



**BIG
SPRING**

HERALD

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Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

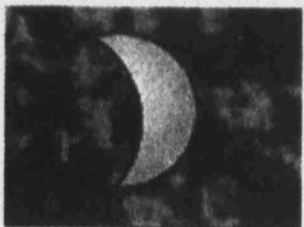
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

**THANKSGIVING
DAY**

November 25, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 40°-42° TOMORROW 64°-66°

BRIEFLY

Flu vaccine available Monday

Flu shots will be offered at the Department of State Health Services located at 501 Birdwell, Suite 28B on Monday. The immunizations will only be available to those 6 to 23 months old, 65 and older and those who are at high risk due to chronic illness. Families with children less than 6 months old will also be able to get immunized. The shots cost \$10 for those that do not have Medicaid or Medicare.

Christmas concert planned Saturday

The Downtown Revitalization Association's third annual Christmas Concert is set for 7 p.m., Saturday at the Municipal Auditorium. 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. The concert is free and appropriate for all ages.

THIS WEEKEND



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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com
To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday.

Heritage Museum lines up activities for the holidays

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**
Features Editor

An annual opportunity to view the *Big Spring Herald* Christmas parade from the comfort of the Heritage Museum patio begins at 4 p.m. Dec. 4 with the opening of the Winter's Blessings Christmas



SCHRECEGOST

exhibit.

"We will have wedding cake and seasonal beverages such as spiced apple cider and hot chocolate for our annual parade watch," said Tammy Schreccengost, museum curator. The event is free and provides a comfortable location to view the lighted Christmas parade. "We do this every year. It is our Christmas gift to the community," she said.

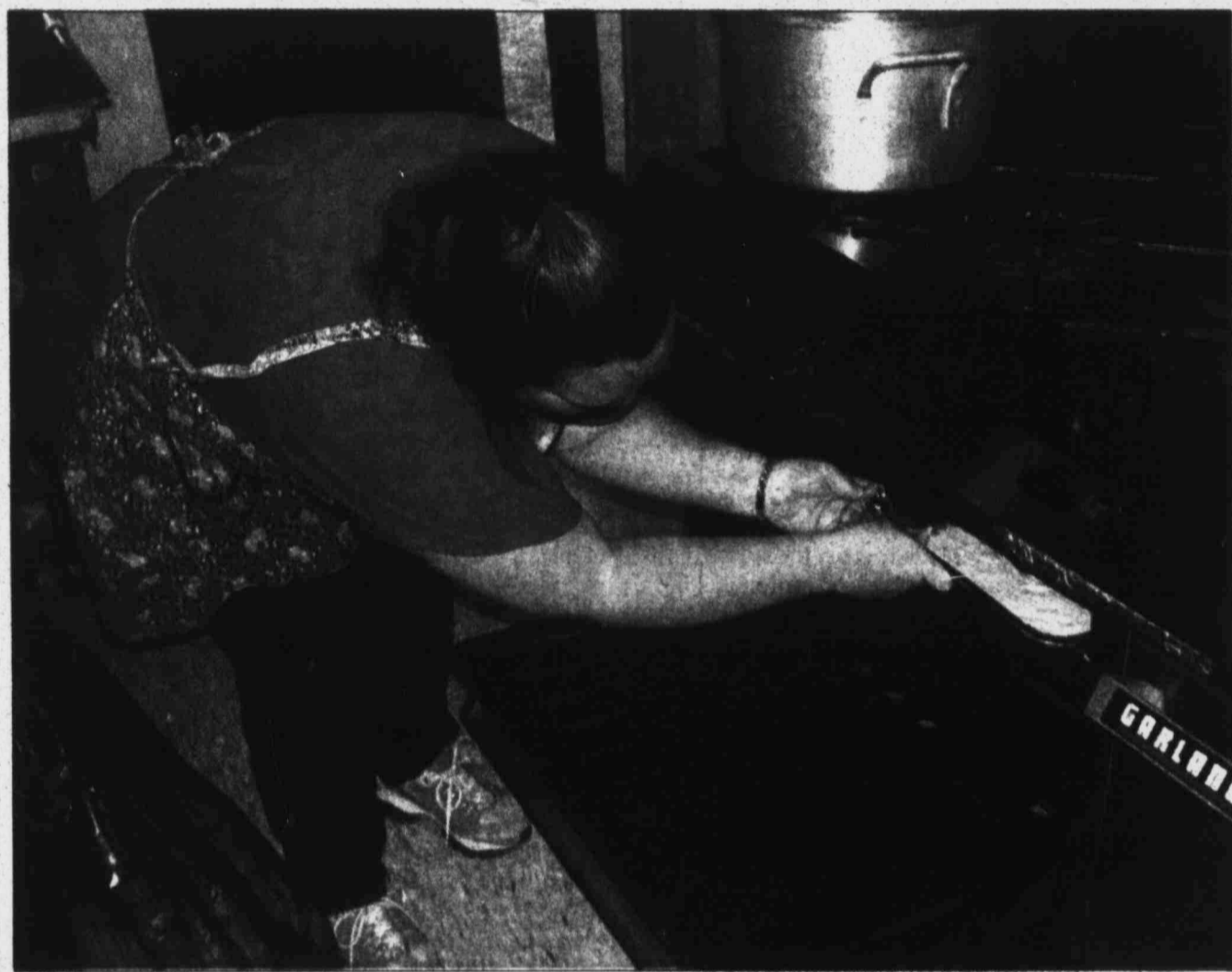
While the exhibit opening and parade watch celebration are free of charge, the museum accepts donations and has a calendar available for purchase. "We had several people ask us for another calendar, so we selected 12 photographs from the museum archives and had a calendar made," Schreccengost said. The calendars are available for a \$10 donation.

Following the Christmas parade, which begins at 5:30 p.m., luminaries will light the way from the museum to the First United Methodist Church for its annual opening night of the Living Christmas Tree.

While this concert performance, featuring an original play, "Hope Comes Home," written by Sue Partee, is free of charge to the public. Tickets are

See **MUSEUM**, Page 3A

SERVING UP A THANKSGIVING TRADITION



Above, Salvation Army volunteer Bessie Flores puts a pan of her famous cornbread in the oven Wednesday morning in preparation for the local charitable organization's annual Thanksgiving meal. Bessie was one of many volunteers who donated their time. At right, Billye McLaughlin helps peel potatoes for the meal, which is set for 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Thursday. Below, 6-year-old Hannah Jensen gets a head start on packaging cranberry sauce. She is the daughter of Debbie and Brian Jensen.

HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins



Giving thanks

Turkey Day is just the start for Salvation Army

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

What do a pigskin, kettles and angels have in common? Why, the Salvation Army, of course.

As the local Salvation Army finishes up its community Thanksgiving meal, it might seem like a time for them to kick back and put their feet up for a little while, but that's not the holiday reality for the local charity, which is more concerned with "kicking off" their annual Kettle Campaign, the ongoing Angel Tree program and Christmas Dinner.

"The official kickoff for the Kettle Campaign is always Thanksgiving Day during the Dallas Cowboys' halftime show," said Capt. Russ Kenney. "We'll hold our own kickoff here in Big Spring the day after Thanksgiving at Wal-Mart. Our brass band is going to be there from 10 a.m. until 10:30 a.m."

"We'll have our canteen there and we'll be serving complimentary hot coffee and cocoa. It will be an excellent

See **GIVING**, Page 3A

"When we take the toys to a family and there's nothing in the house for Christmas and the child gets a bike, it's just chaotic with excitement. That's what it's all about..."



Capt. Russ Kenney

Returning her blessings

For 48 years, Lela Hansen has been giving of herself

By **KENDRA WISS**
Staff Writer

For more than 48 years she has given her gift of service. Lela Hansen came to Big Spring in 1956 and joined St. Paul Lutheran Church shortly after. "We didn't even have a building then," said Lela. "We only had a building program, so I've seen it grow from the ground up."

Each year, Lela donates the floral arrangement in the sanctuary for the church's Thanksgiving service.

"It's part of my giving thanks, for all my blessings," she said. "I enjoy doing it and I think it adds to the Thanksgiving service."

Lela is also involved in many

other ministries of the church, such as making calls to newcomers, those who are ill and those in the hospital.

"Lela is our special treasure. This is one of the many acts of service she does during the year," said church member Suzanne Haney.

Haney said the worship service scheduled at 10 a.m. Thanksgiving Day is special and Lela's gift makes it even moreso. "Lela does this because she loves God and she loves people. We are thankful to have her in our church."

Lela has been a Lutheran all her life. Her ancestors were church builders in the 1840s.

"My grandfather and great-



Lela Hansen puts the finishing touches on the Thanksgiving arrangement she has donated to St. Paul Lutheran Church. She has been a member of the church since 1956 and donates a special arrangement every year.

grandfather built the first Lutheran church in Round Top, having 3-foot-thick adobe walls, lined with cedar inside.

See **BLESSINGS**, Page 3A

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Obituaries

Bertie Faye Shaw



Bertie Faye Shaw, 74, of Knott died Monday, Nov. 22, 2004, in a Big Spring hospital after a 50-year battle with diabetes.

Bertie and her husband, Larry, built one of the most successful cotton farming businesses in the Southwest. Their business was featured in National Geographic and the National Cotton Farming magazines and received numerous awards and recognitions throughout the United States.



She was born July 25, 1930, in Ackerly and married Larry Z. Shaw, June 26, 1948, in Ackerly. They were married for 56 years. Bertie and Larry built a business together, raised a family together and gave themselves to their community to help build a better future.

However, it is their love and devotion for one another that their children most remember. Even in the final days of Bertie's struggle with failing health, the love and spark that brought her and Larry together still burned brightly. Their life together was not merely a relationship but a love story that those who knew them will long remember.

Bertie was intensely devoted to her family and enjoyed time with her loved ones more than any activity in her life. She was an avid reader and a strong believer in education. Bertie insured that her children and grandchildren received a college education by offering both moral and financial support.

Bertie was an amazing story teller and had a quick humor, unique to Texas women seasoned by hard weather, hard financial times and a overwhelming hope that tomorrow could be a better day. She was a devoted mother and inspired her children to be all they could be and to never give up, no matter what the challenge. She taught her children that it was important to follow the truth and not the crowd.

She was a lifelong resident of the Knott community and a member of the First Baptist Church of Knott, where she served as a missions and Sunday school teacher. Bertie enjoyed scrapbooking, interior design, gardening, reading, traveling, ceramic arts and politics.

Survivors include her husband, Larry Shaw of Knott; one son, the Hon. Larry Don Shaw, state representative District 69 Big Spring 1980-1990, of Austin; one daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Eric Johnson, teachers at Albuquerque High School in Albuquerque, N.M.; two sisters, Laura Gene Lawson of Albuquerque, N.M., and Wanda Stump of Bastrop; three grandsons, Shawn Lepard and his wife, Stephanie, of Guymon, Okla., Chris Lepard and girlfriend, Sally Partridge, of Austin and Joe Romero of Albuquerque, N.M.; three granddaughters, Brooke, Brittany and Aubrey Johnson of Albuquerque, N.M.; and three great-grandchildren, Kristyn Lepard and Rachel and Aubrey Jamieson, all of Guymon, Okla.

She is also survived by beloved brothers and sisters-in-law, Verl and Iona Shaw, Franklin and Starlee Shaw, Roosevelt and Patsy Shaw, Delano Shaw, Ronald and Jennie Shaw, Nelda and Dick Tobias, Joann and J.E. Peugh; and many nieces and nephews. Pallbearers will be Raymond Martinez, Lloyd Robinson, Pat Gaskins, Robert Rivera, Kenneth Schulke and Coy Blocker.

Honorary pallbearers will be Jimmy Sujoso, Charles Santos, Robert Nichols, Danny Stump, Jimmy Hinson, Chris Lepard, Shawn Lepard, Joe Romero and Alfred Herring.

The family suggests memorials to the First Baptist Church of Knott, 7107 W. FM 846, Knott 79748 or the American Diabetes Association, Midland Office, 10 Desta Drive, Suite 220E, Midland 79705.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, 2004, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

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

Paid obituary

Charles 'Chuck' Meacham

Charles "Chuck" Meacham, 74, of Junction, formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday in Junction. Services will be 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be in Trinity Memorial Park.

Weather

Thursday night - Partly cloudy. Lows near 40. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Friday Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. West winds 10 to 20 mph.
Friday night - Mostly cloudy. Lows near 40.
Saturday - Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.
Saturday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.
Sunday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.
Sunday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Take note

CORNERSTONE CHURCH MEMBERS ARE WRAPPING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS at the Big Spring Mall Friday and Saturday as a fund-raiser for the building fund. Call 816-3082 for more information.

CHRIST'S COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP YOUTH FUND-RAISER from 6:30 a.m. until noon Friday at Wal-Mart. Baked goods for sale with free coffee and hot chocolate. All donations accepted. Call Laura Hughes at 263-8473 for more information.

SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER IS SELLING KRISPY KREME DONUTS for \$6 per dozen as a Relay For Life fund-raiser. Orders are due Wednesday and may be picked up Dec. 3. Also, pink ribbon car magnets are available for \$2.50. Call Amber Rich at 268-4960 for more information.

LETTERS FROM SANTA ARE AVAILABLE FROM SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER as a Relay For Life fund-raiser. Each letter will have a North Pole postmark for a \$5 donation. Contact Amber Rich at 268-4960 for more information.

GARAGE AND BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT CIRCLE SIX RANCH IN STANTON is set for Dec. 3-4 at the ranch, which is located six miles north of Stanton on Highway 137. Call 432-458-3467 for more information.

AN ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT TRISTIN RANGEL, son of Ione and Tim Rangel, has been set up at the Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union, 2204 Gregg St., account No. 529903, to help with medical expenses. He has been diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia and is in a Lubbock hospital.

BUFFALO COUNTRY FINA is giving away an autographed photograph of Michael Jordan, along with two other Jordan magazine covers, to help with medical costs of 12-year-old Sage Gibson, son of Big Spring Junior High School assistant principal Tommy Gibson, who has been diagnosed with a tumor. For an update on Gibson's condition visit www.carepages.com/ServeCarePage?cpn=Sagepage&niq=923947. For more information about the Buffalo Fina fund-raiser call 267-5050.

THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL STEADHAM is in need of help to pay for his funeral expenses. Friends of the family say he had no insurance and died suddenly. An account has been established at the Cosden Federal Credit Union for those wishing to help the family. For more information, call 264-0838 or 264-2600.

THE BIG SPRING WEST TEXAS GIRL SCOUTS COUNCIL SENIOR TROOP 266 is collecting stuffed animals for Scenic Mountain Medical Center's emergency room. A collection box for the stuffed toys will be at Seams-So-Nice in the Big Spring Mall. Or call Laurie Peterson at 432-267-9773.

A FUND TO HELP WITH EXPENSES FOR THE FAMILY OF MICKEY EMERSON OF FORSAN has been set up at State National Bank, 901 Main St. Mickey was involved in a motorcycle accident Sept. 23 and is in intensive care in a Lubbock hospital. Contact his mother, Carolyn Winbush, at 263-1178 with any questions.

AN ORIGINAL SUE BAGWELL PAINTING will be given away in April at the Heritage Museum. Contact the museum at 267-8288 for more details.

Support groups

THURSDAY
Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m.

The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. Call 263-8273 for more information.

Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY
AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon open Big Book study meeting, 8-9 p.m.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY
Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

FRIDAY
Thanksgiving Day holiday. Most area businesses and city and county offices are closed. Check with a specific group or club about meeting today.

SATURDAY
Team Rustic Circle, an amateur paintball team, meets for practice between 3 p.m. and dusk at the Moss Creek Lake paintball facility. The public is always invited, whether to participate or just spectate. For more information contact Rick Boiles at 264-2395 or 393-5246.
Downtown Revitalization Association Musical Review 7 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.
Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY
Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

TUESDAY
Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.

WEDNESDAY
Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY
Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
"Oliver," a community-wide musical production, begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School auditorium. Tickets are \$5 at the door.
Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.
The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

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AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon open Big Book study meeting, 8-9 p.m.

