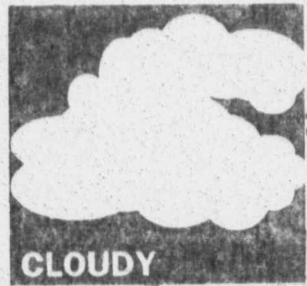


MONDAY

November 15, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 41°-44°  
TOMORROW 58°-60°

BRIEFLY

Relay for Life rally set Tuesday

A rally to start the 2005 Relay For Life campaign will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church Garrett Hall, 400 Scurry St.

Refreshments will be served.

CISD trustees to meet Thursday

The Coahoma Independent School District Board of Trustees will meet in regular session at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the board room of the administration building located at 600 Main Street in Coahoma.

The meeting will address such topics as consideration of changing graduation requirements, a facilities assessment by Parkhill, Smith & Cooper and superintendent evaluation instrument.

INSIDE

Powell said ready to leave Cabinet

Secretary of State Colin Powell has told top aides he intends to resign from President Bush's Cabinet, high-ranking State Department officials said.

Powell, who long has been rumored planning only a single term with Bush, told his aides that he intends to leave once Bush settles on whom to succeed him.

Word of Powell's imminent departure kicked off a new week of Cabinet shuffling for Bush.

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Vol. 100, No. 303

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Community Angels program to fill void

By KENDRA WISS

Staff Writer

It's Christmas morning, a teenager sits looking on as his 8-year-old sister and 4-year-old brother, feverishly open presents.

Although his family can't afford to buy presents this year, his brother and sister are Angel Tree recipients. He smiles knowing his brother and sister will have a good Christmas after all; but inside he wishes there was a package under the tree for him

**"We can't stand the thought of these children watching their siblings opening gifts and not being able to enjoy the holiday."**



BAREFOOT

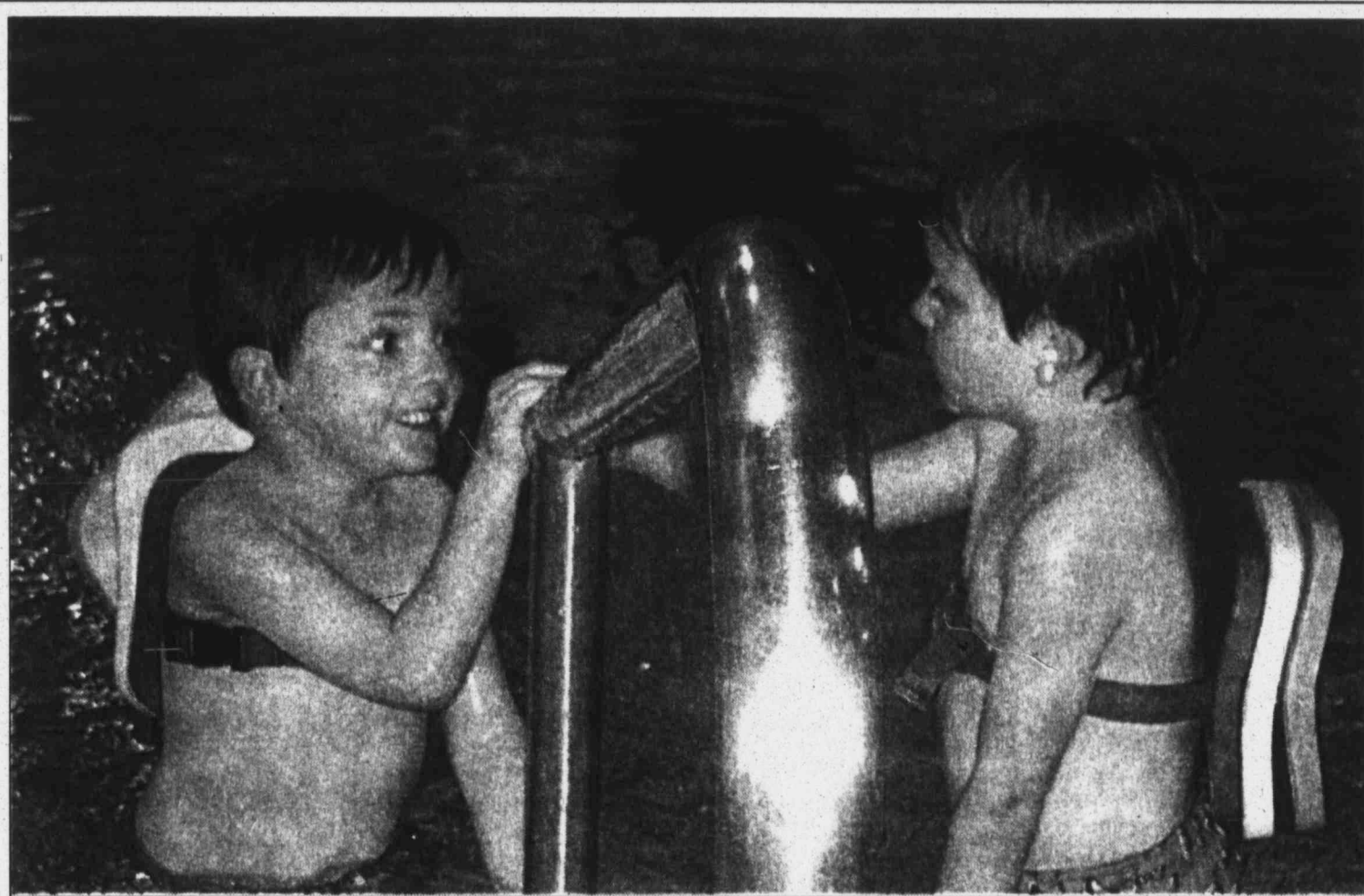
too. Thanks to the Salvation Army, many of the underprivileged children of Howard County will receive Christmas presents this year. But what about the children ages 13 to 18? The Community Angels pro-

gram is answering this question by offering the Teen Angel Program, sponsored by the Downtown Revitalization Association.

