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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

#### WEEKEND **EDITION**

December 20-21, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



SUNDAY SUNDAY NIGHT 71°-73° 46°-47°

INSIDE



When people perform acts of kindness, it can make a huge difference in a person's life.

#### IN BRIEF

#### Herald holidays

The Herald office will be closed at noon on Christmas Eve and will open again at 7:30 a.m. Friday. There will be no Christmas Day Subscribers paper. who do not receive their Christmas Eve paper should call the Herald that evening between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

#### Flu shots offered

Texas Department of Health will be giving flu shots Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 unless you have medicare or medicaid. Please be sure to bring Medicare/Medicaid information. The Texas Department of Health is located in the College Park Shopping Center on Birdwell Lane.

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#### Vol. 100, No. 31

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.

### Deadline nears for candidate filing in District 31 Senate seat

Special to the HERALD

Time has almost run out for anyone who may be considering running for the State Senate's soon-to-be-vacated District 31 seat.

Monday is the last day to file with the Secretary of State's Office in

their filing fee to the state in hopes of replacing Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, who will step down on Jan. 12. Bivins, who has served for 15 years, announced his resignation earlier this month, citing his nomination by President Bush as ambas-

Five men have paid desire to spend more time with this family as the reasons.

Those who have filed all Republicans — are restaurant owner Bob Barnes of Odessa, businessman Kirk Edwards of Odessa, businessman Kel Seliger of Amarillo, busi-

sador to Sweden and a See SENATE, Page 3A

### County to select polling places for special election

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will be meeting Monday morning to discuss, among other things, setting the 2004 terms of the court and consolidating polling places for the upcoming special election.

"Each year we have to



Wright. "It's more of a for-WRIGHT mality than anything.

officially set the terms of

the county court," said

County Clerk

Donna

There are four terms of

See COUNTY, Page 3A

Salvation Army Capt. Russ Keeney, with the help of Goliad Intermediate School Classics member Kristina Chang, left, and Cavaliers Tyler Tanehill and Andrew Lewis, sorts through donations for the Big Spring Herald Toy Drive. Goliad's two civic groups donated 100 toys to the drive, which officially ended Wednesday.

# Big Spring physician disciplined

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Local physician Dr. Nandlal Patel recently fell under disciplinary action from the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, which placed the Big Spring doctor on probation in lieu of his medical license being suspended.

Patel, who will have to comply with the board's stringent list of orders for a five-year period, first came under fire in October for what the state deemed "failure to practice medicine in an acceptable manner." He was assessed a

"What it really comes down to is the amount of time spent on medical records versus the

amount of time actually spent with the patient."

Dr. Nandlal Patel

\$5,000 administrative penalty and publicly reprimanded based on his treatment of two

patients, according to board reports.

The most recent allegations came regarding Patel's care of five patients, several of whom were nursing home residents. The board alleged the patients failed to receive adequate physical exams, citing the physician for "generally providing substandard care for each of these patients," and that Patel failed to maintain adequate medical records.

"Respondent (Patel) was the responsible admitting physi-

See DOCTOR, Page 5A

# REDISTRICTING

### DOJ approves Republican map; fed trial continues

AUSTIN (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice cleared a Republican-backed congressional district map Friday, just hours after a three-judge federal panel ruled that mid-decade redistricting is permissible under state law.

The DOJ evaluated the map to see if it adhered to the federal Voting Rights Act, a law that protects minority voting

"It's unfortunate that the Bush Justice Department ignored the Voting Rights Act and near-unanimous opposition from minority leaders in Texas," said Gerry Hebert, a Democratic attorney challenging the map adopted by lawmakers in October. "The proposed map disenfranchises over 3.5 million Hispanics and African Americans just so Republicans can get seven more seats in Congress."

The approval comes as a federal panel in Austin hears legal challenges by Democrats to the new map, which gives the GOP as many as seven additional seats in the delegation ruled 17-15 by Democrats.

The map, if it stands, would pit new Congressman Randy Neugebauer (R-Lubbock) longtime against Congressman Charles Stenholm (D-Abilene) in District 19. Neither was available for comment Saturday morn-

"This is a critically important step but it's just one step in a multistep process," Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry said the DOJ decision "validated our efforts to draw fairer districts that reflect the voting patterns of Texas.

Republicans hold every statewideelected post and rule both the state Senate and House.

"As the Department of Justice found. senators and representatives carried out their constitutional responsibility

See REDISTRICTING, Page 5A

### Sands CISD to pursue a national fitness grant

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

ACKERLY - Sands Consolidated Independent School District trustees gave the go-ahead this week to pursue a National School Fitness Foundation (NSFE) grant proposal.

According Superintendent Wayne Blount, the district's lawyers will need to review the paperwork before the grant can be officially approved by the board and submitted to the NSFF.

Once approved, the district will be eligible for more than \$300,000 worth of fitness equipment which will be available for use by students and

Ackerly residents.

Also, trustees directed the superintendent to pursue the feasibility of building a metal structure near the school's old gymnasium which will house the fitness equip-

In other business, the administration will meet with the district sitebased committee to discuss the teacher yearly evaluation process. In the last legislative session, the state approved changes to allow evaluations of teachers who qualify to be conducted every five years.

Blount said the site-base committee plans to review this new change

See SANDS, Page 3A



U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer poses with troops from Texas while visiting Iraq this week. The congressman also toured Afghanistan, along with other members of the House Agriculture Committee. See story, Page 3A.



Nissan Frontier XE King Cab

• 2.4L Engine - Bucket Seats - Powering Steering - 15" Wheels. SALE PRICE \$11.495\*

### **Obituaries**

#### Elena F. Mier

Elena F. Mier, 53, of Big Spring, died on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, in a local hospital. Funeral mass will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Felix Cubelos, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born on Nov. 9, 1950, in Big Spring and married Humberto Mier on

was a lifelong resident of Big Spring. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Survivors include husband, Humberto Mier of Big Spring; five sons, Andy Flores, Humberto Mier, Joey Mier, Ricky Mier and John Mier, all of Big Spring; seven daughters, Nora Flores Vega, Yolanda Mier Rodriguez, Patricia Mier Aguilar and Cynthia Mier. all of Big Spring, Mary H. Mier Gonzales and Christina Mier Mendez, both of San Diego, and Connie Mier Yorkman of Midland; two sisters, Lorina Chavarria of Odessa and Elida Juarez of Big Spring: four brothers, Tony Flores and Jesse Flores, both of Big Spring, Esquiel Flores of Midland and Raul Flores of Dallas; and twenty-six grandchildren.

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

#### **Lorraine Crenshaw Francis**

Lorraine Crenshaw Francis, 84, of Odessa, died on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2003, in Odessa. Graveside service were held at 11 a.m. today, Dec. 20, 2003, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Jimmy Francis will deliver the

Mrs. Francis was born on Aug. 9, 1919, in Big Spring, and married James Harvey Francis on September 3, 1940, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on Dec. 6, 1983.

Lorraine had worked for Walgreens of Midland as Camera Department Manager. She was a Baptist.

Survivors include one daughter, Sherry Rimes of Odessa; one son, Jimmy Francis and his wife, Tanya, of Lubbock; one daughter, Sallie Brooks and her husband, Steve, of Odessa; seven grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother and three sisters, Ruth Wilson, Gladys Sheppard and Lulabelle McAdams.

The family received friends this morning from 9 a.m. until service time at the funeral home.

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

#### Willie Jo Killough



Willie Jo Killough, 68, of Brownwood, died on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, in Brownwood. Private family services will be held at a later date.

Willie was born on Jan. 6, 1935, in Big Spring to Bill and Ollie Mae Killough.

She was raised in Big Spring and had moved to Brownwood several years ago. Willie loved family gatherings with Christmas being the top of the list. Her

favorite past time was going to garage sales and collecting knick knacks. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include two brothers and sisters-in-law, Bobby and Linda Killough of Lampasas, and James and Rhonda Killough of Taylor; five sisters, Shirley Vest of Midland, Lee Lane and her husband Chuck of Santa Rosa, Calif., Faye Gressett and her husband Philip of Brownwood, Della Hogue and her husband Bobby of Midland, and Donanna Trautman and her husband Tom of Austin; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and two sisters.

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

### Weather

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. South winds 15 to25 mph. Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 10 to 20

Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the west 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Monday night...Mostly cloudy. Cooler. Lows in the lower 30s.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 30. Christmas day...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower

60s. Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

Perhaps you sang a lovely song, or sat quietly in a chair; Perhaps you sent beautiful flowers, If so, we saw them there. Perhaps you sent or spoke kind words As any friend could say; Perhaps you prepared some tasty food, Or maybe furnished a car; Perhaps you rendered a service unseen, Near at hand or from afar; Whatever you did to console the heart We thank you so much. Whatever the part.

The Family of Rudy Claveran Wife Kay, Daughters - Joann, Delma, Belinda, Norma Stepchildren Joy, Dianne, Kevin

#### John W. "Beevie" McGregor

John W. "Beevie" McGregor, 92, of Colorado City, formerly of Knott, died on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, in a Colorado City hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 22, 2003, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Jesse Colegrove. Baptist minister, and the Rev. Ted Spears, pastor of First Baptist Church of Colorado City, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born on March 30, 1911, in Howard County December 26, 1972, in Big Spring. Elenal and married Raye Goode on Dec. 12, 1949, in Las Cruces, N.M.

Mr. McGregor was a longtime resident of Knott and had farmed for many years. He had worked for the Texas Department of Transportation as a maintenance and permit clerk. He liked hunting, fishing and being

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Colorado City. He served in the United States Army during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Raye McGregor of Colorado City; his step son, Donald "Pat" McPhaul and wife, Shirley, of Colorado City; three grandchildren, Ricky McPhaul and wife, Tracey, of Big Lake, Randy McPhaul and wife, Kelly, of Colorado City, and Julie Rogers and husband, Ronnie, of Littlefield; eight great grandchildren, Chase McPhaul, Calen McPhaul, Callie McPhaul, Zachary McPhaul, Stephanie McPhaul, Aaron McPhaul, Ryan Rogers and Reese Rogers; one sister, Jo Davis of Lubbock; three nephews, Johnny Winton McGregor and wife, Mickey, of Post, Kenny Davis and wife, Jackie of Fort Worth and Jerry Davis of Lubbock; one niece, Barbara Remkus and husband, Tom, of Lewisville, and numerous friends.

The family will receive friends from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

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

### Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Friday until 10 a.m. today: · JAMIE CHAPPELL, 26, of 109 Little Road was

being held at the city jail today for the Howard County Sheriff's Office. · BETTY NEWBERRY, 26, of 703 Anna was arrest-

ed today on a charge of posession of marijuana, less than two ounces. · JORGE ESCAJEDA, 28, of 616 Caylor was arrest-

ed Friday on a charge of disorderly conduct — fighting.

• RENE MEDINA, 37, of 615 Holbert was arrested Friday on seven traffic warrants.

• ALBERT SELE, 35, of 302 Aylesford was arrested Friday on a charge of fighting and on a Brown County

• ABRAM NEUFELD, 19, of Mexico was being held at the city jail Friday for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. • SHELBY PARKER, 24, of 305 East Ninth Street

was arrested Friday for warrants.

 OSWALDO BENNETT, 32, was arrested today on a charge of public intoxication.

 THEFT was reported at an unknown address on Wood Street, in the 3600 block of Hamilton, in the 300 block of Gregg Street, in the 1100 block of Lamesa, in the 1800 block of FM 700, in the 1400 block of Sycamore, in the 1400 block of Stadium and in the 2000 block of Main Street.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 2100 block of Thorpe Street, in the 1700 block of FM 700, in the 1400 block of Sycamore, in the 1400 Stadium and in the 200 block of Main Street.

• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1100 block of Rigeroad.

· DISORDERLY CONDUCT was reported in the 1000 block of Main.

 UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 1700 block of Martin Luther King

• ASSAULT BY THREAT was reported in the 700 block of 16th Street.

### Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity: • KIDS SHOOTING BIRDS was reported on Val

Verde. CHAINS IN ROADWAY was reported at the 183

mile marker westbound Interstate 20.

· TRAIN STUCK was reported on FM 818 and Interstate 20.

• FIRE was reported on Andrews Lane. The fire was

a controlled burn. • DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the

100 block of Little Road.

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**HENRY BACKES** 

### **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. at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center for sit and be fit chair aerobics. People age 50 and over are invited to participate. Call 268-4721.

Public is inivited to the Evening Lions Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. at La Posada.

#### Friday

Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance is held from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited.

AMBUCS meet at noon at La Posada.

Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in Howard College Cactus Room.

#### Saturday

Dance begins at 8:30 p.m. at Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third. Members and guests welcome.

Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home is open from 1 to 5 p.m. A one-time admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens is encouraged.

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

Hanger 25 Air Museum is open Monday thorugh Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 to 4 p.m.

For information on meeting times for Big Spring Squares call 267-7043 or 263-6305.

Big Spring Shrine Club gathers at 6:30 p.m. at First anfor a meal, meeting follows.

### Lottery

Mega jackpot

The jackpot in the multi-state Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$100 million Saturday.

None of the tickets sold for Friday's \$85 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega

Ball. The next drawing will be Tuesday. There were 11 second-prize winners from Friday night's drawing, winning \$175,000 each. Also, 46 players matched four of the five lotto numbers, plus the Mega Ball number. Those tickets are each worth \$5,000.

The winning numbers from Friday's drawing were: 5, 10, 17, 35, and 39. The Mega Ball number was 38.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 06-10-19-20-21

The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 12-25-31-32. Bonus ball 16.

(twelve, twenty-five, thirty-one, thirty-two, Bonus sixteen)

Estimated jackpot: \$300,000

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-9-5



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Chuck William

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Neugebauer Presidential Ambassador Pa and U.S. Arm Ricardo Sanch commander in briefed the co on the status of in Iraq.

Neugebauer s particularly with the joint are working to "I wanted to

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### COUNTY

Continued from F court each year

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SANDS

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Trustees also:

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### **SENATE**

Continued from P

nessman Don Midland and owner/attorney Quackenbush Amarillo.

Early voting i tion begins Moi 5, and continue Friday, Jan. 16 day is Jan. 20.

Senate Distri ers 26 counties



\*Something Gotta

Daily: 2:00, 4:30, 7 **Haunted Mans** Daily: 2:30, 5:00, 7 \*Mona Lisa Smil

Love Don't Cost A T Daily: 2:20 &

STAR THE

Honey (PC

ADULTS: \$ \$3.50 ALL MA

### Neugebauer visits Iraq, Afghanistan; expresses his gratitude toward troops

Special to the HERALD

Congressman U.S. Neugebauer, Randy returning Friday from a trip to Iraq and Afghanistan, said he was impressed with what he witnessed.

Neugebauer met with Presidential Envoy **Ambassador Paul Bremer** and U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the top commander in Iraq, who briefed the congressman on the status on the war in Iraq.

Neugebauer said he was particularly impressed with the joint forces that are working together.

