MONDAY

December 29, 2003 WEATHER Tonight:

clear Toniaitio
$25^{\circ}-26^{\circ}$ Inside Better sleep
Forty-seven percent of adults would like to improve the quality of their sleep, and 37 percent feel that they do not get enough sleep, vey conducted by the Better Sleep Council Briefly Senior tours An RSVP meeting Jan. 8 to plan upcom ing vacation tours. The meeting will be held in the Dora Rober
Community Center. The Retired Senio Volunteer Program offers tours throughou the year. The 2004
schedule includes 10 w destinations as well farorties.
For more inform For more informa
tion contact the RSVP tion, contact the RSVP
office at $264-2397$ or office at $264-2397$ or
Bilbrey Tours at $1-888$ 692-1308.

COMING
SUNDAY
Lurvinilivivir
onfor

Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the nation's secu and volunteers have been in a heightened defensive posture. How do these unsung
heroes-sometimes in heroes-sometimes in
remote locations-proremote locations-pro-
tect and safeguard America's borders from the land, sea, and air? What pride do they take in doing their jobs?

## Index

Classified $\quad 4-5 B$
Comics
Good News
Health
Obituaries
Opinion
Sports
Vol, 100, No. 36
Find us online at:
www.blgspringherald.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 week before 7 p.m. on week-
days and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

## Irlen technology: Giving some a better opportunity at reading

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer
From left to right, top to bottom - reading follows
a pattern, but what if that a pattern, but what if that ple of indistinct words? And what if viewing that distorted page through a different color could clear the storm?

For some, a simple plas mean the overlay could mean the difference in
reading with ease or with great difficulty, according to the Irlen Institute. "Irlen Syndrome is a perceptual disorder,
explained Kathy Wyrick from the Irlen Clinic in Lubbock. "It is the brain's of visual perceptual prob


Colorful poinsettias are among the top attractions at the Festival of Lights in Comanche Trail Park. Displays are lit from 6 to 10 each evening, but if you haven't made it out to
see them this year, plan on doing so very soon. Wednesday is the final evening of the see the
display.

Drought besieged farmers may apply for FSA loans immediately HERALD Staff Report
 Farmers in Howard and Glasswork for private commercial lenders.
counties impacted by the drought and planning to apply for a Farm Service
Aguffered at least a a 30 percent loss of pro-
duan should send in their appli-
duction to be eligible for an FSA emer cations as soon as possible. gency loan," Foy said. . Although the FSA will continue to Those participating in the Federal
accept applications until July 6, Farm Crop Insurance Program will have to Loan Manager Wallace Foy encourages figure in their proceeds from the profarmers to turn in their applications grams in determining their loss. ${ }^{\text {now, }}$ "Delays $\quad$ The FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. "Delays in applying could create back- Department of Agriculture authorized to logs in processing and possible over into provide disaster emergency loans to re
the new farming season," Foy said. the new farming season," Foy said. Howard and Glasswork counties are ans to cover part of actual production losses and damages from the drought. The counties were designated as eligible Secretary
Veneman.

## Farmers may be eligible for loans of

## up to 80 percent of their actual losses or

 the FSA office in Stanton at 756-3308 ext business, whichever is less, Foy said. $\quad \begin{aligned} & \text { p.m., Monday through Friday. }\end{aligned}$lem.
Individuals with Irlen Syndrome simply see the printed page differently
and have to adopt to the distortions.
"Sometimes it is as sim-
ple as the white backple as the white background on the page that dominates the black
print, so it's hard to pick print, so it's hard to pick
out the black words or letters," Wyrick said. "Other times, it is more severe where the words are blurry or they move or shake or they overlap each
other. Sometimes the sentences seem like they don't have spaces in the See IRLEN, Page 3A

## 2004 brings tuition hikes, waiting period for abortion

AUSTIN (AP) - New college
tuition rates and a 24 -hour wait tuition rates and a 24 -hour wait-
ing period for women seeking ing period for women seeking changes in Texas policy in 2004. After months of planning, the new laws take effect Jan. 1, rather than September, like most Texas laws. Other changes include a ban on driving on dry
riverbeds and how insurers score credit ratings.
The Republican-led Legislature loosened its grip on tuition-set-
ting power to allow unitersite
to set their own rates to offset
$\$ 558$ million in state cuts to high $\$ 558$ million in state cuts to higher education. Supporters appreci ated the flexibility in raising said higher rates will make it more difficult for middle-clas students to afford a college edu "It's "It's horrible news for stuColeman, D-Houston. He said the idea that college He said the idea that college
students leave home, drive to
school in a BMW and live in a
fallacy. He said many students work to pay their way through school, and higher tuition will nly delay their graduations. ut state funds , hever, say withchoice but to raise rates to cover choice but to
"The cuts we have suffered are astounding," UT System Chancellor Mark Yudof said last fall when regents approved tuition increases at all nine cam.
that tuition is going to have to $g o$ significantly."
At the University of Toxas Austin, the largest campus in the country with about 50,000 students, tuition will ris cent this spring and 29.3 percent in the fall, based on an average of a 15 -hour course load. That means students will pay about $\$ 3,075$ for the spring
Students will get some help in See NEW LAWW, Page 3A

