Park. It's one of Big Spring's most well-known and loved holiday attractions. It will continue nightly through the holidays. Don't miss it! Have a wonderful weekend.

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

Reckless behind the wheel

Earlier this year, Sacramento lawmakers passed one of the most craven pieces of legislation the state capital has ever produced. Last week, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill repealing the erstwhile SB60, which would have allowed illegal immigrants to obtain California driver's licenses. The journey that led state politicians to kill the bill, they once embraced has a moral behind it.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Of course, the heavily Democratic Legislature killed the bill because it was highly unpopular (and bound to be overturned in an initiative that would have qualified for the March ballot). The Democrats had completely misread public sentiment on the measure.

Perhaps the Dems bought into their own public-relations spin, which argued that support for Proposition 187 — the 1994 measure that pledged to deny state benefits to illegal immigrants — was bad politics, even though 59 percent of voters backed it. Certainly they bought into the far-left argument that there is no difference between legal and illegal immigrants, and that enforcing immigration laws is anti-Latino.

Political consultants warned Democrats that a driver's license bill for illegal immigrants was a "turkey" with the voters in 2002, said Garry South, former political

guru to former Gov. Gray Davis, "but they didn't care."

Meanwhile, some Davis aides were so out of touch that they believed Davis' signing of SB60 would deliver them a monolithic Latino vote in the recall election. How bitter it must have been for SB60 supporters to learn that a Los Angeles Times poll found that 38 percent of Latino voters strongly opposed giving a driver's license to an illegal immigrant.

"The intention of the bill was to place valid state identity documents in the hands of illegal immigrants," state Sen. Tom McClintock, R-Thousand Oaks, noted, "and the only purpose of that is to undermine U.S. immigration laws."

Oddly, state voters have shown more respect for immigration laws than state lawmakers.

The worst of it was: Not only did Sacramento politicians pass a bill that offended California voters on principle — by giving the imprimatur of state documentation to people deliberately breaking federal law — but they also passed, and Davis signed, the worst possible version of it.

At the time, the bill's author, Sen. Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, touted the measure as an effort to "restore highway safety." But his bill did nothing to increase the petty penalties meted out to those who drive without a license or insurance. It ditched proposals to prevent fraud and keep escaped convicts from obtaining a document that would give them legitimacy. It was bald in its contempt for the legitimate objections to

granting licenses to illegal immigrants with serious criminal records.

Sen. Cedillo has told the press that he will work with the governor to produce a compromise measure early next year. Team Arnold countered that "there is no agreement." And there should be no agreement.

When pro-illegal immigrant politicians had their chance, their arrogance knew no bounds. They showed no respect for federal law or state voters. Bill supporters only changed their tune when they realized the bill could hurt their precious derrieres.

Said Davis adviser South, "The galling thing to me is that the Democrats in the Legislature tried to ram this thing down the governor's throat in 2002 and (again) at the end of the recall election. And in both cases, (Davis) faced drastic effects, both by vetoing it in 2002 and signing it in 2003."

South is outraged that Cedillo and company only retreated when their careers were at stake and a Republican governor was installed.

Governor, these guys don't deserve a compromise bill. On this issue, they cannot be trusted.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Bush's marriage decision is needed

As George W. Bush traveled to London Nov. 18, he learned of the decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court upholding gay marriage. It had been dreaded, expected and awaited for months, giving the president plenty of time to decide whether to endorse an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Yet, he uttered only pro forma disapproval of the Massachusetts decision, pledging to defend "the sanctity of marriage."



ROBERT NOVAK

Aides said President Bush wanted to concentrate on his mission in Britain without distraction by a domestic social issue. However, he has long since returned to Washington (and made a round trip to Baghdad), without revealing his intentions. In fact, the White House is divided, as is the Republican Party, on an issue Bush cannot avoid.

This is a yes-or-no choice for the president, with a middle course not possible. Without a constitutional amendment, gay marriage will become part of the fabric of American life. Bush must decide, therefore, whether that is truly important. Christian conservatives who support him say that it is, transcending abortion in shaping the country's culture.

These conservatives are not happy with Massachusetts Republican Gov. Mitt Romney, who denounced the 4 to 3 ruling by his state's highest court but wants the matter settled in Massachusetts. That sets a disastrous course, says the social right.

The Massachusetts court has given the state legislature 180 days to end restrictions against same-sex marriage. Simultaneously, the legislators are expected to amend the constitution to prohibit same-sex marriages, but that change cannot come before the state's voters until the 2006 election. This process opens a period of more than two and one-half years, during which Massachusetts homosexuals could marry each other and adopt children.

Would these same-sex marriage partners after 2006 be deprived of newly enjoyed legal privileges? They would likely appeal to the federal courts, and there is no doubt they would be sustained by the present composition of the U.S. Supreme Court. The 6 to 3 Lawrence decision on June 26 affirming gay rights is widely viewed as a de facto affirmation of same-sex marriage. Prospects for a new majority on the court in place by then are purely speculative.

Thus, social conservatives say Congress must immediately begin action on an amendment that could become part of the U.S. Constitution more quickly than the Massachusetts Constitution could be changed. But the president's approval is essential.

There is not much room for fine-tuning. On May 21, Republican freshman Rep. Marilyn Musgrave of Colorado introduced a constitutional amendment saying "marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman," adding that federal or state constitutions cannot be interpreted to the contrary. Last Monday, another Colorado Republican, Sen. Wayne Allard, introduced an identical amendment with three GOP co-sponsors.

The position by the six serious Democratic presidential candidates opposing a constitutional amendment would lead to legalization of gay marriage that they profess to oppose. More difficult for the president, the same position is held by libertarian and neo-conservative members of his own coalition.

A "White House adviser" was quoted by the Los Angeles Times saying Bush "doesn't much care for 'moralistic debates.'" Neo-conservative journalist David Brooks, recently hired by the New York Times as a columnist, stirred the nation's capital Nov. 22 by writing: "We (conservatives) shouldn't just allow gay marriage. We should insist on gay marriage."

Charlie Cook, a respected campaign handicapper, has called this issue "frivolous and insignificant" when compared with casualties in Iraq and unemployment in America. Not in the opinion of Bush's social conservatives, who over the last two weeks have made clear to the White House that this — even more than abortion — is their great concern about the nation's social fabric.

These Bush backers see the president under worldwide assault as a Christian, particularly in a Europe where atheism is on the rise and religion on the decline. They cannot imagine he will not endorse a constitutional amendment. They cannot understand why he has not done so already on an issue that has been percolating for months.

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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Big Spring Herald
Thursday, Dec 11, 2003

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*Suzuki's 'n
sedan ready*

SAN DIEGO — creating its "no
mise" mid-size
sedan due in deal
rooms in
September, Suzuki
tapped into its
resources.

The new Verona
designed in Italy
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and lots of
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amenities, the Verona
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Without quest-
Verona — availa-
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Even the top-of-
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seating) lists for
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Hello Verona

Suzuki's 'no compromise' flagship sedan ready for North America

SAN DIEGO — When creating its "no compromise" mid-size flagship sedan due in dealer showrooms in early September, Suzuki has tapped into its global resources.

The new Verona was designed in Italy, manufactured in Korea and made specifically for the North American market.