"I wanted to see what is going on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan. I knew it was important for me to travel to see our troops," said Neugebauer, R-Lubbock. "All I can say is our troops' hard work is paying off.

"No one could have

moment when Coalition coalition forces captured Saddam Hussein. I can't express enough

how much gratitude we should have for our troops. I am so proud of our young men and women valiantly serving our country and this was a chance to observe them in action."

Neugebauer and the delegation escorted the coffins of two American soldiers who died in Iraq on part of their journey back home.

"It was an honor to be on board with two heroes," he said.

important to "It's remember we are still at war. We are winning though. We will restore Iraq — not like it was, but better than it was.'

The trip included a visit

anticipated the to Baghdad, where historic Neugebauer toured the Provisional Authority headquarters, a presidential former palace. He also traveled to Bagram Air Force base in Afghanistan where he met with Texas troops and civilians.

Neugebauer has kept a journal about his experiences and will share his thoughts upon his return to Texas.

"I look forward to coming back to sharing my experiences with constituents," he said.

Neugebauer traveled to the region as a member of the House Agriculture Committee. Committee Members included Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Virginia), Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-Indiana), Rep. Doug Ose (R-California), Rep. Tom Osborne (R-Nebraska) and Rep. Dennis Rehberg (R-Montana).

### COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

court each year, and we'll set them during Monday's meeting."

Wright said commissioners will also set the dates for next year's commissioners court meet-

"Again, it's just a formality," she said. "We have to designate the second Monday of each month for the regular meeting of the commissioners court, and then the fourth Monday of each month for their special meeting.

"There's no changes to

the schedule this year. We've kept the same schedule for a number of years now, and we're going to keep it for the

coming year as well." Commissioners are also expected to set the polling places for the special Senate District 31 election, slated for Jan. 20,

"I'm pretty sure we'll consolidate the polls down to about five," said Wright. "It's going to be very similar to the polling places we used during the constitutional amendment election.

Also on the agenda for the meeting:

· Jackie Olson - County

- Invoices

- Purchase requests - Budget amendments

 Teresa Thomas **County Treasurer** 

Personnel considera-Phil Furqueron -

Construction Administrator Courthouse

library renovations. The meeting will get under way at 10 a.m. on Monday in the commissioner's courtroom, located on the second floor of the Howard County Courthouse.

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

#### **SANDS**

Continued from Page 1A

and develop a local poli-

Trustees also:

· Heard the district's 2002-2003 audit report. According to independent auditors Stones and Herm of Stanton, the district

received a clean audit.

Underwood of Amarillo. · Hired Oscar Garza of Mexico as the school's Spanish teacher. Garza is currently teaching English at a university in Mexico.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331,

ext. 234, or by e-mail at • Retained the law firm newsdesk@crcom.net

> **MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

> > 24th & Johnson

Mae Currie, 74, died Thursday. Graveside Services were at 2:00 PM Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park.

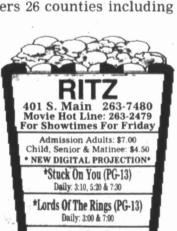
### **SENATE**

Continued from Page 1A

nessman Don Sparks of Midland and restaurant owner/attorney Jesse Quackenbush Amarillo.

Early voting in the election begins Monday, Jan. 5, and continues through Friday, Jan. 16. Election day is Jan. 20.

Senate District 31 covers 26 counties including



#### **CINEMA 4**

Something Gotta Give (PG-13) Daily: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30 Haunted Mansion (PG) Daily: 2:30, 5:00, 7:30 & 9:20

\*Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) Daily: 2:10, 4:40, 7:10 & 9:40

Love Don't Cost A Thing (PG-13) Daily: 2:20 & 7:20 Honey (PG-13)

Daily: 4:50 & 9:50 STAR THEATER

ADULTS: \$6.00 \$3.50 ALL MATINEES, CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS PASS RESTRICTED

Howard, Midland, Martin and Glasscock



Christmas in the 70's brought us Electronic Ping-Pong and the Gift of Jesus

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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Please join us at

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 9th & Scurry In Celebrating Jesus, the Greatest Gift of All.

December 21, 6:30 p.m. Old-Fashioned Congregational Caroling Service

> December 25, 10 a.m. Christmas Day Celebration

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St Paul Lutheran Church 9th & Scurry Big Spring, Texas 79720

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Wishing you and
your Family
a safe and
Healthy
Holiday Season

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> Susan Roberts, D.O. Board Certified in Family Practice

Cynthia Rutledge, D.O. Board Certified in Family Practice

Erich Byerly, M.D., Obstetrics & Gynecology

Keith Ledford, M.D. Board Certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology

> Ruth Bernal, M.D. Pediatric Medicine

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Chuck Williams** Publisher

John A. Moselev Managing Editor **Bill McClellan** 

### OUR VIEWS

# What better place to buy late gifts than right here?

he holiday season has reached the critical stage with only a couple or three shopping days left before Christmas. There's perhaps no better time of the year in Big Spring, the surrounding area or anywhere else for that matter.

With so little time remaining for people to pick up those last-minute gifts, the pace in local stores is getting a little frantic in some cases.

What we've found, though, is that there's no better place to shop for Christmas than right here in Big Spring, regardless of how little time there is left to shop.

Remember, Big Spring is literally dotted with interesting stores — from the downtown area to Scurry and Main streets, to the mall and all along Gregg Street and FM 700, there are a wide variety of gift purchasing opportunities.

From the latest item to hit the stores to antiques and hand-crafted items, you'll find just about everything you need right at home. As we have noted before, shoppers are limited only by their imagination.

While we would never begin to tell people they shouldn't shop out of town, we will ask that you check Big Spring first because the money you spend with a local merchant makes a difference in the lives of your friends and neighbors.

Come to think of it, if you've by chance already shopped out of town and still can't find what you're looking for and are forced to go to "Plan B," be sure that "Plan B" involves shopping here

Dollars spent with local merchants wind up being spent with other Big Spring or Howard County merchants ... turning over three, four, five or more times. And that rollover effect simply can't be created when you buy out of town or on the Internet.

Bottom line: Do your best to shop at home and make it a Merry Christmas for us all.

#### LETTER POLICIES

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.

We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.

Letters from our circulation area will be given

 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' opin-

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

### A SMALL PRAYER

By K. Rae Anderson

You are our guide through our earthly journey of life, Lord. We ask your help in our decisions.

# Marine's 'Christmas Poem' sa

t seems to happen all the time. I sit and I sit at the keyboard wondering what on earth should I write? That's especially true for this column. After all, it's the one that will be printed the final weekend before

Christmas 2003? "It must be profound," I told myself. After all, it has to be special because this coming week carries such importance to almost all of us.

And then a friend who used to work here at the Herald

sent me an e-mail and I realized that nothing I could scribble could be more touching, nor as thought provoking at this season than a poem penned by an anonymous Marine stationed on Okinawa.

So, without any more introduction, save my heartfelt thanks to the unnamed Marine, here is his "Christmas Poem" as I received it:

'Twas The Night Before Christmas. He Lived All Alone, In A One Bedroom House Made Of Plaster And Stone.

I Had Come Down The Chimney With Presents To Give, And To See Just Who In This Home Did Live.

I Looked All About, A Strange Sight I Did See. No Tinsel, No Presents, Not Even A Tree.

No Stocking By Mantle, Just Boots Filled With Sand, On The Wall Hung Pictures Of Far Distant Lands.

With Medals And Badges, Awards Of All Kinds, A Sober Thought Came Through My Mind

For This House Was Different, It Was Dark And Dreary, I Found The Home Of A Soldier, Once I Could See Clearly.

The Soldier Lay Sleeping, Silent, Alone, Curled Up On The Floor In This One Bedroom Home.

The Face Was So Gentle, The Room In Such Disorder. Not How I Pictured A United States Soldier.

Was This The Hero Of Whom I'd Just Read? Curled Up On A Poncho, The Floor For A Bed?

I Realized The Families That I Saw This Night, Owed Their Lives To These Soldiers

Who Were Willing To Fight.

Soon Round The World, The Children Would Play, And Grownups Would Celebrate A Bright Christmas Day.

They All Enjoyed Freedom Each Month Of The Year, Because Of The Soldiers, Like The One Lying Here.

I Couldn't Help Wonder How Many Lay Alone, On A Cold Christmas Eve In A Land Far From Home.

The Very Thought Brought A Tear To My Eye, I Dropped To My Knees And Started To Cry.

The Soldier Awakened And I Heard A Rough Voice,

"Santa Don't Cry, This Life Is My Choice;

I Fight For Freedom, I Don't Ask For More, My Life Is My God, My Country, My Corps."

The Soldier Rolled Over And Drifted To Sleep, I Couldn't Control It, I Continued To Weep.

I Kept Watch For Hours, So Silent And Still And We Both Shivered From The Cold Night's Chill.

I Didn't Want To Leav€ On That Cold, Dark, Night, This Guardian Of Honor So Willing To Fight.

Then The Soldier Rolled Over, With A Voice Soft And Pure, Whispered, "Carry On Santa, It's Christmas Day, All Is Secure.""

One Look At My Watch, And I Knew He Was Right "Merry Christmas My Friend, And To All A Good Night."

The only request made by the Leatherneck author, my friend said, was to send his poem to as many people as possible.

"Christmas will be coming soon," she wrote me, "and some credit is due to our U.S. service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities.' Indeed.

Let's all of us this week try to take a few minutes and offer a prayer, seeking not only safety for the men and women serving in our military, but also one of grati-

It's simply a small way to settle a tiny bit on a debt we owe that can never truly be paid in full.

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# **Howard Dean has no control**

oward Dean is increasingly looking like he's come unhinged. While the Democratic frontrunner shows no sign of slowing his long march toward his party's nomination, he has begun saying things that are not only irresponsible, they sound downright wacky.

First there was Dean's accusation that the president might have been warned about the September 11, 2001, attacks. On the Diane Rehm show on **National Public** Radio, Dean said, "The most inferesting

theory that I have CHAVEZ heard so far, which is

nothing more than a theory, I can't think — it can't be proved, is that he was warned ahead of time by the Saudis. Now who knows what the real situation is."

Dean tried to back away from the nutty accusation a week later when interviewed by Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday." "Why would you say that," Wallace asked him, "Do you believe that?" To which Dean replied, "No, I don't believe that. I can't imagine the president of the United States doing that. But we don't know, and it'd be a nice thing to know."

A nice thing to know? I suppose it would be nice to know that the president is not really an alien from outer space sent to rule the world. But most of us who are sane creatures assume that is the case - certainly no one has to prove it to us.

But Dean can't help himself from saying weird things. On Monday, in what was billed as his first major foreign policy address, Dean said that "The capture of Saddam has not made America

No doubt Dean would be happier if Saddam were still on the loose, since he, and indeed many in the Democratic Party, had pointed to the inability to capture either Saddam or Osama bin Laden as one of President Bush's major failures in the war on terrorism. But to say that Americans are no safer with Saddam behind bars is just plain strange.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman accused Dean of "climbing into his own spider hole of denial." Lieberman sounded offended, as an American: **"Saddam Hussein is a homicidal"** maniac, brutal dictator, supporter of terrorism and enemy of the United States, and there should be no doubt that America and the world are safer with him cap-

Howard Dean is an angry man, and he lashes out with such venom and hatred that he sometimes can't control his words — or those of his most ardent followers. At a recent fundraiser, Dean stood off stage while comedian Judy Gold said of the president of the United States, "We have to get this piece of living, breathing s-- out of the office." Kate Lloyd, another comedian at the event, drew laughs when she referred to Michael Jackson's pending charges of child molestation. "Frankly, I'm far more frightened of Condoleezza Rice," she said, and then went on to refer to Vice President Dick Cheney's wife as Lon Chaney, an actor in horror

movies. And trash-mouth comedi-

an Janeane Garofalo, referred to the new Medicare prescription drug bill as the "'you can go fyourself, Grandma' bill.'

Dean chose to go onstage anyway, forfeiting an opportunity to pull a Bill Clinton "Sister Souljah" move. In 1992, candidate Bill Clinton chastised Jesse Jackson for inviting Sister Souljah to a Rainbow Coalition event because the rapper had suggested, in the wake of the 1992 Los Angeles riots, "If black people kill black people every day, why not have a week and kill white people."

The most Howard Dean would say when he came onstage after the comedians had spewed their filth was a vague reference to some of the language that was used — which was directed more at the "N" word liberally sprinkled throughout some of the routines. "I just don't have much tolerance for ethnic humor," Dean said. "We are all one community."

When a Washington Post reporter asked Dean about the role anger plays in his campaign, "Dean responds negatively — in fact, angrily, to the suggestion that his campaign is driven by anger." But that anger is making the candidate behave as if he were slightly unbalanced. George W. Bush may drive some Democrats crazy, but they better hope their likely nominee gets a grip on himself soon, or he'll make the whole party look mad next November.

To find out more about Linda Chavez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.cre-

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**Pointsettias** 

raiser. Lou Vi





DOCTOR

Continued from Page 1A

cian for the care of

patients (names excluded)," the report concluded. "Some of these

patients were nursing home patients. The patients were between the

ages of 71 and 89. "The board's consultant

reported that respondent

(Patel) failed to perform

and document an ade-

quate physical exam,

failed to perform proper

work-up, failed to main-

tain adequate medical

records and generally

provided substandard

care to each of these

As part of an agreement

between Patel and the

board, the Big Spring doc-

tor will be monitored by

an outside physician des-

ignated by the board, and

can have his license sus-

pended by the agency at

any time for a period of

five years. He has also

been ordered to attend at least 20 hours of continu-

ing medical education

In response to the mea-

sures taken by the board,

Patel said he sternly

denies any allegations of

substandard care for his

patients."

patients but admits to a

wrong doings as far as

record-keeping problem. "I never admitted to any

us." said Patel. "Once we get all of the records and charts to them, I'm hoping this will all be over in six or seven months. "What it really comes down to is the amount of time spent on medical

records versus the amount of time actually spent with the patient. I think the new electronic system will help reduce the time it takes to document everything, giving me more time to talk with and care for my patients."



Pointsettias are on sale at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Proceeds from the sale go to help the Relay for Life fundraiser. Lou Vincent and Mildred Hayworth, Pink Lady volunteers will help with plant selection, which sell for \$11. Johansen's Landscape furnished the pointsettlas.

### REDISTRICTING

each year.

Continued from Page 1A

this year in a fair and

legal way," Perry said. Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas NAACP and a plaintiff in the federal trial, blasted the DOJ decision and said his group would request a formal investigation by the House Judiciary Committee or a Senate Committee to determine if there was inappropriate political interference.

"Their decision is clearly erroneous and carly

that indicates this Department is refusing to follow the law and is engaged in rewriting the law to suit their political purposes," Bledsoe said.

Earlier in the day, attorneys for the state and Democrats wrapped up their cases before the panel in federal court. Closing arguments are set for Tuesday.