## Obituaries

Esparanza Abreo DaSilva
Esparazaza Abreo Dasiliva, 59 , of Pearland, formerly of Big Spring, died Sunday. Dec. 28, 2003, in an automobile acciaent in Monahans. Her funeral services
are pending with Nalley Pickle \& Welch Funeral Home \& Crematory

## Josefina Ramos

Josefina Ramos, 70, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Dec. 28, 2003, at her residence. Her funeral services are Crematory.

## Lottery

 Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:Winning numbers drawn: 9 -13-15-37-39 (numerical der). Bonus Ball: 31
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball:
Number matching five of five Number matching five of five: 3 . Prize: $\$ 12,547$.
Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Bal
Prize: $\$ 2,440$.
Number matching four of five: 643 . Prize: $\$ 114$. Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: rize: $\$ 113$.
Number matching three of five: 26,636 . Prize: $\$ 5$. Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 7,586
Prize: 5. . matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: N5,228. Prize: $\$ 3$
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $\$ 35$

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday nigh
Winning numbers drawn: $2-3-29-22-4$
Number matching five of
Prize per winner: $\$ 39,666$.
Winning ticket sold in
Winning ticket sold in: Trophy Club.
Matching three of five: 4,194 . Prize: $\$ 10$
Matching two of five: 40,495 . Prize: $\$ 2$.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night

## News briefs

Laura Bush: Americans walking tightrope CRAWFORD (AP) - First lady Laura Bush says
 fears. Asked whether America has recovered from the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, she said: "Not really."
"Our world changed," Mrs. Bush said in an inter"Our world changed,'" Mrs. Bush said in an inter-
view Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "We still rew Sunday always aware "Meet the Press." "We still shock of it is diminished with time."
She spoke at a time when her husband's administration has put the nation on high alert for a terror-
ist strike during the holidays. st strike during the holidays. wo have to also have to be very vigilant as American citizens as
we go about our work," she said. "And that's difficult, it's very anxiety-provoking, but at the same
time it makes us know we have to put our arms round our children, be with them

Police shootings spur calls for more training HOUSTON (AP) - The recent shooting deaths of
two teenagers by Houston police officers highlights the need to intensify training in the use of force, law enforcement exp
Jose Vargas Jr
and Eli Escobar Jr., 14, was shot to death less than a month later. Both officers may have made mistakes that can be associated with insufficient training
said David Klinger, a professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis who is an expert on police shoot$\underset{\text { For }}{\text { ings. }}$
For example, Klinger said, officers without enough training often place their fingers on the trigg
quickly, which can lead to accidental firings. quickly, which can lead to accidental firings.
Master Police Officer Jim Conley defende Houston's training efforts, saying the department requires officers to attend 40 hours of training a year, twice as much as the state mandates.
But most Houston police officers receive Bur most tactical firearms training beyond little reg. visit to a firing range, police union President Hans Marticiuc told the Houston Chronicle for a Monday tory

## Investigators question drug suspect

DUNCAN, Okla. (AP) - A Duncan man has been
arrested on a drug possession charge by law enforcearrested on a drug possession charge by law enforce-
ment authorities who are investigating the shooting death of an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper, officials said.
Rick Ray Malone, 29, was'questioned Sunday about his alleged involvement in the production of
methamphetamine, said dessica Brown, spokesmethamphetamine, said dessica Brown, spokesInvestigation
Authorities also executed a search warrant on he has to the shon home, but, what connection, if any, remained unclear, Brown said
Green, 35, was shot to death early Friday while checking into reports of a suspicious vehicle along rural Cotton County road
Acting on a tip, investigators apprehended Malone nia, an ingredient in the production of methamphet amine, Brown said.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the fol owing activity from noon Saturday until 8 a.m. today
CORINA LEOS, 24, of 509 W . Eighth St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while intox icated and on capias warrants for speeding and no

- VERGELIO HILARIO GARCIA, 31, of 1104 Eas 13th St. was arrested Sunday on charges of possessio of marijuana, two ounces or less and assault Clas
- JAMES CUPTIS HAYS 41 of 602 Hober St

JAMES CURTIS HAYS, 41 , of 602 Holbert St. w NORMA BUSTAMONTE LOPEZ wens was arrested Sunday on a charge of assaul Class C/family violence.