Equipped with a standard six-cylinder engine and lots of upscale amenities, the Verona packs an impressive amount of value into a roomy, well-designed sedan that has a base price starting at \$16,499.

Without question, the Verona — available in S, LX and EX trim lines — is big on value.

Even the top-of-the-line EX trim line (complete with sunroof and leather seating) lists for less than \$20,000.

But while the Verona is definitely a value leader in the segment, it's also

one very impressive vehicle.

After spending two days behind the wheel during a recent media launch in Southern California, I was very impressed with the Verona's performance.

Suzuki's only obstacle in selling this car is going to be the company's ability to get the word out to consumers.

Long known as a motorcycle company in the American market, Suzuki has been selling automobiles in this country since 1985 with a relatively small dealer network (currently around 450).

That's about to change. The company's automotive division plans on introducing nine new vehicles in the next five years while expanding its dealer base to more than 600. It also plans a major marketing campaign beginning this fall to raise awareness of Suzuki's auto division,



The 2004 Suzuki Verona mid-size sedan.

products and award-winning customer satisfaction ratings.

The Verona is the first of those nine new vehicles, each designed to offer customers more of what they are looking for in a vehicle — including more value.

The Verona — designed to go head-to-head with the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord — certainly lives up to that pledge.

In addition to the a standard transverse-mounted 2.5-liter I-6 engine (155 horsepower/177 lb.-ft. torque), the powerplant is mated to an adaptive shift four-speed automatic transmission that actually learns the driver's operational behavior and then adapt shifting patterns to optimize the car's performance with an EPA rating of 20 mph city/28 mph highway. It meets ULEV

emission standards.

It also comes with a transferable 7-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty and a 3-year/36,000-mile new vehicle warranty with roadside assistance and courtesy loaner car program.

Standard features include wood grain accents, electroluminescent instrument array, power windows and door locks, heated mirrors, cruise control, leather-wrapped steering wheel and shifter, remote keyless entry, air conditioning with air filtration system and six-speaker sound system with CD player.

LX models include automatic climate control, alloy wheels and ABS, while EX models add power sunroof, leather and 8-way power seats.

Safety features include dual front airbags, head-



rests and three-point safety belts for all five seating positions, along with back seat tether anchors and the LATCH system.

The Verona is extremely spacious and very quiet. It is highly recommended for "no compromise" consumers wanting power, performance, features, safety, reliability and value in a mid-size sedan.

To locate the nearest Suzuki dealer, log onto the Suzuki Website at

www.suzuki.com, select the automotive window and click on dealer locator.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 10 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedaily.com.

ON THE ROAD



By Neal White

Women make the most of life with reading

Five women living on Freesia Court are so very different.

One woman's husband is gone much of the time on business and she is left at home to care for her twin babies.

Another is a childless widow, while a third presents the façade of having a picture-perfect marriage while enduring an abusive husband.

Another woman is a flagrantly sexy mother of a bustling household, and the fifth is an outspoken anti-war protester and activist.

As the women get to know each other as neighbors. Much of their interaction is brought about by daily needs or crises, but most of the conversation remains on a superfi-

Foster parents needed for Big Spring area

Big Spring and the surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers of the children in the community who have been abused and neglected.

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

HERALD BOOK REVIEW

cial level.

One day while meeting in front of their homes, talk turned to a book one of them recently had read. Others expressed interest, and soon the idea of creating a book club was born.

Book club meetings rotated among the five women, with hostess choosing the reading selection.

Refreshments often reflected the theme of the selected book.

Reading and the resulting discussions may have

been the stated purpose of the group gathering, but the real draw was the emotional and physical support each continually received by being in touch with other club members.

The story begins in 1968 and continues to the present time. Not only were the lives of these five women diverse when the book club began, the changes in each of their lives was astounding.

Children arrived and left, divorce, marriage and remarriage took place, dreams were dashed, and unimagined problems were faced. Not only did circumstances

change, but the women themselves changed.

Lorna Landvik takes a story idea that is not new and is able to make her novel different enough that it is fun to read and keeps the reader's attention.

The author manages to give life to her characters by giving them imperfect personalities.

She makes them vulnerable, resourceful and resilient. Each woman has challenges and obstacles familiar to women of today, and each manages to overcome some hurt or wrong in a manner that would make any woman proud.

The book is cleverly

divided into chapters similar to a diary that was kept of the book club meetings.

It lists the hostess, the book to be read, the specific reason why the book was chosen, and something about the meeting such as refreshments or an incident that made the meeting memorable.

This is a terrific book to take along on vacation with just enough suspense about the outcomes, it's easy to pick up again after interruptions, and interesting enough to make the reader want to finish.

Landvik's latest book should be dedicated to every book club that

offers more than just the opportunity to read and review books.

"Angry Housewives" presents the perfect description of a support group that has the love of reading as a reason to meet, knowing all along that the enjoyment of being together is reason enough.

You may not be an angry housewife, but eating bon bons is terrific!

"Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons" by Lorna Landvik, Ballantine Books, New York, New York. 2003.

Pat Williams, former resident of Big Spring, previously served as an educator.

CHRISTMAS
at the
MANSION

Make your holidays special — visit the Turner Mansion.
Open until New Year's Eve.

View the 200 sq. ft. model train exhibit, along with all the wonderful sights, sounds and smells of Christmas. Many activities are planned through New Year's Eve for the enjoyment of all ages.

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CLOSED: Mondays & Christmas Day

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A time for giving

Gift ideas sure to please the racing fan on your list

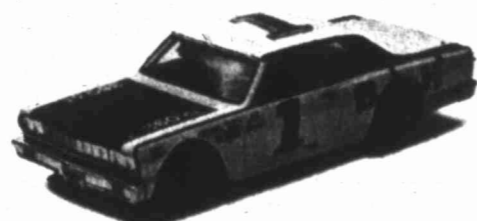
BY ERIC GOODWIN
Knight Ridder/Tribune

The holidays are here and that means it's time to break out the wallet and do some shopping! If a NASCAR fan is on your list, don't worry — there's plenty of stock-car related merchandise to choose from. NASCAR products run the gamut from soap to electric guitars. The hardest part may be figuring out where to begin. Here's a list of gift ideas to get you pointed in the right direction.

THROWBACKS

If sales of retro-styled football and basketball jerseys are any indication, so called "throwback" items are here to stay. With R.J. Reynolds bidding farewell as primary sponsor of NASCAR's top series after a 30-year run, why not give your longtime racing fan something to commemorate the Winston era? One idea is a **NASCAR Winston Cup "Original Logo" long-sleeve T-shirt** from the NASCAR.com Superstore. This officially licensed shirt features a screen-print of the first Winston Cup logo on the shirt's front and a large screen-printed graphic featuring a vintage car on the back. **\$19.99, store.nascar.com**

If your fan is a true-blue stock-car racing fan, then they'll be sure to appreciate the **1964 Neil Bonnett Chevelle die-cast coin bank** from Action Performance. The 1:24 scale replica features a hood and trunk that opens, plus a detailed interior. The coin bank has a key to make sure your loose change is secure. **\$29.99, www.qvc.com**



1964 Neil Bonnett Chevelle die-cast coin

Fans who don't go back quite that far with the sport but still know a thing or two about their NASCAR history will enjoy Action Performance's **Cale Yarborough Winston Cup Victory Lap die-cast car**. The 1:24 scale car is a tribute to the three-time champion and a replica of the car driven at last August's Darlington race to commemorate 33 years of Winston Cup history. It features detailed graphics and manufacturer specific engine detail. **\$59.99, www.qvc.com**

classic board games never go out of style. For fans who enjoy traditional games, USAopoly's **NASCAR Checkers** is a perfect match. The game features custom checker pieces sculpted to resemble the Goodyear tires used on stock-cars and comes in a collectible tin. **\$14.95, www.usaopoly.com**

However, if your fan is a video gamer and owns a few racing games, put him more in the action with a **Thrustmaster racing wheel game controller**. The company features a full line of officially licensed NASCAR racing wheels for PlayStation 2, Xbox, PC and Macintosh computer systems. Each wheel varies, but all include internal vibrating motors that allow players to "feel" every bump in the road. Some models include foot pedals for even more realism.