Democrats say the plan to put more Republicans in Congress illegally dilutes minority and rural voting power in Texas and is a partisan gerrymander.

While we walled









Happy Holidays!

om Greg, Betty and Carolyn

Annual of



**Inside Big Spring Mall** 



267-6335

 A man charged with helping organize last month's suicide bombings in Istanbul has confessed that al-Qaida gave militants \$150,000 to carry out the attacks, local media reported Saturday.

Adnan Ersoz's confession, which newspapers said had been leaked by police sources, would be the first time a suspect in the attacks has admitted al-Qaida financed the bombings that killed 62 people.

Ersoz, believed to be a senior member of al-Qaida in Turkey, was charged Friday with an offense amounting to treason. Police believe he was a link between the terror

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) network and suicide edge of the attacks or that bombers.

Ersoz told police an Iranian sent him \$50,000 by courier, and he later contacted Habip Aktas, the head of al-Qaida in Turkey, to get another \$100,000 for the attackers, the newspapers reported.

"I followed the necesfinancing attacks, which I thought would be carried out against U.S. targets," Hurriyet quoted Ersoz as telling to interrogators.

The truck bombings blew up two synagogues Nov. 15 and the British Consulate and a Londonbased bank in Istanbul five days later.

In court, Ersoz had denied advanced knowl-

make it look like he has a

warm family and group of

supporters," she said, referring to the 1970s TV

show about a close-knit

family during the Great

Depression. "That helps

him. But it has to be

sedate. He's under a

With Jackson's arraign-

ment scheduled for Jan.

16, legal experts said the

pop star should try to stay

Jackson's plans for the

coming weeks may help him do that. He is head-

some contractual obliga-

tions, his lawyer has said.

Authorities in Santa

Barbara County approved

Jackson will be doing

been reports the self-pro-

claimed King of Pop will

be promoting his latest

CD, "Number Ones"

which is selling better in

the United Kingdom than

it is in the United States.

"It's been amazing with

Jackson, you don't realize

how many loyal fans he

has. He seems to have

more fans these days in

the U.K. than he does in

the States," said Ben

Todd, the deputy show

business editor at The

Mirror

Sunday

London.

doesn't know

overseas. There

Backerman said he

have

the trip.

out of the headlines.

microscope right now.'

he had received orders from Osama bin Laden, the semiofficial Anatolia news agency reported. He did admit in court to receiving military training in Afghanistan in 1997, and said he met with bin Laden in Kandahar, Afghanistan in

Anatolia reported. Authorities had earlier said Ersoz told interrogators that he and Aktas, had met with bin Laden in Kandahar before the Sept. 11 attacks, and they had decided to attack Turkey's southern Incirlik Air Base, used by the U.S. military. But tight security apparently made them change their

# Michael Jackson to gather with family and friends at Neverland

publicity than he had and

even then the album went

straight to No. 1. Despite

the allegations, despite

his increasing eccentrici-

ty and despite the fact he

hasn't released a decent.

album for 10 or 15 years,

his fans are incredibly

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LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael's life." More than 300 relatives A holiday gathering for Jackson family and close friends of Michael Jackson are friends could help burheading to his Neverland nish the entertainer's rep-Ranch to show their suputation, said Laurie Levenson, a law professor port for the singer, who is facing multiple child at Loyola University. "The goal here is to look molestation charges.

Saturday's event at the like 'The Waltons,' to ranch, about 100 miles north of Los Angeles, is being described by a Jackson representative as a homecoming. The entertainer has been in Las Vegas and various undisclosed locations since surrendering to authorities last month and being released on \$3 million

"There will be a goodly chunk of people including celebrities," spokesman Stuart Backerman said Friday, adding he did not have any names yet of famous people who might ing for England to fulfill attend.

Backerman said the guest list originally included about 300 names but predicted twice that many people could show

Jackson was charged Thursday with seven counts of performing lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent.

The entertainer, who has proclaimed his innocence, is looking forward to thanking those people who have stood by him, said Brian Oxman, a lawyer and Jackson friend who planned to attend the gathering.

"It's for family and friends to say thank you from Michael to people he loves and who have supported him," Oxman said. "It's not a party. It's not a pep rally. It's not hoopla or celebration.'

Initially, Jackson's relatives were to receive a tour of Neverland to see damage Jackson said was done by sheriff's deputies when they searched the estate. Oxman said the focus of the gathering has since changed.

"They wanted to do something simple and quiet," he said, "and the fact that it's mushroomed into these huge proportions is just the nature of



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#### By LYNDEL MOODY Staff Writer

A change in the yearly evaluation process for teachers and reviewing the district's "report card," highlighted the Independent Forsan School District Board of meeting Trustees Monday.

"We want to allow teachers the opportunity to be evaluated every other year provided they have taught in the district for three years, they exceed expectations on their evaluation, they're Board Education) certified and they're teaching in a content area in which they're certified," Rotan

During the last legislative session, Texas legislators passed changes that allow teachers who meet the qualifications to be evaluated once every five years instead of annually.

Rotan presented a change in policy for trustees to consider that requires teachers who meet qualifications to be evaluated every other

"We're a smaller school and we don't have as many teachers to evalu-

"Remember...you deserve the best!!"

ate," he said in explaining the reason not to implement the state standard. "Instead of doing 50 evaluations of teachers every year, this will allow us to evaluate 20

or 30. Instead rushing through evaluations, we'll be able to focus more on the ones we're are doing." There is an

exception

the proposed policy. Both teachers and principals will have the option to request by written notice an evaluation during on an off year.

In other business, trustees mulled over the district's "report card" during a public hearing Academic the Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report.

"It takes our TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) scores, our attendance rate, our ACT/SAT scores...it takes various information about the district and compares them with other schools in Region 18 along with other schools in the state of Texas," Rotan said.

For those interested

who were unable to attend, a campus report will be sent home with students' next report cards on Jan. 7, along with a letter explaining how to read the report.

For more information or to view the district AEIS report, visit the Forsan ISD Web site at www.forsan.esc18.net or call the administration office at 457-2223.

In other business, trustees approved:

· The first reading of updates in local policy reflecting changes in state law.

 A \$3,000 budget amendment to reflect the change in Discipline Alternative Education service provider. In January, FISD will began utilizing the Big Spring ISD program instead of Stanton's.

Approved Paraprofessional Assessment Knowledge and Skills evaluation instrument that will allow the district to certify people to become paraprofessionals who do not meet the requirements of having two years of study at a higher education institution or an associate of arts or higher degree.

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**Holiday Hours** The Big Spring Herald Office will be closed Thursday, December 25 for the observance of Christmas There will be no Christmas Day Deadlines for ads in Wednesday's paper 12:00 Noon Tuesday Deadline for Sunday's paper 12:00 Noon Wednesday.

### "You don't get worse Holiday Greetings



Back Row: Dee Clawson, Dr. Shroff, Gracie Gonzales, Front Row: Becky Coker and Pragna

All we want for Christmas is to thank our loyal patients for their support. We hope this holiday season brings you many blessings in the company of family and friends.

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#### tuary filled w The angels pended from foot long trac ing. Fifteen o sets control toward the sta real sheep her

"After Jesus that the angel giving glory Lee, one of t Dallas Christ member chur think about v I'm just think incredible it n

BIG SPRING Weekend E

Megachurch

with Christr

PLANO (AP

of the Christ

of angels appetheir flock ne

Jesus lay in a

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In Preston

At Christma Fourth of Jul productions li have become Protestant "me

#### Riders retract but fighting SAN ANTO

songwriter fr retrace some native of the st the Alamo. But musicia different from

Texas freedom his grandson victim of Down to raise aware ple with the ch Between nig coordinator fo Ruth Sanchez

area Thursday the ride as it Texas.

"It's a very, v the San Ante

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### TEXAS BRIEFS

#### Megachurch goes all out with Christmas production

PLANO (AP) - In the biblical account of the Christmas story, a heavenly host of angels appeared to shepherds tending their flock near the stable where baby Jesus lay in a manger.

In Prestonwood Baptist Church's retelling, brightly lit angels with fluttering, 12-foot-long organza gowns, shiny headbands and red wigs fly over a sanctuary filled with about 6,500 spectators.

The angels hang six stories up - suspended from harnesses attached to 150foot long tracks on the sanctuary's ceiling. Fifteen operators with wired headsets control the angels' movement toward the stage, where shepherds with real sheep herald the Messiah's arrival.

"After Jesus was born, the Bible says that the angels were singing praises and giving glory to the Lord," said Amanda Lee, one of five angels in the annual Dallas Christmas Festival at the 22.000member church. "And that's just what I think about when I'm flying out there. I'm just thinking about that night, how incredible it must have been."

At Christmas, Easter and even the Fourth of July, giant, Broadway-style productions like the one at Prestonwood have become the norm for the nation's Protestant "megachurches."

#### Riders retracing Crockett's steps, but fighting for medical cause

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A country songwriter from Tennessee wants to retrace some of the route taken by a native of the state who became a hero at the Alamo.

But musician Phil Thomas' quest is different from Davy Crockett's fight for Texas freedom. Thomas decided to help his grandson Van Warden, a 14-year-old victim of Down syndrome from Austin, to raise awareness and respect for people with the chromosomal disorder.

Between night shifts as a security coordinator for a Travis County jail, Ruth Sanchez came out to the Bastrop area Thursday morning to take part in the ride as it passed through Central

"It's a very, very good cause," she told the San Antonio Express-News in Saturday's online edition. "My heart seven runways. Taxiway delays can goes out to these kids. It's a great way to bring awareness."

A handmade coonskin cap atop his head, Thomas set off with two friends on Nov. 1 upon a slow journey to the Alamo. The three are stopping in 31 counties or parishes along the way and leading trail rides in each community, encouraging riders to donate \$1 per mile for the cause.

#### Columbia University law dean introduced as Rice president

HOUSTON (AP) - Calling it the start of a great new adventure, Columbia Law School Dean David Leebron for the first time Friday set foot on the Rice University campus where next year he'll become the seventh president in the Houston school's nearly centurylong history.

"I assume that's how all faculty meetings will begin," he joked after receiving a standing ovation from more than 100 school officials and professors when he was introduced to them by Jim Crownover, chairman of a search committee appointed to hire a new university leader.

Leebron, 48, officially takes over July 1. 2004, from Malcolm Gillis, who announced a year ago he would be stepping down after 11 years as Rice president.

"This is a university in great shape," he said of the 4,800-student private school, almost 2,000 of them graduate students. "As far as I know, nothing is broken."

He said he'd like to "build on some things already done," like raising Rice's public image.

#### For DFW Airport passengers, it's hurry up and wait

DALLAS (AP) — Airline passengers who have been stuck on the runways at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport for lengthy waits now have some federal data to back up their claims.

The results show that DFW, among the country's 10 largest airports, had the longest taxi time for arriving planes during the first 11 months of 2003. A plane traveled an average 10.48 minutes between runway and gate, with 3.81 minutes of that considered delays.

Nearly 1,700 times daily, a taxiing plane must cross one of the facility's

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intensify around Thanksgiving and Christmas as planes grow more crowded and pressure mounts to get travelers to their destinations on time.

"Controllers are very conscious of all the details surrounding flights — traffic, congestion and procedures," JoEllen Casilio, the air traffic manager for the Federal Aviation Administration's tower and traffic control office at DFW Airport, told The Dallas Morning News in Saturday's editions. "We take all those things into consideration. But it has to be safety first."

The average taxi time for arrivals at DFW hovered around 11 minutes in the last three years, federal on-time statistics show, while average taxi times in 2003 for arrivals at some of the nation's other large airports in Atlanta, Denver, Chicago and New York stand at 7 to 9 minutes.

#### Day-care centers, schools taking extra flu precautions

FORT WORTH (AP) - At day-care centers and elementary schools across

Texas, mundane tasks such as cleaning toys and washing hands have taken on more significance this flu season.

Teachers and workers say they are disinfecting everything — toys, games and anything else children touch — more frequently and are taking tots to the bathroom more often to blow their noses and wash their hands.

"We're just a little more cautious about making sure we're cleaning everything," said Peggie Saucier, director of Creative Children's Center in Richardson, a Dallas suburb. "We've kind of taken away some of the smaller toys that kids put in their mouths and pass around more easily.'

Texas was one of the first states to report widespread cases of flu. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week identified 36 states, including Texas, where the flu had reached epidemic proportions.

Three children have died from the flu in Dallas, and two babies' deaths in Gainesville are suspected as being flurelated. Doctors and hospitals in Texas are not required to report flu cases, so the state does not have flu case totals.

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# Grape Creek sweeps past Coahoma boys, girls

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

GRAPE CREEK - The Grape Creek Eagles managed to snare a pair of tough wins over Coahoma Friday night, rolling to victories Bulldogs the Bulldogettes.

The Eagles managed to snare a 49-44 come-from-behind win over the Bulldogs on the strengths of a dominating second and third quarter performance. Grape Creek outscored Coahoma by a 39-21 margin in the two quarters

and erased an early deficit.

With the setback, Coahoma slipped to 6-5 for the year heading into Saturday afternoon's showdown with Midland Christian.

'We had our chances but just missed a lot of easy shots," said Coahoma coach Kim Nichols.

The Bulldogs opened the contest well enough, Coahoma grabbed an early advantage by pounding out a 15-7 run in the first eight minutes.

The lead didn't last, though.

Grape Creek answered back with a team-high 20 points. a 21-11 spree in the second and took a stunning 28-26 lead into

The Eagles stretched their lead to 46-36 in the third with an 18-10

The Bulldogs, who were led offensively by senior Kelby Kemper, made a run at the lead in the fourth. Coahoma reeled off an 8-3 clip in the stanza and cut Grape Creek's lead to five, at 49-44 at the final buzzer.

Kemper finished the game with

The Grape Creek Lady Eagles dealt the Bulldogettes a 65-49 setback in the girls' matchup.

The Lady Eagles, now 10-3 overall, broke open a tight 29-24 battle at the half by reeling off a 36-25 spree in the second half.

Junior Mendy Morgan led all Coahoma scorers in the contest with 14 points. Vickie Cortez added seven points - six of which came via two 3-point bombs — while Lauren Yeater and Miranda Hester added six.



The Coahoma Bulldogs suffered a loss to Grape Creek.

# Steers split with Ra

### **Fast start spurs** No. 6 Rangers past Big Spring

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

GREENWOOD - Among coaches, the general feeling is to get better a team has to play the best possible opponents. That philosophy, which has proven itself true many time over, has only one drawback. Getting better against the best usually leads to tough losses.

The sixth-ranked Greenwood Rangers contributed to the Big Spring Steers' learning curve Friday night by handing the Steers a tough 80-34 setback. The win marked the second time this season, the Rangers have defeated the

Despite the loss, the Steers had their moments. Big Spring pounded out 14 points in the closing minutes of the contest and picked up a team-high 13 points from senior Jordan Cobb.