- PHILLIP GARCLA, 27 , of 1002 S. Nolan was arrest ed Sunday on a three capias warrants.
ALBERTO MARTINEZ, 20, of 1206 Mesquite was Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- MATTHEW FRANKS, 17, of 2209 Cecilia was - MATTHEW FRANKS, 17, of 2209 Cecilia wa five traffic warrants and on a charge of evadin
- PATSY CASTILLO, 37, of 7102 S. Service road wa rested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication. JOHN EDMONDSON, 31, was arrested Sunday on a charge of burglary of a habitation with intent
- RANDY MIER, 26, of 1501 Runnels was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication and theft,
- NANCY LOVELESS, 31, of 538 Westover was rested Sunday on city warrants.

MELINDA KENNEDY, of 1005 Stadium wa ANGELA DUGGER 26 of 2911 JOHN FERRELL, 32, of Bayou Vista

## Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the fol lowing activity:
-GRANT CORY PERDEW,
, 42 , was arrested Friday on a warrant for delivery of a controlled substance,

## less than one gram.

- ARLENE PINEDA, 50 , was taken to the county jail Saturday after being arrested by the Texas
Department of Public Safety officers on a charge of driving while intoxicated. county jail Saturday after being arrested by DPS offi cers on a charge of public intoxication
DONALD RAY SPRINGS JR., 27 ,



## susppendeay mualia.

- CORINA LEOS, 24 , was taken to the county jail after being arrested by Big Spring police officers on a - PHILLIP WESLEY GREEN

PHILLIP WESLEY GREEN, 20 , was taken to the county jail Sunday after being arrested by DPS troop-
two ounces.

- VERGELIO HALARIO GARCIA, 31, was taken to
he county jail Sunday after being arrested by Big


## marijuana, less than two ounces.

the county jail Sunday after being arrested by Big
Spring police officers on a charge of burglary of habitation with intent to assault.
$\cdot$ JOHN LEWIS MARSHALL

- JOHN LEWIS MARSHALL II, was taken to the county jail Sunday after being arrested by DPS troop
ers on a Hays County Sheriff's Office warrant for pos session of marijuana, less than two ounces and on a
charge of possession of marijuana, less than two


## Take note

- THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM, which deliv ers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers
to deliver meals. If you can spa
or 10 meals, you are needed
About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.
- ROAD TO RECOVERY DRIVERS WANTED.
patients to and


## Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Ligh

## Tuesd

Tuesday.... Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Sout lows in the upper 30 s . South winds around 10 mph . Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60 s. South winds 5 tols mph . Wednesday night...Mostly loudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Lows he upper 40s.
New years day...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the as. the mid 40s.
Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Friday Sat...Mostly clear. Lows around 40
Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60 Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40 s . \$unday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60 s

## Bulletin board

## If you have items for the Builetin board, contact the

 Herald'news room at 263-7editoreblgspringherald

## Today

Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, sit and be fit chair aerobics. People age 50 and over are invited to participate. Call 268 4721 for more information.

Public is invited to evening Lions Club meeting a 30 p.m. at La Posada.

## Tuesday

Intermediate line dance classes meet at $9 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. in the Senior Citizens Center. Call 267-1628 for more information
Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in Howard County Wednesday

Line dancing begins at $1 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. in the Senior Citizens enter located in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 Duplicate Bridge Club meets Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 1 p.m. at Big Spring Country Club. The Optimist Club meets at $7 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. in the Howard Coury Cactus Rom

Downtown Lions Club meets at noon in the Howard County Cactus Room.

Senior Circle meets at $10 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. at Scenic Mount
Medical Center classroom for stretch and tone. Thursday

New Year's Day. Happy New Year
Friday
Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance is held from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. All area AMBUCS meets at noon at La Posada

Greater Big Spring Rotary
Howard County Cactus Room.

## Support groups

TUESDAY
Area Agency on Aging of the Permian Basin will hold a self-help support group for care givers in The meeting will be held at Canterbury Retirement Homes Inc., 1700 Lancaster, from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. For more information, call Raynetta Williams caregiver coordinator, at (432) 633061 (432) 264-7599. This group is open to the p
Texas Department on Aging.

THURSDAY
A. Whones Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 noon to p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non$\perp$ Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Support Group meets at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation

Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY
AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. 605 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 SATURDAY
Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night, No Smoking meeting

Hig HERALD

432-263-7331 432-263-7335


## NEW LAV

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More states may have received meat from sick cow WASHINGTON (AP) - Investigators and retailers in
eight states and a territory are scrambling to recover meat that may have come fre
with deadly mad cow disease
Agriculture Department officials maintain, mean while, there is no health risk to consumer said Sunday that an investigation revealed that mea from the infected dairy cow could have reached retai markets in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho and Montana and the territory of Guam - more locations than original y thought
Washington and Oregon, with lesser amounts California and Nevada, for retail sale.
"The recalled meat represents essentially zero risk to consumers," said Petersen, of USDA's food safety agency.
He sai
He said parts most likely to carry infection - the

BENBROOK (AP) - Six
people died and three were injured after a car struck another on rain-
slickened Loop 820, slickened Loop 820,
knocking it into an
oncoming lane and into the path of a sport utility vehicle. Four people in a 1996
Lincoln and two people in Lincoln and two people in Sport were killed in the wreck late Saturday
night, Benbrook Fire Capt. George Barnhart said Sunday.
$\underset{\text { sedan eastbound Chrysler }}{\text { clipped }}$ sedan clipped the
Lincoln, sending it across the median and into westbound traffic where it col-
lided with the westbound lided with the westbound
SUV, police said.