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SUNDAY
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CARLO'S
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Serving the best Mexican Food in West Texas
Friday, November 26
Open Friday
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A portion of our sales for Friday is donated to the United Way - so have a great meal and help out 15 local agencies!
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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

The Living Christmas Tree

First United Methodist Church
December 4th & 5th, 2004
8:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary
Dress Rehearsal Open To Public
Saturday, December 4th at 2:00 P.M.
Tickets available in church office
(Free) Limited Seating Nursery available

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GIVING

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Marsh the Featt Big S Contact mail life@big or call 2

Dr & La FM



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Salvation Army Capts. Linda and Russ Keeney set up the Senior Angel Tree in the foyer of the Big Spring Herald as the Corps gets ready for the holiday season. The Angel Tree program helps provide gifts for low income children and seniors that might not otherwise have something to open on Christmas morning.

BLESSINGS

Continued from Page 1A

"An early pastor even created a pipe organ out of cedar and they still use it on special occasions," she said.

Lela noted that Gov. James Stephen Hogg's daughter, Ima, helped to have the church restored a few years ago.

"I'm glad the church is still in use," she added.

Lela married Halvard Hansen in 1943 and they had two children, Terry and Toni. Halvard was killed in an auto accident in 1983. Although she says the loss was difficult, she relied on her faith, her family and her friends to get her through.

"I travel a lot and have lots of friends," said Lela. "It's hard, but life goes on."

Lela does travel — around the world. She has been to China, Egypt, Europe and the Holy Lands, just to name a few places.

"I still haven't been to New Zealand, Australia, the Galapagos Islands or Peru, so I still have a few places to go," she said with a

smile.

She often draws inspiration for her arrangements from her travels and during times she least expects it.

"I have lots of inspiration at night, just being quiet and listening," she said. "I grew up with flowers and gardens, so I guess it's just a talent I have."

This year's arrangement, called "To the Glory of God," is gathered mostly from nature.

"I always use at least two pumpkins," said Lela. "This year I also used dried leaves, some from my own red maple tree, apples, ornamental pumpkins, grapefruit, miniature and colorful corn, Bordach apples, eggplant and pumpkins from fellow church members."

Lela said she always asks God for guidance when building her arrangements. She credits her strong faith and longing to do service to the way she was raised.

"I was brought up in the church and live to serve in it," she said.

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

GIVING

Continued from Page 1A

chance for people to come by and hear some Christmas music and get in the holiday spirit."

Keeney said the Kettle program — complete with holiday bell ringers — is the Salvation Army's most important fund-raiser.

"It's our biggest fundraiser throughout the entire year," he said. "Not only does it help support our Christmas programs, it also helps carry all of our other programs throughout the year. We use the funds foremost for Christmas and making sure we can pay all of the bills throughout the Christmas season, which means the Angel Tree program, dinners and any other expenses. If there's anything left when it's over, we put it back into the other programs we do all year long."

While local bell ringers have already begun their

holiday task, Keeney said efforts to make the annual Angel Tree program a success are just getting under way.

"The Angel Tree program was a little slow getting started," said Keeney. "I think a lot of people we're focusing on the elections, but after the elections were over it sure picked up. We have more than 350 children on the Angel Trees. The sign up for the program is over and the trees are up. There are trees located at the Big Spring Mall, Wal-Mart — and there's a special senior's tree at the Big Spring Herald. We'll also have an Angel Tree at Scenic Mountain Medical Center after Dec. 1."

Keeney said participating in the Angel Tree program is simple and can make a tremendous difference in the life of a local child or senior that might not get a gift this Christmas.

"If anyone is interested in participating, all they need to do is go to one of the Angel Trees and pick up an angel," said Keeney. "It's a card with the child's age and sex and a short Christmas list of what that child would like. They go and buy whatever they would like to give the child for Christmas. Then they can either return the angel and gifts to the location where they chose the angel card, or they can drop them off at our office

located at 811 W. Fifth Street. We'll package the gifts and get them to the children and seniors on Dec. 21, which is the distribution date for this year.

"This program is extremely special to me. Of all the programs that we do, this one is my heart because of the young people it helps," said an obviously emotional Keeney. "When we take the toys to a family and there's nothing in the house for Christmas and the child gets a bike, it's just chaotic with excitement. That's what it's all about, helping a child see somebody out there cares."

And while it might seem these two programs

would be more than enough to keep Keeney and his wife, Linda, busy, think again.

"We're also preparing for our Christmas meal right now," said Keeney. "We're going to do that a little differently this year. We're going to present the Christmas meal on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Salvation Army lodge located at 308 Aylesford. In the past we've done the Christmas meal on Christmas Day, but because of consideration for the volunteers and their families, we decided to hold it a day early this year."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Lee Priest, 80, died Monday. Memorial Services are at 3:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Charles "Chuck" Meacham, 74, died Wednesday. Services will be 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be in Trinity Memorial Park

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1A

needed because there is a limited number of seats available in the church's auditorium.

Call the museum at 267-8255 for more information about the parade watch and Winters Blessings exhibit opening.

Contact the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry, at 267-6394 for tickets to the Living Christmas Tree production, which is Dec. 4 and Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. A dress rehearsal performance at 2 p.m. Dec. 4 does not require a ticket to attend.

Marsha Sturdivant is the Features Editor for the Big Spring Herald. Contact her through the e-mail address life@bigspringherald.com or call 263-7331.

Scenic Mountain Medical Group
Working Together For Your Health
Being home to the areas best medical care is no small task.
It takes a team of dedicated professionals, from doctors to administrative staff and everyone in between.
Living, Practicing and Supporting Big Spring and Surrounding Areas.

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- Family Health • Senior Care • OB/BYX Care • Surgical Services

John S. Farquhar, M.D. Family Practice Board Certified
Fakhar "Frank" Ijaz, M.D. Internal Medicine Board Certified
Erich L. Byerly, M.D. OB/GYN Board Certified
Cynthia A. Rutledge, D.O. Family Practice Board Certified
Alan Abel, M.D. General Surgery Board Certified
Susan D. Roberts, D.O. Family Practice Board Certified
Juan Carlos Gonzalez, M.D. Internal Medicine Board Certified
Keith Ledford, M.D. OB/GYN Board Certified
Robert McFaul, M.D. General Surgery Board Certified
Alfonso Preciado, M.D. General Surgery Board Certified

For More Information Please Call
432-267-5531
Happy & Healthy Holidays!

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Thanksgiving is truly a time to give thanks

As we look to the sky today in its beautiful West Texas splendor ... as we watch the leaves turn color and gently float to the ground in advance of winter ... as we gather 'round the dinner table to share food with friends and family, let us give pause.

Thanksgiving is truly a time to give thanks ... for our good fortune, our friends, our family and so many other things in life we enjoy.

But this day is more than turkey and dressing and cranberry sauce, and it is more than the football games television networks pitch at is as "part of the Thanksgiving tradition." And it is certainly more than a day off.

What is the Thanksgiving tradition?

In reality, its tradition lies within each of us, doesn't it?

Let's not forget as we give thanks for the various blessings we have received in life, that there are those in our community less fortunate.

To that end, let us give thanks for the opportunity to help others in the same manner we would want to be helped, were the shoe on the other foot.

From our extended family at the *Herald*, we wish that today we could all understand the true meaning of Thanksgiving and experience the warmth and joy of sharing our wealth with others.

Happy Thanksgiving.

ADDRESSES

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Big Spring, 79720
(432) 268-9909

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE — 264-2200.
BEN LOCKHART, COUNTY JUDGE — Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.

EMMA BROWN — Home: 267-2649.

JERRY KILGORE — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

BILL CROOKER — Home: 263-2566.

GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0269; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

RUSS MCEWEN, MAYOR — Home: 263-0907; Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413.

GREG BIDDISON — Home: 267-6009; Work (Greg's Grill): 267-7121.

W.A. "WOODY" JUMPER — Home: 263-0782; Work (BSSH): 267-8216.

STEPHANIE HORTON — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361.

JOANN STAULCUP — Home: 263-4980.

GLORIA McDONALD — Home: 263-4835.

• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
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Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
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Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **PETE LANEY**
State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0604

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
401 Austin, suite 101

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we restore our lives, Lord, through your love and our faith.

Amen

Religious overtones of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday, a time to reflect on the many blessings bestowed on this great nation while enjoying the company of family and friends. It's hard to imagine that anyone could consider the celebration controversial or feel the need to censor Thanksgiving discussions among schoolchildren. But when it comes to political correctness, no holiday is safe. Having turned Christmas and Hanukkah into amorphous winter festivals, now some school districts want to rob Thanksgiving of its historical roots. Apparently some school officials worry that the religious overtones of Thanksgiving might represent a chink in the wall secularists insist separates church and state, so they proscribe any mention of Who it is the nation thanks on this day.

In Maryland, the Capital News Service recently reported, "students are free to thank anyone they want while learning about the 17th-century celebration of Thanksgiving — as long as it isn't God."

George Washington had no such qualms when he proclaimed the first day of thanksgiving in 1789: "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor." In 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." In the midst of civil war, President Lincoln thought



LINDA CHAVEZ

the day should be used to "fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union." And even President George W. Bush soberly reminded guests who came to the White House last week to witness the mock pardoning of the "First Turkey" that "in this nation of many faiths, we ask that the Almighty God continue to bless us and to watch over us."

Religious faith is at the heart of Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims were Puritan dissenters who left England as a form of religious protest against the Anglican Church, which they felt retained too much of the pomp and ceremony of Roman Catholicism. After surviving a brutal first winter in their new colony of Plymouth, the Pilgrims celebrated the harvesting of their first crops by giving thanks to the Creator Whose Providence they believed was responsible. But that part of the Thanksgiving story is largely missing from most public school curricula. Teachers may encourage schoolchildren to mimic the Pilgrims' dress — wearing black hats, stiff collars, big buckles and white leggings — or recreate the banquet the colonists enjoyed, but they forbid them from acknowledging the true roots of the holiday.

Ironically, some school guides devote more time to teaching about the origin of the Wampanoag traditions of thanksgiving than they do the Puritans'. Several guides mentioned the importance these Native Americans attached to giving thanks to the Creator for the crops they grew in each season.

Apparently it is permissible to teach about the Indians' belief in a Divine Being, just not a Judeo-Christian one. In one online teachers' guide, I found references to Kiehtan, the Wampanoag name for the Creator, as well as lesson plans that encouraged students to thank "Mother Earth" for her bounty. Indeed, many of the study guides and teachers' resources available online placed greater emphasis on the role Indians played in the first Thanksgiving than that of the Pilgrims. While most of the guides depicted the Indians giving thanks to the Creator, the Pilgrims were largely confined to giving thanks to the Wampanoag for saving them from the ravages of the harsh Massachusetts winter.

No one is suggesting children should be forced to pray as part of their public school Thanksgiving celebrations, but they should not be denied learning an important lesson in American history. The founders of this nation were a deeply religious people, and Americans remain among the most religious people in the world. Religious faith has guided the development of our democracy and imbues our leaders still with a belief in the worth of every man, woman and child. When we sit down to our Thanksgiving feasts, we should remember and thank God for that.

Linda Chavez is the author of the new book, "Betrayal: How Union Bosses Shake Down Their Members and Corrupt American Politics." To find out more about Linda Chavez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I am thankful that we can write to the Herald and give our opinions and discuss our beliefs.

We often see programs concerning identity theft on television and it does happen in West Texas.

I have been to clinics in Midland where they call me by another person's name, but have my insurance number on papers. They would have another person's age on my papers and one time had my height listed on papers that showed me six inches shorter than I am.

There should be more information on our insurance cards or Medicare cards. My age is listed on my card, but not my height. Also, I have a rare blood type and it should be on my insurance or Medicare card, too.

Maybe changes of this sort would stop identity theft.

SUE ELLEN WHITE-HOWELL
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

In recent days West Texas and most of the state have received abundant rainfall. This marvelous gift brings new life to all of nature and to all of us.

We are always asking our God for his heavenly gift, and our Lord has blessed us with marvelous rains. Now is the time to say thank you.

I strongly recommend that all the families and communities of West Texas take time in our churches and homes on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 28, to offer special prayers of gratitude to our God for the wonderful rains we have received.

It pleases our Heavenly Father when we ask for favors — rain — as this is a sign of our dependency on God and the trust we place in our loving God. What pleases God more, though, is when we take time to say thank you.

REV. MICHAEL D. PFEIFER
BISHOP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO

TO THE EDITOR:

We would like to thank the students and their families for participating in "Fall In Love With Reading" Family Reading Night.

We would like to thank the community for its involvement in making this night a great success. A special thanks to our readers that read to our students and their families on this special night. They included: Michael Downes, Rey Villarreal, Karen McIntyre, Bobby Waldrop, Sheriff Dale Walker, Donna Ammonett, Kelly

Beauchamp, Brian Jensen, Officer Perez, George Bancroft and Arthur Valdez.

We would also like to thank the merchants of Big Spring that donated items and certificates, as well as the Washington Elementary PTO, Anne Mitchell, Dorothy Downey and Helen Larson

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL STAFF
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Have you heard in the news the past month about a British aid worker named Margaret Hassan? She married an Iraqi and has lived in Iraq the past 30 years, dedicating her life to bettering the life of the impoverished Iraqi people. I'm sure you heard that she was kidnapped about a month ago by these so called "insurgents." I heard today on the news that a video has been found that shows her execution.

First of all, I would like to change the name of these "insurgents" to "The soulless," for that is what they truly are. They have no souls. How can you justify the brutal murder of a woman who brought aid to the hungry, the homeless, the unloved, and raised money for hospitals in Baghdad so they would have needed medical equipment? She stayed when many left. She endured the regime of Saddam Hussein, lasted through the Gulf War and this war. When other Westerners fled, she held her head up high and firmly declared, "I'm staying. My people need me." They were her people. She loved them and they loved her. When she was kidnapped a crowd of Iraqis protested in the streets of Baghdad for her immediate release.

It's not her people who killed her. It's these ghouls whose battle cry is "jihad." This is not true Islam. The Muslims I knew back in Missouri at my university were people of peace. People who loved life and respected all living things. These snakes that we see releasing video tapes of beheadings and executions are not true Muslims.

I believe in Karma. It will come back and bite them. I just hope I'm there to witness it.

Now, one more topic that has me enraged today. The American Marine who NBC camera crews caught shooting an unarmed injured insurgent. My view on this one might surprise you. Usually I'm a pacifist, but not on this one.

First I believe that these camera crews need to get the heck out of Iraq and let our men do there job. Mind you, I'm not a big supporter

of us being over there in the first place, but by God, I support our troops.

Do you know what our troops have been through in the last few days in Fallujah? They have been killed by booby trapped bodies. They have been attacked and killed by injured men who they thought were too weak to move, let alone shoot back at them.

The young Marine in question had been shot in the head the day before. Can you blame him for being just a little jumpy? How do you know who the enemy is and if the enemy is harmless?

I do not condone needless violence and I'm not saying what this young man did was right. All I'm saying is that war is hell and things are going to happen. The enemy isn't abiding by the "rules of combat," so how can we?

The camera crews caught this all on tape and now this young man could be put on trial for doing what he thought was right to keep himself and his unit safe. It's wrong. It's just all wrong.

I think the world has gone mad. Does every generation feel like this, or just mine?

Did you hear about an Army reservist who served in the first Gulf War and has been out of the Army for eight years? He was just called back to active duty. How can they do that? Does anybody else think that this is nuts?

I thought Bush said there wasn't going to be a draft. Sure sounds close to a draft to me. I say we send all the diplomats in suits that sit behind desks over there to fight. Let's see how jumpy they get. I bet old Donald Rumsfeld would be shooting at anything that moved too.

KATHLEEN S. ROSE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to the quote from the sheriff that "the calls have not increased from the county" concerning the stray dog issue; As a resident of Sand Springs who has experienced untold damage to property and my animals, I know that it is a waste of my time to call the sheriff's office.

I have called several times when the carnage to my property was extreme and they did not help at all.

I also called when there were problems with dogs around the Lakeway store. The sheriff's department said it wasn't their

See LETTERS, Page 5A

LETTERS

Continued from 1

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I would guess ers in the cc gotten the same over the year would conclude are not calling they know they be helped.