The Thrustmaster Pro Victory Wheel for the Xbox retails for \$59.99.

GAMES

Speaking of throwbacks,



\$24.99 to \$99.99, depending on model and game platform, us.thrustmaster.com
Cale Yarborough Winston Cup Victory Lap die-cast car

Proposal for a new points system a good call or static on the line?

How can anybody work with the phone ringing? I need to go ahead and get that.

Hello?
Is this David Poole?
No, this is. (I never get tired of that joke.)

You know about as much about being funny as you do about NASCAR, doofus.

I hear that a lot. What have I done wrong now?

You're way off base, as usual, Junior. You couldn't be more wrong about this idea NASCAR's looking at about how to change the points system.

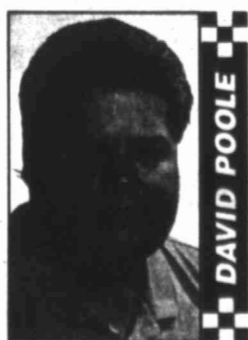
Come on! Starting the points race over after 26 races and letting only the top 10 run for the championship over the final 10 races? So many things are wrong with that idea!

Well, smart guy. Pick one of your objections and let me tear it apart right quick.

OK, you're going to make the first 26 races not count as much as your last 10? Doesn't that change the whole way things have been, where every race counts the same?

Sure, but that's the whole point — changing things. If you don't like the system you use to pick your champion, don't fiddle with it. Blow it up. And who says the first 26 races wouldn't be important? You'd have fewer chances to have a bad day and still make the top 10 and get to run for the championship. The final 10 races just mean more.

Yeah, so now the second Loudon and second Dover races mean more than the Daytona 500, the Brickyard 400 and the Coca-Cola 600 because they're in the final 10 and those traditionally big races are in the "regular sea-



DAVID POOLE

son." Son, how many times have you written that there should be more emphasis on winning races than on running for the points? It's still going to be a big deal to win the Daytona 500 because of all the tradition involved with that.

It's still going to be big to win at Charlotte where all these teams are based.

It's still going to be huge to win at Indy because it's Indy, and because that race still pays big money. But will the fans still think those races are a big deal?

Fans don't go to the track to see people race for points, they go to see who wins that day. The only times fans look at points are if they're in a pool or it's towards the end of the season anyway. If it's September and Matt Kenseth has a 400-point lead, it's over.

So Kenseth builds a 418-point lead after the Richmond race this year and then just loses it going into the final 10 races? How fair is that?

Fair? That's where you buy funnel cakes. Who won the World Series this year?

The Florida Marlins. How far behind the Atlanta Braves did they finish in their division? But in the playoffs, when it counted, the Marlins got rolling.

But shouldn't the team that does the best all year win the championship?

When Dale Earnhardt and Richard Petty won seven championships, they had to beat everybody. Under this playoff system, Jeff Gordon could get to seven for his career by winning by being eighth or ninth after 26 races and then having a good 10-week stretch and beating only nine other guys.

Petty won five of his championships under a system you couldn't explain to

me right now if your life depended on it. Does anybody say his seven titles aren't as legitimate as Earnhardt's seven? Hey, it might be harder to win titles under this new system. What if Gordon has the 400-point lead after 26 races and has to give that back and win it all over again in the final 10 races? He's got to win that championship twice.

Look, no matter what you say, you're not going to convince me this is a good idea. It changes the whole deal and NASCAR's got it too good to do something this radical. It's hokey, it's minor-league and it's contrived.

Aside from the night race at Bristol, what's the most exciting thing that happens in a typical Cup season, smart guy?

I'd have to say that'd be The Winston, or whatever it's going to be called next year.

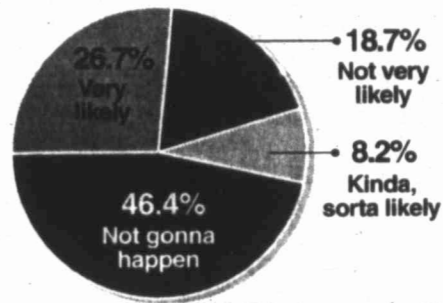
Nothing contrived about that race, is there?

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
Should NASCAR adopt the "26-10" playoff-style points system for 2004?

Cast your vote at:
www.thatracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
How likely are you to give NASCAR souvenirs as holiday gifts?
Number of votes: 3,250



RACIN' NOTES

Deal confirmed between Jasper Motorsports and Penske Racing for 2004

The Penske-Jasper Motorsports deal to share ownership of the No. 77 team and bring it under the Penske and Dodge umbrella is all but completed, ThatRacin.com has learned.

A formal announcement of the merger should be made within two weeks. NASCAR Truck series driver Brendan Gaughan is to join the team, sources said.

"We should know a lot more very soon. Until then, there isn't much for me to say," said Penske Racing Vice President Don Miller, in New York for last weekend's Winston Cup awards ceremony.

Miller and team owner Roger Penske have said they were considering a third Nextel Cup team next season after being approached by Kodak, which could be the team's sponsor. Sources said the remaining issues in the Penske-Jasper deal included contracts with the sponsor and a new driver as well as those related to the No. 77 team and its current driver, Dave Blaney.

Blaney would not remain with the team under the new deal. However, he may join another Cup operation, sources said.

Who would serve as crew chief as the new team remains unclear, but sources said Gaughan's Truck series crew chief, Shane Wilson, and Bill Wilburn, who recently stepped down as crew chief for Penske Cup driver Rusty Wallace, were both under consideration.



Gaughan

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

2004 TRUCK SERIES SCHEDULE

Feb. 13	Daytona International Speedway
March 13	Atlanta Motor Speedway
April 17	Martinsville Speedway
May 16	Mansfield Motorsports Speedway
May 21	Lowe's Motor Speedway
June 4	Dover International Speedway
June 11	Texas Motor Speedway
June 19	Memphis Motorsports Park
June 26	The Milwaukee Mile
July 3	Kansas Speedway
July 10	Kentucky Speedway
July 17	Gateway International Raceway
July 21	Michigan International Speedway
Aug. 6	Indianapolis Raceway Park
Aug. 14	Nashville Superspeedway
Aug. 25	Bristol Motor Speedway
Sept. 9	Richmond International Raceway
Sept. 18	New Hampshire International Speedway
Sept. 25	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Oct. 2	California Speedway
Oct. 16	Texas Motor Speedway
Oct. 23	Martinsville Speedway
Nov. 5	Phoenix International Raceway
Nov. 12	Darlington Raceway
Nov. 19	Homestead-Miami Speedway

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Sports Broadcast

Dec. 11

Event, Time

Spurs vs. Houston, 9 p.m.