Greenwood, 9-2 overall (counting their double-forfeit loss in Stanton) did most of their damage in the first half. The Rangers opened the game with a 26-4 run in the first eight minutes and never looked back.

The Steers defense managed to slow the Rangers' offensive onslaught in the second. Using a trapping defense, Big Spring limited Greenwood to just 13 second-quarter points.

The Big Spring offense, unfortunately, didn't fair as well as the Rangers in the first half. The Steers pushed in just 10 points in the first 16 minutes and trailed by a 39-10 clip at the half.

Cobb, C.J. Lowery and the Steers began hitting their stride in the third, however. Big Spring, which went to the foul line just eight times in the contest, knocked down 10 points in the first eight minutes of the second half.

Lowery finished the contest as BSHS second-leading scorer with six points. Greenwood, which had three players score into double figures, took a 62-20

lead into the fourth quarter. Michael Ornales-Doporto and Wes Smith both chalked up four points.



Big Spring's C.J. Lowery soars in the air while attempting to make a pass against the Greenwood Rangers. The Steers, 3-11 overall, suffered an 80-34 loss to the sixth-ranked Rangers Friday night.

### Watkins, Higgins help power Lady Steers past Greenwood

By TOMMY WELLS

GREENWOOD - Alex Watkins, Shannon Higgins and Leina Braxton all scored into double figures Friday night and helped carry the Big Spring Lady Steers to a 52-33 win over the Greenwood Rangerettes.

The Lady Steers, who claimed the consolation honors at last weekend's Monahans Sandhills Invitational, all but salted away the win in the first half with a dominating performance on both ends of the floor.

hands of Watkins, Higgins and Braxton — finished with 10. Brinn Swinney to 33 points in the first 16 minutes. contributed six.

Defensively, the BSHS girls held Greenwood to just five points in the first quarter and took a 12-point cush-

ion into the half. The Lady Steers continued to stretch their lead in the third, outscoring the Rangerettes by a slim 7-5 clip. Big Spring held a 40-26 lead at the start of the fourth quarter.

The Lady Steers sealed the win with a 12-7 run in the final frame.

Watkins led all Big Spring scorers in the contest by pushing home 14 points. Higgins used a 7-of-9 effort from the free throw line to finish with 13, while Offensively, Big Spring rode the hot Braxton — who sank two 3-point shots

# **Bearkats** rally past **Buffaloes**

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

GARDEN CITY — When the Garden City Bearkats and Forsan Buffaloes get together, two things can be expected: Emotions will run high and the decibal level of the crowd will be even higher.

Such was the case Friday night when Forsan made the short trek down FM

Unfortunately for the Buffaloes, Garden City had more to cheer about when the final buzzer sounded.

Jeremy Bedwell gave Forsan plenty to scream about in the early minutes of the non-district rivalry. The FHS standout imposed his will in the first two minutes by putting back a pair of offensive rebounds.

Auggie Hilario looked to keep the Buffalo stampede going, too. He buried a 3-pointer to cap Bedwells effort and give the Buffs a 9-2 lead.

After Garden City had cut the lead to 9-5, Josh Helmstetler got things started again. He sparked an 11-4 run that built Forsan's lead to 20-9.

The Bearkats managed to quiet the Buffs a bit in the closing seconds with two jumpers that sent the game into the second quarter with the score at 20-

Forsan looked to keep the pressure on early in the second. The Buffs raced out to a 7-2 run to open the frame and extended their lead to double digits, at

From there, Garden City took control of that funny thing called momentum.

The Bearkats broke out of their collective funk by running off a 12-6 spree and slicing the deficit to only six going

into the half. Garden City kept the momentum to begin the third quarter. The Bearkats tore off a 9-4 run to begin the frame and

pulled to within one, at 36-34. Blake Chudej capped Garden City's comeback seconds later by hitting a

See BUFFS, Page 10A

### Stanton girls outlast Ira, 48-43

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

STANTON — The Stanton Lady Bulldogs recovered from a slow start Friday night and raced to a 48-43 win over the Ira Lady Bulldogs.

With the win, the Lady Buffaloes improved their season record to 7-7.

Shelby Harp helped power a 32-21 second-half surge by pouring in eight of her team-high 15 points in the third quarter and sparking a 19-6 third-quarter spree. Ira, behind Lindsey Wilson, con-

trolled the first two quarters. The Lady Bulldogs outscored Stanton by a 13-5 clip in the first and took a stunning 22-16 lead into the half. Wilson finished the contest with 15

### Rodriguez's agent blames Red Sox, Rangers for deal's collapse

Rodriguez's agent said the shortstop made a large enough financial concession and blamed the Red Sox and Rangers for not getting the deal

win over Greenwood.

Big Spring Junior Alex Watkins led all Lady

Steers with 14 points in the team's 52-33

Scott Boras said he would leave New York on Saturday and return to California.

The Red Sox proclaimed the trade "dead" Thursday, blaming the players' association for

NEW YORK (AP) - Alex not approving a steeper reduction think mutual concessions by "I'm on my way to visit family Hicks gave an elliptical reply. tion in Rodriguez's \$252 million, 10-year contract, but Boras said Friday talks were continuing on the proposed swap of baseball's only \$20 million-ayear players.

"We worked very hard on this deal," Boras said. "Alex has done everything he can to show his good faith by committing \$13 million. The two sides were

both teams would allow this deal to happen."

Red Sox president Larry Lucchino, who said Thursday the proposed trade of Manny Ramirez for A-Rod had collapsed, insisted his team had

stopped its efforts. "There really is nothing going on that I'm aware of. None of us have had any conversations

and hope to put this behind me.'

Texas general manager John Hart said Thursday that owner Tom Hicks probably would speak with the Red Sox about the deal, which came apart when the players' association rejected Boston's, proposal to rework Rodriguez's contract.

\$20 million apart. You would with Texas," Lucchino said. will continue with the Red Sox, See A-ROD, Page 9B

"Sorry ... nothing new to report," he said in an e-mail sent to The Associated Press.

On Thursday, baseball commissioner Bud Selig ended the 72-hour window he gave the Red Sox and Rodriguez to restructure the contract, saying: "I have terminated my permission for Boston and Alex Asked Friday whether talks Rodriguez to continue pursuing Weekend,

By TOMMY V

Sports Editor **LENORAH** May scored 27 points and Pribyla Madison bo down more rebounds Frie the state-ran Wildcats to a 76-44 win over Christian War

With the Wildcats box from their Midland Cla Tuesday in ion. Grady sho percent from and improved the year. The Wildcat

took control Grady reeled run in the first utes. Grady reeled run in the s

stifling defen

took a comman lead into the b The Wildcat four players double figur affair, sealed with a 25-13 sp third.

In addition Madison chip points, while I Nick Winford c 16 and 10 poin tively.

Senior guar Rhoadeš led Christian score points.

## Grady

LENORAH Grady Lady Ca players reache its offensivel night and rolle 11 victory over Christian Lady

Grady, which second at th Garden City to dominated the minutes of the Lady Cats Valley by a stag

2 margin in the Grady, which offensively by Rivas' teampoints, opened with a bar outscored th Warriors by a ? the first quarte

It only got Valley Christ there. The Lady saw their defic to 44 points in t Grady hamme 24-0 run.

### Continued from P

this transaction time." Boston ask

Rodriguez slas tract by \$28 mil million, which blocked, saying violate the spo agreement by the deal's value

The union a proposed that lower his contr million in exc the right to us Sox logo and marketing deal the union inte closer to \$13 m interest on income was t

We Get Y

Terry Kinsey.... Espanol.....

# Wildcats trample Valley Christian

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

LENORAH - Trent May scored a game-high 27 points and and Jason Pribyla and Brent Madison both pulled down more than 10 rebounds Friday and led the state-ranked Grady Wildcats to a convincing 76-44 win over the Valley Christian Warriors.

With the win, the Wildcats bounced back from their loss to Midland Classical on Tuesday in grand fashion. Grady shot nearly 50 percent from the field and improved to 15-1 for the year.

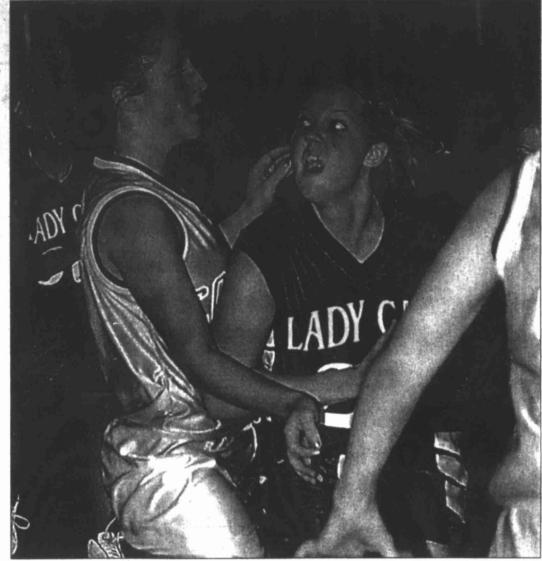
The Wildcats, using a stifling defensive press, took control quickly. Grady reeled off an 18-2 run in the first eight minutes.

Grady reeled off a 14-13 run in the second and took a commanding 32-15. lead into the break.

The Wildcats, who had four players score into double figures in the affair, sealed the victory with a 25-13 spree in the

In addition to May, Madison chipped in 18 points, while Pribyla and Nick Winford contributed 16 and 10 points, respec-

Senior guard Westin Rhoades led all Valley Christian scorers with 10



Westbrook's Allison Bray drives between two Klondike defenders for a basket Friday night. Bray scored 12 points in the the Lady Kats' 66-55 loss.

### Lady Coogs' survive Lady Cats' threat, nail down 66-55 victory

By WHITNEY WELLS

Special to the Herald

KLONDIKE - The Klondike Lady Cougars survive a tough first-half charge by the Westbrook Lady Cats and rolled to a 66-55 win Friday night.

Westbrook, which had three players score into double figures, held its own on the early minutes of the game. Codee Waldrep and Allison Bray each scored almost at will in the initial 16 minutes and helped Westbrook go into the half down by one, at 31-30.

Waldrep scored eight of her teamhigh 18 points in the second period. Bray tallied six of her 12 points in the

Klondike managed to survive the threat, however. The Lady Cougars scored 18 points in the third quarter and never looked back.

Klondike outscored Westbrook by a 35-25 margin in the final 16 minutes and claimed its second win of the year over Westbrook.

Sheen Fernandez finished the game

### No. 4-ranked Tech clips Washington

SEATTLE (AP) - Texas Daugherty said. Tech rallied for a narrow victory in a noisy gym against a physical, determined opponent.

Erin Grant made an 8footer in the lane with 11 seconds to play, and Chesley Dabbs added two free throws with 1.5 seconds remaining as fourthranked Texas Tech escaped with a 74-70 victory Friday night over Washington.

:It's on the road," Lady Raiders coach Marsha Sharp said. "It's in a fairly hostile environment for us. Their fans did a great job of making it tough on us, and that's what we're going to see later in the Big 12."

Casey Jackson had 10 points and 16 rebounds and Cisti Greenwalt added 15 points and 11 boards. Texas Tech (10-0) closed on an 8-0 run to snap Washington's 18game home winning streak.

"There's no doubt we battled like warriors," Huskies coach June played incredibly hard for 40 minutes. Our defense disrupted a very accomplished Texas Tech team. It's tough to lose the way we lost, down the stretch.'

Giuliana Mendiola scored 17 of her 27 points in the second half and Andrea Lalum added 15 points for the Huskies (6-2), who nearly beat the Lady Raiders at their own game by holding Texas Tech to a season-low 36.4 percent shooting.

"Anytime you play great players and great teams, you tend to pick up your game," Mendiola said. "I'm proud of our team because we hung in there as much as we could. We showed a lot of

Washington fell just short after Lalum missed a late 3-point try and Mendiola rolled off a pick but lost control of the ball in the paint. Dabbs came away with it and hit two foul shots for her only points.

#### Rockets release troubled forward

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets have released forward Eddie Griffin, who had been suspended since mid-October and faces an assault charge related to allegations of a fight with a woman.

"This has been very disappointing for our franchise," Rockets general manager Carroll Dawson said in announcing Griffin's release Friday. "We had high hopes for

Eddie and still feel that he has the ability to be a very good player in this league if he gets his personal issues resolved."

Griffin was suspended Oct. 16 for a series of missed practices and a skipped flight to Sacramento. That month he checked into a hospital to get help.

He was charged in November with aggravated assault with a deadly

### Grady girls unload on Valley Christian

players reache double-dig- the second half. its offensively Friday night and rolled to an 82-11 victory over the Valley

Christian Lady Warriors. Grady, which finished second at the recent Garden City tournament, dominated the first 16 minutes of the play. The Lady Cats outscored Valley by a staggering 46-2 margin in the first half.

Grady, which was led offensively by Brittany Rivas' team-high 15 points, opened the contest with a bang. They outscored the Lady Warriors by a 22-2 clip in the first quarter.

It only got worse for Valley Christian from there. The Lady Warriors saw their deficit balloon to 44 points in the third as Grady hammered out a 24-0 run.

Continued from Page 8A

this transaction at this

Boston asked that

Rodriguez slash his con-

tract by \$28 million to \$30

million, which the union

blocked, saving it would

violate the sport's labor

agreement by lowering

The union and Boras

proposed that Rodriguez

lower his contract by \$12

million in exchange for

the right to use the Red

Sox logo and marks in

marketing deals, a figure

the union interpreted as

closer to \$13 million once

interest on deferred

income was taken into

the deal's value.

A-ROD

time."

Callie Harryman was Grady's second-leading scorer in the contest, tallying 14. Kelsey Tubb and Whitney Oppegard added 13 and 10, respectively.

Garden City 59 Forsan 25

GARDEN CITY - The Garden City Lady Kats turned eight first-quarter turnovers by the Forsan Lady Buffs into a 59-25 victory Friday night.

Sparked by the Lady Buffs' turnovers, the Lady Cats reeled off a 19-5 outburst in the first eight minutes of the contest. Junior Megan Niehues highlighted the Lady Kats' first-quarter efforts with a trey at the horn

Lesile Jansa sparked the Lady Kats offensively, torching the Lady Buffs

account. In addition, the shortstop would gain the right to become a free agent after the 2005 sea-

Boston balked, and Selig's window closed.

Proposals to trade Boston's longtime shortstop, Nomar Garciaparra, were left on hold. The Red Sox had discussed sending him to the Chicago White Sox.

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LENORAH — The The Lady Cats sealed for 18 while Jessica Hoch Grady Lady Cats had four the win with a 34-9 run in and Niehues both hit double figures with 16 and 11

> points, respectively. Jacylynn Hise paced the Lady Buffs with eight.

Greenwood 51 Big Spring JV 42

GREENWOOD - The Greenwood Rangers used a late fourth-quarter run to hold off Justin Green and the Big Spring Steers junior varsity by a 51-42 margin Friday afternoon. With the loss, the Steers slipped to 3-6 for the year.