## Traffic accident at Benbrook kills six, injures three

cut and processed for human consumption.
Despite their assurances of food safety, federal offi cials have taken the precaution of recalling 10,000 pounds of meat from the infected cow and from 19 other cows slaughtered Dec. 9 at Vern's Moses Lak Because it is not known exactl meat cut that day came from the diseased cow, health uthorities must assume that some could have reached any location where any part of the 10,000 -pound supply was distributed.
how much was found for days, Petersen said Mad cow disease, known formally as bovine spongi orm encephalopathy, or BSE, is a concern because humans who eat brain or spinal matter from an infect ed cow can develop a brain-wasting illness, varian in the 1980s, 143 people died of it in Britain
$\begin{array}{cc}\text { Benbrook police Lt. } & \begin{array}{c}\text { 43, family members said. } \\ \text { David Martin said a blood } \\ \text { Robert and Martha } \\ \text { and }\end{array} \\ \text { business. }\end{array}$ sample was taken from White of Frisco and Dale Tami Melton, 59, was a
the driver of the Chrysler, and Tami Melton of child birth instructor at the driver of the Chrysler, and Tami Melton of child birth instructor at who was hospitalized Flower Mound, in of Lewisville hospital Investigators will need to Lincoln, were killed as "They were some of the reconstruct the accident they returned from a most wonderful people and wait for analysis of music show in Granbury, the blood sample to deter- family members and
mine the official cause of authorities said mine the official cause of
the accident and whether the accident and whether
any charges would be filed. There have been no
arrests, a Benbrook police arrests, a Benbrook police officer said.
Donald and Barbara they rode in the SUV They were being driven home from Crowley to Weatherford by their son
in-law, Michael Williams authorities said. The group was celebrating the Meltons' 41st wedding anniversary, said their son-in-law, John Elliott. Robert. White, 64, designed luxury homes. He and Dale Melton, 61, met when they both
worked for a Dallas struction company, said Bart Hennagir, another son-in-law of the Meltons' you'd ever meet, Hennagir said. "They had
hearts of gold. We're in hearts of gold. We're in
shock, to say the least," shock, to say the least."
Williams, the Garletses and their 14-year-old granddaughter, Alicia Griggs, were riding in the $\begin{array}{ll}\text { SUV, said Williams } \\ \text { daughter, } & \text { Stephanie }\end{array}$ Wywias.
Williams and Griggs were in stable condition Sunday night at Harris Methodist Fort Worth
hospital.

## NEW YEAR

another full year."
"My New Year's resolution is to con-
tinue to be more involved in community activities as well as trying to do bet-
ter at helping other," said City Councilman Woody Jumper.
"Im really not big on New Year's res- "I think I'll try to lose some weight,
olutions," said Big Spring Mayor Russ said Howard County District Attorne McEwen. "We tend to forget about them Hardy Wilkerson. "I've put on a few pretty quickly. I think it's a chance to pounds in the last few years, and I'd like
reflect on the past year on New Year's to get rid of it. To be honest with you I ve, and to live life to it's fullest. No one to get rid of it. To be honest with you I

## NEW LAWS

## meeting the rising costs. The state mandate that when universities raise tuition, they set aside 15 percent for financial aid and 5 percent for a new program to reward students for finishing college The B-On-Time program, which also starts in January, provides zero- interest loans then forgives them if a student nishes in four years to get the degree - while keeping at least a " B " Under the tuition plan System Board of Regents, 28 cents of every dollar rom the increases at the Austin campus will be set aside for financial aid for students from low- and middle-income families. On the social front, the "Woman's Right to Know waiting period before a woman can get an abortion to start Jan. 1



Women are supposed to
ties have abortion
be offered state-approved materials regarding fetal development, with color
photos, and risks associat photos, and risks associatterm pregnancy.
About 78,000 abortions About 78,000 abortions
are performed each year in Texas. Anti-abortion groups believe the wait
ing period and material will encourage pregnant women not to have abor women
tions.
"I h
woman "I have never met a pregnancy to term who regretted doing so," said Elizabeth Graham of Texas Right to Life.
Graham predicted Graham predicted the law will create a 15 per
cent drop in the number cent drop in the number
of abortions in the first year.
 sure said the waiting peri od will create a hardship for women in Texas
where only 14 of 254 coun

ties have abortion
providers.
It also requires that any It also requires that any abortion after the 15th foek of pregnancy be persurgical center, typically used for outpatient surgery, or a hospital licensed to perform the "If they "If they can't make it impossible to get," said Kae McLaughlin, a mem. ber of the Texas Abortion And Reproduction Rights Action League.:
Also taking ef
is a ban on operating motor vehicles in most Texas riverbeds and new rules regarding credit For several Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens have been notifying people they encounter on or near
change.