And a message McClellan: O starting at 5 p dog man in Sa offers take out with meath sausage and a It is very goo for one person is a taste of It Spring.

DEB SA

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanksgiving special day, a day we give thank blessings, our friends.

And this Thanksgiving I would like time to say to some very staff — the kind staff at Scenic Medical Center

I also want to Koop and Sh volunteers at for the care and I received wh the emergency was admitted tal.

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LETTERS

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problem.

I would guess that others in the county have gotten the same response over the years. So, I would conclude that they are not calling because they know they would not be helped.

And a message for Bill McClellan: On Fridays, starting at 5 p.m., the hot dog man in Sand Springs offers take out baked ziti with meatballs and sausage and a great salad. It is very good and a lot for one person. At least it is a taste of Italian in Big Spring.

DEBBIE RUPARD
SAND SPRINGS

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanksgiving is a special day, a day in which we give thanks for all our blessings, our family and friends.

And this Thanksgiving, I would like to take the time to say thank you to some very special people — the kind and caring staff at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

I also want to thank Drs. Koop and Shroff and the volunteers at the hospital for the care and kindness I received when I went to the emergency room and was admitted to the hospital.

In my eight-day stay, I

don't think I saw but one or two unsmiling faces.

I wish I could name all the members of the staff I met one by one, but I can't. I just hope they read this letter and know that they are all God's special angels who ease the pain of others. It's a job they do so very well.

I also want to thank those that sent the beautiful flowers.

I almost hated to leave the hospital because I felt like I was leaving friends. Of course, there is no place like home.

Happy Thanksgiving to all my new friends.

LANA F. ANGUIANO
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the citizens of Howard County and West Texas who all made the special effort to attend the regional hearings concerning the possible closure/consolidation of state hospitals. It was not a small chore to travel to San Angelo or Lubbock on a Wednesday or Thursday evening.

I was touched by the words spoken by customers, county judges, sheriffs and interested citizens who all made the long trip to speak their minds. Although they brought different needs to the table, one common thread joined them together:

they were all people who really care about mental health issues. And they recognized the importance of using Big Spring State Hospital as a quality mental health resource for treatment and recovery of serious psychological illnesses.

So, on behalf of all of the people Big Spring State Hospital serves and the hospital's employees and their families, thank you all for taking the time to participate in this important process. I am proud to be part of such a great community of West Texans.

EDWARD MOUGHON
CEO
BIG SPRING STATE HOSPITAL

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to thank the students and staff of Marcy Elementary for a tremendous effort and a very successful result in raising funds for Relay for Life. Individuals at the school made their contributions through the "Links" program.

Special thanks go to Alvina Arguello, who kept the kids and project organized and to Carie

Dunnam, the principal at Marcy, for her support and guidance.

It makes me proud to see these students and teachers put their hearts and so much effort into this very worthwhile cause.

CINDY NEW
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to address several recent letters to the editor from members of the community.

First on the list is Boosie Weaver's letter. He has some great ideas about encouraging people to move to Big Spring. What we need is industry and manufacturing in this country. People move to where the jobs are. Next time you buy something from overseas think about that.

I remember my mother quoting (I believe it was Stalin), "An American will sell you the rope to hang himself with." I never heard anything more true. I can't even find some things that are made in America any more. All of us need to write to our elected offi-

cials to demand fair trade practices. The main thing all of us can do to help our country and community is to buy American made products. That is certainly something to consider now that the Christmas season is upon us.

I can see why Janie Creel was offended by a recent column by Molly Ivins. I personally enjoy many of Ivins' columns. That is why the editorial page is called the opinion page.

Regarding Allene Bohannon's letter about Sen. Specter, I believe Arlen Specter should be allowed to become chairman of the Senate Judiciary committee because he has earned it. As I understand it, he is the ranking senior senator and that is the rule. The rule should not be changed simply because you disagree with someone's opinion. I respect her right to call and write her elected officials. In fact, I commend her for that. I suspect that Sen. Specter is trying to keep things country aligned in the center where it belongs.

This country is deeply

divided on social, moral and religious values, I believe that both political parties have used these issues to divide us even further for their own political purposes. I believe we should all work together to make this country strong. I personally believe that we should work to make abortion legal and rare. Do the conservatives want their taxes raised to pay for all the abused, neglected and unwanted children in this country?

Gays should have the right to civil unions. These people are American citizens after all.

Most of us believe in the right to keep and bare arms, but you don't need a semi-automatic assault weapon.

Most of us believe the 10 commandments should be in schools and government buildings. I truly hope and pray that this country can come together in these common sense measures.

Do not let the radical right or the radical left divide us.

CAROL SMITH
BIG SPRING

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MERRY & BRIGHT HOLIDAY WISHES

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Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Readers: Today is Thanksgiving. If you know someone who is alone today, please invite him or her to share your Thanksgiving dinner, and make the occasion truly special.

While many of us have a great deal to be thankful for, some of us are less fortunate. We hope all of you are able to find something for which you are grateful, no matter how small. If you can't think of anything, the following prayer may give you some suggestions.

Thanksgiving Prayer
(Author Unknown)
We come to this table today, O Lord, humble and thankful and glad.

We thank Thee first for the great miracle of life, for the exaltation of being human, for the capacity to love.

We thank Thee for joys both great and simple —

For wonder, dreams and hope;

For the newness of each day;

For laughter and song and a merry heart;

For compassion waiting within to be kindled;

For the forbearance of friends and the smile of a stranger;

For the arching of the earth and trees and heavens and the fruit of all three;

For the wisdom of the old;

For the courage of the young;

For the promise of the child;

For the strength that comes when needed;

For this family united

here today.

Of those to whom much is given, much is required. May we and our children remember this. Amen.

Dear Annie: Please remind your readers once again to Keep Kids Alive Drive 25/E. This is a proactive measure to mobilize citizens around the country to respond to the problem of speeding in their neighborhoods. Working with police departments, neighborhood groups, schools, municipal departments, civic groups and families, we hope to create safer streets for pedestrians and motorists alike.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, almost 175,000 pedestrians died on U.S. roadways between 1975 and 2001. Local roads, the streets right in front of most of our homes, are over twice as dangerous as highways per mile driven. Pedestrians are also three times more likely to die when struck by a vehicle traveling 30 mph vs. one traveling at 25 mph.

For the sake of children and adult pedestrians and their families, I ask communities around the country to join this campaign by visiting our Web site at www.KeepKidsAliveDrive25.org. — Tom Everson, Executive Director

Dear Tom Everson: We are pleased once again to remind our readers not to drive over 25 mph when traveling through residential neighborhoods. It's worth those extra few miles-per-hour to save a

life.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have a friend who is "all about me" and getting worse. "Edna" can turn any conversation back to something about her, even if it's completely off the topic. Neither giving her attention nor ignoring her seems to help.

Edna's husband takes the path of least resistance and does nothing. We care about Edna and would like to help instead of avoiding her, but we fear losing her friendship if we confront her. We'd be willing if we thought it might push her to seek help for her narcissism. Do you have any advice? — Indianapolis

Dear Indianapolis: Is one of you willing to take the risk of upsetting her in order to point out, privately, that when she talks so much about herself, she appears self-absorbed and not interested in others? If you do it with genuine concern and let Edna know how much you value her friendship, she may listen.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2004 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The moon transits through sensual Taurus just when there is so much for our senses to enjoy! Appreciate the heavenly sights, smells and tastes. Do go slowly, though, putting half of what you think you can eat on your plate — your whole mood will be better. Tensions building toward the full moon tomorrow make social discourse more interesting.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When family gets together, exaggerations are made, inappropriate roles are designated, and old baggage is laid out on the table. And, somehow, this only makes things wonderful. There's nothing like home, sweet home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). One way to reduce stress is not to give yourself too much time to worry about things. Some adaptation of Parkinson's Law applies: The preparation of Thanksgiving dinner expands to fill the time available for its completion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Loved ones expect something of you that just isn't what you're about now. When you stretch your idea of what others can add to your life, they do the same for you. Infinite possibilities are born out of your faith in someone.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is a saint called Theresa known as the Saint of the Little Ways, who believed in doing the little things well and with great love. This is precisely

the attitude you adopt now, and you flourish because of it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The burden of entertainment falls on you. You've had your share of shenanigans and will share the stories! Someone near and dear serves as a reminder of how not to behave. This person could use your guidance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're the expert, but you still need help. Enroll younger and older folks, as multi-generational efforts are luckiest. At the end of the day you feel competent and it's nice to know that others respect your abilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Verbalize your thanks, and show your appreciation in action. Your gratitude helps others discover their own. Your thoughtfulness and generosity toward those who don't have as much as you make you truly rich.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Family members may get jealous about who goes where and stays with whom. Happiness is adjusting your expectations. Take care of yourself first, and you'll have plenty of

attention to give to others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sure, you're fabulous under pressure, but who needs it? When you refuse to oblige yourself, you'll find yourself in the unique position to give joyfully, voluntarily and more than anyone expects of you!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A glorious realization: There are many ways that you've been provided sustenance for your physical, intellectual and spiritual life — ways you couldn't have dreamed up had you been asked to. Someone out there cares!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). An overriding feeling that the best is yet to come turns out to be more than optimism — it's true. In the meantime, you're doing all you can to give to those who would cry for what you take for granted.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your domestic expertise and easygoing leadership style will create a comfortable vibe for everyone who congregates around you. You're not judging, and no one is judging you. Being relaxed makes romance possible.

Happy Thanksgiving

May All The
Blessings Of The
Season Shine On
You & Yours



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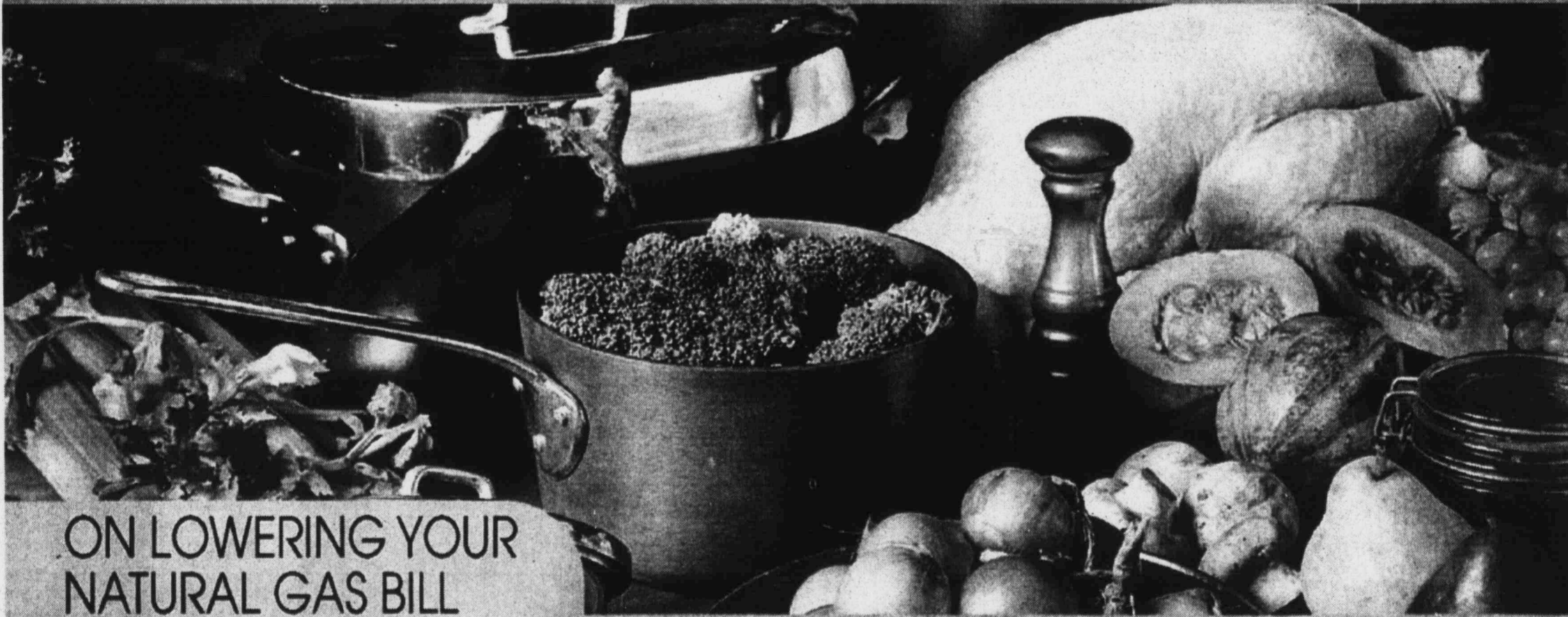
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A substitute's mantra: Just make it through the day

Rather than face a period of unemployment near the holidays, I did what any other irrational, desperate person would do: I became a substitute teacher. Why wouldn't I want to wake every morning without a clue about my day's activities, and then, many times go off to a strange environment full of young, eager minds ready to scheme and plan ways to drive me up the wall?



**DEBBIE
JENSEN**

OK, it's not that bad. Wait a minute, yes, it is, but I'm learning so much from it that I can't give up yet.

Meeting those 15-25 new faces each day — most of them in the wrong seats or pretending to be someone else — has been a real exercise for my brain.

I like to think of it as my own Mt. Everest. Some days, I've climbed near the top, other days I just tried to make sure the whole group stayed alive. Literally.

I taught one class of third graders that averaged 1.5 injuries per

hour. None of them caused by me, of course.

And some of the kids are sweet: I received a thank-you note from one student after I'd only been in the class for about 15 minutes.

I'm not sure if she still felt thankful at the end of the day, but she earned her place as substitute's pet.

I've heard some heart-breaking hard luck stories from the kids: Parents in jail, divorcing before the holidays, sudden death of a relative. Of course, all of these were used to try to get out of doing some assignment, so they are all suspect.

Illnesses, too, run rampant in a class with a sub.

Half the time I think kids are just trying to find out if I know where to find the passes for the nurse's office.

I usually don't. Teachers who are absent do often leave detailed notes, papers, assignments, homework, customs of the classroom, attendance sheets and all,

but they can't be expected to explain everything. And that would take the fun out of it, anyway!

I've had students tell me they "normally" get an hour-long recess. I've had them claim Mrs. Jones "never" gives them homework on Friday, and I've listened patiently while they whine, "We are not supposed to do it this way...."

Most of all, though, I've been amazed at what teachers do. I really never had a clue.

Teachers are some of the most under-appreciated people on the planet. Their job is like being on a reality show where you have one goal to accomplish, and everyone else on the show is there for the sole purpose of thwarting your plans.

There was a girl in one of my elementary classes who was new in town, and she just needed a little extra attention and hugs to get through the day.

Unfortunately, she needed this about every 5 minutes and I had a complete lesson plan to get

through with 18 other kids.

Then there was the kid who arrived with a scowl on his face, slammed down his books and got worse from there. I knew something was bothering him, but the rest of the class couldn't be put on hold while he threw a tantrum. I'm afraid he ended up visiting the principal that afternoon, and I sincerely hope that helped.

Substitutes are actually lucky that, for them, expectations are very low. One teacher's advice was, "Just make it through the day." That became my mantra.

Teachers, on the other hand, face extremely high expectations. They have to create an environment of learning despite frequent interruptions, illnesses real or imagined, angry kids, sad kids, lost school supplies, bullying, ostracism,

individual needs and short attention spans.

Then add testing, faculty meetings, parent conferences, new policies and computer systems.

I can tell from spending time in our local classrooms that the "real teachers" here are doing an incredible job.

They could certainly use more help from parents, more resources and fewer behavior problems. But kids are learning. Against all odds, teachers make magic.

Do you want to know the most surprising part? Students actually like their teachers.

I can tell this because the most frequent greeting I receive when I go to work in the morning is, "Awww yuck! We have a sub!"

Just make it through the day. Just make it through the day. Just make it through the day.

Debbie Jensen is a former member of the Big Spring Herald staff.

As We Count Our Blessings This Thanksgiving Holiday, We Realize That Your Friendship is At The Top Of The List. And For This We Are Truly Thankful.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Eagles Lodge #3188
703 W. 3rd • 263-6862

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Sun.-Wed.-Fri. 806 E. 3rd

Thank You
For Allowing us
To Serve You For
The Past 11 yrs.