Klondike 72 Westbrook 66

KLONDIKE - Despite having four players in double figures, the Westbrook Wildcats suffered a 72-66 setback to Klondike.

Jared Matlock led all Westbrook scorers with 18 points.



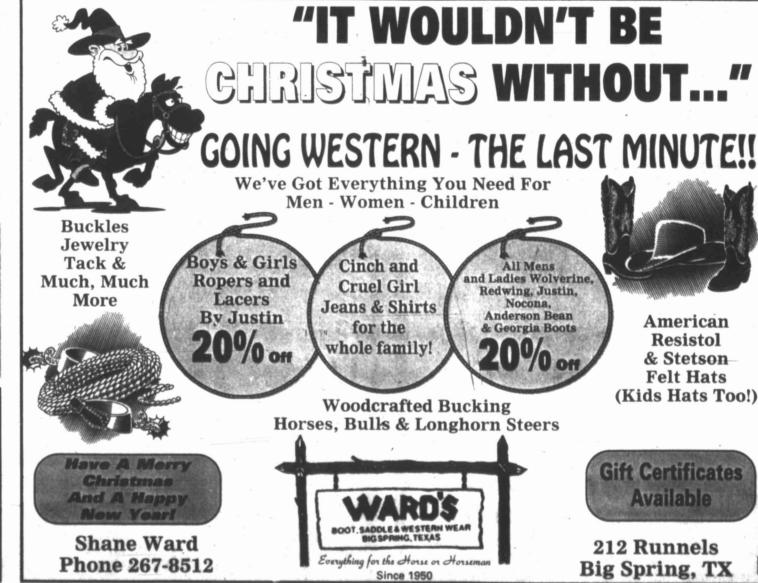
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Duncan

scores 27

in Spurs'

87-73 win

SEATTLE (AP) - The San Antonio Spurs have

turned things around in a

Tim Duncan had 27 points and 20 rebounds,

leading the Spurs to their

ninth straight victory, 87-

73 over the Seattle

SuperSonics on Friday

The defending NBA

champions improved

their record to 18-10,

including 7-7 on the road.

They can tie the Los

Angeles Lakers for the

longest winning streak in

the NBA this season with

a win at Portland on

Saturday night. Not bad

for a team that lost four

in a row prior to their

"It was a good night for

us," Spurs coach Gregg

Popovich said. Tony

Parker scored 16 points

and Manu Ginobili added

14 for the Spurs, who

have their longest win-

ning streak since they

won 10 straight in the

current streak.

big way.

night.

# Coahoma 7th grade takes aim at perfect school year

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

Every now and then a class comes along that happens to have the winning touch.

The Coahoma Junior High School seventh graders certainly fit that mold. Through the first half of the 2003-2004 season, the Bulldogs have yet to taste defeat, winning every football and basketball game they've played.

The streak may be even older than some realize.

"Going all the way back to Pee Wee football I don't remember them losing once." said Stan Griffin, the grandfather of one of the seventh grade students "They're all just good athletes.

This year the group which runs the same spread offensive scheme as the Bulldog varsity devastated its opponents on both sides of the ball. Anchored by a defense that would have made Ebenezor Scrooge look charitable, the seventh graders collected four shutouts in their eight

In all, the junior high Bulldogs gave up just 52 points during the season.

The CJHS seventh grade offense was just as prolific, racking up a 36 points per outing. They won every game by an average of 30 points.

Coahoma coach Dean Richters was quick to praise the entire teams work ethic. "They're just

group of kids," Richters said "You can't just point at one of them and say 'he the reason.' Defensively, it's an overall team effort. We just have a good group of kids

to choose from. "You know when all

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you have to do is show up to drive the bus it makes coaching pretty easy.' Richters added. "They just take to coaching real well and that makes mine and the other coaches' jobs so much easier."

Football isn't the only sport the seventh graders have taken to. The class has rattled off five straight victories to begin the basketball season.

Athletic bllodlines run deep in the class.

Take Donnie Garcia for instance. His older sister. Ruby, is the all-state catcher for the high school softball team. Then there's Cory Roberts - the vounger brother of Lance Roberts, a first team all-district receiver.

"These boys have just always played together and that helps make them so special," Griffin said.

The prospects for the future look bright at Coahoma as the Division II Coahoma Bulldogs of the Crossroads Little Football League recentlycompleted its season by winning the championship - its fourth consecutive crown.

The CJHS squad consist of Donnie Garcia, Quade Harris, Cory Roberts, Matthew Brown, P.J. .Daylong, Jesus Medina, Damian Bailey, Steven Boren, Michael Reid, Nathan Gomez, Jooi Paniagua, Keagan Hunt, Harrison Chevolier, James Taylor, Cody Sheppard, Chase Clanton, Kolby Fields, Braden Griffin, Andy and Metcalf.

Richters is assisted by Robby Dickenson and Matt Gofford.

Isaac Arguello and Bobby Hodges contribute their talents during the basketball season.

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COMMUNITY

Who We Are

The Big Spring Area Community Foundation was established in 2002 to build charitable endowments and to serve

donors. The board of Trustees has adopted the following

The Mission of the Big Spring Area Community Foundation is:

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation is an independent

public charity. All donations qualify for the maximum deduction

We are one of more than 500 community foundations across

America - growing endowments to meet changing community

needs and opportunities. We build a legacy of philanthropy for

We strive to help donors create funds that reflect their charita-

ble goals and communicate with them frequently regarding the

foundation's work. Grants are made from endowment earnings

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al and monitored by a board composed of community leaders,

invests funds and carries out the wishes of the donors to the

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without conflicting with other community or

to provide leadership and resources in

**FOUNDATION** 



A member of the Sidewinders gymnastics teams helps a budding gymnastics hopeful go through an exercise on the uneven parallel bars last week during gymnastics classes at the Big Spring YMCA. The classes, which are held on Monday and Wednesday, will begin again following the holidays.

#### **BUFFS**

Continued from Page 8A

shot from inside the pain to tie the score at 38-38. the ball game at 38.

Forsan junior varsity call up Tye Baker made the most of his varsity debut from there. He drained a long jumper late in the frame to put the Buffaloes on top by two, at 40-38, to end the third.

The FHS rookie came back early in the fourth with another dose of

magic. Just 20 seconds after a Chudej basket had tied the score again, he stepped u and buried a trey from long distance to stake the Buffs to a 43-40 lead.

With the score standing at 44-43, Garden City's Chase Goodwin took over. He scored 10 points over a two-minute span and powered the Kats to a 14-1 run that enabled the GCHS fans to become involved. Goodwin's heroics also

gave the Bearkats a 57-45 advantage.

After the Chudej shot the line. The FHS senior

that ended the run, the Bearkats ran into a bit of trouble. Garden City was hit with the first of three technicals when officials whistled them for delaying the game by slapping the ball after a shot. The technical sent Helmstetler to the line

where he dropped one of the two shots and pulled the Buffs to within 11.

Garden City was hit with its second and third technicals less than a minute later — again sending Helmstetler to

converted three of the four attempts and sliced the Bearkats lead to eight.

2001-2002 season.

The Bearkats closed the game out by hitting four of six from the line over the last minute.

Chudej took the top scoring honors by pouring in a game-high 27 points. Goodwin added 11.

Forsan had four players reach double figures. including Helmstetler with 18. Auggie Hilario added 14 while the inside tandem of` Jeremy Bedwell and Johnathan Wright added 10 apiece.



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By Marsha Alle **HERALD Lifesty** 

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against brea requires app existing knowl vention, early and treatment equal detect, and tr ease.

# Facing enemy winning

Linda Proffitt of Big Spring overcame a li and death struggle

By Marsha Allen

**HERALD Lifestyle Editor** 

When she was told she had cancer, she was astonished.

Linda Proffitt of Big Spring walked about for a few days in a daze, she

But the choice was a simple one. It was an operation or death.

For the past 30 years she and her husband Dan have owned and operated Proffitt Day Care Center on Wasson Road. The idea of leaving her center children was as much a stress factor as the pending

You know this building was built in the 1940s. It became available in 1981, and Dan and I opened it. Our son was six months old and we started the day care," she said of her business establishment.

Early in their marriage the Proffitts moved to

#### Facts and figures tell the story

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in US women, with 211,300 invasive and 55,700 in situ cases expected in 2003, accounting for nearly one in every three cancers diagnosed. It is also the second leading cause of death in US women; 39,800 deaths are expected in

Progress in both early detection and treatment of breast cancer has resulted in decreasing mortality rates in most segments of the population during the 1990s; more than 90 percent of breast cancers are now diagnosed at localized and regional stages, for which five-year survival rates are 97 percent and 79percent, respectively. breast cancer incidence (all ages combined) is about 20% higher in white women than in African American women, African American women have a higher mortality rate.

Other racial and ethnic groups have lower incidence rates than either whites African Americans. However, the proportion of disease diagnosed at advanced stage and with larger tumor sizes is generally higher in minority populations than in whites.

Continued progress against breast cancer requires application of existing knowledge on pre vention, early detection and treatment, especially among racial and ethnic minorities and other populations who have not bene equally advances in the past, as well as continued research into how to better prevent, detect, and treat the disOne woman's story of her

triumph over

"It feels so good to just be back with my kids again."

Linda Proffitt

Austin where she worked in the day care industry for Emmy Griggs Day Care, giving her valuable experience in the business.

She and Mr. Proffitt started their center in their home, starting with 19 children. They still live in the same house.

The center is licensed for 57. "That's our capacity," she said.

She went back to college and earned two child development and two business courses. "Now you have to have a bachelor's degree to run a day care center," she said.

All has been going well for the past 20 years until August, 2002 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I was working from six in the morning until six at night," she explained. "Dan and I worked the day care every day"

She has been in cancer treatment for the past 14 months, she said.

"I had 10 months of chemo, I had three surgeries and 33 radiation treatments", she said.

Her husband has helped her tremendously, she said. "He's been right there with me every step of the way".

They have been married 33 years. "He actually took care of me and was my nurse, and was right by my side for the past 14 months". Proffitt said. 'He literally nursed me back to health".

Now, to get caught up financially, Mr. Proffitt has taken a full time job with another Big Spring company.

Slowly, as energy and health allows, she has returned to the center to work with "her kids," she said. She speaks of them as if they were her own children.

"I will come back full time as soon as I can,"

she said. "Right now, I can only go for about four hours a day until I get tired".

She has only been back

to the center working for three weeks. "I'm trying I'm all through with my

treatments. My bone scan came back clear and they're saying I'm cancer free", she said.

She continues to take medication, and that will continue for quite some

"I will be on a cancer drug for five years, and, if there are no cancer cells at the end of five years, then I get off that medication and really be cancer free—a survivor"

Her three surgeries included a lump ectomy, which involved removing a lump in a breast.

The second surgery included two treatments under an arm. "Out of 27 lymph nodes, three had the cancer", she said.

Then she had two more chemo treatments. "It's the very strong chemo therapy which causes you to lose your hair", she

said. "I lost every bit of it. I had long, blonde hair that I wore in a pony tail. That's how the kids identified with me".

While preparing for radiation after her second surgery, another mammogram was taken and a calcification node was discovered. A biopsy was done, and "the cancer had already come back", she

Her third surgery was June 18 this year, a left mastectomy.

"I had 13 weeks of chemo after that; every day for 13 weeks. Just as soon as we got through with that I had 33 more radiation treatments", she said. These treatments were taken at the Allison Treatment Center in Midland.

Throughout the treatment ordeal Proffitt lost weight and lost her appetite.

"I had some very low, low days. I mean there were days that, well, I had never been down like that. I had never been bed-ridden. It was a very sad day for me".

Her outlook on life ly. began to deteriorate drastically, she said. There were days when she just couldn't see any future. "They would have me

waiting three weeks tion where the surgery sometimes to let me know what was going on. It was in the summer when doctors are on vacation. And I had to wait three weeks one time to see if the cancer had come back, and it

had" Physicians wanted to perform another lumpectomy. "And that's when I decided for another mas-

tectomy" Within the past few weeks no cancer has been reported as evident from monitoring she the receives by her doctor.

"I've always been a strong Christian", she said. "The Lord really helped me. There were days when I would just lie in bed and talk to him, one on one, and he pulled me up and got me back on my feet.

'There were so many days I felt so bad, just laying on my bed, bald-headed, and I just felt so lone-

"My husband has told me that I'm just as beautiful as I ever was. I have to put corn starch under my arms because the fricwas bothers me. He said he looked up and he said he saw the corn starch glistening on me in the TV light and he told me I just looked so beautiful just standing there. You know, that's love".

With the support of her faith and her family and friends Proffitt has faced the enemy of cancer and

#### Breast cancer myths

MYTH: Finding a lump in your breast means you have breast cancer.

TRUTH: Eight out of 10 lumps are benign, or not cancerous. If you discover a persistent lump in your breast or any changes in breast tissue, it is very important that you see a physician immediately. Take charge of your own health by monthly selfexams, regular visits to the doctor, and regularly scheduled mammograms. MYTH: A mammogram can cause breast cancer to

TRUTH: An x-ray of the breast is called a mammogram. The x-ray and the pressure on the breast from the x-ray machine cannot cause cancer to spread. Do not let tales of other people's experiences keep you from having a mammogram. Base your lecision on your physician's recommendation and ask the physician any uestions you may have bout the mammogram. MYTH: Having a family istory of breast cancer neans you will get breast

TRUTH: While women ho have a family history of breast cancer are in a higher risk group, most women who have breast incer have no family his ory. If you have a mother, daughter, sister, or grandmother who had reast cancer, you shou nave a mammogram fiv



Linda Proffitt tells a story to a group of her day care center students. Although still wob-bly on her feet from cancer surgery and treatments, Mrs. Proffitt is glad to be back with her children at the Proffitt Day Care Center she and her husband Dan own and operate.

BIG SPRING Weekend I

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### **Births**

Logan Tyler Rios

Logan Tyler Rios, boy, born Nov. 14, 2003, at 2:43 p.m. weighing 6 pounds 15 1/2 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. His parents are Salome A. Rios and Magdalene A. Lopez of Big Spring.

His grandparents are Alva and Andres Lopez of Rocksprings and Mary Jane and Ben Licon of Big Spring.

John Andrew Solis Jr.

John Andrew Solis Jr., boy, born Nov. 27, 2003 at 7:28 a.m. weighing 4 pounds 15 ounces and was 18 3/4 inches long. His parents are John Solis and Stacey Lozano of Big Spring.

His grandparents are Joe and Irma Lozano of Big Spring and Tammy Solis of Plano.

Richard Alexander Herrera Jr.

Richard Alexander Herrera Jr., boy, born Nov. 19, 2003, at 0035 weighing 6 pounds, 13.7 ounces and was 19 inches long. His parents are Richard and Latisha Herrera of Big Spring.

Neasa Taylor Nichole

Neasa Taylor Nichole Slate, girl, born Nov. 25, 2003 at 3:29 a.m. weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Mark and Ruth Slate.