I'm just as happy as can be."
"I don't know that I necessarily have a
New Year's resolution, but I'd like to see 2004 be a better year for Big Spring than 2003," said Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith. " 2003 really hasn't been a good year in my opinion. I hope, for th
"I want to be happier and content, jus
by having our good health," remarked
by having our good health," remarked
Eileen Kinney. "We went through a lot
"I'd have to say I want to lose weight," had Clifford Kinney. When asked if he had participated a little bit too much in the holiday treats in preparations for he was pretty sure he'd done some he was preating.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263 -7331 ext. 2
desk@croom.net

## The bill's sponsor, Sen. Laredo, said reports from TPWD indicated that Texas traveled areas of

 signs of erosion and decreased fish habitat and vegetation.Game wardens, sheriffs deputies and other offiC misdemeanor that can bring fines of $\$ 500$ or higher. Repeat offenders could face higher fines and jail time.
allowed tors will also be problems with negative credit scores when buying insurance.
Consumers can notify insurers about a serious
illness or injury; a death of a spouse, child, or parent; temporary loss of employment; divorce; or
identity theft and not risk a negative credit scoring.
she continued. "Suddenly she was able to put spaces had tall letters and small letters. It made her feel letters. It made her
better about herself." The first step in helping individuals who suffer from these problems is testing to find out if Irlen technology can benefit,
Wyrick said. "If that is the case, putting an overlay or a
combination of colored overlays over the written word can correct a lot of
that," she said. "If you get that," she said. "If you get
really good results from that testing, then the second step is to have a further testing where we can
find out the proper colors find out the proper colors
to put in tinted lenses. to put in tinted lenses.
You can look at the over. head, blackboard and
have that same benefit for you." According to the Irlen complex and variable con complex and variable con
ditions sometimes are found to co-exist with other learning disabili-
ties. "thies. very usable tool for people who have this perceptua problem," Wyrick said.
Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331 ext. 234, or by e-mail
newsdesk@crcom.net
MYERS \& SMITH FUNERAL HOME
\& CHAPEL
${ }^{24 \text { th }}$ \& Johnson
may consider only credit
by the event or give the
by the event, or give the
policyholder a neutral
credit score.
Insurance
Insurance companies
also will be prohibited from denying, canceling or nonrenewing a residential or auto insurance policy solely on the basis of
credit scoring.
 Memorial Park.
Maurice M. "Jack" Maurice M. "Jack"
Parkin, 85, $\begin{gathered}\text { died } \\ \text { Tuesday } \\ \text { Graveside }\end{gathered}$ Parki, $\begin{array}{r}\text { Graveside } \\ \text { Tuesday. } \\ \text { Services were at } 12: 45\end{array}$ Services were at 12:45
PM Monday at Houston PM Monday at Houston National
Houston, Texas


©WeightWatchers
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## D E

## E <br> DITORIAL

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

|  | CFIRST AMENDMENT |
| :--- | :--- |

Other Views
Time's running out to enjoy the Festival of Lights

Don't let them turn off the lights at
Comanche Trail Park before you have an opportunity to enjoy one of Big Spring's most dazzling displays
Wednesday is the last evening for the Festival of Lights, which is enjoyed annually by 15,000 to 20,000 people. From the 20 -foot
poinsettias which beckon travelers off U.S. poinsettias which beckon travelers off U.S.
Highway 87 to smaller displays throughout the park, the setting is one you won't want to
miss. By the way, each of those large poinTttias contain 2,700 lights each!
This year, Festival goers are also welcomed year.
You'll find that the Festival of Lights is a
community event as many schools, businesses, civic organizations and others have
"adopted" spots throughout the park. We believe in years to come, this will only serve
to enhance what is already a very fine holiday tradition.
There are a number of ways to enter the gest coming in from U.S. Highway 87, across from the Day's Inn Motel. Arrows direct the
right path leading to the spring and then exiting through Kids Zone. you have holiday visitors who want to "see the town," you'll want to make sure they take
the tour. It's free, though donations to help keep the project going are accepted. So load up the family and head out to
Comanche Trail Park tonight, Tuesday or Wednesday. We're confident you'll be
impressed, and proud to say this wonderful display is right here in Big Spring.

How To Contact Us

| In order that we might better serve your needs, |
| :---: |
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## Letter policies

| The Herald welcomes letters to the editor <br> Please: <br> - Limit your letters to no more than 300 words <br> - Sign your letter <br> - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes. <br> - We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity <br> - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author. <br> - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a tele. phone number or address will not be considered. <br> - We do not acknowledge receipt of letters. <br> - Letters from our circulation area will be given preference. <br> - 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 |
| :---: |
| A Small Prayer |
| by K. Rae Anderson <br> Your ways, Lord, are above our understanding. May we trust in you and the path you take us on. |

Free Aaron; punishment doesn't fit

$\qquad$ facing a long life behind bars unit he dies. His sentence is an outrage.