Dec. 12

Event, Time

Mavericks vs. Lakers, 9 p.m.

Dec. 13

Event, Time

Spurs vs. Houston, 7 p.m.

Dec. 14

Event, Time

Tenaris vs. Buccaneers, 11:

Cowboys vs. Redskins, 2-4:

Dec. 15

Event, Time

Spurs vs. Memphis, 7 p.m.

Dec. 16

Event, Time

Mavericks vs. Minnesota, 6

IN BRIEF

BSYBL registration now under way at 'Y'

Registration for the Big Spring Youth Basketball League is now under way and will run through Dec. 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.

Coahoma hoops sign-ups under way

Registration for the Coahoma Youth Basketball League is being held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Coahoma Junior High School gym. The league is open to fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Coahoma Elementary School.

The fee is \$25 per player. Try-outs and a draft will be held Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. For more information, call Loy Hahn at 394-4232.

Quarterback Club to sell banquet tickets

The Big Spring Quarterback Club is selling tickets to the BSHS football banquet, which is slated for 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 15, at the BSJHS Cafeterium.

Only 350 tickets will be sold for the event. Ticket prices are \$10 each and can be purchased at the Sparenburg Building at 309 S. Main in Big Spring.

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).

Former Lady Steer to be enshrined in Hall

Former Big Spring High School standout Rose Magers-Powell will be inducted into the Huntsville Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame.

Magers-Powell, the aunt of current BSHS standout Karissa Magers, is slated to be inducted on April 19.

ON THE AIR

Event	Time	Station
Spurs vs. Houston	7 p.m.	1490
Mavericks vs. Lakers	9 p.m.	1490
Spurs vs. Houston	7 p.m.	1490
Texans vs. Buccaneers	11:45 a.m.	94.3
Cowboys vs. Redskins	2:45 p.m.	95.7
Spurs vs. Memphis	7 p.m.	1490
Spurs vs. Toronto	7 p.m.	1490
Mavericks vs. Minnesota	6 p.m.	1490

Big Spring swimmers net silver at Ft. Stockton

By BRANDON HALLFORD
Special to the Herald

The Big Spring Steers boy's swim team continued to show it is a force to be reckoned this past weekend. The Steers finished second to the Pecos Eagles for the third time this season at the Fort Stockton Invitational Swim Meet.

Big Spring wasted little time in showing it came to compete as the Steers' "A" team finished second in the 200-yard medley relay. The team, comprised of seniors Chris Stokes, Will Liggett, Mark Sheedy and Justin Petrowski, blistered the course in a time of one minute, 52.21 seconds, outdistancing third-place Andrews by a full second.

Scott Thomas kept the momentum going in the next event, turning in a 2:11.41 for a seventh-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle.

Big Spring hit the jackpot in the 200-yard individual medley with three swimmers finishing in the top seven spots. Liggett

and Petrowski and freshman Ryan Hughey snared third, fifth, and seventh, respectively.

Steven Lucas finished a team-high 12th while Randy Yanez finished in 17th in the 50-yard freestyle.

The Steer tankers got back on track in the 100-yard butterfly as Sheedy led the way with a third-place time of 1:01.55. Petrowski and David Brooks added to the team totals, contributing seventh- and ninth-place finishes.

Stokes just missing out on a gold medal in the 100-yard freestyle race, finishing second to Pecos' Daniel Quintana by one-tenth of a second — touching the wall at 54.63. Lucas took ninth.

In the 500-yard freestyle, Daniel Pike and Thomas finished in sixth and seventh, respectively — covering the grueling race in times of 6:00.43 and 6:01.75.

Hughey, Brooks, Pike and Jeremy Petrowski teamed up for the 200-yard freestyle and pulled in with a fourth-place finish at 1:46.03. The BSHS "B" team

Yanez, Lucas, Thomas, and Kip White finished ninth.

Sheedy flexed his muscles from there. He raced to a time of 1:02.88 and finished third in the 100-yard backstroke. Hughey and Brooks also made strong showings, placing 10th and 11th.

Jeremy Petrowski gave the Steers their best showing in the 100-yard breaststroke, finishing ninth at 1:16.94.

Big Spring finished the day strongly with both the A and B teams finishing near the top in the 400-yard relay. Sheedy, Justin Petrowski, Stokes, and Liggett, outdistanced third-place Odessa Permian by more than 10 seconds with a time 3:41.72 in the "A" race. Brooks, Hughey, Pike and Jeremy Petrowski finished fifth.

The Big Spring Lady Steers swimmers found the waters a little rougher.

Jessica Hughey turned in the best finish of the day, taking the bronze in the 100-yard backstroke.

Hughey just missed out on

another medal as she placed fourth in the 200-yard individual medley.

Freshman Terrin Herring contributed a fourth and seventh place finish, clocking in at 1:02.79 in the 100-yard freestyle race and at 28.85 in the 50-yard freestyle.

In the 200-yard freestyle race, sophomore Kasey Pointon turned in a solid ninth-place finish. She survived the 500-yard freestyle event with a mark of 7:23.26 — good enough for 12th.

Megan Matthews finished 13th in the 200-yard freestyle.

Kendra Weeks posted a time of 1:28.11 in the 100-yard breaststroke to finish in sixth. She came back later to add to the Big Spring point total with a ninth-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly.

The Lady Steers' 400-yard freestyle relay team — Weeks, Hughey, Pointon, and Herring — scored a sixth-place finish.

The BSHS swim team returns to action this weekend in Seminole.

JH girls upend S'water

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Junior High School eighth grade Lady Steers found the simplest way to handle the Sweetwater Lady Mustangs Monday night. They didn't let them have the ball.

Big Spring pulled down 60 rebounds, including double-digit efforts from Amanda Caskey, Danielle Jeter and Maddy Hopkins and picked up points from seven different players en route to posting a convincing 30-19 win over Sweetwater.

Hopkins paced the Lady Steers' on the boards by grabbing 13 rebounds in the contest. Jeter finished with 11, while Hopkins collected 10 to go with her team-high nine points. Lauren Sage and Desiree Yanez just missed becoming the fourth and fifth BSJHS rebounders in double figures, finishing with eight apiece.

Lauren Bryant added to the Lady Steers' rebounding numbers as well, chipping in six.

Offensively, Jeter helped spark the Lady Steers by scoring four points. Caskey and Bryant each contributed three.

The BSJHS eighth grade B team used eight points from Meredith Morgan and Hali Torres to nab a 38-16 rout of Sweetwater.

Clarissa Carrisalez also contributed to the win by throwing in seven points.

Defensively, Morgan keyed the BSJHS attack. She finished the contest with a game-high 13 rebounds.

Amber Simer, Emily Slape and Nita Cotton all scored four points in the game, while Randye Phillippe added three.