The program is receiving donations to help purchase Christmas presents for needy teenagers in the community that have already been identified by the Salvation Army.

"We can't stand the thought of these children watching their siblings opening gifts and not

See ANGELS, Page 3A



Six-year-old twins Jacob and Jonah Wiss, participants in the YMCA's after-school program, splash around during Friday's swim day at the YMCA.

United Way helps YMCA provide after-school care

By KENDRA WISS

Staff Writer

Latchkey kid or fun, supervised activities?

For some parents, the cost for after-school care makes the decision for them. Luckily, the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County helps the YMCA of Big Spring offer scholarships to these needy working families.

More than 40 percent of children of children go home to empty houses after school with no supervision and, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychology, this number is growing each year. It also notes that this time between getting home



United Way



THIRY

from school and the parent arriving home is the most dangerous time for children.

Big Spring's YMCA is helping working, needy parents to fill the gap between the end of the school day and the end of the work day.

For many of those parents, the YMCA is seen as a godsend. "The YMCA provides a lot of fun

activities for children, adults and families," said one woman whose two children receive scholarship assistance for YMCA programs. "But for families who work and barely get by, the best thing the YMCA does is provide a safe place for our kids."

YMCA Director Pete Thiry explained that to meet the needs of families, the YMCA provides three distinct services.

First is health and fitness, this portion of the organization encompasses weights, fitness equipment and exercise classes. Families need to take care of themselves not only emotionally, but physically as well.

Second, the YMCA provides physical education and sports such

See YMCA, Page 3A

DRA Christmas Concert slated for Nov. 27

By KENDRA WISS

Staff Writer

It's the most wonderful time of the year... time for the Downtown Revitalization Association's third annual Christmas Concert set for 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 27, at the Municipal Auditorium.

"This concert is free to the public and a gift to the community from DRA members," said Allan Johnson, president of the organiza-

tion.

Linda Lyndell will direct Big Spring High School's Rhapsody, bringing "Santa's Frosty Folly" to the stage. The concert will include traditional music, dancing and solos for half of the program. Following a brief intermission, a Christmas variety show will be led by Larry Thibeault and David Smith and will encourage enthusiastic audience participation.

This year's BSHS, Rhapsody includes Cody Chandler, Bernadette Flores, Nadia Garcia, Gloria Garibay, Sophia Gonzales, Bianca Green, Erin Griffin, Tapley Holguin, Sameka Houston, Meagan Matthews, Samantha Patten, Jonathan Smith, Kelli Warrington and Sarah Wilkinson.

All ages will enjoy a special visit

See CONCERT, Page 3A

Stepping into Better Health presentation set for Thursday

By KENDRA WISS

Staff Writer

The smallest of changes you make can be the biggest step toward improving your family's health and well being.

This is the slogan for Stepping into Better Health, a presentation set for 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Big Spring Junior High School Library.

"This program is being put on

to help all parents in Howard County," said Karen McCormick, a registered nurse at Moss Elementary School. "We also want to help parents understand the changes the state has incorporated into the nutritional guidelines for children."

The event will feature several speakers helping parents find ways to support changes they can make for a lifetime of health and help children understand the

value of good nutrition, said McCormick.

Missy Mikeska, a physician's assistant, will talk about childhood obesity and how parents can make changes to improve the health of their children.

Bill Dodson, a physical therapist, will speak on how to get started with physical exercise.

Marica Merrell, a dietitian, will teach parents how to have better eating habits and ways to slowly

get started.

"Texas is ranked No. 3 for U.S. states with childhood obesity," said McCormick. "If we don't make some changes now, we are forcing our children into a lifetime of bad health," she added.

Contact Staff Writer Kendra Wiss at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

Fame

United Way fund-raiser will offer 15 minutes

By JOHN A. MOSELEY

Managing Editor

What's it like to be famous?

Well, the winner of the "15 Minutes of Fame" drawing being conducted as part this year's fund-raising drive by the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County will find out what being famous is like.

While the winner of the drawing may not experience fame like film stars and professional athletes, they'll certainly be recognized around town.

"We think this is an excellent opportunity for everyone to get involved in this year's United Way drive," explained Howard College theater instructor Clay Grizzle, who first conceived of the project. "There's a \$5 entry fee, and the winner's 15 minutes of fame will include several things — their name will be placed on the marquee at Big Spring Mall, the Big Spring Herald will do a front page feature story on them, they'll be interviewed by local radio stations, they'll be on at least one billboard, receive a dozen roses from Dakota's Flowers and we're still adding prizes."

The winner of the contest will be announced on Tuesday, Nov. 30, the final day of the extended campaign.

"The few dollars each of us gives to United Way goes a long, long way," noted Cynthia Scott, executive director of the local United Way organization. "And it's really important that while some of the 15 agencies the United Way benefits primarily help the needy in our community, there are others that have a wider scope."

The United Way's support for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the YMCA, after-school programs and the like, Scott noted,

See FAME, Page 3A

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# Top pay for college presidents rises again

By JUSTIN POPE

AP Education Writer

Tuition is rising sharply and many schools are still fighting through budget cuts. But the salaries of the highest-paid college presidents are also increasing, according to a survey out Monday.

The number of university presidents earning more than half a million dollars jumped again this year — though overall they remain a small minority.

Seventeen presidents of public universities and systems will earn more than \$500,000 this year, up from 12 last year and six the year before, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education's compensation survey. Tuition at four-year public colleges rose 10.5 percent this year.

At private colleges and universities, the number of presidents earning more than \$500,000 rose from 27 to 42 in fiscal 2003, the last year for which data are available for the private institutions.

*"I don't underestimate the important work they do. But I think they're starting to look more like CEOs than college presidents, and I think public trust is a real issue."*

Roger Bowen  
Former NYSU president

Johns Hopkins University President William Brody's total compensation of \$897,786 topped all college presidents.

The University of Washington's Mark Emmert is the top earner among public presidents, with a package that will total \$762,000 in pay and benefits. Mark Yudof at the University of Texas ranked fifth with a salary of \$651,400.