Ap in arorap sheet - as to why Aaron's sentence was as long as agent-turned-traitor. They have no real answer.
The best anyone can say is that Aaron broke the law. (True, and thus Aaron deserved to serve tim in prison. But it's also true that tence by calculating the amount of drugs that might have been dealt - not the drugs actually dealt. Also, the feds lengthened Aaron's
sentence by charging him for dissentence by charging him for dis
tribution of crack, when it was cocaine that changed hands.) In truth, lawmen know that Aaron's long sentence has more t do with the fact that he failed to - who were able to cut deals in order to reduce their sentences than with the drugs themselves All but one of the players around prison - despite prior arrests. The kingpin behind the Aaron deal served seven years and then was set free.
Aaron, then, is in prison for life not to punish him for drug Aaron's attorney, Gregg Shapiro of Boston, worries that the lesson Bush may have drawn from the Raney case is "not to grant anyon clemency. That's the wrong lesson ous cases." If a developing country issued this sentence for this crime, most Americans would call it barbaric.
And they'd be right.
0 2003 CREATORS SYNDICATE And they'd be right.
02003 CREATORS SYNDICATE
r nomination



Forty-seven percent of adults ity of their sleep, and 37 percen feel that they do not get enough sieep, accoraing to a new sur vey conducted by the Better Sleep Council (BSC) "Growing demands on our can make it difficult to get can make it dimincul to get Herman, Director of the-Better Sleep Council. "However, it's important to make sleep a priority and to strive to get the best quality sleep that we can." so make the most out of your time in bed. Sleep in a cool quiet, dark room on a comfortable, supportive mattress to help ensure a great night's sleep. How well you sleep at night can make all the difference in how productive you be the next day," says Herman. such an important role in how well you sleep, the Better Sleep Council recommends that you ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you wake up with pain,
stiffness, or soreness? stiffness, or soreness?
- Are you not sleeping as well as you were a year ago?
- Was your best night's slee somewhere other than your own bed?
- Does your mattress shows visible signs of wear and tear? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, your mat-
tress could be affecting the tress could be affecting the
quality of your sleep. An uncomfortable mattress can rob you of sleep, causing you to toss
and turn and preventing you from deriving the full benefit of your time in bed. Sleeping on a mattress that meets your needs for comfort, support and spac
can help you sleep better. can help you sleep better. that their mattress is no longer meeting their needs. Sleepless night's can be avoided by care-
fully evaluating the comfort fully evaluating the comfort
and support of your sleep set twice a year to make sure your are still being met. "Your mattress
easy factor to control, yet so
few people think about how comfortably they sleep or can sleep on their mattress," says Herman.
Here are ten tips to help you


Forty-seven percent of adults would like to improve the quality of their sleep, and 37 percent feel that they do not get enoug A COMFORT1. GIVE YOURSELF "PER- ABLE, SUPPORTIVE MATMISSION" TO GO TO BED. As TRESS AND FOUNDATION. hard as it may be to put away
your "to do" list, difficult to sleep on a bed
"teep a
that's too small, too soft, too "priority." You'll thank your- hard, or too old.
self in the morning. 2. UNWIND EARLY IN THE
Regular exercise can help
EVENING. Try to deal with relieve daily tension and stress worries and distractions sever. but don't exercise too close to $\begin{array}{ll}\text { al hours before bedtime. } & \begin{array}{l}\text { bedtime or you may have trou- } \\ \text { 3. DEVELOP A SLEEP RITU. } \\ \text { ble falling asleep. }\end{array}\end{array}$ AL. Doing the same things eaek 8. CUT DOWN ON STIMU night just before bed signals LANTS. Consuming stimulants,
your body to settle down for the such as caffeine, in the evening night can make it more difficult to 4. KEEP REGULAR HOURS. fall asleep.
Keep your biological clock in
9. DONT SMOKE. Smokers check by going to bed around
the same time each night and to fall asleep and
wake up more often during the the same time each night and wake up more often during the
waking up close to the same night. weekends. 5. CREATE A RESTFUL shortly before bedtime inte
PLACE TO SLEEP Sleep PLACE TO SLEEP. Sleep in a rupts and fragments sleep.
cool, quiet, dark room.

16-page brochure that provides 19534, Alexandria, VA 22320 simple solutions to help 0534 . improve the quality of your life For more information on getby improving the quality of ting a good night's sleep or to your sleep, as well as informa- download a copy of the "Better tion on how your bedroom and Sleep Guide," visit the Better mattress can affect the quality to consumers. Send your request to: Guide, P.O. Box

## Do's and don'ts for your children

The Better Sleep Council offers 10 "do's" and "don'ts", to
ensure that your child gets the sleep he or she needs to be a star student.