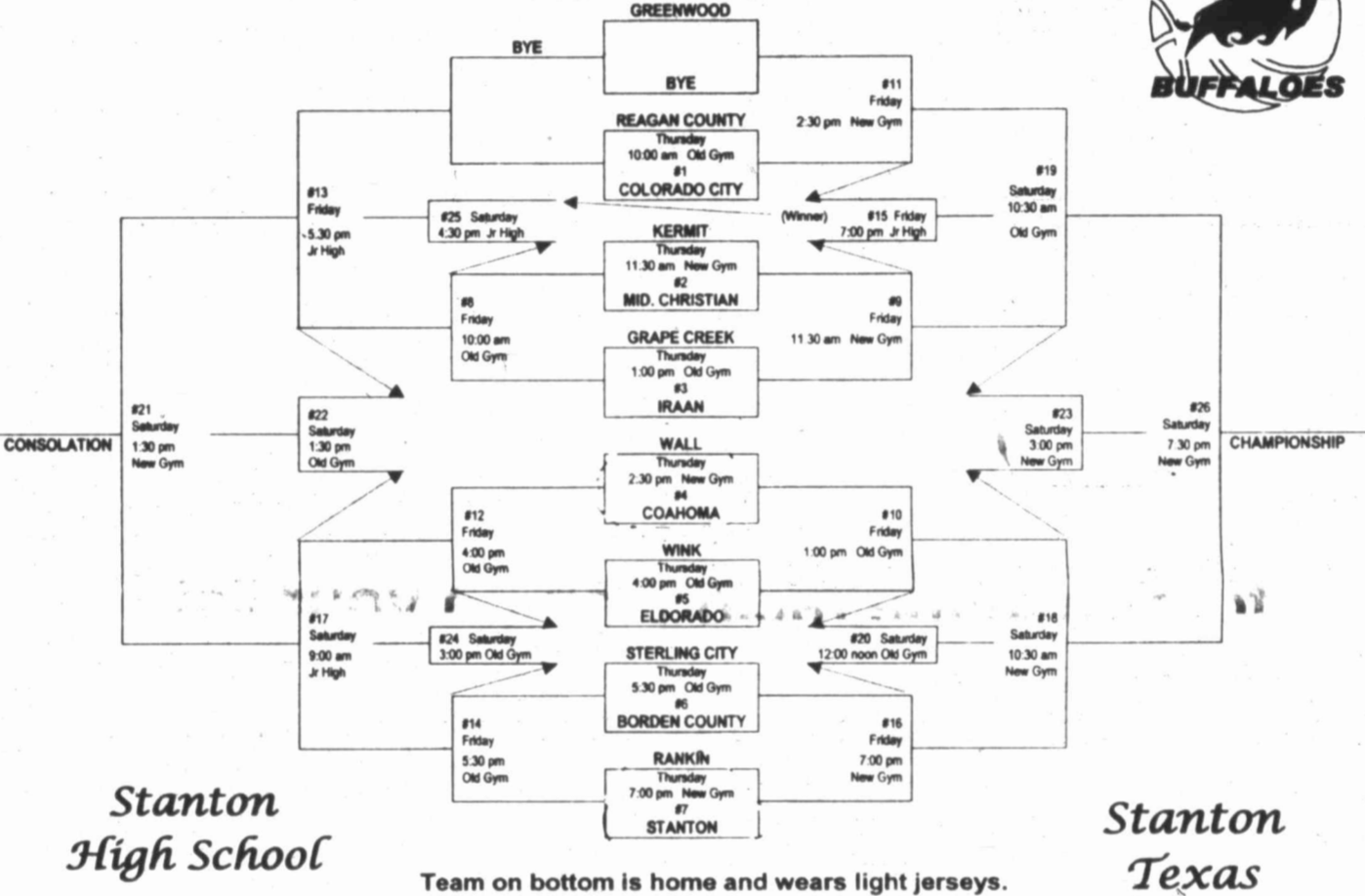
The Lady Steers' seventh grade B team also emerged with a win Monday.

Mirella Torres and Melissa Chase each scored six points and led the Big Spring girls to a 21-15 win.

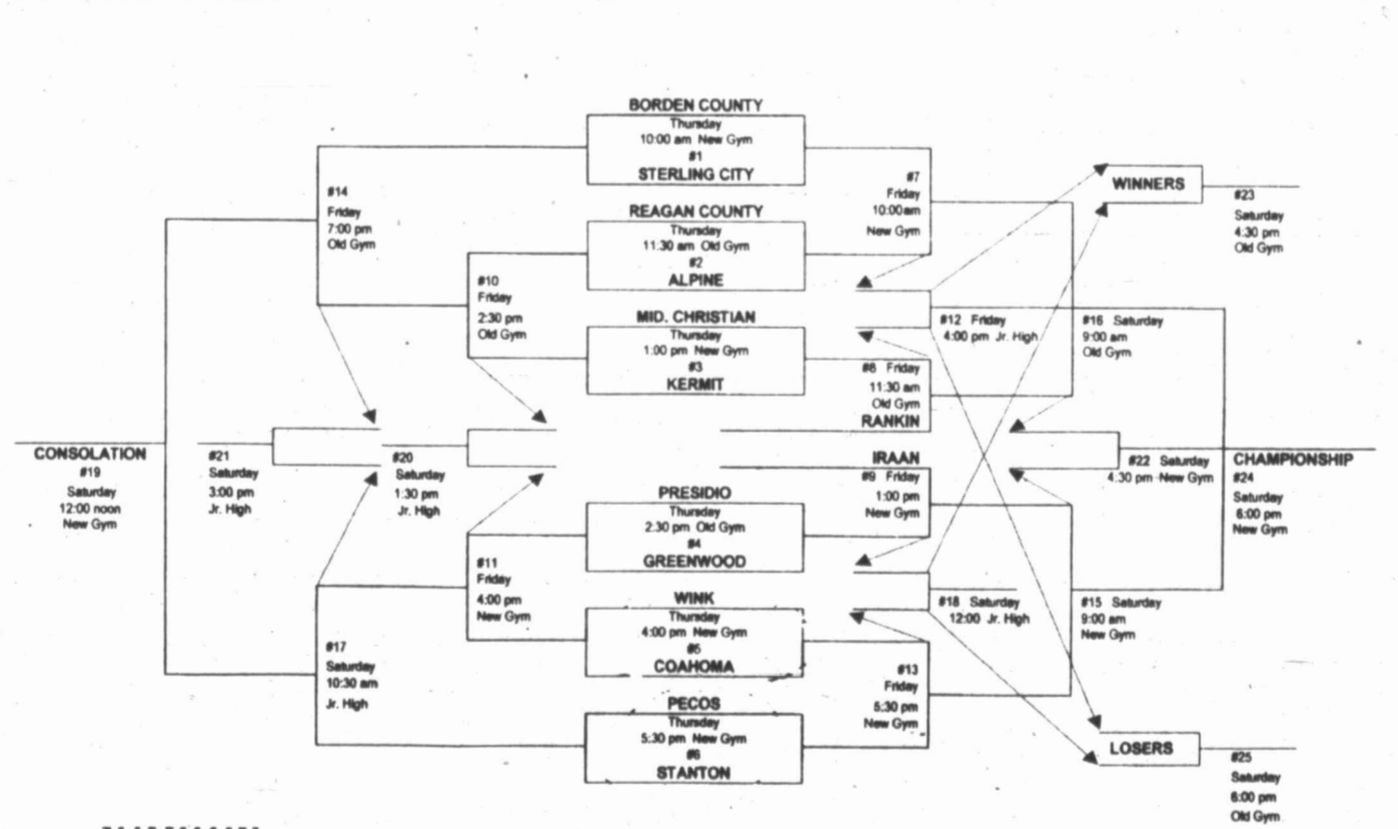
The Lady Steers' seventh grade A team wasn't as lucky. Despite four points apiece from Shelbi Stewart, Whitney Worthan, M'Lynn Swinney and Porcha White, the Big Spring squad suffered a 23-20 loss.