Several education experts said the figures aren't necessarily a sign of excess, given the competition for strong leaders, who are at least as valuable in tough times as in flush ones.

Many of the top earners preside over complex institutions and manage thousands of employees. At schools like

Johns Hopkins, they also oversee teaching hospitals.

"Certainly in the private sector you'd be paying four, five, six times more for the same function," said David Ward, president of the American Council on Education, which represents universities. Jim Boyle, president of College Parents of America, said high salaries aren't necessarily a problem, since finding a strong leader can hold tuition down in the long run.

Still, the figures concern some observers.

"I don't underestimate the important work they do," said Roger Bowen, general secretary of the American Association of University Professors and a for-

mer president in New York's state university system. "But I think they're starting to look more like CEOs than college presidents, and I think public trust is a real issue."

The median salary for presidents at public institutions was \$328,400. This is the first year the Chronicle has computed a median salary for those presidents, so it can't say for sure whether the median increased.

But it has tracked median salaries at private schools, which last year rose 19 percent to \$459,643 at private research universities.

Ward said the increases are being driven less by raises than by big jumps when schools recruit someone new.

For instance, at Washington, where Emmert earned \$762,000 (including a one-time relocation incentive), his predecessor earned \$296,400 and the interim president \$405,000.

Taxpayers don't foot the whole bill to pay presidents at many public universities. Private foundations contribute at least part of the president's salary at nearly half the public institutions the Chronicle surveyed, up from one-third last year, with a median amount of support of \$100,000.

But such arrangements have also caused conflicts over influence. After a dispute with the University of Georgia Foundation, the board of regents overseeing the system there voted recently to pay the salary of president Michael Adams entirely with state funds. He will earn \$637,966 this year.

On the Net:  
Chronicle of Higher Education:  
<http://chronicle.com>

# Study: Most car seats do poor job of preventing whiplash

By DEE-ANN DURBIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — More than half of car seats as currently constructed do not do a good job of preventing whiplash injuries, tests by the insurance industry show.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, in test results released Sunday, said that General Motors Corp. cars were among the worst performers, and it said that Volvo and Saab cars were among the best.

Altogether, 97 seat and headrest combinations found in 88 cars now on the market were studied by the institute, which tested 73 of those seats in a 20 mph rear-impact crash to see how well they would protect an average-

size male dummy.

Eight seats earned the institute's highest rating, including those in the Volvo S40, S60 and S80, the Saab 9-2X and 9-3, and the Jaguar S-type.

Sixteen seats, including those in the Chevrolet Malibu and the Subaru Outback, got the second-highest rating of acceptable; 19 seats, including those in the Ford Focus and the Mini Cooper, earned the third-highest rating of marginal.

The other 30 received the institute's worst rating, poor, indicating the highest likelihood of neck injury in a rear-impact crash. Among those were the seats in the Audi A4 and S4, the BMW 3 Series, the Dodge Neon and the Jaguar X-type.

**Neck injuries sustained in a rear-end crash rarely are life-threatening, but they happen frequently and can be painful and expensive. Neck injuries cost around \$7 billion in insurance claims each year.**

The institute did not test 24 seats — among them those in the Buick Regal, Cadillac Seville, Acura RL and Volkswagen Passat — because it determined the headrests were designed in a way that would not protect taller people.

GM said it has been following the institute's guidelines for placement of headrests. The company also said it has led development of a headrest that moves according to

the force of the crash.

GM said occupants come in many sizes and sit in various positions in the vehicle and cautioned against making changes based on one test.

"If the test methods chosen are not reflective of reducing real-world harm, there could be significant potential to cause seat design changes that are directionally wrong," GM said.

The institute has evaluated headrests for nearly

a decade.

"It's obvious that some automakers are doing a better job than others of designing seats and head restraints to protect their customers' necks in rear crashes," said Adrian Lund, the institute's chief operating officer.

Neck injuries sustained in a rear-end crash rarely are life-threatening, but they happen frequently and can be painful and expensive. Neck injuries cost around \$7 billion in insurance claims each year, the institute said.

Whiplash happens when a vehicle is hit from behind and the seat propels forward. If the headrest does not move with the seat, the occupant's neck will bend back and stretch.

On the best-performing cars, the seat was sturdy but had enough cushion so the occupant's body could sink into it, keeping the head closer to the headrest. The headrests were positioned so that they would be close to the back of the head and protect tall occupants.

Some vehicles got different ratings depending on which seats were installed. For example, Chrysler Sebring with power reclining seats got an acceptable rating, but the Sebring with manual reclining seats was not tested because the institute determined its seats were inadequate.

On the Net:  
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety:  
<http://www.iihs.org>

## FAME

Continued from Page 1A

provide our community's children with an opportunity to learn teamwork, responsibility and the value of participation.

Programs such as Victim Services give those who have suffered emotional and physical

trauma a source to turn to, and the American Red Cross responds to disasters of all types.

The Salvation Army provides school supplies, coats and shoes for those who don't have them; food for those who are hungry; Christmas for those who would not otherwise share the joy and peace of the holiday season. In

short, it helps those who are having a tough time.

In addition, Scott noted that many lives are touched by other non-profit organizations the others United Way serves — the CASA of West Texas, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Council on Aging, Howard County Humane Society, Isaiah 58,

Northside Community Center, the YMCA of Big Spring, the Westside Community Center and Westside Day Care Center.

"So, when you contribute to the United Way in any fashion — whether it's through payroll deduction, a one-time gift or through taking part in fund-raisers like the 15

Minutes of Fame contest — you're helping make a real difference in our community," Scott continued.

Members of the Howard College Thespian Society will be registering people for the contest, as will members of the United Way board of directors.

In addition, those wanting to register for the 15

Minutes of Fame contest, which Grizzle and Scott say they hope will become an annual event, can also go by the United Way office at 808 Scurry. For more information, call 267-5201.