1. DO help your child to get at least nine hours of sleep each night. To be
2. DON'T over-schedule your child. Too many after-school activities and commitments can keep children from precious sleep. Allow your child plenty of time for homework and chores each night to ensure that they are not forced to stay up past their bedtime.
3. DO set a regular bedtime for your child and stick to it. A regular bedtime can help ensure your child gets a full night's sleep.
4. DON'T allow your child to consume caffeine too close to bedtime. Consuming caffeine, found in soda and chocolate, in the evening can make it more difficult for your child to fall asleep.
5. DO help your child wind down early in the evening. Tackle science projects, book reports and other homework either before or right after dinner. Allow your child at least one hour before bedtime to relax and unwind.
6. DON'T allow your child to fall asleep in front of the television. Noise from a television, radio, or even loud conversations can keep your child from deep, restful sleep.
7. DO make sure your child's bedroom is dark. Be sure the lights are turned off and the shades are closed in your child's room before he or she goes to bed. While a small nightlight is night's sleep.
8. DON'T skimp on your child's mattress. Handing down an old mattress to a child just isn't a good idea. Because mattresses wear out over time, it's important to maximize your child's chances of restful sleep by making sure he or she is sleeping on aggood
9. DO help your child develop a sleep ritual. Routine activities like taking a bath or reading with your child can help him or her unwind and get into sleep mode.
10. DON'T let your child's room get too warm or too cool. Children (and adults) may have a difficult time falling and staying asleep in a room that's too warm or too cool. The ideal sleeping temperature is around 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit.
For more information on getting a good night's sleep or on buying a new mattress, visit the Better Sleep Council's Web site at www.bettersleep.org.

## Are you raising fit or fat children?

overweight kids - and
you don't have to read the newspaper or watch the
news to find that out. Just take a look at kids at the
mall or in the schoolyard mall or in the schoolyard. age of kids outside playing, biking or running. What can parents do to
make sure their kids are make sure their kids are
not part of the statistics? not part of the statistics? from Bridget Swinney, author of "Healthy Food for Healthy Kids" Meadowbrook Press).
Exercise together Exercise together as a
family. This shows your kids that you think exercise is important enough to make it a family activity. That doesn't mean you should necessarily head family activities that you can also work up a sweat with include biking, hikng, skiing, kayaking, tenis, basketball, and skat done a lot of physical activity before, take it on as a family adventure. Research easy hiking rails, or simply take a aif-hour walk in the Take a look at your famlly's eating and snacking habits. The meals your family eats may be perectly balanced. But what meals? If foods with con-

dhaviors). In fact, kids from each group. For have diets that may for eating right can be for eating right can be
having more energy for a having more energy for a
sport, for doing better on tests, or for being able to fit in outgrown clothes. You can teach older children to begin looking at
commercials for sugary commercials for sugary
foods on Saturday morn. ing cartoons with a wary eye. Get the whole family involved in meal plan-
ning and preparation ning and preparation. more likely to eat! more likely to eat!
Preschool children can make choices about what's for dinner. For
example, ask "Should we example, ask "Should we have carrots or broccoli
for dinner?" School-aged children can help plan a balanced meal from looking at the food pyramid. Have children make a bal-
anced meal out of their favorite entrée. For exam-
ple, how can macaroni or tostadas with low fat
and cheese be part of a cheese.' Even nachos and cheese be part of a cheese. Even nachos
balanced, healthy meal? made with baked chips Third graders and up can can be the main dish -
prepare most of the meal
with ast don't tell your kids
justle help. An they are healthy! prepare most of the meal
with as little help. An adult should halways supervise children in the Eat more green. As kids are bulging in weight, they are also showing early signs of heart dis ease, such as high choles
terol and high blood pres sure. Including more veg etarian foods in your fam ily's diet can decrease sat urated fat and also ents and phytochemicals that can help prevent cancer and heart disease.
Some ideas for meatle Some ideas for meatless meals that are kid friend-
ly include: - Bean burritos Vegetarian lasagna. Instead of meat, use egg. plant, other vegetables, tofu or soy crumbles. Veggie burgers. Forget ne drive-thru when you need a quick meal. Many can be popped in the toaster or microwave. Spaghetti with tomato sauce and soy crumbles. chased frozen and TVP (a dehydrated soy product) can be bought at a health food store. They are both great substitutes for ground beef.

## D E C

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Understanding Labor and Delivery and even make your first
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Erin Lowery enjoys a special hollday activity with the Girí Scouts.


Oil and cotton make for good companions in the Crossroads area. For the first time


Big Spring Junior High Fellowship of Christian Athletes held their Christman party on Courtosy photo the Fireplace Room on the Howard College campus. Some 70 athletes were in attendance. FCA is an organization for students - boys and giris - who play sports at the junior high and share
their faith in Jesus Christ. The door is always open and It's never to late to Join. Sponsors are Coach Karla Cregar, Coach Peggy Calhoun, Coach Lisa Harwood, Yvette Cotton and Melinda Teel.