BOYS BRACKET

13th Annual Hooptown Classic December 11-13, 2003 GREENWOOD



GIRLS BRACKET



Astros solidify rotation by signing Pettitte to 3-year deal

NEW YORK (AP) — The Houston Astros took a huge step toward solidifying their starting rotation Thursday morning by signing free agent pitcher Andy Pettitte to a three-year contract.

Pettitte was a major force for the New York Yankees last season, going 21-8.

Pettitte, 31, went 149-78 with the Yankees, who signed him in 1991.

Grady, Garden City to meet in rematch

The Garden City Lady Kats and Grady Lady Cats are slated to face off against each other today at 1:30 in the first round of the O'Donnell

offer from the Yankees on Wednesday.

According to reports, the Yankees offered the left-handed starter \$39 million for three years, about \$3 million more annually than Houston. But the Astros play near Grady's hometown of Deer Park, apparently an important factor.

Pettitte, 31, went 149-78 with the Yankees, who signed him in 1991.

Garden City defeated Grady, 56-36, in the final of the Bearkat Booster

Klassik tournament Saturday.



Big Spring Junior Brandon Gross drives the ball upcourt during recent action. The Steers face Odessa High today in the first round of the West Texas Shootout in Odessa.

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2. Wallace Medical Prison Unit in Colorado City is taking applications for an LVN for the 3 pm to 11 pm shift.
3. Mitchell County Hospital Dietary Dept. is taking applications for Dishwashers.

For further information contact Sandra Sullivan, Human Resources at (325) 728-4318 ext. 239 for more information.

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The Howard County Sheriff's Office will accept applications for part-time dispatchers, from December 8 thru December 16, 2003. Applications are available in the Sheriff's Office, 1st floor of the courthouse, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Howard County is an equal opportunity employer.

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1514 E. Hwy 350. Large building with 3 offices lots of storage on 1/2 acre lot. \$650/mo. pl dep. Westex Auto Part Inc. 432-263-5000.

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2BR, 1 bath. 110 Lancaster. No pet Call 432-267-3841 270-7309

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Executive 3 Bedroom, 1/2 bath. 2 car garage. Great location. \$85/mo. Call 432-263-2382

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On each remaining. New homes on 130 Block of Marjic. Reasonably good cnd required. Dow payment assistance or lowered interest rates. Qualified Buyer. N Payments till Feb. 2004. Call now 432-520-988. Cameo Investments In

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2501 Fair

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FOR RENT

1514 E. Hwy 350. Large building with 3 offices & lots of storage on fenced 4 acre lot. \$650/mo. plus dep. Westex Auto Parts, Inc. 432-263-5000.

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2 & 3 BDRM Houses for Rent, CH/A, No Pets, No HUD. 432-263-5818 or 213-0820

2 bdr., 1 bath, 1524 E. 17th. CH/A, fenced backyard. \$350/mo. \$300/dep. Call 432-267-4090 or 213-3864

2BR, 1 bath, 1102 Lancaster. No pets. Call 432-267-3841 or 270-7309

3 bdr., 1-1/2 bath, 2507 Chanute. \$450. mo. \$300. dep. 816-9746.

\$50 MOVE-IN SPECIAL

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805 W. 18th. 3/1. \$450. mo. \$400 dep. Call 432-264-0833 after 5:00.

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1611 Runnels, 3 BR 2 bath, Central AC & Gas Heat, many elegant features, Nice area. \$59,000. Sorry. No Owner Finance. 432-264-9310

2 bedroom, one bath, double garage. Newly remodeled with brick. Central Air. Has shop in fenced backyard. Call 817-774-9935 and leave message.

2906 Cherokee, 2 Bedroom, garage, fenced yard. \$12,000. No Owner Finance. 432-267-6667

3/2/2, corner lot, quiet neighborhood. \$40,000. Call 432-264-0833 after 5:00 p.m.

Anda en busca de una casa? Si, no tiene credito o mal credito hablame al numero (432) 620-0380 or (432) 413-0529 Annette Arballo

Tengo una casa de 2 recamaras y 1 baño 705 S. Lancaster y otra de 1 recamara y 1 baño 1811 State St.
By Owner: 18.86 acres, 4 Bdrm, 2 bath, large rooms, fireplace, established lawn, shade trees, good water well, good soil, Forsan School, ideal for horses or 4-H projects. James Salvalto 432-267-6166.

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1103 Sycamore
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Lake Thomas House For Sale: 2 Story w/balcony 2 bdrm 1 1/2 bath. Call 325-207-3372

New Construction
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Owner Finance
Low Down Payment
No Credit Check
3 bdr., 1 bath, 107 Miller B. Coahoma. 2 bdr., 1 bath on 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring. 4 bdr., 1 bath on 3215 Auburn, Big Spring.
Call Pam (432)631-5468 (432)570-8178

Owner will Consider financing w/down payment 1613 Lark St. 2 Bdrm, 1 bath, \$15,000. Call 432-263-7747 for appt.

GARAGE SALES

J 302 Holley (off S. Service Rd.) Fri. & Sat. 10-?. Clothes Adults-kids, toys, misc.

J Angels fountain, 13 vol. Louis Lamour, full body massager, misc. Fri. only 1811 Runnels.

GARAGE SALES

Backyard/inside Sale, Sat. 8-11. 3610 Calvin. baby crib, cradle, clothes & more.

J Garage Sale, 1603 E. 16th, in back, Fri & Sat 8:30-7. Lots of mens clothes, & misc.

J Garage Sale, Thur-Sat 9-4, 8601 N. Srv Rd. Sand Springs. Look for signs. Too much to list

J Inside: 3805 Connally, Sat. 8-7. Furn., household goods & garage full of tools in rear.

J P.J.'s Inside Sale, 2210 Main, Fri & Sat. 10-4.

J 3 Family Garage Sale, Christmas decoar, clothing, drapes, antiques, Sat. 7:30-2:00 Brent (Kentwood)

MISCELLANEOUS

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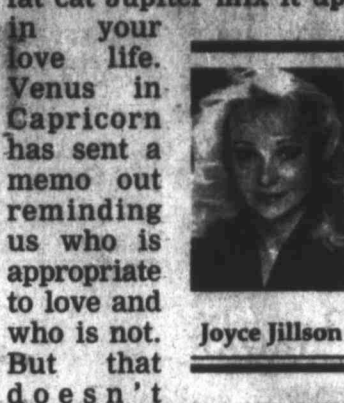
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BY JOYCE JILLSON
Love planet Venus and fat cat Jupiter mix it up



in your love life. Venus in Capricorn has sent a memo out reminding us who is appropriate to love and who is not. But that doesn't mean our hearts are obeying the rules. Flirting goes out of control, and intentions will be in question. The lines are deliciously blurred.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Having a brilliant plan is one thing, but if a partner doesn't feel the same motivation as you, you're very unlikely to get there together. Make sure you're aimed at a goal that you both desire equally.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll feel your life is well rounded, offering you plenty of places to turn for fulfillment. But which road is the best? Decisions could be deliberated endlessly. What's the big rush? Ask for opinions, and gather data.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). On this lucky day, you can achieve extraordinary gains through ordinary means. A Leo or Aries has resources you can use. Also, there's much to be learned from those who work for you. Be the cheerleader.