Managing Editor John A. Moseley can be contacted by calling 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com)

## YMCA

Continued from Page 1A

as flag football, volleyball, gymnastics and any other instructional activity. "When children are involved in sports activities, they learn teamwork and how to get along with others, both are helpful to their development," said

Thiry.

And third, the YMCA provides childcare. This is where the United Way steps in to help needy families pay for childcare and after school care. Children ages 3 through 5 have all-day childcare available to them. Students who need after-school care are picked up by the YMCA vans.

Parents who need financial assistance to pay for childcare can apply for scholarships to help with tuition.

"We look at the family's size and income and then are able to help them financially with their child care fees," explained Thiry.

Last year alone, the United Way donated more

than \$15,000 to his organization, which in return provided 145 children with scholarship assistance. "If it wasn't for the United Way, we wouldn't be able to provide financial assistance to those who need it," Thiry noted.

"We turn no one away due to an inability to pay," Thiry added. "With help from the United Way, we can reduce

needy families fees to almost zero."

United Way funds add up to about 23 percent of what the YMCA uses to give scholarships to these families. The rest of the funds come from private donations and fund raising activities, Thiry explained.

For more information about the YMCA, contact Thiry at 267-8234.

Contact Staff Writer

Kendra Wiss at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288  
James L. Billingsley, 74, died Friday. Funeral Services were at 11:00 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

## ANGELS

Continued from Page 1A

being able to enjoy the holiday," said Community Angels member Ellen Barefoot.

"To help with this problem, some prominent women of the community have banded together to

spread awareness and encourage people to adopt these forgotten angels."

Angels are now available for adoption 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at Nannie's Attic located at 117 S. Main.

To donate to the program, send your gift to Community Angels, P.O.

Box 3059, Big Spring 79721. For more information, contact Barefoot at Nannie's Attic at 394-4908 or Gisela Preciado at 213-4612.

Contact Staff Writer Kendra Wiss at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)

## CONCERT

Continued from Page 1A

by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who have their

sleighs already laden with gifts for the children in attendance.

"We invite everyone to come and enjoy this free gift to the community,"

said Johnson.

Contact Staff Writer Kendra Wiss at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)

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# Three land ports testing new border security technology

By LYNN BRZOSKY

Associated Press Writer

LAREDO — Bridges to Mexico in this traffic-choked border city began testing a new immigration security program Monday that calls for fingerprinting, photographing and running checks on unusual or suspicious U.S. visitors.

Laredo is one of three cities chosen to test the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT technology for border crossings. The others are Douglas, Ariz., and the Canadian border city of Port Huron, Mich. The technology has been in place at airports and seaports since Jan. 5.

Officials are looking for glitches as they prepare for the Dec. 31 extension of US-VISIT to the nation's 50 busiest land ports. By the end of 2005, US-VISIT is scheduled to be at all 165 land border crossings.

"We always test first," said Anna Hinken, outreach manager for US-VISIT.

Fabian Gonzales was among the first to experience the system.

The 34-year-old walked up to row of bank-like teller machines on the U.S. side of the Lincoln-Juarez International Bridge, answered a few questions, then inserted his finger into a small fingerprinting machine. A golfball-sized camera snapped his picture.

Gonzales, a restaurateur from Monterrey, who is looking to open a store in San Antonio,

said the process was simple and only took about 7 minutes. "It's OK," he said. "I hope this new process improves the security and also helps the tourists. It's more comfortable."

After the 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress merged federal border security agencies and mandated a speedy system that would identify and record every foreigner who enters and leaves the United States.

Homeland Security is spending \$340 million implementing inkless fingerprinting machines, digital cameras and computer equipment.

Business and political leaders in border cities fought the system when it was announced but have since been appeased. They had feared it would slow traffic and deter Mexicans who have made the impoverished Texas border one of the hottest retail spots in the nation.

One business group, The Alliance for Security and Trade, commissioned a study finding that a 20 percent delay at the border would cost the 375,000 U.S. jobs.

Laredo Mayor Betty Flores, one of the loudest early critics, insisted her city would be bankrupt if long lines and document hassles caused Mexicans to stay behind. Laredo each year has 4.6 million pedestrians, 1.4 million trucks, 6.8 million private vehicles and more than 40,000 buses cross its four international bridges.

# TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

## Blanco soldier remembered for his devotion to duty

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Army Sgt. John Byron Trotter, who had helped recover bodies from the Pentagon after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, was remembered by friends and family following his death in Iraq.

On Sunday afternoon about 200 people filled a chapel as the 25-year-old was eulogized.

Trotter, known by his Army friends as John and family as Byron, died Tuesday in Ramadi after his patrol came under small-arms fire. The graduate of Blanco High School was killed instantly.

Trotter, who is survived by his father, six siblings and a toddler son, was to have been at the Pentagon on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, in the part of the building where one of the hijacked planes crashed. His meeting was moved, though, and Trotter was about a mile away when the plane struck.

In the following days, he undertook the task of recovering bodies. That ultimately drove him to reenlist in the Army, where he knew duty would call him to Iraq.

## Study: Parkland study faults medical school

DALLAS (AP) — A new study says that Parkland Memorial Hospital's ability to respond to the needs of patients has been hampered by the emphasis of its partner — the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center — on training doctors.

The county-commissioned study cited a wide range of situations in which patients appeared to wait needlessly. The study, which will be reviewed publicly at the county commissioners' meeting Tuesday, said that sick people wait an average of 13 hours to be admitted through Parkland's emergency room.

"Almost all of these patients are ultimately admitted but only after a prolonged and, from the perspective of the patient, unnecessary delay in a noisy and crowded area," said the 111-page done by Health Management Associates, a

Michigan-based consulting firm.

In Parkland's operating rooms, "doctors who need to experience certain kinds of surgeries in their training, will often look for the most 'interesting' cases, leaving general surgeries behind," the report stated. "It is very difficult, for example, to schedule a routine gallbladder or hernia operation in Parkland."

The study added that chronically ill people must wait for months to see specialists because certain hospital clinics are open only one or two days a week.