We're Here To
Serve You!

Dr. Carrasco & Staff
1501 W. 11th Place • 432-714-4500
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The Downtown Revitalization Association Invites the Community to a Free Christmas Concert

Saturday, November 27th at 7 p.m.
Municipal Auditorium

Director Rhapsody Linda Lindell

Featuring - 'Santa's Frosty Follies'

By - Rhapsody - Big Spring High School

Rhapsody Members - Cody Chandler, Bernadette Flores, Nadia Garcia, Gloria Garibay, Sophia Gonzales, Vianca Green, Erin Griffin, Tapley Holguin, Shameka Houston, Meagan Mattews, Samantha Pattin, Jonathan Smith, Kelli Warrington & Sarah Wilkinson.

&

"Christmas Variety" Program with Audience Participation and Special Guests!!
By - Larry Thibeault & Company

This Concert Has Been Paid For By Donations Of
The Following Downtown Revitalization Members

Alamo Antiques
Big Spring Collision
Dana Baker
Burcham Signs

Allan's Furniture
Boyd's Auto Glass
Big Spring Herald
Steve & Rhonda Campbell

Friends Of Unity
Michelle Futrelle
Graumann's Pump
& Engine Service

Crazy Charlies
Family Medical Center
KBST - Radio Station
Leonard's Prescription Pharmacy

Leonard's Clinic Pharmacy
Paragon Investigative Services
Prescription Services Inc.
Record Shop Antique Mall

Maruca Haas
KBYG - Radio Station
Nannie's Attic
Professional Pharmacy

Spring City Auction
Sparenberg Building
Wells Fargo Bank
Wes-Tex Telephone

State National Bank
JoAnn Staulcup
World Finance
Gold Rush Tobacco



Happy and Safe Holidays to ALL!!!



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High-tech turbo diesel

'05 Mercedes E320 CDI powerful, stingy on fuel

I thought the fuel gauge had malfunctioned. I knew the new high-tech turbo diesel engine in the 2005 Mercedes E320 CDI was fuel efficient, but I never expected results like this. I had driven for nearly a week and the fuel gauge had barely budged below the "full" mark.

highly compressed intake air to ignite the fuel, and operates without spark plugs or other ignition parts.

As a result, the CDI engine is cleaner, quieter and more powerful than conventional mechanically injected diesel engines.

Producing 201 horsepower and 369 lb.-ft.

torque, the CDI has a reported 0-60 mph time of 6.6 seconds with an electronically limited top speed of 130 mph. The interior and amenities are exactly

ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE

Granted, I hadn't taken any lengthy trips, but on average, my weekly "just getting to where I need to be" commutes require at least a half tank of gas. Driving is believing.

Mercedes-Benz, the company that invented the diesel car, recently introduced the highly fuel-efficient diesel version of its successful E-Class sedan. The E320 CDI is now available as a 2005 model.

The turbocharged in-line six-cylinder powerplant features full electronic fuel injection, runs quiet, and achieves lower exhaust emissions than previous diesels.

But here's the best part: Without sacrificing performance, it achieves an EPA fuel economy rating of 27 mpg city, 37 mpg highway (the E320 gasoline engine has a fuel economy rating of 19 mpg city, 27 mpg highway).

CDI stands for Common-Rail Direct Injection — a term denoting the fuel line loop supplying constant, high fuel pressure to each of the six solenoid injector valves.

The diesel engine relies purely on the heat of the

the same as the gas-powered E320 sedan.

The E320 CDI has a base price starting below \$50,000, and it's comfortable, smooth and loaded with luxury — everything you would expect from a Mercedes sedan.

Standard safety features include: Mercedes Tele Aid emergency calling/communications system, dual front airbags with multi-stage deployment, side airbags for both front and rear seats, head protection curtains, Electro-hydraulic Braking System with Brake Assist, anti-theft alarm with engine immobilizer, Electronic Stability Program, night security illumination, and a 4-year/50,000-mile new vehicle warranty with 24 hour roadside assistance.

Standard comfort features include: dual zone climate control, 10-way power front seats with memory, multifunction steering wheel, cruise



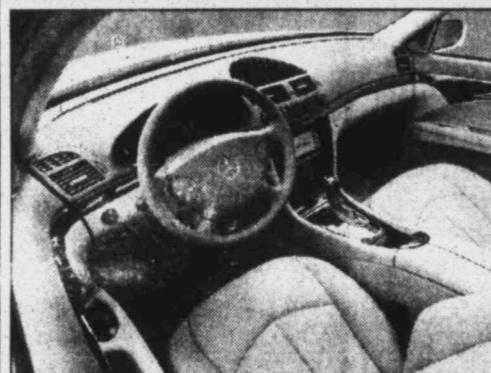
The 2005 Mercedes-Benz E320 CDI sedan.

control, 9-speaker audio system, leather seating, Burl Walnut trim, power windows, auto-dimming rear/driver's side mirrors, infrared remote central locking system and integrated garage door opener, among others

E320 CDI is well worth a test drive for those in the market for a luxury sedan.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for 15 years. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedaily.com.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL: 2005 Mercedes E320 CDI
5-passenger seating
Four-door luxury sedan
PRICE RANGE: \$49,000 - \$59,000
ENGINE: 3.2L turbo I-6 diesel (201 hp/369 torque)
TRANSMISSION: 5-speed auto w/Touch Shift
EPA: 27 mpg city/37 mpg highway
SUSPENSION: Four-wheel independent with upper and lower

channel ABS and Brake Assist.
TURN CIRCLE: 37.4 feet
LENGTH: 189.7 inches
WHEELBASE: 112.4 inches
WIDTH: 71.3 inches
HEIGHT: 57.2 inches
TRACK: 61.4 inches
TIRES: 16-inch
WEIGHT: 3,835 pounds
FUEL TANK: 21.1 gallons/2.4 gallon reserve
CARGO: 15.9 cubic feet
WARRANTY: 4-year/50,000-miles with 24-hour roadside assistance.

control arms, coil springs, gas-charged shocks and stabilizer bar.
STEERING: Rack-and-pinion with speed-sensitive hydraulic power assist.
BRAKES: Four-wheel vented disc, power assisted braking with integral four-



Happy Thanksgiving!

Dr. Joseph Chavez & Staff

1501 W. 11th Place, Suite 205
432-714-4700

Happy Thanksgiving
What better occasion than Thanksgiving to express our gratitude to our loyal customers and wish you all a joyous Holiday Season from
Dee & Lynda Elrod & The Staff at Elrod's Furniture

Happy Thanksgiving!
Glasscock County Co-op Gin
300 CR CO-Op Gin
Garden City, TX. 79739

Gather Round...our AFTER-THANKSGIVING
Is About to Start!
(FRIDAY, NOV. 23 - 7 AM)
Doorbuster Special - 7:00 - 10:00 am Only

- Boxed Christmas Cards.....**SAVE 20% off**
- Free Gift (\$50 Value) with the purchase of \$50.00 or more
- Free Small Gift Bag With Tissue with any \$10.00 purchase
- Holiday Candle Crock **\$5.95** w/any purchase

As Always - Free Gift Wrapping
Suggs Hallmark
Inside Big Spring Mall
263-4444

Let Faith Be Your Guide
Happy Thanksgiving
First Assembly of God
R.T. & Joyce Havender - Pastors
4th & Lancaster • 267-7971

Gather Round....our AFTER-THANKSGIVING SALE
Is about to start!

- Candles
- Christiana Purses
- Silk Flowers
- Unique Gifts
- Scully Leather Coats & Purses

There's More In The Store, But You've Got To See It To Believe It!
Open: Wed.-Fri. 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Sat. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
SPICE
Gifts - Accessories
207 W. 10th 264-6002

Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, December 5th - 1:00 pm**
Hurry! Hurry! Get your tickets for Gale's Gingerbread House. Gale's is conducting one workshop this year, at Dora Roberts Community Center. Tickets are \$15.00 per house.
- **Friday, December 10 Fort Concho (Decorated for Christmas) San Angelo**
Miss Hatties Museum, Eggemeyer's General Store and the Chicken Farm (art) Cost \$25.00 - Lunch is Dutch Treat
Call for reservations 267-8255
- **Sunday, December 12 12:00pm-2:00pm** Dessert at the Potton House
Please join us as we celebrate an old fashion Christmas in Red Dress Tradition. Each room will be decorated in Christmas Spender

Come By The Museum OR Gale's Sweet Shoppe

Kids

By SUZANNE TO
Knight Ridder Ne

If you've ever... a gift from a child know the drill. You ooh. You You tell them yo It's just what yo ed. You'll treasu ever.

And it's not th lying, exactly. back of your mi wonder where y going to put a 3- ocelot made of p mâche.

We know. And why, as we sear gifts kids can m holiday season, to highlight pra items.

Most of these are easy enough preschoolers — supervision, of but still fun for kids.

And there are more ideas whe came from. Jus your local craft search the Inter ideas. Three of favorite sites ar FamilyFun.com KinderArt.com www.crafttown. htm.



KRT photo/Bo Ra

TEASPOON BUD

Dress up a bu with plain teas fancy flea-marl Level of diffic Moderate Time: About utes.

Directions: U hammer, poun spoons flat. Be spoon to make shape, and atta to the vase usi glue dots or a adhesive.

BEADED VOTIVE

Turn a plain die holder into

The Medic Shop

1001 G

263-7

Happy Dr.

1501 W

Kids' gifts: Going beyond the clay ashtray

By SUZANNE TOBIAS

Knight Ridder Newspapers

If you've ever received a gift from a child, you know the drill.

You oooh. You ahhh. You tell them you love it. It's just what you wanted. You'll treasure it forever.

And it's not that you're lying, exactly. But in the back of your mind you wonder where you're going to put a 3-foot-long ocelot made of papier-mâché.

We know. And that's why, as we searched for gifts kids can make this holiday season, we tried to highlight practical items.

Most of these projects are easy enough for preschoolers — with supervision, of course — but still fun for older kids.

And there are hundreds more ideas where these came from. Just browse your local craft store or search the Internet for ideas. Three of our favorite sites are FamilyFun.com, KinderArt.com and www.crafttown.com/kids.htm.

holiday decoration.
Level of difficulty: Easy
Time: About 10 minutes.

Directions: Cut a length of bead ribbon or chrome-plated ball chain that will encircle your container several times. Secure the first inch of chain along the bottom edge with superglue or craft glue dots. Wrap the chain upward and affix the last inch with glue.

PAINTED PICTURE FRAME

If you plan to give a photo as a gift, make it even more special with a hand-painted and personalized frame.

Level of difficulty: Moderate
Time: About an hour, depending on the design. Requires drying time.

Directions: Start with a plain wood frame, available at craft stores. (Some frames are less than \$1.) Using acrylic paints, coat it once or twice with your background color. Let it dry, then have your child add decorative touches. For the name we used letter stickers, available in the scrapbook aisle.

CANVAS PAINTINGS

For the true fan of kid art, consider giving a ready-to-hang canvas masterpiece. Kids love this activity, too, because it makes them feel like real artists.

Level of difficulty: Easy

Time: Varies

Directions: Buy canvas on a wood frame, available for about \$3 at craft stores. Let your child go wild with acrylics, oil paints, pastels or whatever medium she prefers. (To increase the artwork's chances of being displayed, match colors to the recipient's home decor or personal taste.) Don't forget to write the child's name and date on the back of the frame.

artwork.
Level of difficulty: Moderate

Time: About 30 minutes, not including drying time.

Directions: Start with a plain glass or clear acrylic tumbler. Have your child sketch something that will fit onto the glass, or reduce an already-completed piece of artwork using a copy machine. Tape the sketch onto the inside of the glass. (This will be your guide.)

Use glass paints and a paintbrush to color the outside of the glass. The brush end will produce a

broad, thin layer of color. For thinner, bolder lines, dip the opposite end of the brush into the paint and transfer it onto the glass. (NOTE: This takes a steady hand and could be frustrating for young children.)

The paint is fairly forgiving, so if you make a mistake, just wipe it carefully with a damp cloth.

Be sure to tell the recipient not to put the glasses in the dishwasher.

PERSONALIZED CLOCK

Give a plain clock some pizzazz by adding a



KRT photo/Bo Rader, Wichita Eagle

remove the clock face. Cut paper to the same size as the clock face, and let kids decorate it with crayons, markers, stickers, even photos. Add numbers around the edge, using the original clock face as your guide. Slide the new clock face in place and replace cover.

COLORED SOAP

If your kids like slimy goo, this is the perfect craft.

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Time: About 20 minutes.

Directions: Pop the plastic cover off an inexpensive clock and

See GIFTS, Page 10A

*With Warm Wishes
At Thanksgiving*

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

Myers & Smith
Funeral Home & Chapel
301 E. 24th • 267-8288
www.myersandsmith.com

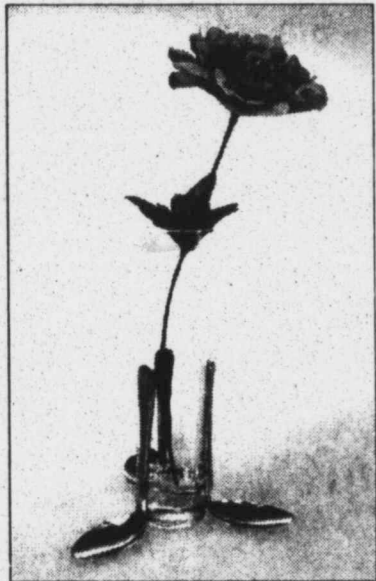
Turkey Time Is Over!
The Fish Is On
ALL YOU CAN EAT CATFISH

Christene's Cafe
W. Hwy. 20 Service Road Coahoma, Texas

After 5 pm All You Can Eat

Catfish.....	\$7.95
Catfish & Shrimp.....	\$8.37
Shrimp.....	\$8.65

394-4584



KRT photo/Bo Rader, Wichita Eagle

TEASPOON BUD VASE

Dress up a bud vase with plain teaspoons or fancy flea-market finds.

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Time: About 30 minutes.

Directions: Using a hammer, pound the teaspoons flat. Bend each spoon to make an L shape, and attach them to the vase using craft glue dots or a clear spray adhesive.



KRT photo/Bo Rader, Wichita Eagle

KID-ART GLASSWARE

Decorate tumblers or glasses with children's

'Tis the Season for Great Gifts

Baker's Rack
\$199

Kitchen Island
\$399

Baker's Rack
\$449

Marble Top
Beacon Hill
Game Table
\$499⁹⁹
Game pieces included

Cherry Jewelry
Armoire
\$99⁹⁹
Also Available
In Oak

Barrier Reef
Game Chair
\$129⁹⁹

Garden District
Vanity Bench
\$69⁹⁹

Barrier Reef
Game Table
\$249⁹⁹
Chess, checkers & backgammon
game pieces included;
also playing cards.

YOUR CHOICE
Oak or Cherry
Curio Cabinet
\$149⁹⁹

Jewelry
Armoire
\$399⁹⁹

Happy Thanksgiving!

**The
Medicine
Shope**

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263-7316

*Happy Thanksgiving
From All Of Us
To All Of You*

**Klassic
Kleaners**

2107 Gregg
263-7004

Happy Thanksgiving!

**Dr. Robert Hayes
& Staff**

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Elrod's
Big Spring's Oldest, Finest, Largest Furniture Store

2309 Scurry 267-8491

NOV 25 2004

GIFTS

Continued from Page 9A

utes, plus drying time.

Directions: Grate a bar of Ivory soap using a standard kitchen grater. Combine the soap bits with water and food coloring. (Use about a fourth-cup of water for each bar of soap.) Then roll the soap "dough" into balls, or shape with cookie cutters. Dry several hours or overnight.

(NOTE: Don't skimp on the food coloring. We used too little, and instead of bright green and red, ours turned out aqua and orange — perfect for the Miami Dolphins fan on your list, but not exactly Christmas.)

BEAD COASTERS

Kids love Perler beads, which come in sets that include beads, pegboard patterns and ironing paper. Coasters are especially simple to make, but you can also make ornaments, picture frames, key chains and more.

Level of difficulty: Easy
Time: As little as 10 minutes or as much as an hour or more, depending on the design. This is a great rainy-day activity and builds fine-motor skills.