Her grandparents are Edward and Jean Slate and Virginia Oliver all of Big Spring.

**Aryan James Holmes** 

Aryan James Holmes, boy, born Nov. 25, 2003, at 4:56 weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. His mother is Chelsea Richardson of Big Spring.

His grandparents are Lana Richardson, Kay Dillinger and Craig Richardson all of Big Spring.

Antonio Garza Jr. Antonio Garza Jr., boy,

born Nov. 26, 2003 at 12:20 weighing 6 pounds, 1 ounce and was 18 inches long. His parents are

Garza Antonio Teresa Zurate.

His grandparents are Margarita Garza and Emilio Garza, both of Coahoma.

Felipe John Shober

Felipe John Shober, boy, born Nov. 30, 2003, at 6:46 a.m. weighing 7 pounds 10 1/2 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. His parents are Cindi Herrera and John Shober of Big Spring. His grandparents are Susan Herrera and Dolly Shober

Roman Alexander Perez

Alexander Roman Perez, boy, born Dec. 2, 2003, at 3:54 p.m. weighing 8 pounds 1 ounces and was 20 inches long. His parents are Ariel Perez and Dianna Sosa of Big Spring.

His grandparents are Selestino and Maria Hernandez of Big Spring and Baltazar and Irma Perez of Eagle Pass.

Births submitted by Scenic Mountain Medical

### A surprise surrey-style Christmas sleigh ride to cherish

It was a Christmas to remember and cherish.

That Christmas Eve we headed for his hometown to spend a few days with his parents. Military

leave was only to last a couple of days, so planning anything grand

question. But then, Marines are efficiently genius at

seemed to be out of the

innovating and adapting. His parents had waited for tree decorating until their Marine son and his Marine female friend

arrived for the holiday. The two had driven from Washington, D.C., to Pennsylvania in a driving snow.

On Christmas Eve morning his home was filled with familiar aromas of the season, such as apple cider with cinnamon steaming on the stove. The turkey had begun its journey toward being the main focus of

the Christmas feast. With a short brunch completed, everyone scrambled to put on warm duds for a walk in the snow. A soft flurry of white flakes continued to float from heaven to their eventual landing on the ground.

A cup of cappuccino

coffee was served to his female guest as she nestled in front of the warmth of a fire in a huge stone fireplace. She sensed something was about to occur.

Conversation around the fireplace **SEASONINGS** included family news Marsha and current events. ALLEN The Vietnam War was still peculating.

> Soon the sound of bells could be heard in the distance. The jingle sounds came closer and closer, and suddenly the sounds stopped in front of the house.

Escorting his female friend to the front threshold the heavy oak door was opened to the sight of a beautiful surrey-style sleigh parked in front of the house.

Harnessed to the green and brown colored sleigh was an elegant chestnutcolored horse handled by a man so heavily clad with layered clothing only his nose and eyes were visible.

The two donned coat. mittens and hat and glided through the knee-deep snow to the sleigh.

The surrey ride had been arranged by he and his parents as a Christmas gift for his female friend.

A blanket was thrown over their legs as the two nestled into the sleigh's seat. With a gentle "giddy-up," from the man, his magnificent

chestnut pranced through the snow, its hooves flicking up crystal white snow with silent grace.

ed only a few blocks it was endearingly romantic. The two held each other's mittened hands, listening to the bells hung all around the surrey and dangling from the horse's harness.

Although the ride last-

Too soon the man ush ered his equine charge to a stop in front of the house. The horse's breathing steamed into the mid-morning air.

The two Marines were assisted from the sleigh by the man as he uttered with a smile a wish of "Merry Christmas!" They reciprocated with, "and a happy holiday to you, too, sir."

On a resplendent snowy Christmas Eve it had been a charming. surprise surrey-style sleigh ride.

**Observe Christmas** Eve with a candlelight service

Enjoy the celebration of the season with a candlelight service at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve with First Christian Church congregation.

For the Eve's observance worship the reason for the season with the reading of the Christmas story and Communion.

Regular worship service is held at 10:50 a.m.



HERALD photo/Marsha Allen Bus drivers of the Big Spring Independent School District were busy recently with their sale table in the Big Spring Mall. Funds from their sale of tasty sweets went to benefit Relay for Life. Gathering to work the sale were Juana Osborn, Beverly Norman, Georgia Torres, Angel Sosa and Tish Baucham. Last Saturday they held a bake sale throughout the day until all the sweet goodies were gone.

### Menus

Senior Citizens Center MONDAY—Beef enchiladas, Spanish rice, beans, salad, milk, cornbread, fruit.

TUESDAY-Chicken fried steak, potatoes, broccoli and cheese, fruited gelatin, milk, rolls, pie.

WEDNESDAY-Spaghetti and meat sauce, mixed vegetables, salad, milk, cobbler.

THURSDAY-Merry Christmas.

FRIDAY—Closed Christmas.

Schools are out for Christmas holidays.

Life is about you. Do you have a story idea?

Contact Life editor with your story suggestion, 263-7331, ext. 236 or e-mail life@bigspringherald.com

Read us online: bigspringherald.com

# The **Music Ministry Trinity Baptist Church** presents...

### Christmas is esus



The members of Trinity Baptist Church invite you to come hear the music of the season as we worship and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Trinity Baptist Church 810 Eleventh Place Sunday Evening (12/21) 6:00pm

A nursery will be provided

### Sundays. The Perfect Recipe For A Happy Holiday. Turn Off Your Oven **G** Go To Furr's

On Christmas Day, Furr's is open all day long for Dine-In and To Go!

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Bring us home for the holidays with a traditional feast that's ready to go!



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Always one of the most popular gifts for children, video games will cast a mesmerizing spell on many a child this Christmas Day, but a Texas A&M University professor says there can be negative aspects of all that viewing, button pushing and clicking.

With more money spent annually on video games (at least \$7 billion per year) than movie tickets (about \$5 billion sold), video games have become a fixture in the culture, replacing the ball and

### **Elderberry** is good for the flu

Sambucol, an all-natural, proprietary black elderberry extract, reduces symptoms and shortens duration of flu types A B, finds a clinical study accepted for publication in The Journal of International Medical Research.

On average, patients given Sambucol recovered in 3.1 days compared to 7.1 days for those given placebo.

Fifty-four patients with verified type A flu and six with type B, 29 females/31 males aged 18 to 54 years, were enrolled in the doubleblind, placebo-controlled study conducted through he University of Oslo School of Medicine,

Norway. participants Study were randomly assigned to two groups, with one given Sambucol, one teaspoon, and the other placebo four times a day for five days. No significant side effects were reported.

A previous study pubished by the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine found that

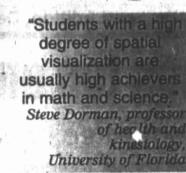
nearly 90 percent of flu patients given Sambucol were completely free of symptoms within two to three days, as compared to at least six days with placebo.

These clinical studies confirm the effectiveness of Sambucol black elderberry extract in shortening the duration and reducing the severity of flu. Black elderberry has not, however, been tested as a flu preventative, nor is it intended as a substitute for flu vaccine.

Available in formulas for children and adults, Sambucol is sold in health and nutrition stores nationwide.

The diet supplement is classified as a dietary supplement rather than a drug approved by the Drug Food and Administration for the prevention, cure or treatment of the flu.

It is not intended as a substitute for flu vaccine, which is advisable for children and adults, especially those over the age of 50, or with a compromised immune function.



glove as the leisure time activity of choice for many children.

Steve Dorman, professor of health and kinesiology, along with colleagues at the University of Florida, examined kids and video games and concluded that some kids can become dangerously close to being addicted to them, can be affected by them mentally and can even suffer physical ailments requiring medical treatment.

"We wanted to look at the health effects of video and computer games on kids, to see if there were some serious drawbacks to the tremendous amount of time spent using them," Dorman explains.

"The answer is yes, there are some not-sogood things about video games that can affect kids."

problem One seizures.

Video games can induce seizures in some children.The flashing of lights and the photosensitivity of the images from the screen can trigger a seizure-like occurrence, and more than 50 such cases have been documented.

"They may provoke a seizure more often than watching a television program because of the way the images are projected on the screen, plus children sit closer to a video screen than they do to a television set," Dorman explains.

Treatment seizures requires avoidance of the video games or anticonvulsant drugs. he says.

"Physicians have a term for a seizure caused by video games. They refer to it as 'dark warrior epilepsy," adds Dorman.

Many video games require repeated clicking and pressing of buttons on a control monitor, adds Dorman.

This can lead to an injury called nintendinitis and occurs when there is severe pain in the tendon of the thumb.

"Again, the only cure is to abstain from playing video games for several days," says Dorman.

Aggression levels of kids playing video games has been a debated topic, Dorman adds.

"Playing a video game seems to lead children to exhibit behaviors similar to those portrayed in the game," he notes.

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"Violent video games may arouse children in the same way as violent television cartoons. We need further research in this area, but studies show that children tend to model what they experience in video games."

Dorman says there are some positive results from video games.

games Video enhance certain skills in a child.

For example, he cites "spatial visualization" the ability to rotate mentally and twist two and three-dimensional objects can improve in children by playing video games.

"Students with a high degree of spatial visualization are usually high achievers in math and science," he points out.

Occupations which require mechanical tasks or machinery operation also demand high spatial visualization skills, he

But one drawback to video games is their affect on how kids learn. Dorman says some evidence exists that kids who view video games want all learning to take a "gaming" approach. In other words, it must be

"It has given rise to 'edutainment' media," Dorman says. "It is software that resembles video-game type learning materials.

"Video games are not going away," he adds. um.org.

997 E. FM 700

"They are here to stay. We should pay attention to the content of these games and their effects on children. It is important for health promoters to understand how this technology can be used to improve health.

Using these games may provide a way to improve health in children and adults who live in an increasing technologically-based society."

Growing Up is a service of Texas A&M University. For more information, contact Ryan Garcia at 979-845-4680 or e-mail the university at rag@univrel.tamu.edu.

#### **Exhibit displays** cubed sculpture

The Ellen Noel Art Museum will be exhibiting the works of Mark Wade, a nature display.

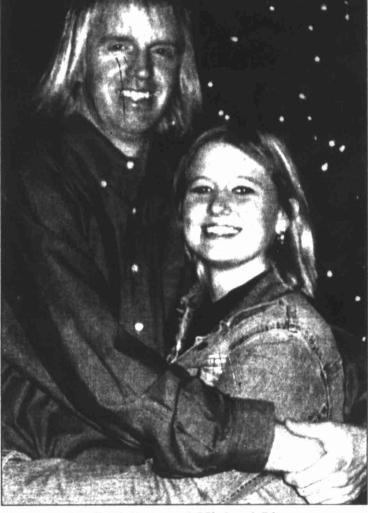
The exhibition opens Jan. 8, 2004 and runs through Feb. 29. Wade creates three-dimensional walled sculptures that often are cubed or box shaped.

A community reception will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22. Artists will talk about works beginning at 7:15 p.m. and visiting artists, Melinda Hall and Travis Erion will speak.

The museum is located at 4909 E. University Blvd. in Odessa. Call 432-550-9696, or e-mail michael@noelartmuse-

267-1480





Kodi Walker and Michael Dixon

### **Walker and Dixon**

Kodi Kai Walker of Midland and Michael Lee Dixon of Midland will be married at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 17 in the First Baptist Church of Big Spring.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Lisa and Reggie McCullum of Midland and Doby and Kasi Walker of Big Spring. She is the granddaughter of Ed and Judy Shrum, Autry and Martha Moore and Royce and Linda Walker of Big Spring.

The prospective groom is the son of Arnold and Velma Dixon of San Antonio.



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Quall in their natural habitat. Ranchers hope to benefit from the Texas Quail Index.

### **Texas Quail Index: Concho County rancher** believes he'll see benefit

Concho County ranchman, figures his wild quail crop last year net-

ted him \$16 a bird. He's seen times when good lamb didn't bring that much.

Sims among a growing number of traditional ranchers

YEATER EXTENSION AGENT who have begun pricking an ear toward wildlife-related several years,

drought and a tough livestock trade have forced

eased the situation somewhat, but seasoned ranchers know dry weather and sluggish markets will return. They're fast finding though that those factors have little impact on the hunting dollar.

But to have a success-What's a quail worth? ful hunting enterprise, Ben Sims, longtime there must be plenty of game and wild quail populations are often hard to maintain, according to Dr. Dale Rollins, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist and author of the "Texas Quail Index." The Index is a five-year project designed to monitor quail happenings on a particular ranch. The project is now being implemented in 35 counties across Texas' "quail belt." Extension agents and landowners cooperate to implement the pro-

"I see the Texas Quail enterprises. During the -Index as an opportunity for someone like Ben to inventory his breeding stock of quail and to many producers to seek relate his quail abun-out other income. dance to land use and Recent general rains environmental factors." across much of the state said Rollins. "He can livestock trade have tally throughout the summer factors such as nesting success that we hope will predict the quail abundance come December. Over the course of the study, he'll be better suited to man

See QUAIL, Page 5B

### Big Spring native Vela selected SSA deputy regional commissioner

Special to the HERALD

Spring native Edward H. Vela has been promoted to deputy regional commissioner of the Social Security Administration for the Dallas region.

In his new position, Vela — who began his career in 1985 as a claims representative in Big Spring after being recruited by Reynaldo Abelar Sr. — will oversee all of the SSA offices in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico.

Vela has held many positions in the Dallas Denver Social Security Administration regions, including field representative, operations supervisor, branch manager, assistant district manager and district manager

He served as the Teleservice Center director for the Dallas region for two years, overseeing four facilities ranging in size from 25 to 600 employees. He also worked briefly as a disability program administrator in the Dallas region and as director in the

division of operation and customer



Prior his current promotion, he was the area director for Area I of the SSA for the Dallas region. Area

I includes 32

service.

field offices in Arkansas

and most of Oklahoma. Vela graduated from Angelo State University with a bachelor's degree in management. He stud-

ied leadership at the University of California at Los Angeles and was selected to participate in the advanced leadership development program sponsored by the Social Security Administration in 2001.

He and his wife of 20 years, Elizabeth Cevallos Vela, are both natives of Big Spring. They have four sons, Edward Allen, 19; Aaron Michael, 17; Austin Marcel, 12: and Alec Lorenzo, 8. Vela is the son of Frank M. and Jane Vela. His siblings, all of Big Spring, are Robert Vela, Adam Vela, Lucy Morelion and Linda



Hospital employees Betty Krager, Dr. John Pichitino, Claudia Polyniak, Barbara Ann Russell and Debbie Vernon were named the hospital's top employees for 2003 during the facility's 34th Annual Awards Program Wednesday.

This year's awards ceremony was dedicated to all the employees who have worked with the hospital's youth during the past 50 years when the hospital admitted its first adolescent patient.