## Man runs vehicle into library in effort to be deported

HOUSTON (AP) — A man described by police as an Egyptian national was arrested Sunday after authorities say he rammed his car into the Houston Public Library as part of an attempt to be deported.

Houston Sgt. David Crain said Amin Hamby, 33, was being charged with felony mischief to the Jesse H. Jones Library in downtown Houston. The damage occurred about 4:45 p.m. Sunday.

Hamby was to be released into immigration officials' custody after criminal charges are processed, Crain said.

He said the incident appeared to be isolated to an individual with a history of mental illness who admitted he refused to take his prescribed medication.

Police set up a two-mile perimeter around the site and evacuated the library while they checked out the man's car, he said. Nothing was found, Crain said.

No one was injured and the library sustained minimal damage.

## Five die in plane crash at apartment complex

SAN ANTONIO — A small airplane trying to land in bad weather crashed near a senior citizens apartment complex, killing all five on the plane and leaving a wing embedded in the wall of one apartment unit.

John Clabes, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said the pilot and a pair of fathers

traveling with their sons, died in the Sunday afternoon crash. All were from San Antonio. Their names were not immediately released.

Joe Rios, a spokesman for San Antonio police, said all injuries were on the ground were minor. Some people were treated for smoke inhalation. The woman whose apartment suffered the most damage was not injured.

Rios said part of the 34-foot-long plane was buried in the ground at the housing complex and pieces of it were scattered around the area. He said one wing disintegrated on impact, while the other was embedded in the wall of an apartment. The impact left a 3-foot-by-5-foot hole in the wall.

"It looks like it clipped a tree, clipped the apartment and went into the ground," Rios said of the plane. He said there was a small explosion after the crash.

Clabes said that the Piper Navajo owned by Dash Air Charter Inc. of San Antonio was on approach to San Antonio International Airport shortly after 5 p.m. The pilot was off course and was swinging around to try again when the plane crashed.

"He pulled out of the approach and disappeared off our radar," Clabes said.

The aircraft was trying to make an instrument landing in rainy conditions with poor visibility. It had filed a flight plan in Dodge City, Kan., Clabes said.

Officials with the National Transportation Safety Board were scheduled to arrive in San Antonio on Monday to investigate the cause of the crash.

David Herrmann, vice president of the company that owns the plane, told the San Antonio Express-News that the group was returning from a pheasant hunting trip in Kansas.

The crash site is in a thickly populated residential and commercial area about six miles northwest of downtown San Antonio.

The plane, which can seat as many as eight people, crashed about three miles from the airport and just off a busy city street.

# Cheating on standardized tests alleged at Wilmer-Hutchins ISD

HUTCHINS (AP) — A student at the troubled Wilmer-Hutchins school district says his teacher helped him with answers on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills standardized test last year.

"The teacher would walk around the class during the test and be like, 'Hey, that's wrong,'" James Wright, now a 12-year-old sixth-grader at Kennedy-Curry Middle School, told *The Dallas Morning News*. "You'd go through the answers and you'd say, 'Is this the right one?' They'd say 'nope.' And you'd say, 'Is this the right one?' And they'd say 'nope' until you got the right one. Then they'd say 'Yeah' and nod their head."

An analysis by the newspaper first raised suspicions that cheating took place on the TAKS tests in the district.

It found that despite a history of poor academic performance, one elementary school in the district posted the state's highest scores on the third grade reading TAKS test last year.

The district has been investigated in recent months by the Texas Rangers, two grand

juries, the FBI and others on alleged misappropriation of funds and other accusations.

After the newspaper's analysis, the Texas Education Agency began a preliminary inquiry into the possibility of TAKS cheating in Wilmer-Hutchins. Friday, the TEA said it was upgrading its inquiry to a full investigation.

Interim Superintendent James Damm said he suspects that cheating occurred in at least one of the district's schools. He said he had not closely examined test scores at all campuses.

"Is it possible those scores are real? Yes," he said. "Is it likely? No. Statistically, it's highly unlikely there wasn't something amiss there."

Damm said he has told district principals that if any of them knowingly allowed cheating at their schools, they will be treated as if they did the cheat-

ing themselves. Falsifying testing documents is a third-degree felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Addie Stepney, a former fourth grad teacher at Wilmer Elementary, said she had suspected cheating, but when she raised the issue with Principal Geraldine Hobson, she said she got no response.

"If someone had really worked with them, I think most of them could have passed, eventually," she said. "But the best scores in the state? Are you kidding?"

Hobson did not return a phone call by the newspaper for comment. In an earlier interview she denied that there had been any TAKS cheating.

The newspaper did not find evidence of cheating on other tests in other grades at the school.

Another school in the district, Alta Mesa Elementary, scored highly in all grades and on all tests. Some students said cheating was widespread.

"When the test started, some people didn't know the answers, so they'd raise their hand and the teacher would come up to them. The teacher read the question and then gave us the answer," said Guyler Easter, who attended Alta Mesa in the fifth grade at Wilmer-Hutchins.


TEA investigators are scheduled to arrive today to question teachers and possibly students.

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## Fighting sweeps Iraq's Sunni heartland as U.S. offensive winds down

By TINI TRAN

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Fierce battles between insurgents and U.S. and Iraqi forces killed at least nine people Monday in Baqouba.

A Red Cross spokesman said that a relief convoy of ambulances and supplies trying to enter Fallujah was turned back by Iraqi authorities or U.S. Marines on Monday. The Red Crescent and Red Cross have been unable to gain access to people inside Fallujah during more than a week of fighting.

Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's office confirmed that two of his female relatives who were kidnapped last week have been released. Allawi's cousin, Ghazi Allawi, 75, his cousin's wife and his cousin's pregnant daughter-in-law were abducted at gunpoint last Tuesday in western Baghdad's Yarmouk neighborhood.

"Yes, yes, the two women were released yesterday," said an Allawi spokesman who declined to be named. There was no word on the cousin, Ghazi Allawi.