CANCER (June 22-July

Tomorrow's Horoscope

22). Your emotional intelligence is put to good use. This is an exceptional time for getting to the core of issues, especially involving family. Be calm, and talk it through. (The level of communication falls when your voice rises.)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Projects that have to do with giving are successful — better yet are those that help others give. You might be the one who pools everyone in the office together to get the boss a big holiday gift.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Work calls for a bit of finesse. Happy couples: Sharing your vision of those castles in the sky with your partner will revitalize your passion. Those involved in perilous love affairs meet their own self-preservation mechanisms.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may feel encumbered by the pessimism emanating from those resigned souls you walk among today. But holding on to your naturally positive, yet realistic outlook works to give you the key out of the dark world they paint.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Restless feelings are intuitive knowledge that something terrific awaits you. Where there's controversy, you'd usually rather just stay out of it. Today, dive in, and sort it out for the whole group — yes, you're that good!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Authority figures are watching you.

It's not enough to look busy; you've got to see your assignment through to the end, where the glory is. It's easy to get wrapped up in a loved one's needs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't have to do it all yourself. It brings everyone together if you share duties. Special events and meetings are a must later in the month, and you can find appropriate attire for cheap if you shop now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are things you want that you are not getting — good! That quest is what keeps you improving. You'll realize you're not about attaining stuff but about becoming a powerful, loving, whole person who can make things happen.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). On the job, dress up, and strut your stuff. You could attract the attention of a potentially life-changing partner. Homemakers: Personal boundaries are necessary with kids — they learn from your good example.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm an Aries in a rut. In the past, when I didn't know what to do next to make my life feel exciting, something would always drift into my path to tell me. But lately, I'm at a loss. What should I do to jump-start good luck?"

Aries succeed with new relationships, especially when you move to be near a loved one or you

marry. Financial burdens lessen when you take an interesting job over one that is more prestigious, because you can advance quickly in new work situations. January is your perfect time to make a move. Start planning now.

"I'm a Leo (born July 24, 1948). Even though I'm happily married, I'm obsessed with finding my first love (born Oct. 12, 1947). Will I ever see him again?"

He may have decided that the emotional turbulence he experienced with you was not worth the price of admission and that it was best to stay away permanently. If you still want to pursue him, you could start by contacting him through the mail. He doesn't appear to be the kind of person who likes to move around a lot. If he says "no" or doesn't write back, accept it — for the good of both of you.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Ozzy Osbourne is America's most controversial dad. With love planet Venus in secretive Scorpio, he is still able to keep much of what he cares about very private in spite of the fact that every room in his home has been turned into a sound stage for the hit reality show "The Osbournes." Next year, he could have a showing of some of those pen and ink drawings he's always scribbling away on.

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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have been married to "Fred" for over 20 years, and we have three children. I helped him develop his successful business, which has grown fourfold during our marriage. However, Fred takes credit for everything and doesn't acknowledge my assistance in nurturing his business or raising our kids.



ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Now I'm not even sure Fred loves me. A few weeks ago, I told him that I don't feel secure in our marriage, that I wasn't certain I could depend on him unconditionally. His response was, "I don't want to be responsible for your security." That just

blew me away. I sensed an underlying message that if I need him, he might not be there for me. Perhaps if I became too much of a burden, he would not

help me. I thought marriage was an unconditional bond and that we should provide security for each other. Now I don't know if we have a future together. — Confused in Atlanta

Dear Dr. Teske: Thank you for your expert advice. Not all siblings are willing to take such drastic steps, but sometimes it is necessary. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: My mom has been an Alzheimer's patient for years and is in a nursing home. She does not have insurance. My father left all his money to her, knowing she would need it for long-term care.

My sister had been handling my parents' finances, and when Dad passed away, we discovered she had removed Mom's name from all the bank accounts and CDs (around \$250,000). After many tears and much soul-searching, I hired an attorney.

The probate judge named me as Mom's conservator and suggested I investigate the transactions to determine if steps should be taken to recover the money.

The lesson for your readers is that if a sibling is assisting a parent with finances, insist that all close family members review the books and transactions regularly. The temptation simply is too great. — Sadder but Smarter Down South

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

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TOO LATES

Rent to own. 3 bdr., 2 bath, brick CHA, fenced backyard w/dog run. \$350. mo. No down payment. 432-213-0536, after 5:00, 432-267-1447

Twin size bookcase headboard with mattress, springs, & new sheet set, \$75. New exercise bicycle, \$40. 432-264-1514, leave message.

J Sale: 2516 Ent., Fri. Only 8-5. Refrigerator, dryer, lots of + size clothes. Furn.

J 1808 Hamilton, Fri. 12-6 Sat. 10-6. New items for gifts, Jenny L. cradle, baby items. 1 bdr., 1 bath in Coahoma \$275/mo plus deposit 432-263-4528 or 466-1257

J Inside Estate Sale, Saturday, 7:00-? 407 E. 11th St off Goldad St.

J Garage Sale: 3614 Aspermont, Fri., Sat. & Sunday 9-5. Too much to list.

J Inside Sale: Lots of misc. items. Gene Autry cast iron gun, lamps, toys, bicycle. N. Hwy. 87 across State Hospital.

GARAGE SALES
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Junk?
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THURSDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	TNT (23)	BET (25)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	USA (30)	TMC (20)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	New York	Premium
6:30	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	El Mercurio	King of the Hill Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Pasion de Gavilanes	News Satelnd (CC)	Joe McGee John Huges	News-Lafter	New Detec-ive-Forensic	Discovery	Classics	NBA Programs NBA	Live Movie Special	Sister, Sister Lizzie McGuire	High School Basketball	2003 College Football	JAG (CC)	Movie: Terminal
7:30	Billy Graham	Threat Matrix (CC)	Velo de Nova	Tru Calling (CC)	Survivor: Pearl Islands (CC)	Amor Descarado	Friends (CC)	Movie: The Negotiator (CC) (DVS)	West Yeh Jini World	Seventy (CC)	Discovery	Classics	Discovery	Discovery	Kim Possible: A Sitch in Time	Awards (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims	Movie: Velocity (CC)	
8:30	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Nina... Amada Mia	Funnest Animal Outtakes	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	La Virgen de Guadalupe	Will & Grace Scrubs (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Frontier: From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians	Curse of the Elephant Man	Discovery	Classics	Discovery	Discovery	Time Thers-Raven	College Basketball: Detroit Red	NHL Hockey: Wings at Chicago	Movie: The Back Lot Murders (CC) (DVS)	
9:30	Primetime Thursday	Primetime Thursday	Aqui y Ahora	70s Show Dharma-Grag	Without a Trace (CC)	La Presencia de Anita	ER (CC)		Charlie Rose (CC)	Seventy (CC)	Discovery	Classics	Discovery	Discovery	Kim Possible Proud Family	Strongwoman Interruption	Blackhawks SportsCenter	Law & Order: Special Victims	
10:30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	10 Movie: Ronin (CC) (DVS)	Hour of Healing	Seventy (CC)	Discovery	Classics	Discovery	Nightly News Maad Sports	Kim Possible Boy World	Strongwoman Interruption	Blackhawks SportsCenter	Law & Order: Special Victims	
11:30	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC)	Las Mananitas a la Virgen de Spin City	Becker (CC)	Late Late Show (CC)	Al Rojo Vivo- Maria Celeste Corie-Familia	Late Night (CC)	Rev. J. Harwood Jesse Lee Pe.	Sign Off	Curse of the Elephant Man	Discovery	Classics	Discovery	Even Stevens Stator, Sister	Podoc: Wrangler	Home is Burning (CC)	Movie: The Order (CC)	The Back Lot Murders	
12:30	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Guadalupe	Blind Date	Show (CC)	Street Smarts	Frasier (CC)	Update/Israel Derek Prince	Update/Israel Derek Prince	Discovery	Classics	Classics	Discovery	Boy World Recess (CC)	National Finals - Seventh	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: The Order (CC)	35 Movie:	