Hospital CEO Moughon presented the commendation awards to Krager, who serves as administrative assistant to the chief executive nurse; Pichitino, director of psychology; Polyniak, accountant; Russell, a Mental Health Mental Retardation services assistant; and Vernon, transcription services clerk.

Commendation award winners were selected by a committee of past recipients, who looked at the nominees' contributions to the hospital, their enthusiasm and their dedication to serving people with psychiatric illnesses.

Medical Center Director Cary Brown and VISN 18 were named as Friends of





the Hospital. The Friend of the Hospital award is given to a person or an organization, which has made significant contributions to the facility.

Brown retired from the VA Nov. 3 after 34 years of service with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and was instrumental in reaching an agreement with Moughon to provide psychiatric services to veterans through VISN 18. Veterans from West Texas, New Mexico and Arizona are admitted to Big Spring State Hospital with a formal referral from one of the seven VA Hospitals in VISN 18.

Big Spring Hospital Assistant CEO Jok Simons and Director of Human Resources Dennis Warrington presented Employee Service Awards to 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 25- and 30-year employees. Brenda Larson, a pharma-



State hospital names top employees

Greathouse, **MHMR** Supervisor Services Danny Sherman, and Chief Executive Nurse Stormy Ward, MSN, BSN, RNC, were given 25-year pins.

Special Annual Awards were given to Ruby O'Neill, Social Worker of the Year; Ronel Sulatan, RN, RN of the Year; Carol Pate. LVN. LVN of the Year; Max Hernandez, Psychiatric Aide of the Year; and McCullough, Employee of the Year.

Special recognition was given to state hospital employees who serve in the U.S. Armed Services and their families following employee Claudette Forward's singing of the National Anthem.

In an emotional part of the ceremony, Big Spring State Hospital Chaplain Rick Foster remembered three employees who died during the past year and



Five years: Paul Aguilar, Sheila Barber, Mary Barraza, Linda Charmain Beall, Lorrie Beaty, Yvette Calderon, Armanda Carrisalez, Francesca Cerna, Albert Preston Daylong, Beatrice DeLeon, Alex Escanuela, Rachel Everett, Rachel Garza, Thomas Micheal Gay, Chris Gonzales, Brenda Kemper, Patricia Lopez, Joe Maholly, Eugene Marquez, Paul Mize, Elena Paiz, Iva Carol Pate, Jessica Payen, Maria S. Rodriguez, Paul Schlipf. Mark Spaeth, Jimmie Stiehl, Charlie Turner, Robin Waddil, Janie Wallace, Michelle Werner, Zoe Wilson, Shelia Woodruff, Joe Yanez.

Ten Years: Viola Cooper, Melanie Gordon-Sheets, Mary Guzman, Elizabeth Musgrove, Rita Powell, Shelli Ramirez, Robin Riha, Charlene Rushin, Maria Saracho, Nita Taylor, Alma Yanez.

Fifteen Years: Maria Bristo, Darrell Cooper, Anna Evans, Gloria Feddersen, Manuel Guerra, Cheyenne Harrison, Darlene Hildebrand, Joshua Leib, Ed Moughon, Helen Richardson, Julius Ryals, Elisa Silva, Bobbie Waltenbaugh, Judy West, Rosemary West, Pamela White, Dolly Woodard, Carol Wright. Twenty Years: James (Jay)

Colvin, Renald Matteson, Linda Roberts, David Simpson, Mary Watkins. Twenty-Five Years: Caren



Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Big Spring Ambassadors representatives gather for a ribbon cutting at Edward Jones, 410 E. FM 700. Edward Jones representative Chad Lyons is cutting the ribbon. Also pictured are Ambassador Clarance Hartfield Jr., chamber executive director Debbye ValVerde, Ambassador Raul Marquez, Edward Jones' client Jerry Jones, Debra Kuykendall of Edward Jones, Ambassador Barbara Brumley, Fran Roberts and Carla Gross, both of the Texas Workforce Network, and Ambassador Katie Grimes.

### Record industry cannot subpoena providers

By TED BRIDIS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - A federal appeals court on Friday rejected efforts by the recording industry to compel the nation's Internet providers to turn over names of subscribers suspected of illegally swapping music online.

The ruling from a three-judge panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia was a dramatic setback for the industry's controversial anti-piracy campaign. It overturned the trial judge's decision to enforce a type of copyright subpoena from a law that predates the music downloading trend.

The appeals court said the 1998 law doesn't cover the popular filesharing networks currently used by tens of millions of Americans to The appeals ruling throws into question at least 382 civil lawsuits the recording industry filed since it announced its legal campaign nearly six months ago.

download songs.

Digital Millennium Copyright Act "betrays no awareness whatsoever that Internet users might be able directly to exchange containing copyrighted works," the court wrote.

The appeals judges said they sympathized with the recording industry, noting that "stakes are large." But the judges said it was not the role of courts to rewrite the 1998 copyright law, "no matter how

damaging that development has been to the music industry or threatens being to the motion picture and software industries.'

The appeals ruling throws into question at least 382 civil lawsuits the recording industry filed since it announced its legal campaign nearly six months ago.

U.S. District Judge John D. Bates had approved use of the subpoenas, forcing Verizon Communications Inc. to turn over names and addresses for at least four Internet subscribers. Since then, Verizon has identified dozens of its other subscribers to music industry lawyers.

The appeals court said one of the arguments by the Recording Industry Association of America

See RULING, Page 5B

**Neekend** E

### Public

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Nabors, Jessica Ridgeroad Dr., Bi Pate, Jacque T Woodland Blvd., Porter, Otis J., Street Apt. 215, E Requejo, Ernes Colorado Street, I Roberts, Kayla, Hamilton, Big Spr Robles, Mercie, Westover Road A

Midland

Spring Taylor, Timothy Ridgeroad, Big Sp Wilkins, Melissa Farm Road 1788,

> District Court Fi Rose M. Pierson

### **QUAIL**

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#### **RULING**

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### **AWARDS**

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> Join us ea A Mess



JEFF SWEET for lively Bil discussion.

### 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.
Duke, Jon E., 10705 Co.
Road 52, Shallowater
Ison, Andrew Sebastian, 2627

Fairchild, Big Spring ... Mesa, Isaac, 4013 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls Moore, Alicia, 1205 Michigan,

Midland
Nabors, Jessica, 1201
Ridgeroad Dr., Big Spring
Pate, Jacque T., 5103
Woodland Blvd., Oxon Hill, MD.
Porter, Otis J., 1904 E. 25th
Street Apt. 215, Big Spring

Requejo, Ernesto, 203

Colorado Street, Big Spring Roberts, Kayla, 3600 Hamilton, Big Spring Robles, Mercie, 538 Westover Road Apt. 246, Big

Taylor, Timothy, 1019 Ridgeroad, Big Spring Wilkins, Melisså, 6110 S. Farm Road 1788, Midland

District Court Filings
Rose M. Pierson vs. Mitchell

R. Pierson, divorce.
Chelsea Lee Franco vs. Andy
Franco Jr., divorce.
Argentina Bravo vs. Guillermo

Tracey Lee Ann Menges vs.
Kevin James Menges, divorce.
Audrey Elaine Sherrill vs.
Jeffery Scott Cox, family protective order.

David Sellers vs. Scotty
Riddle, family protective order.
In Re: Alice Elene Means vs.
In Re, family/other.

Charles Ray Bryant vs. Pedro Christopher Carrillo and Lupe Padron, injuries/damages with a motor vehicle. Concho Business Solutions

Inc. vs. Sav-On Ltd. and James B. Moore III, other/civil.
Progressive county mutual insurance company vs. James A. Garza, injuries/damages with a motor vehicle.

Marriage Licenses:
James Henry Gass Jr., 48, of
Gail, and Judy Fay Green, 52,
of Kermit
Noe Blanco III, 22, and
Crystal Ann Martinez, 18, of Big

Ernest Spencer Jr., 36, and Maria Elizabeth Rodriguez, 32, both of Corpus Christi

Warranty Deed:

Grantor: Sixto De Jesus Lara and Petra De La Rosa Lara Grantee: Maria Rebecca Lara Property: A tract out of Tract 16, William B. Currie Subdivision

Grantor: Danielle Paige Prater, guardian of Ricky Nelson Jr., heir to Ricky Nelson Prater

Date filed: Dec. 5, 2003

Grantee: Jimmy Leal Property: Lot 17, Block 1, McEwen Addition Date filed: Dec. 06, 2003

Grantor: Ron L. Clanton, Paula Kay Hunt and Rhonda Kim Ransleben Grantee: Francisco Vasquez

Jr.
Property: Tract out of Lot 4,
Block 93, the Original Town of

Date filed: Dec. 10, 2003

**Big Spring** 

Grantor: Charles Clanton and Oleta Clanton

Grantee: Randy Clanton and Tricia Clanton Property: A 1,997 acre tract

out of SE/4 of Section 43, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey Date filed: Dec. 10, 2003

Grantor: Debra L.
Wagenman, heir of Jack E.
Wagenman, deceased
Grantee: Bill T. Baker and
Dean Erma Baker

Property: A one acre tract out of SE/4 of Section 48, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey Date filed: Dec. 11, 2003

Grantor: Alberto Valdes and Lilliam Valdez Grantee: Ofelia Rodriguez and Eduardo Aquino

Property: Lot 24, Block 6, Highland South Addition No. 3 Date filed: Dec. 11, 2003

Grantor: Nathan E. Hughes and Gerladine Hughes Grantee: Drew G. Bavin and Sara J. Bavin

Property: Lots 1, 3 and 4, Block 4, Clanton Addition Date filed: Dec. 11, 2003

Grantor: Paula Patricia Green Grantee: Sonia Lusk Property: Lot 1, Block 2, Parkhill Addition Date filed: Dec. 12, 2003

Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien:

Grantor: H.E. Tubb Grantee: John C. Thurmond and Robin M. Thurmond Property: A 16.87 acre tract out of the NE/4 of Section 44,

Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co.

Survey
Date filed: Dec. 10, 2003

Grantor: Douglas Lloyd and Sandra R. Lloyd Grantee: Bennie Green and

Kim Green Property: Lot 26, Block 3, College Park Estates Date filed: Dec. 10, 2003

Grantor: Maria Douglas Grantee: Carol A. Paffen and Willem J. Paffen Property: Lot 7, Block 6,

Highland South Addition No. 2

Date filed: Dec. 10, 2003

Grantor: Doyle L. Jenkins, Bobby C. Jenkins and Peggy J. Long

Grantee: Mike Abusaab Property: Lots 4 and 5, Block 2, McDowell Heights Addition Date filed: Dec. 11, 2003

Grantor: Rebecca Joy Fowler Grantee: Alva R. Thomas and Teresa A. Thomas Property: Lot 7, Block 3, Ridgelea Terrace Addition Date filed: Dec. 11, 2003

Grantor: Paula Jordan Martinez and David Martinez

Grantee: David Martinez Jr.
Property: South 50 feet of
NW/4 of Block 27, College
Heights Addition
Date filed: Dec. 11, 2003

Grantor: Tony Lee Truelove and Bobbie Lou Truelove Grantee: Robert Frappier and John A. Wagenman Property: Lot 6, Block 1, Edgemere Subdivision Date filed: Dec. 12, 2003

### QUAIL

Continued from Page 4B

age his land for a sustained wild quail crop."
Sims is enthusiastic about the index, now in its sec-

ond year on his place.
"I think this is a great study," said Sims. "One thing that's easy to see is you couldn't afford to hire someone to do this study. It's very thorough. I'm amazed at it and I think the agents and Rollins need to be commended for undertaking this."

Michael Palmer, Extension agent in Concho County,

works with Sims on the project.

"Ben was one of the first producers I met when I moved to Concho County four years ago," said Palmer.

"When the Texas Quail Index came about, Dale suggested Ben as a possible good candidate to work with. I approached Ben and he was eager to get started.

"As part of the Quail Index, we've done spring call counts, set up dummy nests to measure depredation, and taken habitat photos to assess conditions in the fall and spring. We've also done roadside counts to measure quail abundance and set out scent stations to monitor predator trends.

"Things are looking better than they were last year," he said. "Our call counts and roadside counts are improving, indicating higher numbers of quail. The Sims place has caught some rain and conditions are rapidly improving. Ben has implemented a Merrill four-pasture rotational grazing system which has helped conserve some of the plant communities important to quail. With this system, he defers one pasture for four months each year. He plans the deferment so a pasture is not deferred during the same four-month period consecutively."

Palmer said wildlife is Sims' primary concern, with livestock a close second. The area Sims ranches is predominantly prickly pear and mesquite-covered country. Palmer and Sims both said years of drought have taken their toll on the tall grasses quail prefer to nest in. In recent years, the quail have turned to prickly pear as a secondary housing or nesting site.

#### **RULING**

Continued from Page 4B

"borders upon the silly," rejecting the trade group's claims that Verizon was responsible for downloaded music because such data files traverse its network.

The law, passed years before downloading music over peer-to-peer Internet services became popular, compels Internet providers to turn over the names of suspected pirates upon subpoena from any U.S. District Court clerk's office. A judge's signature is not required. Critics contend

judges ought to be more directly involved.

Verizon had argued at its trial that Internet providers should only be compelled to respond to such subpoenas when pirated music is stored on computers that providers directly control, such as a Web site, rather than on a subscriber's personal computer.

In his ruling, the trial judge wrote that Verizon's interpretation "makes little sense from a policy standpoint," and warned that it "would create a huge loophole in Congress' effort to prevent copyright infringement on the Internet."

### **AWARDS**

Continued from Page 4B

were Dr. Claude Sutton, a state hospital psychiatrist who worked at the hospital for 20 years, Martha Cervantes, who worked for the state hospital for 14 years, most recently as a switchboard operator; and Soila Martinez, an MHMR services assistant, who worked for Big Spring State Hospital for 1 year.

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"We really feel that by implementing the index on Ben's ranch we'll be able to provide some good information on various successful practices other producers in the county can emulate.

"As far as trends to this point? We are seeing more quail. The dummy nests, chicken eggs we set out to monitor predation on nests, really have us stumped though. Of 36 nests, only two were still intact after one week. But, they were set out in June when we had 12 inches of rain in the county. We also saw quite a bit of hail during that time. I don't know for sure whether the nest damage was from the hail or if indeed he has that much depredation. My scent stations didn't really pick up much activity. So, it's going to take another year or two from the dummy nest standpoint to determine whether this year's loss was from the weather or predators. Ben does have a healthy skunk and raccoon population as well as feral cat and town dog problems from time to time."

Sims said all hunting in his area has become more important.

"It's more commercial," he said. "We used to not hunt the quail here, but now it's very important. My, it's just beyond your imagination what people will spend on hunting and fishing now. It's a great thing, too. I mean it's good to get out and exercise. Some of them just want to get away from the city. The birds are important, but they're not as important as being able to come out to the country. On our place, I just tell 'em 'there's the pasture, now don't get on the neighbors."