Directions: Create your design by placing beads on the pegboard. Follow the patterns or be creative. Using an iron and ironing paper (an adult's job), follow directions on the packaging to fuse the beads together. For cool patterns and projects, check out www.perlerbeads.com.

FILLED ORNAMENTS

Decorate hollow glass or plastic ornaments just by filling them with colorful items.

Level of difficulty: Very easy

Time: 10 minutes
Directions: Cut brightly colored embroidery floss into tiny pieces. Remove the hanger from the ornament and fill with the floss snippets or beads. Use the eraser end of a pencil to push items into place. Replace the hanger.

Brainstorm other items you could use, such as candy wrappers, tinsel or colored pasta. Just make sure the ornament doesn't get too heavy.

MINI COMPOSITION BOOKS
"Altered" items — clipboards, CD cases and more — are all the rage. These little notepads are a great way to package

SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER
Our Community. Our Hospital.
1601 W. 11th Pl. Big Spring, TX

gift cards for teachers — just tuck the card into a pocket on the inside cover.

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Time: About an hour
Directions: Start with a miniature composition book, available for less than \$1 at discount stores. (Opt for one with a sturdy cardboard cover.)

Cover the front and back of the book with patterned paper, adhering it with glue or double-sided tape. Decorate the front with tags, ribbon, stamps, acrylic paints, metal charms and more. Add a name or message to the cover using stamps or stickers.

More Kid-Made Gifts

— Baked goods —
Spend a day making cookies, candy or bread, and package them in festive tins or colored cellophane.

— Chocolate spoons —
Melt some chocolate in the microwave. Dip sturdy plastic spoons into the melted chocolate, adding colorful sprinkles if desired. Cool on wax paper, then cover with lollipop wrappers or cellophane. These are great on their own or stirred into coffee or cocoa.

— Movie — Got a video camera? Have the kids write a script and act it out. Or create a highlight film of memories from the past year. Package it with popcorn and other snacks, or gift certificates to a real movie.

— Coupon book —
Help your child come up with a list of things he could do to help the recipient — set the table, wash the car, make breakfast. (Include some fun ones like "give you one big hug and kiss.") Type them into a word-processing program, with the introduction, "Present this coupon and I will ..." Print the coupons onto brightly colored paper, staple them together, and have your child decorate the cover.

— Pinecone ornaments —
Paint pine cones and decorate them with glue and glitter. Or make a pinecone bird feeder by tying a yarn loop on the pinecone, then spreading peanut butter all over it and rolling it in birdseed.

Books can be gratifying food for thought

NEW YORK (AP) — Most cookbooks earn their keep in the kitchen. But there's a whole category of books that dwell lovingly on the subject of food, ingredients or cooking, and that seem more, appropriately, savored first of all as gratifying armchair reading. That doesn't mean they can't also have a recipe content that may later lead the reader into the kitchen.

Both kinds may be what you buy as a present for someone else before indulging yourself. "Gift books" tend to be larger, or more expensive, usually handsomely illustrated, or charmingly decorative.

Among many candidates for gift lists published this year are the following:

"The Compleat Squash: A Passionate Grower's Guide to Pumpkins, Squashes, and Gourds" (Artisan, \$30) by Amy Goldman, Goldman, author of "Melons for the Passionate Grower," writes as gardener, cook and advocate of preserving the world's heritage of fruits and vegetables. The science of the squash she describes is balanced by a variety of mouthwatering recipes. The book becomes a work of art through photographs by Victor Schrage which persuade the reader that squash are as beautiful to look at as they may eventually taste.

"Bordeaux Chateaux: A History of the Grands Crus Classes 1855-2005" (Flammarion, \$69) is a luxurious wine book whose text is an accessory to a pictorial tour of the French country estates and mansions of the Bordeaux wine region. Large-format double-page spreads alternate with smaller details in the color photographs by Christian Samarron that, yes, do include vineyards and wine bottles and glasses, but focus mostly on the chateaux at the center of wine production. There's a foreword by Hugh Johnson to the work of a team of writers: Jean-Paul Kauffmann, Dewey Markham, Cornelis van Leeuwen and Franck Ferrand.

As a related bonus gift for the serious connoisseur, note "The Wines of Bordeaux: Vintages and Tasting Notes 1952-2003"

(University of California Press, \$60) by Clive Coates, a detailed reference book, as opposed to picture book.

A trio of famous professional chefs have produced books lavished with fine photography as well as recipes for those who aspire to attempt some of the masters' dishes.

"Bouchon" (Artisan, \$50) by Thomas Keller. This is a weighty, detailed account, by the owner of Napa Valley's renowned French Laundry, of his other restaurant, Bouchon, located next door, and of its bistro style of cuisine. Photographs by Deborah Jones in color and black and white set the scene and bring the food, it can seem, just a bite away. Definitely one for the armchair.

"Patrick O'Connell's Refined American Cuisine" (Bulfinch, \$45) is based on O'Connell's work at the highly rated

restaurant, The Inn at Little Washington, Va., of which he is chef and co-owner. The book's title aptly categorizes the stylish but down-home American-based cooking on which the recipes are based, while the photographs by Tim Turner show not only the food but also some of the inn and countryside.

"Frank Stitt's Southern Table" (Artisan, \$40) by

Frank Stitt. This is sophisticated Southern, another large-format tome: The book's subtitle is "Recipes and Gracious Traditions from Highlands Bar and Grill," in Birmingham, Ala., of which Stitt is chef-owner. Photographer Christopher Hirsheimer makes the food look more than good enough to eat and includes some scenic context.

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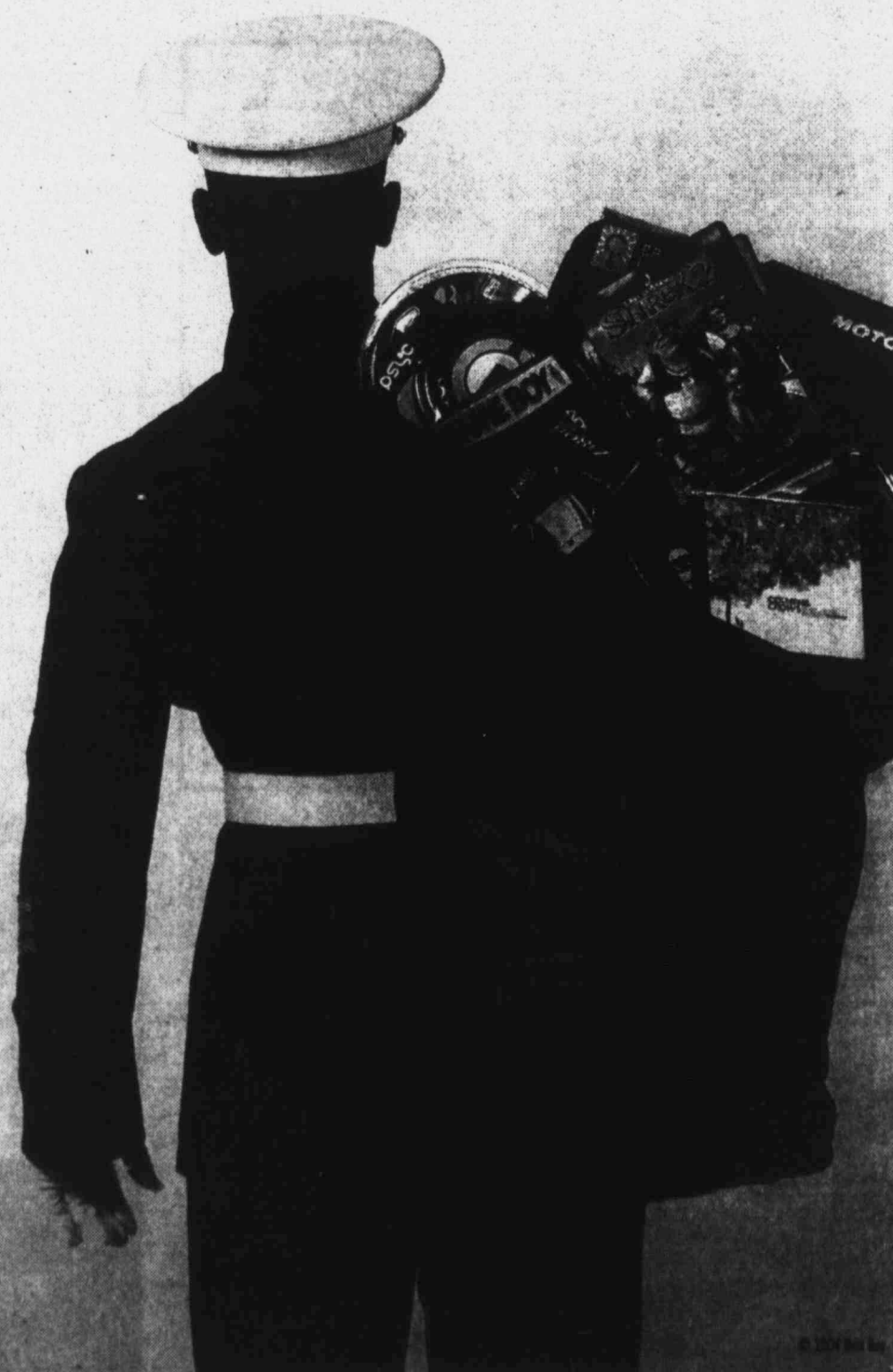
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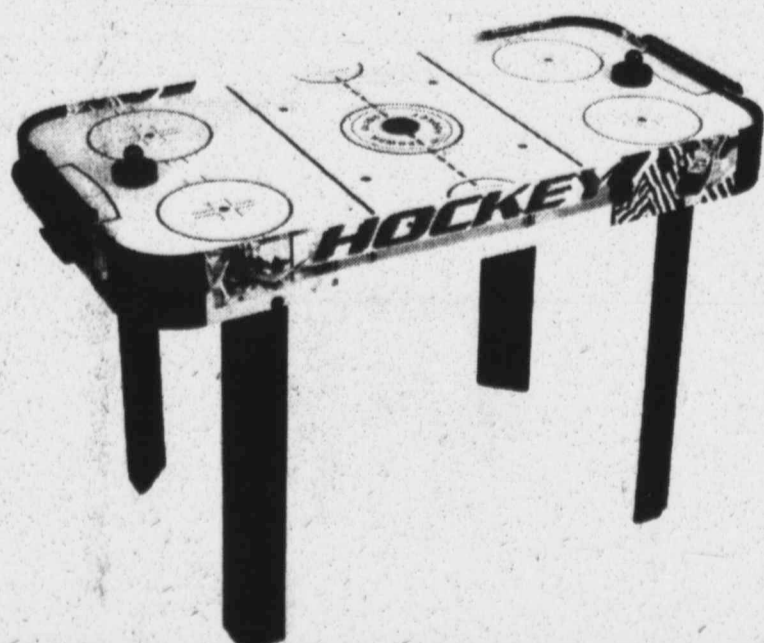
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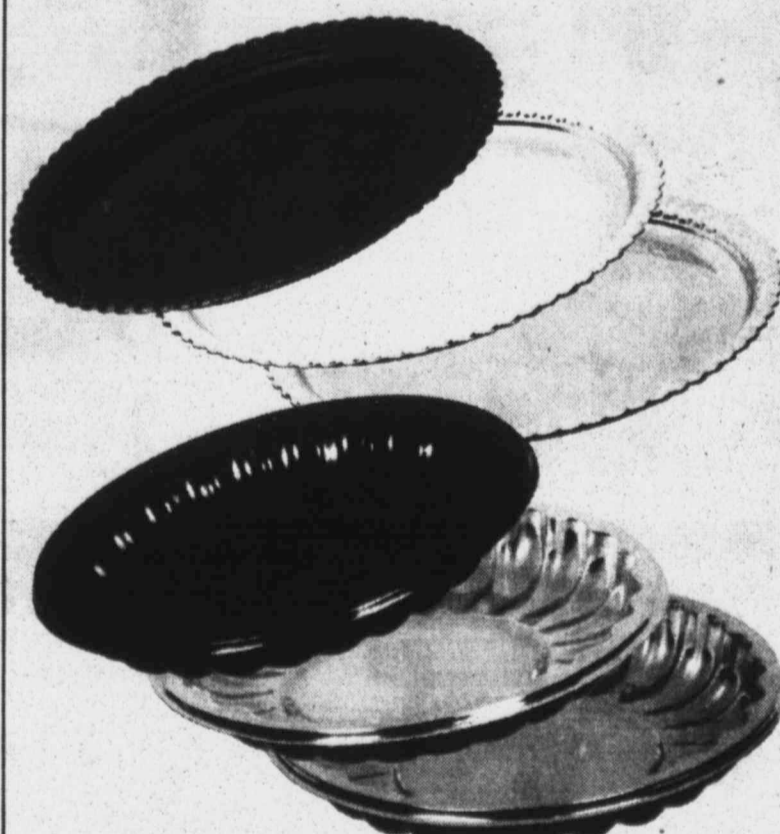
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IN BRIEF

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.

YMCA extends youth registration

The YMCA has announced that youth basketball registration for the upcoming season will extend through Friday, Dec. 3.

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

The teams will be formed Saturday, Dec. 4.

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

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

B.S. football banquet set for Dec. 13

The Big Spring football banquet has been set for Monday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Big Spring Junior High Cafeteria.

The meal will cost \$10. For more information, call the Athletic Training Center at 264-3662.

Sign ups now set for Coahoma 'dribblers'

The sign-ups for the Coahoma Little Dribblers Basketball League will take place Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at the Coahoma Junior High Gym. The Nov. 30 session will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., while the other days begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m.

The league is for boys and girls ages fourth-grade through sixth-grade. The cost is only \$25.

Lucas, Graham lead No. 6 OSU in rout

STILLWATER, Okla. — John Lucas III scored 22 points, Joey Graham added 16 and No. 6 Oklahoma State pulled away in the second half to beat Arkansas-Little Rock 90-65 Tuesday night.

Lucas made three straight 3-pointers to spur an 11-2 Oklahoma State run early in the second half.

Arkansas-Little Rock (1-1) led 33-32 when Brandon Freeman scored the opening basket of the second half, but Oklahoma State (2-0) started to pull away after Daniel Bobik hit a pull-up jumper to break a 35-all tie.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule Today
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Move over Testaverde, Henson to get first start

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer
 IRVING — Dallas Cowboys rookie Drew Henson will make his first NFL start Thursday, barring a miraculous recovery by the injured quarterback Vinny Testaverde.

Coach Bill Parcells, who has been reluctant to play Henson unless forced, said Tuesday that there was "a good chance" Henson would start the Thanksgiving Day game against the Chicago Bears.

Parcells said Henson would take most of the snaps in practice Tuesday and would start the game, "unless things change appreciably with Vinny."

The 41-year-old Testaverde has a sore right shoulder and sore back.

He was hurt in the fourth quarter Sunday when Baltimore defensive tackle Kelly Gregg landed on him after a pass that was intercepted.

Henson hasn't started a game at quarterback in nearly four years, since his junior season at

Michigan.

"This is what I've been waiting for, it's a chance to go out there and play," Henson said Tuesday. "I'm preparing today and tomorrow as if it will happen. It will be a great opportunity and something I'll definitely remember."

Testaverde wasn't available for comment.

The Cowboys (3-7) had only an extended walk-through practice Monday. They began the accelerated process of implementing the game plan Tuesday.

"There's no more pressure than what I expect. It's always been that way," Henson said. "It's more of an opportunity and an excitement thing than feeling pressure."

After leaving Michigan, Henson spent three summers playing pro baseball in the New York Yankees organization.

When he showed an interest in playing football again, the Houston Texans drafted him in 2003, and traded him to the Cowboys last spring.

Henson played quarterback in the NFL for the

first time Sunday after Testaverde was hurt. His only action for the Cowboys until then had been as a holder on kicks.

Henson's first play resulted in a fumble when a blown blocking assignment let a defender through untouched.

But he came back and completed all six of his passes, including a 1-yard TD toss to end a 16-play, 80-yard drive in the Cowboys' 30-10 loss.

The Cowboys have lost six of their last seven games, four of them by at least 20 points.