DENNIS THE MENACE

"THE BITTER WANTS TO KNOW IF I'M THE DENNIS MITCHELL."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"If your tea is too hot, Grandma, I'll blow on it for you."

HAGAR

"THIS IS THE SEASON WHEN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FORGIVE OUR ENEMIES..."

"HAVE YOU FORGIVEN YOUR ENEMIES YET?"

"ARE YOU KIDDING?!"

"I HAVEN'T EVEN FORGIVEN MY FRIENDS YET!"

BLONDIE

"BUMSTEAD, INSTEAD OF CHRISTMAS BONUSES THIS YEAR, I'VE DECIDED TO MAKE A BIG CONTRIBUTION TO MY FAVORITE CHARITY IN EVERYONE'S NAME."

"WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY, BOSS?"

"THE JULIUS DITHERS RETIREMENT FUND"

"IT CAN'T HAPPEN SOON ENOUGH"

BC

"WHO SAID, 'TIME IS MONEY'?"

"I KNOW, I KNOW!"

"YES, JANIE?"

"A METER MAID!"

WIZARD OF ID

"I FEEL LIKE SOME CULTURE TONIGHT"

"OKAY, WHAT'LL IT BE?"

"HOW ABOUT A FIFTH OF BEETHOVEN?"

AGNES

"OK... I THINK WE HAVE IT NOW... THE ALPHA MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY TREE WAS A NERVOUS ORANGUTAN FROM THE SUMATRAN RAINFOREST."

"CORRECT!"

"HE INVENTED FIRE, AND AFTER A FULL BODY SHAVE, LEFT HIS WIFE LEFT THE FOREST AND SOLD THE PATENT TO A CAVEMAN."

"YEP! FOR A SIX PACK AND A GREEN LEISURE SUIT!"

"SO BEGINS YOUR LEGACY OF SHREWD."

"HEY, WOMEN SMOGGED OVER THAT SUIT!"

HI AND LOIS

"CAN WE GO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH YOU?"

"WE CAN HELP!"

"WE THINK IT WOULD BE A BIG HELP IF WE SHOW YOU WHAT WE WANT FIRST"

MR. HOUSEWIFE

"I HAVE TO GO POTTY."

"OKAY."

"IS SANTA WATCHING?"

SNUFFY SMITH

"FARMER JOHN'S BEST LAYIN' HEN IS MISSIN'!!"

"WHAT MAKES YA THINK PAW TOOK IT, SHERIFF?"

"TH' TRAIL ENDS HERE!!"

BEEBLE BAILEY

"DO YOU KNOW THERE ARE MORE CATS THAN DOGS IN THIS COUNTRY?"

"REALLY?"

"I WISH HE WOULDN'T TELL ME THOSE THINGS RIGHT BEFORE BEDTIME!"

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Datum

5 32nd Pres.

8 Whole bunch

14 Thickening agent

15 Classic car

16 "I got it!"

17 Give up

20 Voltaire genre

21 Coin of France

22 Supersecret org.

23 Bingo relative

25 Wine-growing valley

27 With everything

32 GI hangout

33 Part of RSVP

34 Typos

37 Tread heavily

40 Woods competitor

42 Spud

43 Trip in the jungle

45 Wanted poster letters

47 Model Carol

48 Teen game

52 Pretentious person

53 Corduroy feature

54 Twice, musically

57 Stuff

59 The Lives of a Bengal

63 With little persuasion

66 Big Band singer Ray

67 Cal. heading

68 Church section

DOWN

1 Singer Domino

2 Turkish title

3 Supermarket convenience

4 Ruling group of three

5 Long-running sitcom

6 Lion's refuge

7 Learning method

8 Barons and such

9 Clutch, e.g.

10 Sign of success

11 Like some patches

12 Scratches (out)

13 "Deck the Halls" syllables

18 Small songbird

19 Placed, as a painting

24 Theater award

26 Taj Mahal site

27 Token of affection

28 Film terrier

29 Blunders

30 Islamic God

31 Annoy persistently

35 Relate

36 Comic Johnson

38 Atlas entries

39 Like some sums

41 Distort

44 Appropriate

46 Mother-of-pearl source

49 Skier's conveyance

50 Patron saint of Norway

51 Folk payer

54 Folk singer Joan

55 "Let ___" (Beatles tune)

56 Put one's foot down

58 Amulet

60 London housecleaner

61 Roof projection

62 1 and 66: Abbr.

64 Queenly letters

65 Claws locale

This Date In History

Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind.

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

In 1961, a U.S. aircraft carrier carrying Army helicopters arrived in Saigon - the first direct American military support for South Vietnam's battle against Communist guerrillas.

In 1981, the U.N. Security Council chose Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru to be the fifth secretary-general of the world body.

In 1991, a jury in West Palm Beach, Fla., acquitted William Kennedy Smith of sexual assault and battery, rejecting the allegations of Patricia Bowman.

In 1997, more than 150 countries agreed at a global warming conference in Kyoto, Japan to control the Earth's greenhouse gases.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn is 85. Actor Jean-Louis Trintignant is 73. Actress Rita Moreno is 72. Actor Ron Carey is 68. Former Calif. state lawmaker Tom Hayden is 64. Pop singer David Gates (Bread) is 63. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., is 62. Actress Donna Mills is 60. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., is 60. Singer Brenda Lee is 59. Actress Lynda Day George is 59. Music producer Tony Brown is 57. Actress Teri Garr is 55. Movie director Susan Seidelman is 51. Actress Bess Armstrong is 50. Singer Jermaine Jackson is 49. Rock musician Nikki Sixx (Mötley Crüe) is 45. Rock musician Darryl Jones (The Rolling Stones) is 42.

Answer to previous puzzle

AMUSE ABBE SPOT
BOBOX WILL TUNE
STAMPALBUM APER
ARTI DEERNUS
ANTLERS SRO POE
TURISMO POL
ADA SARI SEPALS
LICK STRAW STOP
LAKERS AREA TOE
RVE FENCEIN
AGE DRA SPARED
ROCKSALT ULE
ICON FLOPPYDISK
ACRE TERI ZORBA
SIDE SYNE ESSAY

OFF THE RACK by Merle Baker
Edited by Stanley Newman

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

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