Sims' low input approach works like this: The quail index site is day-hunted only; usually two days a week during November and December. The hunters determine how many they want in their party. The fee per hunter is \$75 per gun per day.

"All that \$75 does is get them in the gate," said Sims. "We don't provide anything. Whenever we started this day hunting business, the guys who had the first weekend still get the first weekend slot the following season. If they don't show up or don't have a real good reason for not showing up, they lose that position. The option to hunt on that date then falls to the next name on the list. There are some who have fallen out, but if we have open times we can fill them easily.

"We evaluate our hunting in January which gives us an idea of what we have left. We may then hunt some more. Normally, our hunting slows up after the first of the year. With the long season on quail I feel you need to set your own limits and season or you stand to lose too many birds. Four months is just way too long. With a 15-bird bag limit, a hunter could get a covey a day. So, I think what has to be done if you really want to improve your quail situation is to know what's out there, and limit the hunting days on a place.

"Our hunters last season killed 214 birds on the quail index part of the ranch. I figured each bird made us \$16 apiece."

Sims figures that's not bad for a cash crop he didn't realize he had before the bird hunting boom hit Concho County.

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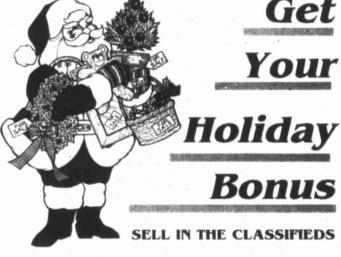
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**December 21, 2003** 

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710 Scurry • 263-7331

### Newsday Crossword

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STUMPER by Merle Baker Edited by Stanley Newman

7 Susan \_\_ Hinton 8 Sage relatives 9 Word

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**25** "Stiff Upper Lip" band 26 Apply

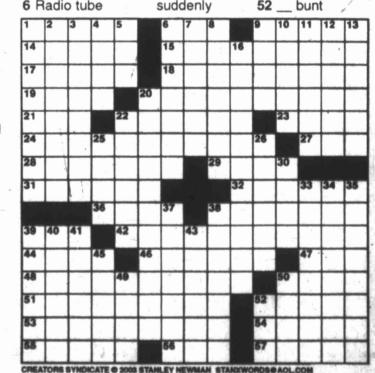
30 Entry 33 Antigen, vis-à-vis antibodies

34 Let fly, as a baseball 35 Unrivaled 37 Handicaps

members 40 Gold record for Jimmy Dorsey 41 Postal

inquiry 43 Follows 45 Little Boy,

49 "Last one 50 Road destination



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BY JOYCE JILLSON

Today's events will remarkable changes over next month. First, Venus enters Aquarius,

the sign of altruism,

entrepreneurial spir-Joyce Jillson it and creative prob-

the

lem solving. Love has an oddball grin that says friendship comes first. The moon enters Sagittarius, and the sun enters Capricorn, setting a reverential tone for the week.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You want to do it all, but it can't all be done choose. Here's a hint: It's your connection with others that's important. If you push yourself, you can create miracles. Tonight, forgive and forget, and you'll become healthier.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Tremendous change and growth through a relationship are inevitable for someone with vour courage. You need the space to do things your way. Impulsive ideas squeeze your pocketbook exercise restraint.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Do work that has to be done early in the day so you have time to stretch,

TOO LATES

2003 Yamaha YZ 125

Rode 3 times. Make

2003 Yamaha YZ 125.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-

Showing

Dec. 21). Generosity you

often deal out is now dealt

to you. Youthful influences

spice up your personal life.

maternal/paternal side is

sexy to a romantic interest.

Find money through mutu-

al friends who talk you up.

Jan. 19). Make the first

move in a new relation-

ship. A stepchild finally

approves of you, perhaps

because you both like the

same music. Forget about

stressful situations for an

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.

18). Partnerships are pleas-

ing, and the company of

children is highly reward-

ing. Affections grow where

there are shared goals.

Separate emotions from a

financial issue, and you'll

PISCES (Feb. 19-March

20). When it's time to go to

bat, you do it, no questions

asked. Your impressive

dedication attracts wonder-

ful people to you, and your

natural charisma keeps

them endeared. Financial

goals and opportunities

FORECAST FOR THE

WEEK AHEAD: The win-

ter solstice is the event

that starts this week on a

mystical note — the pas-

sage of the sun into

Capricorn is an astrologi-

cal event that has been cel-

ebrated through the ages.

Keep in your heart those

intentions that last: con-

nection with your fellow

entire afternoon.

get a better deal.

can still be met.

CAPRICORN (Dec." 22-

play and create romance later on. Partnerships have tremendous benefits, both personally and financially. Tonight, it's not so important to be right.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's easy to know your next move when you don't think too much about it; just let your body and intuition show you where to go. Love is the focus - you spend equal time chasing it and running from it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Politics, religion and the larger questions of life are hot topics. Energy focused on the profundities of living will solve the smaller and more personal issues in one fell swoop. Let a Gemini or Pisces into your life for luck.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Family plans change and grow. Keep impatient thoughts in check. Take your time with love. Logic and intuition may be at odds — go with the latter. Your advances may be overwhelming to someone shy, but don't take it personally.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This is an excellent day to make friends everyone will be feeling social. Be patient with people trying to express themselves to you. Tonight, you're in your glory, better understood and appreciated than you've been in a long time.

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You have been sued. You may issued this citation b 0 00 a m on the Monday nex owing the expiration forty-two days after the date of ssuance of this citation and etition a default judgment may e taken against you."
O LORI KAY MILLER

before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation he same being. Monday 19T day of JANUARY, 2004, before is said court on the 29TH day f MAY, A.D., 2003, in this ase, numbered 42966 on the ocket of said court, and

styled. MICHELLE WEAVER ORI KAY MILLER LOHI KAY MILLER.
A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit INJURY DUE TO A MOTOR VEHICLE as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on the net the set.

hall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates thereof directs issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Big Spring. Texas this the 4TH day of DECEMBER AD 2003. 44060 December 14, 21, 28, 2003 & January 4, 2004

PUBLIC NOTICE SHERIFF SALE NOTICE OF SALE: REAL PROPERTY

NOTICE OF SALE: REAL PROPERTY
THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF HOWARD NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virue of a certain Writ issued out of the Honorable 118th District Court of Howard County, 24 day of September, 2003 by Judgement of said Court for the sum of \$7.631.46 dollars and costs of suite, under a Writ of Execution, in favor of Leota Fay Reid, Della Pearl Holiedy, Kenneth Leroy Burch and Leona Mae Duffer in a certain cause in said Court, 42877 and styled Leota Fay Reid, Della Pearl Holiedy, Kenneth Leroy Burch and Leona Mae Duffer, plaintiff vs Rick Pruett defendant, placed in my hands for service. I, Dean Restelli, a Deputy Sheriff of Howard County, Texas, did, on the 05 day of November, 2003 levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Howard County, Texas, did, on the 05 day of November, 2003 levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Howard County, Texas, did, on Texas, described as follows, to

wit LT 2 BK 1 REYNOLDS 75X140 COAHOMA - HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS AND LEVIED UPON AS THE PROPERTY OF RICK PRUIETT and that on the first useday of JANUARY, 2004, the same being the 06 day of said month, at the Coust house door, of Howard County, in the City of Big Spring, Texas, between the hours on 10.00 A M and 4.00 P M, by virtue of said levy and said Writ of Execution I will offer for sale and sell at public venue, for cash, to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of the said property. And in compliance with law, I give this notice by publication, in the English Language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale, in the Herald, a newspaper published in Howard County, Witness my hand, this 09 day of December, 2003 Dale L Walker 2 BK 1 REYNOLDS 75X140

No P-13.103 ESTATE OF VERNIE DWAIN WILLIAMS, DECEASED IN THE HOWARD COUNTY OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Vernie Dwain for the Estate of Vernie Dwain Williams. Deceased, were issued on the 17th day of December, 2003, under Docket No. P-13.103, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to Glenodene Williams. Claims may be presented in care of Glenodene Williams to the Estate addressed as follows.

the Estate addressed as follows.
Estate of Vernie Dwain Williams c/o Glenodene Williams , 100 Village Road Big Spring, Texas 79720 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present hem within the time and in the manner prescribed by law DATED this 17th day of December 2003.
GLENODENE WILLIAMS. Independent Executrix of the Estate of Vernie Dwain Williams, Deceased #4068 December 21, 2003.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITATION by PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
NOTICE TO: NOTICE TO:
The Unknown Heirs of Myrtle McMaster, Deceased, Defendants in the Cause Number and Entitled Below "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after issuance of this citation, a default judgment may be taken against you."

The application to determine

applicants, was filed in the Probate Court of Howard County, Texas on the 10 th day of November 2003, for the Estate of Myrtle McMaster, Deceased, numbered P-13029 and entitled "In RE Estate of Myrtle McMaster, Deceased The application requests the court to determine heirs of the estate of Myrtle McMaster The property in the estate includes Section 4, Block A. E. L. & R. R. Survey, Reagan County. Texas containing approximately 645 acres. Section 155. Block 2. T&P. Ry. Co. Survey, Reagan County. Texas containing approximately 645 acres. Section 155. Block 2. T&P. Ry. Co. Survey, Reagan County. Texas containing approximately 640 acres. certain mineral royalty interests in Reagan County. Texas, cash on deposits with financial institutions. mutual funds. certificates of deposits, an annuity, and furniture and person effects. The interest of any unknown heir is unknown, and depends on their relationship to the deceased. The Court will hear such application to 10.00 AM on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date this citation is issued, which will be Monday, the 5th day of January, 2004, in the County Courthouse of Howard County in Big Spring, Texas.
The parties include: Cassandra Fillingim and Arive C. Clark, Co-Administrators. Plaintiffs, and the known heirs Dixe Bond, Lee Rcy Clark, Betty Sue Mize; Guardian of Lee Roy Clark, Earl Cook, James Cook, VYFGTC Conservator of James Cook, Thomas M. Cook, William C. Cook, William Cook, Brian Davis, Mike Davis, Steve P. Davis; Gayla Henderson, Laura McDermott, Arthur Jerry McDowell. Tim McDowell, Tracy Ellen McDowell, John Lee McMaster, Vinn McMaster, Jr., Margie Dell Stephens, Verna Sunday, Vada Wilkowski and all unknown heirs of Myrtle McMaster, Defendants. All of the persons named or identified above and all person interested in the aloresaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said application should they desire to contest it. Said written contest or answer to said application should they desire to contest it. Big Spring, Texas.

Said written contest or answe shall be filed in the office of the

County Clerk of Howard County, Texas in Big Spring

If this citation is not served

within 90 days after the day of issuance, it shall be returned

unserved.
ISSUE AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of office this 20 day of November 2003, at office in Big Spring, Texas.
DONNA WRIGHT, COUNTY

intervene. Lanie loves her job and

doesn't want to quit. Should I intervene, or should Lanie let her boss go to the union? Frustrated in California

Dear California: By all means, intervene. After all, the problem is YOUR ex-wife. Talk to Petunia, and ask her to back off. Let her know her ill-will reflects poorly on her and poisons her relationship with her children. If that doesn't work, go ahead and take the necessary action. In the meantime, Lanie should feel free to set the record straight with her co-workers. (Without ran-

Dear Annie: I know a lot of people who "re-gift" meaning they take a present that was given to them and rewrap it for someone else. I'd like to

human, with nature and with the universe. Love planet Venus enters the sign of Aquarius, giving love a new face. Don't be surprised if you find yourself wanting something different from your companions. Kindness wins out over worldly versions of sex appeal, creativity wins over money, and friendship wins over status. Break with the conventional wisdom; it has little to do with romance now. The new moon on Tuesday falls under Capricorn's rule over solar and lunar vibes this wails out like the

Aretha Franklin song R-E-S-P-E-C-T! Give it where it's due, and you'll have no problem getting it. Don't give it, and you're opening up a world of hurt. Thursday is Christmas Day and also is a chance for Venus and Mars to decide to work together. You'll find it's easier to attract what you want in a lighthearted way. Don't get too aggressive, or it runs!

If you would like to write to Joyce Jillson, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Joyce Jillson page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Joyce Jillson and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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### Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: My ex-wife, "Petunia," and I were married nearly 21 years before we divorced. The marriage was never great, but at the recommendation of a child psychologist, I stuck with it until the children were young adults. I made sure Petunia received a very equitable settlement. Petunia was embarrassed at our situation and never informed her co-workers or friends that we had split

A month after my divorce, I met "Lanie," and we married two years later. Lanie and Petunia little contact. However, last year, Lanie ended up accepting a job at the same hospital where Petunia works, albeit in a

different department. Ever vengeful, my former wife has told co-workers that Lanie caused the breakup of our marriage. This is absolutely not true. The ink on the divorce papers was plenty dry before I met Lanie. Lanie tried ignoring the nasty looks caused by Petunia's comments, but it began affecting her ability to do her job. Finally, she approached her boss and lodged a complaint. The boss has offered to take the matter to the nurses' union for resolution, but that would cause a lot of friction.

Lanie would prefer not to escalate the fight. In the near future, we will have weddings, grandchildren and other events necessitating that both women be present. I do not want a war, and neither do my sons, who have tried to

cor, of course.)



ANNIE'S MAILBOX

offer an alternative to this practice.

Throughout the year, I save any gift that perhaps didn't fit, was a duplicate, the wrong color, and so on. I wait until the Christmas season when the malls have "angel" trees and are collecting new, unopened gifts for children and adults of all ages. I think there must be someone who could use that cool calculator. too-small sweater or black gloves when I needed blue.

I realize this is a small gesture, but it might make someone less fortunate a bit warmer, inside or out. Pass the word. — S.H. from Virginia Beach, Va.

Dear S.H.: Thank you for suggesting such a kind and thoughtful gesture.

Please, folks, if you receive any unused items that you don't want, give them to the needy this holiday season. Bless you.

Dear Annie: I could not believe your cavalier response to "Inglewood, Calif.," who said her 4month-old daughter was emotionally abusive because the baby smiles and giggles, making it impossible for Mom to leave for work.

That woman is seriously disturbed, and her daughter is at high risk for abuse. Someone needs to tell Mom that a 4-monthold is not capable of being abusive.

That woman should get psychological help before it's too late. — Worried in Louisiana

Dear Worried: We were surprised, and also gratified, to see so many readers worried about this child. However, Mom was being facetious about the abuse, and we should have made it more clear. Relax, folks. This child is safe in her mother's very loving

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar. ...

### There's something for everyone in the **Big Spring Herald's Classifieds!**

Grandpa sold his sailboat Mama found the missing piece for her china set...

Papa bought a great used car ... Little Brother traded his baseball cards for a guitar... Big Brother found an awesome set of free weights...

Cousin Bill found a great apartment ...

Big Sister found a great new job... Aunt Sue found a dining room table...

### ALL THIS IN THE **CLASSIFIEDS**

To place an ad in the Classifieds Call 263-7331,

## SPRING HERALD

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