On Sunday, U.S. Marines found the mutilated body of a Western woman as they searched for militants still holding out in Fallujah. The woman could not be immediately identified, but a British aide worker and a Pole are the only Western women known to have been taken hostage.

In Baqouba, U.S. officials said the trouble started when insurgents attacked 1st Infantry Division soldiers with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire near a traffic circle and police station.

U.S. troops started getting fire from a mosque, the U.S. military said. Iraqi security stormed the mosque and found rocket-propelled grenades, mortar rounds and other weapons and ammunition, the statement said.

The fighting took place in Baqouba and neighboring town of Buhriz, about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. American aircraft dropped two 500 pound bombs on an insurgent position.

Four 1st Infantry Division soldiers were wounded, although two of them returned to duty, the military said. Nine Iraqis, including one attacker, a policeman and seven civilians, were killed and 11 Iraqis were injured in the fighting, according to Mohammed Zayad of the Baqouba hospital.

The week-old offensive in Fallujah has left at least 38 American troops and six Iraqi soldiers dead. The number of U.S. troops wounded is now 275, though more than 60 have returned to duty.

U.S. officials estimated more than 1,200 insurgents have been killed.

On Monday, U.S. forces resumed heavy airstrikes and artillery fire, with warplanes making between 20-30 bombing sorties in Fallujah and surrounding areas. U.S. ground forces were trying to corner the remaining resistance in the city.

American forces had attacked a bunker complex Sunday in the city's south where they discovered a network of steel-reinforced tunnels and underground bunkers. The tunnels connected a ring of facilities filled with weapons, an anti-aircraft artillery gun, bunk beds and a truck, according to a statement from the U.S. military.

Marines also found the dismembered body of a Western woman wrapped in a blood-soaked blanket on a street in Fallujah. Two foreign women — Margaret Hassan, 59, director of CARE international in Iraq, and Teresa Borcz Khalifa, 54, a Polish-born longtime resident of Iraq — were abducted last month but the body could not be identified without further tests.

Civilians seeking medical care were told through loudspeakers and leaflets to contact U.S. troops. In Geneva, the Baghdad spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, Ahmed Rawi, said Monday an Iraqi Red Crescent convoy of four ambulances and four trucks carrying supplies reached Fallujah General Hospital on the city's outskirts, but was unable to go further.

The hospital itself was well-supplied because no patients or wounded people have been able to reach it from the embattled city, Rawi said.

"Regretfully, there was no patient in sight," he said.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi Red Crescent, the partner organization of the Red Cross, said U.S. forces and the Iraqi government prevented the aid convoy from crossing the Euphrates River into the main part of the city and told it to leave the hospital area as well.

Rawi told The Associated Press by telephone that no reason was given for the refusal, but that the convoy then went to the south in hopes of entering nearby Amiriyah al-Fallujah, where there are camps for displaced residents who have fled the fighting.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the Marine general who designed the ground attack on Fallujah said it had gone far more quickly than expected and that troops had fought their way across the city in just six days.

## Powell poised to leave Cabinet?

By GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell has told top aides he intends to resign from President Bush's Cabinet, high-ranking State Department officials said.

Powell, who long has been rumored planning only a single term with Bush, told his aides that he intends to leave once Bush settles on whom to succeed him, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Word of Powell's imminent departure kicked off a new week of Cabinet shuffling for Bush, who is planning his second term.

"I do expect some announcements shortly regarding members of the Cabinet," White House press secretary Scott McClellan told reporters at the White House Monday morning. "There are a few resignations. I expect four today."

McClellan said he did not expect any announce-

ments Monday on replacements, however.

The White House was preparing an announcement to confirm Powell's resignation. According to one official, Powell expects that his departure date will be sometime in January. It was not immediately clear whether he would leave before Bush's second inauguration, on Jan. 20.

Most of the speculation on a successor has centered on U.N. Ambassador John Danforth, a Republican and former U.S. senator from Missouri, and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice.

Powell has had a controversial tenure in the secretary of state's job, reportedly differing on some key issues at various junctures with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld. Powell, however, has generally had good relations with his counterparts around the world,

although his image standing has been strained by the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Powell, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, led the Bush administration argument at the United Nations for a military attack to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, arguing a weapons-of-mass-destruction threat that the administration could never buttress.

Powell submitted his letter of resignation to the President on Friday. He will go about his usual schedule and will continue at full speed until a successor is named and in place, a senior administration said.

Powell was scheduled to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and was to attend a meeting of Asian in Chile

Wednesday and a multinational conference on Iraq next week.

He told some two dozen staff members of his projected departure at the start of the day.

For many months, Powell had been viewed as a one-term secretary of state but he has always been vague about his intentions. He had said repeatedly in recent weeks that he serves at "the pleasure of the president."

One senior official said that Powell's departure was part of a much broader Cabinet shakeup.

There had been speculation that Powell might elect to stay on until after the Iraqi elections at the end of January, but the senior official made no reference to that possibility.

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**19th Annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade**  
5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4

Parade theme:  
"100 Years of West Texas Christmases"  
Entry deadline — Noon, Friday, Nov. 19

The parade will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and head north on Gregg Street toward downtown, arriving in time for the downtown Christmas celebration.

First-place plaques will be awarded in the following categories:  
1. Individual or family  
2. School or church  
3. Commercial  
4. Civic organizations  
In addition, certificates of commendation will be awarded to the second- and third-place entries in each of those categories.

**ENTRY FORM**

Name of organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**New Categories**

Individual/Family  Church/school  
 Civic  Commercial

Brief description of entry: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL 100TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS**

In addition to the standard awards given to division winners, this year's parade entries will be judged for recognition of three special awards.

Herald's Best of Show Award: \$100 for best interpretation of theme.  
Mayor's Trophy: \$75 for best use of lighting.  
Grand Marshall's Award: \$50 for best costuming.