## Good News page



Michael McMahon
awarded Eagle Scout

| cmahon of Boy Scout | of Christian |
| :---: | :---: |
| Troop 78 was awarded the | National Honor So |
| Eagle Scout Scout rank in | Spanish Honor |
| special ceremony in | and vice presi |
| Colorado Springs, Colo | Academy's |
| Michael is a junior | Humanity |
| Academy High School | He has held |
| in Colorado Springs, | positions as |
| here he lettered | senior patrol |
| ss-country and acade- | ior patrol |
|  | guide |
| He plays tenor saxo- | elect |
| phone in the Air | he Arro |
| Academy Jazz Band and | Brotherhood me |
| has maintained | the summer of 200 |
| straight-A academic aver- | completed a 10-da |
| age while taking honors | e trek at Ph |
| and advanced placement | Scout Ran |
| asse | Cimarron, N.M |
| For the last two years | Michael is the |
| Iichael has won a medal | Andy |
| at the Colorado State | McMahon of Co |
| Science Olympiad. He i | Springs, Colo., an |
| member of the F |  |
| Evangelical Free Churc |  |
| Do you have a photo or story for the Good News page? Contact the Herald at 263-7331 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net |  |
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A trumpeting angel is Just one of the attractions at the Festival of Lights in Comanche Trail Park. Displays are lit from 6 to 10 each evening. However, Wednesday is the final evening for the display

needed for Basketball are needed
games durin Persons int
officiating lo should cont Rodriguez a
(home) (cell).

WJCAC to $m$ baseball tou The Howa
Hawks will f longer road
year when ti Western Juni Athletic rolls around W J C A C
roll
W and 2004 baseba ment would
from Midla from Midla
Paso. The to is sch
$22-24$

Hawks to re court agains The Howar return to acti 3 , when they Lancaster to BSHS swimn 4-4A meet Big Sprin
School swim try and nail title on Jan. travels
stockton ONTH the Huntsvill Fame.
Magers-Po aunt of cur
standout Magers, is inducted on re needed thletic 04 baseba scheduled

Sports

Monday, December 29, 2003


The Big Spring Lady Steers are slated to face Idalou today in the ed to face Idalou today in the

NEW ORLEANS (AP) Donte' Stallworth helped
make the New Orleans make the New Orleans Stallworth's $\quad 76$-yard touchdown reception in the Saints' $13-7$ victory over the Cowboys on
Sunday sent Dallas into the playoffs on a down the playoffs on a down
note and New Orleans note and New
The Saints. (8-8), who
will miss the playoffs for will miss the playoffs for the third straight year responded to a tongue
lashing from owner Tom Benson and a team meeting Friday night to rally for a break-even season.
Dallas (10-6) had already Dallas (10-6) had already
clinched a playoff spot, clinched a playoff spot,
but the loss dropped the Cowboys to the sixth seed in the NFC.
The real winner was the Seattle Seahawks, who got a boost toward the
postseason with Dallas postseason with Dallas
loss. The Seahawks loss. The Seahawks
sneaked into the No. 5
seed under the NFL's seed under th
playoff formula.
After three straight 5-11 seasons, the Cowboys
have had a remarkable have had a in Bill Parcells' first season as
coach. Dallas clinched its coach. Dallas clinched its
first playoff spot since first playoff spot since
1999 last week, which might have led to a let down against the Saints. Benson told the coach-
ing staff Tuesday during ing staff Tuesday during
an emotional meeting that he was extremely
disappointed with the disappointed with the
season.
Although Dallas
stopped the run and limstopped the run and lim-
ited Saints running back Deuce McAllister to 49 yards, it couldn't hold
New Orleans in check New Orleans in check
The Cowboys' defense which led the league in allowing 251 yards per game, gave up 291. Aaron Brooks complet ed $15-$ of- 32 for 243 yards.
The Saints pressured Quincy Carter, sactor him three times, and intercepting him three more times. Jay
Bellamy's second pick of Bellamy's second pick of
the day stopped the the day stopped the
Cowboys at the New Cowboys at the New
Orleans 27 with $1: 33$ left in the game.
The Saints capped an eight-minute opening
drive with a 24 -yard field drive with Dallas came back with its own time-con suming drive, using $8: 32$ in the second quarter to go 93 yards. Richie Anderson's 3-yard recep tion put
ahead $7-3$.
The lead lasted only 27 seconds. That's how long it took Brooks to hit Stallworth with a 76 -yard John Carney
missed a tying extra point as time expired in a 20-19 loss to Jacksonville a week ago, hit two field
goals and the PAT.


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card, day to start ad, number of days to run ad and what
the ad to say.


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