Davis not answer in Houston as Texans look for future option

By JOEL ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans ought to start fitting Cedric Benson for a jersey. Or maybe Carnell Williams. His backfield mate at Auburn, Ronnie Brown, would be nice too.

If the Texans don't like this year's upcoming draft crop, general manager Charley Casserly should call Green Bay and inquire about the price for backup running back Najeh Davenport. Should that fail, the Denver Broncos always seem to have a surplus of backs — maybe they could send Houston a good one for a fair amount.

Anyone, in short, might be a better fit at tailback for the Texans than incumbent Domanick Davis.

After another night of running to darkness instead of daylight in an excruciating loss to the Packers on Sunday, Davis provided even more proof of why the Texans should start looking elsewhere for a workhorse.

Davis finished with 65 yards rushing on 21 carries — about right for an offense that ranks 31st of 32 teams for rushing yards per carry. That is unacceptable, and the Texans' inability to run for even one first down in the fourth quarter forced them to rely too much on the pass.

They went three-and-out on their final three possessions, drawing boos from the sellout crowd and giving Brett Favre plenty of opportunity to engineer the 32nd fourth-quarter comeback of his career.

Houston once believed that in Davis it had found the third of its "triplets" on offense, someone who would carry the ball while David Carr and Andre Johnson played pitch-and-catch for the next decade or so.

It made for a really nice story: Davis, a fourth-round pick out of LSU, forced his way into the starting lineup after starting his rookie year on the injured list. Davis eventually emerged as the Texans' lead tailback, and his 1,031 yards rushing were more than the all other rookie running backs in 2003 — combined.

Everyone seemed to be happy.

The Texans' search for a dependable running back was finally over and Davis had found an improbable home in an NFL backfield — he'd never gone into a season

as the starter since his senior year at Breau Bridge (La.) High.

During this offseason, Davis boldly predicted a 2,000-yard season for his second year. And no one scoffed.

Instead, Davis has given life to the belief in sophomore jinxes.

He had four costly fumbles in the first two games, missed the next two with a sprained right ankle and since then has struggled to regain the form from his rookie season.

Davis has rushed for 523 yards and seven TDs on 173 carries — good for a paltry average of 3 yards a carry. He's looked tentative and slow, far from the pocket-sized rocket he was last season. As a result, the 5-foot-9, 221-pounder is hearing many of the same concerns about his size and durability that he heard coming out of college.

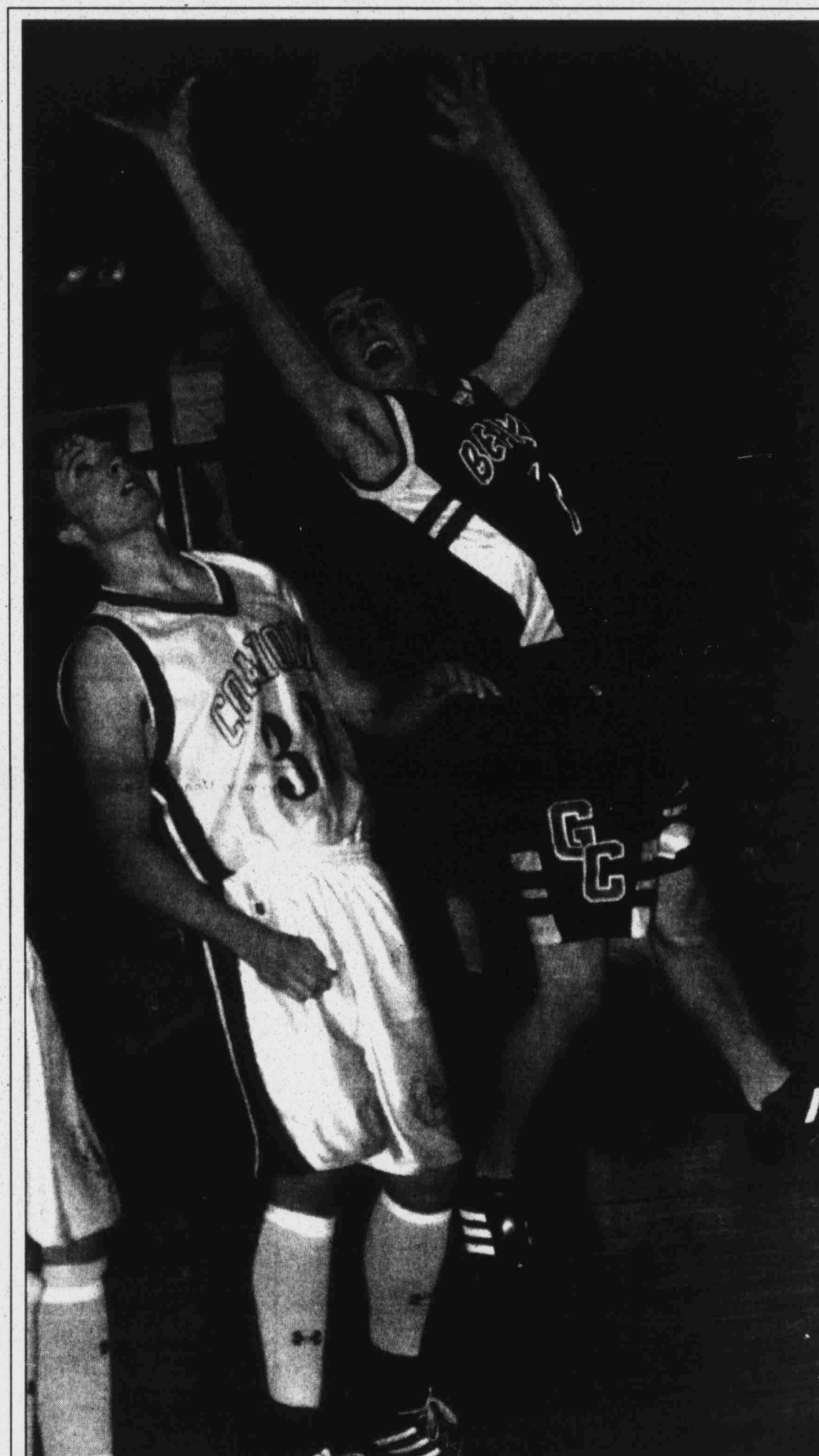
Davis started behind someone named LaBrandon Toefield in college, and since coming to Houston, has spent nearly as much time on the injured list as he has on the field. That's not quite the pedigree of any other franchise running back you've heard about, is it?

To be fair, the offensive line is still learning a new zone-blocking scheme and the Texans have fallen behind big in a few games, forcing them to abandon the run early.

But how's this for inexcusable? Davis' longest run this season is 12 yards — you read that right, 12. Carr, not exactly known as a scrambler, had the Texans' longest run of the year on a broken-field 24-yard run in the second quarter of Sunday's game.

Houston can no longer rely on such a spotty running game and consider itself in the running for a playoff berth.

Coach Dom Capers would like a team that wins games with a smothering defense, grinds out tough yards on the ground and occasionally connects on a big pass play. That's the formula that sent New England and Carolina to the Super Bowl last year, and has boosted the fortunes of plenty more franchises.



Garden City's Evan Jansa goes up strong against a defender from Coahoma during the Bulldogs' two-point win over the Bearkats last week. The Bearkats defeated Forsan Tuesday. Their next game will take place Tuesday at Sterling City.

Spurrier begins Gamecocks run

By PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer
 COLUMBIA, S.C. — Steve Spurrier took over at South Carolina on Tuesday, returning to the college ranks after a three-year absence.

The former Florida coach replaces Lou Holtz, who retired Monday. Spurrier got a seven-year deal worth \$1.25 million a season that could go over \$2 million with incentives.

Spurrier led the Gators to a national championship in 1996 and six Southeastern Conference titles before abruptly resigning in 2001 to join the Washington Redskins. But he had little success in the NFL, going 12-20 before leaving.

The 61-year-old coach is ready to make South

Carolina a winner.

"We've got everything here," Spurrier said. "I'd like to borrow a phrase from the Boston Red Sox: Why not us? Why not the University of South Carolina Gamecocks?"

Spurrier wants to win a conference championship, something Holtz never did in his six seasons at the school. But he has to get past his former team, which was 10-0 against South Carolina while Spurrier was the Gators coach.

Those games figured to be tough on Spurrier, who said he is not looking forward to his first matchup with his alma mater, next Nov. 12 at Williams-Brice Stadium.

The executive committee of the school trustees approved the deal for Spurrier. Incentives

include \$250,000 for winning the Bowl Championship Series, \$100,000 for becoming national coach of the year and \$150,000 for winning the Southeastern Conference championship game.

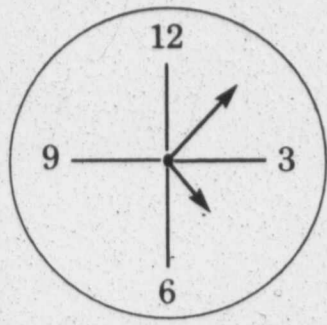
The contract has a \$250,000 a year buyout clause for both sides. Should Spurrier retire and not take another job, he owes the university nothing.

"Maybe we're prejudiced now for Steve Spurrier," athletic director Mike McGee said.

There was much speculation that Spurrier would return to Florida next season, following the recent firing of Ron Zook. But Spurrier pulled out of the running, saying 12 years at one school was enough.

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Fish

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 61 degrees; 0.13-foot low. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

ARROWHEAD: Water muddy in upper end; 63 degrees; 7.6-foot low. Black bass are fair on shallow running crankbaits and big jigs near rocky areas and flooded vegetation line. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows suspended 12- to 14-foot near derricks. White bass are fair on shallow flats 3- to 8-foot on shad-imitation crankbaits and larger jigs with inline spinners. Blue and channel catfish are fair on cut shad and prepared baits in shallow water and vegetation line. All boat ramps are open.

COLORADO CITY: Water clear; 70 degrees; 5.4-foot low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Redfish are slow. Catfish are slow.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 67 degrees; 7-foot low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live bait. White bass are fair. Catfish are fair.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 68 degrees; 17.4-foot low. Black bass are fair on dark jigs and live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass and hybrid striper are fair. Catfish are fair on live baits.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 67 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Redfish are fair. White bass and striped bass are fair on minnows. Catfish are fair on live bait.

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 65 degrees; 26.57-foot low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair. No boat ramps open. 4x4 vehicles can unload on the dirt road near the dam.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 67 degrees; 28.6-foot low. Black bass are fair on jigs and live bait. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on live bait. Smallmouth bass are fair. Channel catfish are fair on prepared bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 67 degrees; 0.9-foot low. Black bass are fair at 5- to 10-foot depth along vegetation line. Crappie are slow. White bass are fair. Striped bass are fair on live shad or sunfish fished vertically. Channel and blue catfish are good in river just above reservoir on trotlines.

SPENCE: Water lightly stained; 68 degrees; 59.8-foot low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are fair. Striped bass and hybrid striper are slow. Catfish are slow.

STAMFORD: Water lightly stained; 69 degrees; 5.26-foot low. Black bass are fair on live bait and jigs. Crappie are fair. White and striped bass are fair. Catfish are fair.

SWEETWATER: Water lightly stained; 67 degrees; 31.16-foot low. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair. Catfish are fair on live baits.

WHITE RIVER: Water lightly stained; 67 degrees; 22.6-foot low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on jigs and live bait. Walleye are fair on live baits and jerkbaits. Channel catfish are fair on prepared baits.

Texas man envisions hunting via computer

By Ray Sasser

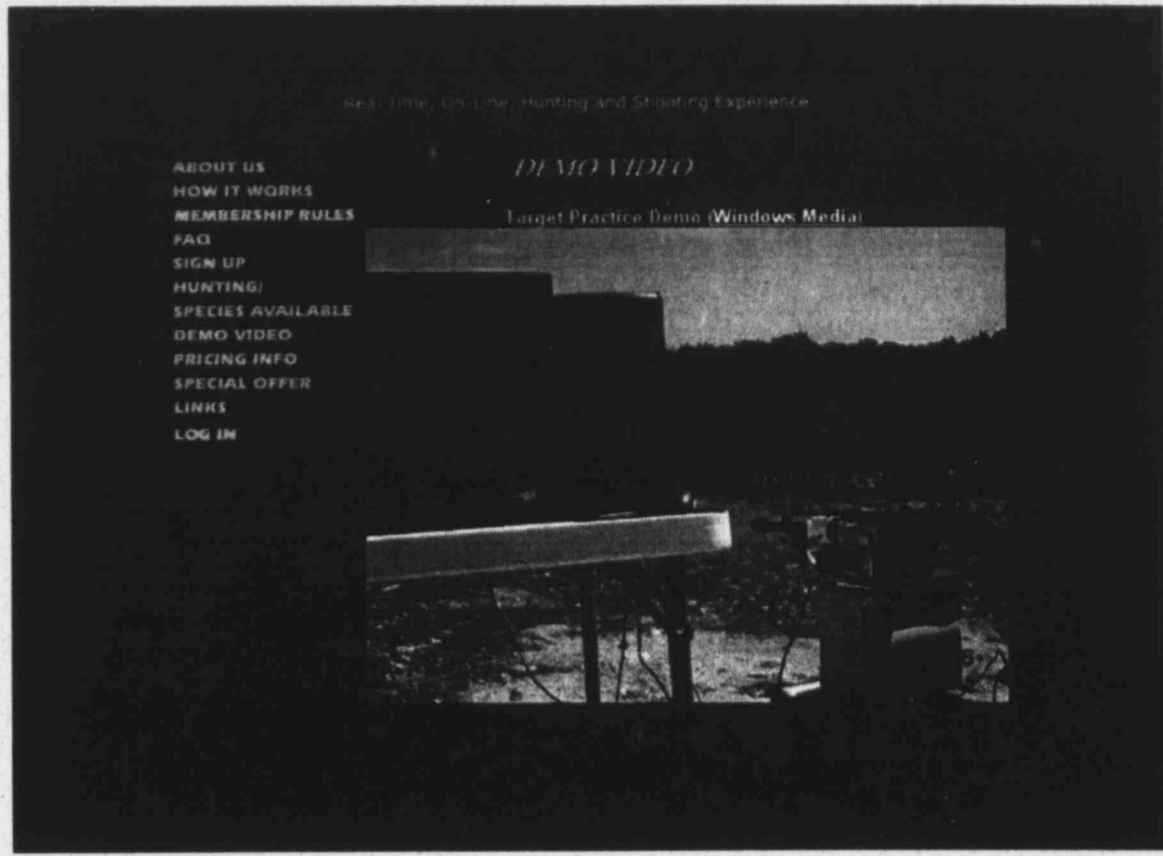
The Dallas Morning News DALLAS — Video hunting games have been around for years, but a San Antonio man hopes to market a new Internet wrinkle using real bullets and live animals.

The idea is causing consternation among the hunting public and has triggered a move by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to ban Internet hunting of native game animals.

The agency does not have regulatory authority over feral hogs and exotic species like axis deer or blackbuck antelope that are common to many Texas ranches. It would take legislative action to ban all Internet hunting, according to David Sinclair, TP&W's chief of wildlife enforcement.

John Lockwood, who works as a body shop estimator for a car dealership, got the idea for liveshot.com while watching a virtual hunting Web site in which Internet viewers "bagged" game with a camera. He spent about \$20,000 to build a motorized platform capable of aiming and firing a rifle via computer.

At the current



John Underwood, an estimator for a San Antonio auto body shop, has a web site <http://www.live-shot.com> where people can target practice with guns by remote — using their computer mouse.

liveshot.com Web site, an Internet marksman can plink targets with a .22 rifle. It costs \$14.95 for a live-shot.com membership and \$5.95 to fire 10 shots. Lockwood wants to expand the idea by setting up a hunting rifle connected to a video camera at waterholes or wildlife feeders at his small ranch

near Rocksprings. A "hunter" in the comfort of his office or home could watch a computer screen until a target animal is spotted, then use the computer to line up the rifle and fire the shot.

A ranch hand would retrieve the game and ship the meat and/or trophy to the cyberspace

hunter. The on-site "guide" would sit in the hunting blind along with the remote rifle and camera. He would be able to override the shot if he saw a computer marksman sighting on the wrong target. Lockwood is not saying how much

See HUNTING, Page 3B

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HUNTING

Continued from F

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He also has r overwhelming e-mails, ma hunters who th a bad idea.