**PARADE RULES**

- The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald. No other Santa Claus will be permitted in the parade.
- Floats should not exceed 65 feet in length, 8 feet in width and 14 feet in height.
- Antique vehicles will be the only undecorated vehicles permitted without special permission from Parade Committee.
- Vehicles of a strictly commercial nature will not be permitted.
- Parade entries not in line by the start of the parade will be placed at the end of the parade and will not be eligible for awards.
- Mail, fax or hand deliver entry forms to:  
PARADE COMMITTEE  
Big Spring Herald  
P.O. Box 1431  
710 Scurry St.  
(432) 264-7205 (fax)

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For me tion, call 267-8234.

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### IN BRIEF

#### Youth basketball set at B.S. YMCA

The YMCA has announced that basketball registration for the upcoming season will run through Nov. 20. Boys and girls age five through 12 may register to take part in one of four age groups. The registration fee is \$30 and all sign-ups will take place at the YMCA.

There will be no fund-raiser this year, but financial assistance is available for families who require assistance.

An organizational meeting for adults who would like to be age group coordinators has been scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 4. Everyone interested in coaching must attend one of these two scheduled meetings.

The games are scheduled to begin Saturday, Jan. 8.

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

#### Basketball referees needed for season

The Crossroads area is looking for basketball officials for the upcoming season.

For more information, contact Adam Rodriguez at 263-8731 or 517-0300.

The games will be played in local areas such as Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma and will be for the junior high and high school levels.

#### Aggies win thriller over Red Raiders

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Courtney Lewis scored on a 25-yard run on the first play of overtime and Melvin Bullitt swatted away Sonny Cumbie's fourth-down pass into the end zone, sending the Aggies to a thrilling win.

Lewis' second touchdown run of the afternoon helped Texas A&M (7-3, 4-2 Big 12) dramatically end a two-game losing streak that included an overtime loss at Baylor and a seven-point defeat against No. 2 Oklahoma last week.

After Tech quarterback Sonny Cumbie's 50th and final pass of the afternoon fell incomplete, A&M players stormed the field and the frenzied Kyle Field crowd of 82,278 erupted with cheers.

#### Missed kick sends Hawks past Gophers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Rhys Lloyd's 51-yard field goal try drifted left with 28 seconds remaining, allowing Iowa to hold on for its sixth straight win.

Drew Tate completed 24 of 39 passes for 333 yards and two touchdowns for Iowa (8-2, 6-1). Clinton Solomon had nine receptions for 157 yards and a score. Kyle Schlicher kicked a school-record five field goals as Iowa claimed Floyd of Rosedale — the bronze pig that goes to the annual winner of this rivalry — for the fourth straight time.

## Stanton's playoff season ends early

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
SAN ANGELO — Five turnovers and big plays from Coleman's offense proved that records can be thrown out the window when the playoffs start as the 3-8 Bluecats upended Stanton (5-5), 21-7, at San Angelo Stadium Saturday in the bi-district round of the Class 2A Division II playoffs.

The Buffaloes turned the ball over five times, and four of them came deep in Coleman territory. All three of Coleman's touchdowns were scored from more than 10 yards out. The first one was a 34-yard touchdown pass and the game-sealing score, which came with under three minutes to go in the game covered 72 yards.

Coleman turned the ball over four times, but Stanton could not capitalize on the Bluecat miscues.

"The guys played hard, but the turnovers hurt us tonight," said Stanton head coach Lee McCown. "We took some of their turnovers, too, but we couldn't capitalize on them and just came out on the short end."

The win by Coleman sets up an area championship game against Mason next week. Mason advanced after defeating Alpine Friday.

Coleman's tough schedule had them entering the playoffs with a 2-8 record, but the Bluecats gave state-ranked Jim Ned and Texas Longhorn recruit Colt McCoy its toughest game, losing 3-0.

The Buffaloes ends a season in which they finished 5-6 and qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 2001.

"Coleman had been here before and we hadn't," said McCown. "I don't know if that played a role, but I just wanted our guys to come here like we had been here before. Now the goal is to return here next year."

Stanton looked good early on its first drive as junior running back Bobby Gutierrez took the ball on the first play and rumbled for a big gain. However, the drive was stalled on the next play as sophomore Michael Washington threw his first of two interceptions.

Coleman then took advantage and scored on its second possession off the turnover. The first play resulted in a first



Stanton's Matthew Ruiz has the ball knocked away from by a Coleman defensive back during the Buffaloes' 21-7 loss to the Bluecats at San Angelo Stadium Saturday. Ruiz led all Stanton receivers with 86 yards on four receptions. The win sends Coleman to the area round next week against Mason, which defeated Alpine Friday night.

down off a pass, but Stanton held the Bluecats on the next two runs. Then, on third down and six, Coleman quarterback Brady Hunter found Caleb Hail on a 34-yard pass play that reached the end zone.

Stanton's next two possessions resulted in a punt and a turnover on downs.

Coleman's drive after the touchdown also resulted in a turnover on downs, but its first possession in the second quarter resulted in more points. Stanton stuffed the Coleman running backs on two straight plays to force a third and 19. The Bluecats, who scored their first touchdown on third down, converted the long third down with a 54-yard pass completion to Hail, which then set up Carlton Brown's 14-yard touchdown run.

Stanton continued to fight in the second half despite trailing at half-time 15-0.

The Buffaloes first drive of the second half, one that covered 56 yards in nine plays, put Stanton on the board and back into the game. The drive consisted of mostly short runs and a fourth down conversion before Sloan Kelly crossed the goal line from two yards out with 7:43 to play in the third quarter.

"We fought hard in the second half, but couldn't come out on top," said McCown.

The next three possessions resulted in three turnovers in six plays. Coleman went two plays on its next drive before fumbling. Then, after an 11-yard run by Sloan, Stanton turned the ball



Stanton sophomore quarterback Michael Washington tosses the ball to the official after picking up the necessary yards for the first down Saturday at San Angelo Stadium during the Buffaloes' 21-7 loss to Coleman in the bi-district round of the Class 2A, Division II playoffs.