"It's not for e he said. "I'm myself, and I'r ested in doing be out there i freezing my There are p would like to t but cannot d number of rea

"I respect th of people who this concept, b also people wh the idea of ba animals, hunt blind or rest movement of g high fence. legal in Texas.

NBA

By CHRIS SHE

AP Basketball

NEW YORK

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appeal Tuesda

of Indiana I

Artest, Steph

and Jermail

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last week.

The union a

HUNTING

Continued from Page 2B

the Internet hunt would cost, but he has had about 10 requests for hunts.

He also has received an overwhelming number of e-mails, many from hunters who think this is a bad idea.

"It's not for everybody," he said. "I'm a hunter myself, and I'm not interested in doing it. I like to be out there in the field, freezing my butt off. There are people who would like to try hunting but cannot do it for a number of reasons."

"I respect the opinions of people who don't like this concept, but there are also people who don't like the idea of baiting game animals, hunting from a blind or restricting the movement of game with a high fence. That's all legal in Texas."

Lockwood said he hopes to bring some semblance of the hunting experience to quadriplegics and others with physical problems.

He also said the Internet hunt might appeal to stressed businessmen who do not have time to leave their offices and to people who live in places where hunting is banned or so exclusive they cannot participate.

"I know I'll get some hunters who just want a trophy head to hang on their wall and don't care how they get it," he said, "but that's not the hunter I'm trying to help."

Lockwood plans to upgrade his video equipment for faster response and beef up his remote shooting platform to handle a heavy-recoil rifle. He doesn't expect to sell hunts until mid-2005.

"Internet hunting is really a sick idea," said

Gray Thornton, executive director of the Dallas Safari Club. "Shooting animals by remote control from a distant location has nothing to do with hunting."

Hunting is about the overall experience. We don't condone Internet hunting or support it in any shape or form."

Thornton said there are several organizations that specialize in helping hunters with physical problems. Specialized equipment, he said, allows most problems to be overcome. Some quadriplegics can fire a specialized rifle by blowing in a straw.

Avid hunter David Sams, founder and CEO of Lone Star Outdoor News, said he might be interested in the target shooting aspect of the site.

Hunting real game via the Internet is another

matter, he said.

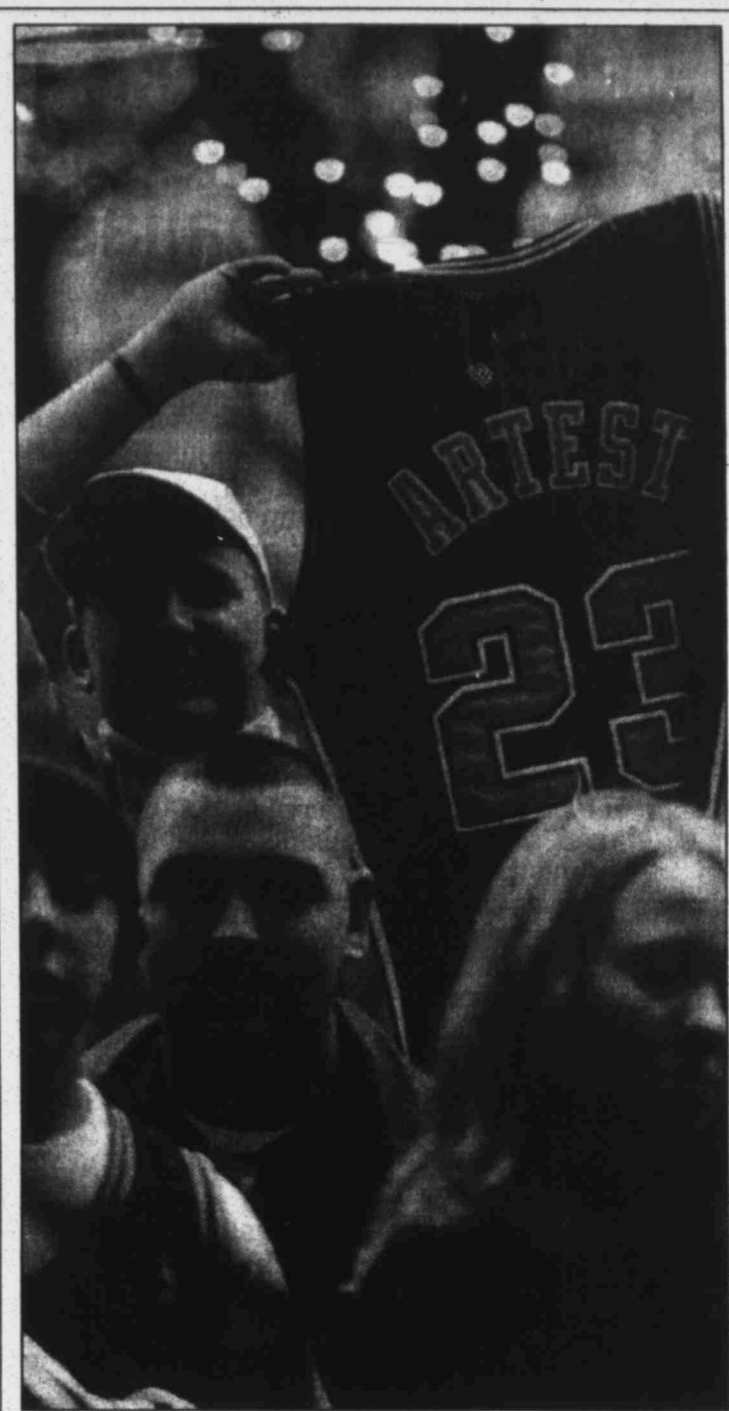
"As far as doing that, it wouldn't do a whole lot for me," Sams said.

Perry Lowery of Dallas, a hunter for 35 years, said he doesn't see any sport in hunting animals via the Internet.

Sinclair is drafting regulations that prohibit the remote firing of a gun to kill native game animals like white-tailed deer and wild turkeys.

The regulations may also require that the hunter who pulls the trigger be present when the animal is killed.

Sinclair expects the regulations to be finalized by late January and previewed in statewide public meetings. The TP&W Commission, a nine-member commission appointed by the governor, votes on regulations in April. If approved, new regulations traditionally become effective Sept. 1.



KRT photo/Mpoal Mshale Tolbert, Indianapolis Star
Pacers fan Brady O'Malia, holds a Ron Artest Pacers jersey aloft outside the radio studio where suspended Pacers player Ron Artest, attended a morning talk show during an interview at Radio Now 93.1 in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana Tuesday.

NBA Players' Union appeals suspensions

By CHRIS SHERIDAN

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — The NBA players' union filed an appeal Tuesday on behalf of Indiana Pacers Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal, who were suspended for their roles in a brawl with Detroit Pistons fans last week.

The union asked that an

arbitrator decide whether there should be reductions in the suspensions handed out Sunday: Artest was banned for the season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25. Six players were suspended for one to six games; those are not being appealed.

Union director Billy Hunter has called the penalties excessive, say-

ing a suspension of about 35 games would have been more appropriate for Artest.

Commissioner David Stern, who issued the suspensions, has sole discretion under collective bargaining rules over penalties for on-court behavior, and all appeals go through him, too.

The union, however, asked in its one-page


appeal that the case go to arbitrator Roger Kaplan.

"We're arguing that the discipline imposed is inconsistent with the collective bargaining agreement, and without just cause," union spokesman Dan Wasserman said.

Stern would normally have 20 days to rule on an appeal of an on-court dis-

See APPEAL, Page 4B

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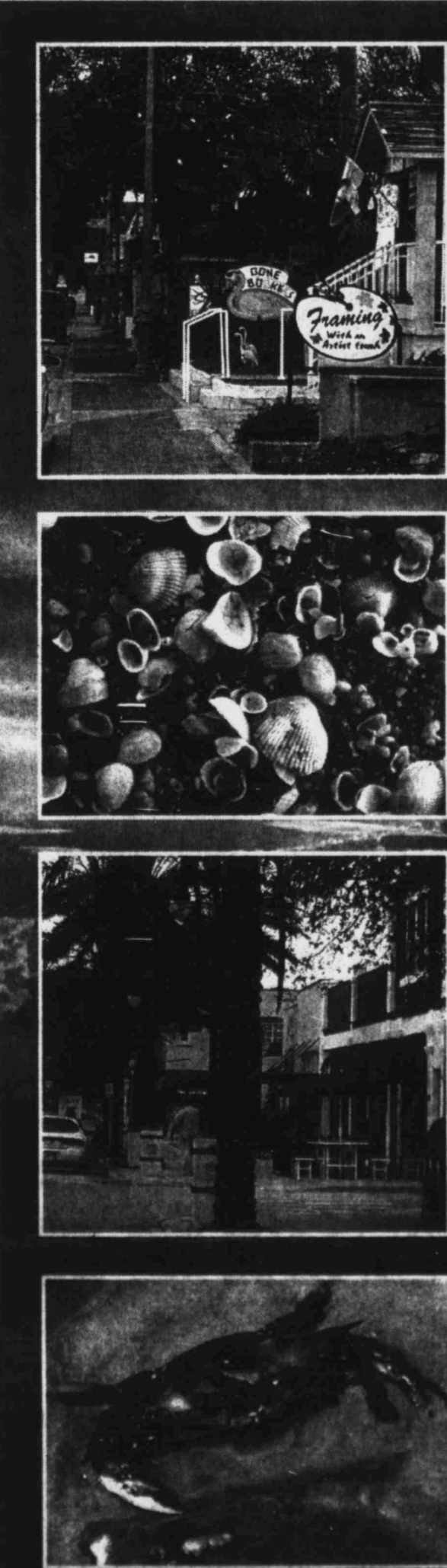
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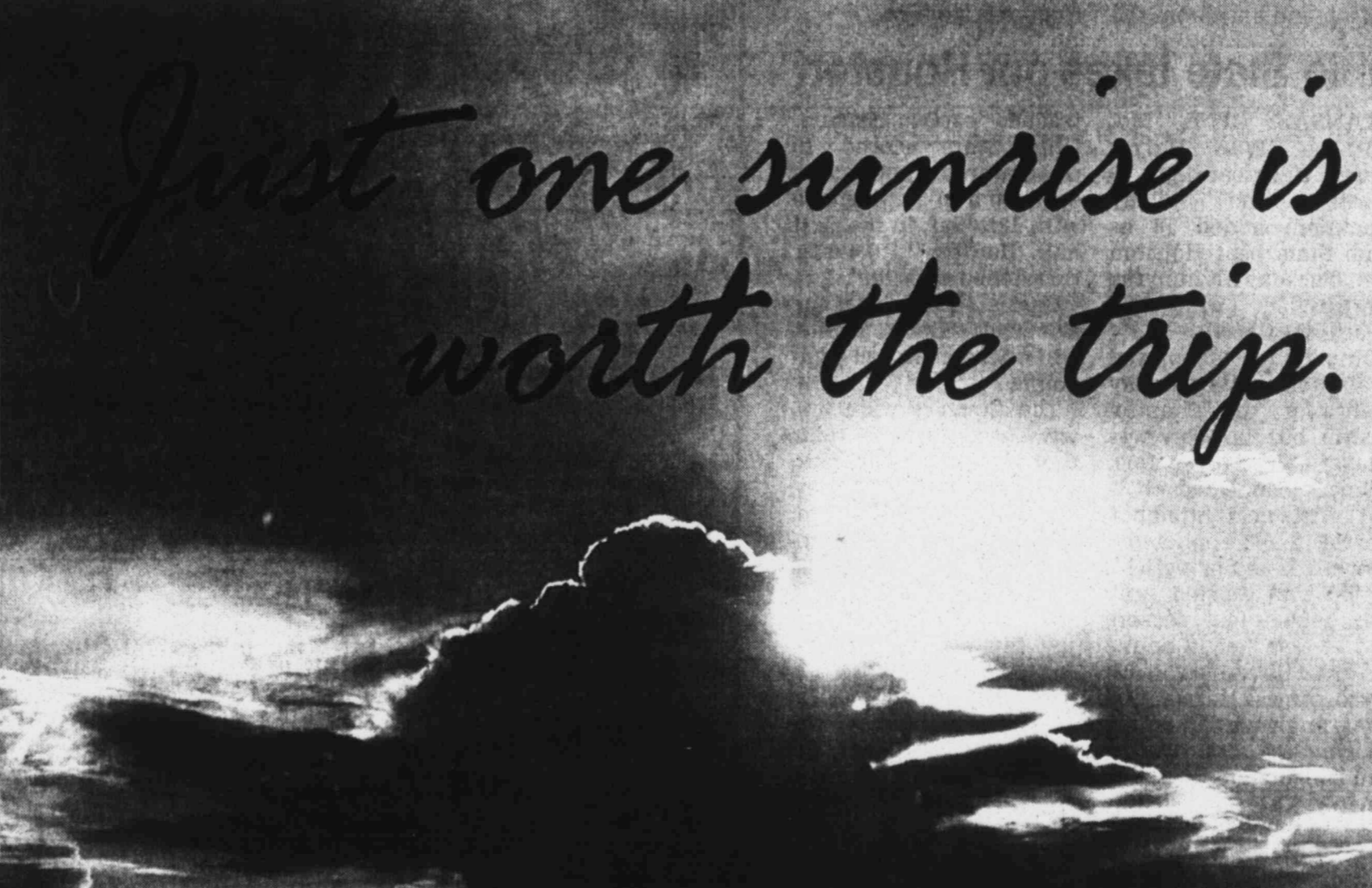
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Hutchinson hopes to use knowledge in big return to Dallas

By RICK GANO

AP Sports Writer
LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Chad Hutchinson will share what information he has about the Dallas Cowboys, but the Chicago Bears' third string quarterback would rather be using it on the field.

Released by the Cowboys just before training camp, Hutchinson signed with the Bears two months ago after an injury to starter Rex Grossman.

He still hasn't played a down, serving as the No. 3 quarterback even as Jonathan Quinn and now rookie Craig Krenzel struggle to run the Bears' offense.

And he'll be on the sidelines again when the Bears and Cowboys meet on Thanksgiving Day.

Offensive coordinator Terry Shea said this week it's still Krenzel's team — despite his 12 turnovers and 21 sacks in five games — but down the road the Bears might have a chance to look at Hutchinson.

Many wonder why not? How much worse can the Bears' offense be with Hutchinson, who started nine games as a rookie with Dallas in 2002?

"I haven't really heard much of anything. What I'm doing is I'm using it as time to get better on the mechanics and little things that I may have neglected the last couple years, just getting ready to play," said Hutchinson, once a St. Louis Cardinals pitcher.

"It's been a good time for me to get with (quarterbacks coach) Wade Wilson and knock out the

fundamentals. "I'm pretty anxious, but that's the way it goes. But that's why you play the game is to get out there. That's why you practice so much is to get out there and play. I'm just biding my time and being patient."

Krenzel, 3-1 as a starter, has had trouble hanging onto the ball and avoiding the rush. He fumbled twice and threw two interceptions in Sunday's lopsided 41-10 loss to the Colts.

"I know I can play better and I need to," Krenzel said. After going 2-7 as a rookie starter, Hutchinson lost the job the following training camp to Quincy Carter when Bill Parcells took over as coach of the Cowboys.

Hutchinson also struggled in NFL Europe and hurt his throwing shoulder. He was released on July 27.

"I just felt the other player with the team we had, the other player was a little bit more mobile, a little bit more able to get out of trouble," Parcells said of his initial decision on Hutchinson.

Hutchinson chose his words carefully when describing his experience in Dallas, especially with Thursday's game so close. "It was good, I mean it was. ... It ended pretty abruptly and pretty — in my eyes — not right," he said.

"I'm not real pleased about my experience last year of my days in Dallas. Just something you learn from and move on."

APPEAL

Continued from Page 3B

discipline matter, and it was, and it was unclear whether the union's appeal strategy would put this case under that timetable.

An NBA spokesman said the appeal was received but that the league would have no other immediate comment.