See PLAYOFFS, Page 2B

## Rodriguez finishes 11th in Round Rock

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
Big Spring sophomore Michael Rodriguez saved his best race of the season for last as he finished 11th over-

all Saturday at the state cross country meet in Round Rock in a time of 15:54, which was less than a second away from all-state honors.

"Michael ran an outstanding race and I can't really say much more about how he ran," said Big Spring head coach Randy Britton. "It was just a tremendous race for him."

"It was the best finish and fastest time of any Big Spring runner ever at the state meet."

The race was very tight as Britton said Rodriguez was seven-tenths of a sec-

ond off seventh place. Frenship's Matt Snowden took eighth overall in 15:53, while Andrews' Ryan Roberts finished in 75th overall.

In Class 1A, the Grady boys cross country team took 12th overall with 246 points and were led by Roy Rodriguez's 40th place finish. He ran his race in 17:45.

Luciano Najera, Israael San Juan, Douglas Rutledge and Justin Pribyla finished 93rd, 98th, 99th and 100th, respectively.

The Class 1A boys title was won by Plains, which finished with 74 points. The Class 4A boys title was won by Boerne and the girls title was won by Dallas Highland Park.

Forsan senior Cynthia Becerra also competed in Round Rock Saturday. She finished 29th out of 105 Class A competitors.

"She will be greatly missed next season," said Forsan head coach Brandye Hughey. "It has been a pleasure working with her during the past three years."

"She was very dedicated and worked hard to get to this point this year. I am so proud of her."



RODRIGUEZ



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MONDAY

NOV. 15

Table with 26 columns representing TV stations (WFAA, KMID, UNI, etc.) and rows representing different time slots from 6:30 PM to 12:30 AM, listing the programs airing on each station.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU GOTTA BE CAREFUL EATIN' SOUP, JOEY. SOMETIMES THEY HIDE BAD STUFF IN IT...LIKE VEG-TABLES."

BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"This is where gorilla arms would come in handy."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



YALE



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 15, the 320th day of 2004. There are 46 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 15, 1777, the Continental Congress approved the Articles of Confederation, a precursor to the Constitution of the United States.

On this date: In 1806, explorer Zebulon Pike sighted the mountain-top now known as Pikes Peak.

In 1889, Brazil's monarchy was overthrown.

In 1926, the National Broadcasting Company debuted with a radio network of 24 stations.

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 1940, the first 75,000

men were called to armed forces duty under peacetime conscription.

In 1948, William Lyon Mackenzie King retired as prime minister of Canada after 21 years; he was succeeded by Louis St. Laurent.

In 1966, the flight of Gemini 12 ended successfully as astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. splashed down safely in the Atlantic.

In 1969, thousands of protesters staged a peaceful demonstration in Washington, DC against the Vietnam War.

In 1982, funeral services were held in Moscow's Red Square for the late Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev.

In 1984, Baby Fae, the month-old infant who had received a baboon's heart to replace her own congenitally deformed one, died at a California medical center almost three weeks after the transplant.

Today's Birthdays: Judge Joseph Wapner is 85. The U.S. Ambassador to Japan,

Howard H. Baker Jr., is 79. Actor Ed Asner is 75. Actor John Kerr is 73. Singer Petula Clark is 72. Comedian Jack Burns is 71. Actress Joanna Barnes is 70. Actor Sam Waterston is 64. Pop singer Frida (ABBA) is 59. Actor Bob Gunton is 59. Director-actor James Woodies is 51. Rock singer-producer Mitch Easter is 50. Actress Beverly D'Angelo is 50. "Tonight Show" bandleader Kevin Eubanks is 47. Rapper E-40 is 37. Rapper ODB (Wu Tang Clan) is 36. Actress Rachel True is 35. Country singer Jack Ingram is 34.

Answer to previous puzzle

Crossword puzzle grid with words filled in: DRAWLS, OPTIMIST, RANOUT, PRUDENCE, EVINCE, PATENTEE, DIM APART, ADEPT, GOALS, MEETS, NTH, ELLE, LASSO, ISEE, DISTRESS, WADERS, SEAS, CELL, RACING, PARTISAN, IVAN, USERS, NONO, BIN, TETRA, EGADS, BATCH, AUTRY, POI, ITALIANE, ADMIRE, NOTARIZE, FIBERS, GRANDDAD, TEARAT

Newsday Crossword

ENJOY YOUR STAY by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Big party 5 Mamas' partners 10 Capital of Peru 14 Prefix meaning "against" 15 Keep from happening 16 Vocal 17 Army group 18 Warning to act 20 Feeling of compassion 22 Meadow 23 Desert stops 24 "King of the road" 26 Computer keyboard key 28 Examining 32 America's uncle 35 Medal of Honor recipients 36 Highways: Abbr. 37 Mideast seaport 38 Actor Baldwin 39 Attempts 41 Supreme Court justice Bader Ginsburg 42 Narrow bottle part 43 CD- 44 One in charge 46 Explosive letters 47 Marx Brothers film of 1938 49 Price-tag info 50 Nervous 51 Onetime Russian emperors 54 Saloon 56 Woodwind instruments 60 Like some important mail 63 Fairy-tale villain 64 Line- veto

- 65 Reeves of Speed 66 Alda or Shepard 67 Headquarters 68 Spherical 69 Midterm, for one 10 Not widespread 11 Gershwin and Levin 12 Drake or gander 13 Well That Ends Well 19 Red wine 21 Farm-animal connector 25 Informal eateries 27 Did battle 28 Meditator's phrase 29 \_ of Troy 30 Build 31 Fairy-tale writers' surname 32 Jordanian neighbor 33 Ancient Mexican 34 Olympics skiing star Phil or Steve 37 China-service accessory 40 Cola alternative 45 Therefore 47 H. Perot 48 Easygoing 49 Theft or treason 51 Baby's bed 52 Epsilon follower 53 Reaches maturity 55 32 Down, for example 57 Stare at 58 Periods of history 59 Dispatched 61 Boxing result 62 Defective firecracker

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 69 indicating the starting positions for the words listed in the clues.