The union also is considering taking the case to federal court. A similar strategy failed in 1997 when the union contested the suspensions hand-

ed out to four members of the New York Knicks for leaving the bench during a fight in a play-off game against the Miami Heat.

In that case, U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff cited article XXXI, section 8 of the league's collective bargaining agreement establishing the commissioner as the complete and final authority on discipline for what happens on the court.

The language, the judge said, is "so plain, so clear, so unequivocal, so on-point to the dispute that underlies this controversy."

Artest was not immediately available to comment on the appeal.

The suspensions also could be contested by the Indiana Pacers, who have the right under NBA bylaws to appeal the commissioner's decision to the league's Board of Governors.

No NBA team has ever made such an appeal, according to the league.

Artest bolted into the stands after being hit by a cup thrown by a fan, touching off a brawl in which players exchanged punches with fans, who also threw drinks, popcorn, a chair and other debris at the Pacers.

"I don't think it was fair — that many games," Artest said Tuesday in an interview with NBC's "Today" show. "I respect David Stern's decisions, but I don't think I should have been out for the whole season."

"This is the third time that I've been hit with something out of the crowd," said Artest, who claimed he had been struck previously in Detroit and in Cleveland. Jackson also went into the stands and exchanged punches with fans, while O'Neal hit a fan who ran onto the court.

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Ohio State takes out Houston

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Ivan Harris scored a career-high 19 points and Tony Stockman added 18 as Ohio State beat Houston 78-61 Tuesday night in the semifinals of the Guardians Classic.

Ohio State (4-0) played Creighton Wednesday night for the championship, but the score was unavailable at press time.

Harris connected on 9-of-11 field-goal attempts. Harris, a 6-8 sophomore forward from Springfield, Ohio, who started only two games last season, had scored just 12 points in the Buckeyes' first three games. Harris' previous high was 13 points on Nov. 24, 2003 against San Diego State.

After the two teams

traded early baskets, Ohio State scored 19 unanswered points to open up a 21-2 advantage with 13:20 left in the first half. Houston (2-2) never threatened after that.

Harris scored 10 of the Buckeyes' first 21 points, while Stockman had eight points.

The Cougars went 5:45 without a point after their first basket, going 0-for-5 and committing three turnovers in that span. The Buckeyes, meanwhile, came out sizzling, making 11 of their 12 shots, with Harris making five straight baskets in that stretch.

Ohio State led 44-30 at halftime after the Buckeyes outscored the Cougars 18-8 in the paint in the first half.

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THURS

6	:30	News (C)
7	:30	Charlie T
8	:30	the Grim
9	:30	Christi
10	:30	News
11	:30	Ent. To
12	:30	Live (C)

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BC

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NOV. 25

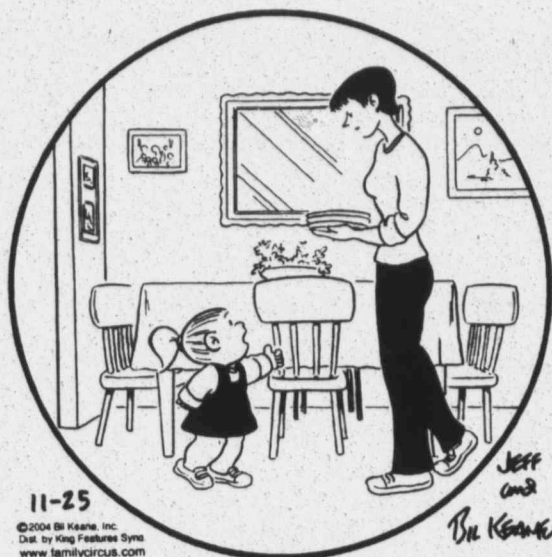
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPICE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	TMC (250) Premium
6:PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Movie: Nobleza	News Ent. Tonight	Movie: El Prote	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lahrer	American Chopper			Law & Order (CC)	Live BET Style	Lilo & Stich	Anything NFL Live	2004 World Series of Poker	(CC)	
7:PM	Charlie Brown Movie: How	Charlie Brown Movie: How		Movie: Spider-Man (CC)	Survivor: Vanuatu	Will & Grace (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Update/Israel Michial Ratiff	Children Will Listen (CC)	American Chopper	Movie: True Lies		NBA Basketball	The Parkers Girlfriends	Movie: Lilo & Stich (CC)	Women's College Football	Dangerous Minds (CC)		
8:PM	The Grinch Stole	the Grinch Stole	Una Noche de Amor Real	CSI: Crime Scene Investig	Movie: Por Mis Pistolas	The Apprentice (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Light of the Southwest	America's Choir: Mormon	American Chopper		Movie: The World is Not Enough (CC)	NBA	Soul Food (CC)	:40 Movie:	Basketball	West Virginia at Pittsburgh	Minds (CC)	
9:PM	Christmas (CC)	Christmas (CC)	70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)		The Seinfeld Story (CC)	Movie: Nothing to Lose (CC)		George Jones, 50 Years	American Chopper			NBA	Comicview	Lilo & Stich (CC)	College Basketball	The Four Feathers		
10:PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	American Chopper	Movie: Unlawful Entry		Basketball: Nets at Clippers	Nightly News L-Bow Room	Boy World	Uah vs. Washington	SportsCenter (CC)		
11:PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	Homenaje a Marco Antonio Solis	Becker (CC) Becker	(CC) The Late Late Show (CC) The Insider	Al Rojo Vivo- Maria Celeste Corte-Familia	Show (CC) Late Night (CC) Fraser (CC)	10 Movie: Cool Runnings (CC)	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe.	American Chopper		Movie: The Man With the Golden Gun (CC)	Clippers	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	NFL Live NFL's Greatest	Rome-Burning Outside-Lines	Extreme Ops (CC)	
12:AM	Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Live (CC) Paid Program							Update/Israel Michial Ratiff	American Chopper	12:15 Movie: City Hall		Inside the NBA (CC)	Comicview	Lizzie McGuire	NFL's Great Rome-Burning	SportsCenter (CC)	:35 Movie:	

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This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Thursday, Nov. 25, the 330th day of 2004. There are 36 days left in the year. This is Thanksgiving Day. Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 25, 1963, the body of President Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. On this date: In 1758, in the French and Indian War, the British captured Fort Duquesne in present-day Pittsburgh. In 1783, the British evacuated New York, their last military position in the United States during the Revolutionary War. In 1881, Pope John XXIII was born Angelo Roncalli near Bergamo, Italy. In 1944, baseball commissioner Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis died at age 78.

In 1957, President Eisenhower suffered a slight stroke. In 1973, Greek President George Papadopoulos was ousted in a bloodless military coup.

Today's Birthdays: In 1974, former U.N. Secretary-General U Thant died in New York at age 65. In 1984, William Schroeder of Jasper, Ind., became the second man to receive a Jarvik-7 artificial heart, at Humana Hospital Audubon in Kentucky. He lived 620 days on the device. In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels. In 2002, President Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head. Ten years ago: NATO warplanes buzzed the besieged safe haven of Bihac in northwest Bosnia, but did not carry out airstrikes against rebel Serbs. Sony Corporation co-founder Akio Morita retired as chairman of the electronics giant for health reasons.

Today's Birthdays: Former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet is 89. Actor Ricardo Montalban is 84. Actress Kathryn Crosby is 71. Actor Matt Clark is 68. Singer Percy Sledge is 64. Actor Tracey Walter is 62. Actor, author and game show host Ben Stein is 60. Singer Bob Lind is 60. Actor John Larroquette is 57. Movie director Jonathan Kaplan is 57. Singer Amy Grant is 44.

Answer to previous puzzle:

STAGS	SPAR	CLAY
URIAH	HONE	HARE
MARIA	ORNE	ISTO
YELLOWKID	CHEW	
EBB	KVRA	
SOWS	SOSA	AGNEW
PLEA	EAT	STOUGE
ADAM	START	CORE
REVUES	LEE	USED
KNEEL	LEAP	BEITS
LISA	CUR	
BOSC	HUSH	PUPPY
ALTO	OREO	PERUN
REAL	PERU	ADELE
TORT	SLAT	LIKED

Newsday Crossword

ON THE LAM by Bob Frank
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- The Thin Man dog
- Dr. Phil's discoverer
- Lid hair
- Capricious notion
- Hersey bell town
- Online auction locale
- First-rate
- Ballroom dance
- Etcher's need
- Lots of time
- Scoot away
- Skater Midori
- Special effect, for short
- Murkiness
- On a glider ride
- Leave town fast
- Mortise mate
- Make lace
- Wed on the run
- Olympics chant
- Rescind
- Take to one's heels
- Reporters' sources, maybe
- Makes off with
- Marsh birds
- Dict. entry
- Get lost
- Modify
- Oppositionist
- Relent
- Like some crowds
- Read a bar code
- Big doings
- Golf hazard
- Chinese calendar animal

DOWN

- Not at home
- Do a blacksmith's job
- Louise or Turner
- Part of
- 42 Across
- Cereal grain
- Appt. holders
- Lines on a chessboard
- Cherubim
- Bringer of bad luck
- Galena
- Start of a nursery-school song
- Tall-ship feature
- Jekyll's alter ego
- Recipe direction
- Latin 101 word
- Oklahoma Indian
- In base eight
- Two-dimensional
- State Farm rival
- Rameses in The Ten Commandments
- Accustom
- Military reply
- Pesky flies
- Rocky peak
- Baby seal
- Author Bagnold
- European republic
- Sudden transition
- Dog's bane
- Not "on the clock"
- Oddity collector
- Arm cover
- Fills to excess
- Recipe amount
- Gold (Cussler book)
- Sheriff's badge
- Ancient Norse symbol
- Word form for "crops"
- Frolic
- Printer's boo-boo
- Halves of qts.

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NOV 25 2004

That's Racin'

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RATING THE FIELD

Ranking the season's top racing teams, drivers

BY DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

When That's Racin' ranks NASCAR Nextel Cup teams each week during the season, we're trying to rank how the teams are doing right then.

It's the same story when we do the season's final rankings. What you see below is not done with the idea of rating the teams' entire seasons. The points standings do that quite effectively, we think.

Our purpose is to consider how strong the teams are as they conclude the year, with a dash of consideration about how they might fare when the 2005 campaign gets under way.

And to show you just exactly how inexact this exercise can be, we also show how we ranked that team in our 2004 preseason forecast. For more on the final rankings, visit www.thatracin.com.

■ **1. Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** This team played the game set forth in the Chase for the Nextel Cup better than anybody else. Six of its 10 top-five finishes came during the 10 Chase races. Preseason ranking: 8.

■ **2. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** Twenty of this team's 23 top-10 finishes were top fives, and eight of them were victories. The team didn't win the title, but Johnson gets our vote as driver of the year. Preseason ranking: 2.



Gordon

■ **3. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24):** Never quite capitalized on opportunities to take charge in the title Chase. The pit stop mishap that prevented a Darlington win looms especially large. Preseason ranking: 6.

■ **4. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** When this team hits it right, it has shown a tendency to blow away the field. To win the championship, though, it has to learn how to better salvage less-than-perfect days. Preseason ranking: 7.

■ **5. Mark Martin (car No. 6):** He's fought valiantly in many championship battles without bringing home the spoils. Next year gives him a final shot, and a lot of people will be pulling for him. Preseason ranking: 11.

■ **6. Jamie McMurray (car No. 42):** His season proves just how important the first 26 races are under the Chase format. Preseason ranking: 10.

■ **7. Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** This team was at least part of the mix at Homestead, even if it couldn't close the deal. Preseason ranking: 4.

■ **8. Ryan Newman (car No. 12):** The preseason pick for the title fell way short because the car fell out early in nine races. Preseason ranking: 1.

■ **9. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** Started with a bang, winning two of the year's first three races. After that? Not much. Preseason ranking: 5.

■ **10. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38):** Accomplished a lot getting into the Chase. Next year's job is to back up that success. Preseason ranking: 23.

■ **11. Kasey Kahne (car No. 9):** The year's top rookie showed great promise. All but one of his top 10s was a top five. Preseason ranking: 24.

■ **12. Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** Has to be considered a top-10 candidate for 2005, but needs consistency to get there. Preseason ranking: 16.

■ **13. Joe Nemechek (car No. 01):** Six top-10 finishes in the final 10 races. That's something to build on for this team. Preseason ranking: 27.

■ **14. Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 19):** Had 10 fewer top-10 finishes than McMurray's team, but somehow still made Chase. Preseason ranking: 12.

■ **15. Bobby Labonte (car No. 18):** Five top fives and 11 top-10 finishes? Expect some offseason changes with this team. Preseason ranking: 9.

■ **16. Rusty Wallace (car No. 2):** Has his "Last Call" coming up in 2005, and it'll be a surprise if he makes the top 10. Preseason ranking: 13.

■ **17. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29):** OK, so we were way off here. Still can't help but think this team's better than it ran. Preseason ranking: 3.



Car owner Jack Roush, left; driver Kurt Busch, center; and crew chief Jimmy Fennig celebrate their Nextel Cup title.

■ **18. Carl Edwards (car No. 99):** This team would be a little higher if its 2005 sponsorship picture wasn't so murky. Preseason ranking: 17.

■ **19. Dale Jarrett (car No. 88):** Got off to a great start by winning the Bud Shootout, but couldn't return to Victory Lane. Preseason ranking: 14.

■ **20. Jeff Burton (car No. 30):** Moved up five spots in the driver points after joining this team. Needs that direction to continue. Preseason ranking: 29.

■ **21. Casey Mears (car No. 41):** Hints of potential show it's possible '05 could be a breakout year for this young driver. Preseason ranking: 32.

■ **22. Ricky Rudd (car No. 21):** Rudd's reunion with crew chief Michael McSwain rejuvenated this team. Preseason ranking: 22.

■ **23. Michael Waltrip (car No. 15):** Word in the garage is that Waltrip has to make 2005 top 10 to keep his job. Good luck. Preseason ranking: 15.

■ **24. Robby Gordon (car No. 31):** Will be tackling a tall mountain with his intentions to drive for his own single-car operation. Preseason ranking: 21.

■ **25. Sterling Marlin (car No. 40):** The few highlights this team experienced this season might mean lower expectations for 2005. Preseason ranking: 19.

■ **26. Terry Labonte (car No. 5):** Let's hope Labonte's part-time participation over the next two years isn't just ceremonial. Preseason ranking: 20.

■ **27. Brian Vickers (car No. 25):** The rookie demonstrated how big of a leap it can be transitioning from the Busch to the Cup series. Preseason ranking: 18.

■ **28. Brendan Gaughan (car No. 77):** Will Gaughan lose this ride to Travis Kvapil, who edged him for the 2003 NASCAR Truck title? Preseason ranking: 25.

■ **29. Jeff Green (car No. 43):** Eleven did-not-finishes hampered this team's efforts to show improvement in 2004. Preseason ranking: 31.

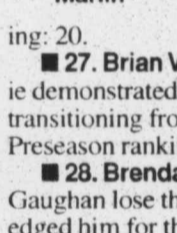
■ **30. Scott Riggs (car No. 10):** If his team gives him time to develop, there's reason to think Riggs can be a success. Preseason ranking: 30.

■ **31. Jimmie Johnson and the No. 48 team led all drivers with eight victories in 2004.**

BOB LESIEUR/PATRICK DEMSEY PHOTOGRAPHY



Marlin



Green



Johnson



POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now that the 2004 season is officially over, who do you predict to win the 2005 Chase for the Nextel Cup?

Cast your vote at:
www.thatracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Five drivers are within 100 points of the lead with one race left. Who will win the championship?
Number of votes: 5,753

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Jeff Gordon	1,812	32%
Jimmie Johnson	1,410	25%
Kurt Busch	1,167	20%
Dale Earnhardt Jr.	993	17%
Mark Martin	371	6%

RACIN' NOTES

Gaughan says Cup status still uncertain

Nextel Cup rookie Brendan Gaughan still doesn't know if he is returning to his Penske-Jasper Racing team next season. Team officials have not yet picked up the option on Gaughan's contract.

Gaughan's family owns the No. 62 Dodge in the Truck series, driven by Steve Park. Park is returning next season, but Gaughan said he is likely to run some races as a teammate to Park no matter what his Cup situation turns out to be.

"I'm not here for the money part of this sport," he said. "I want to be a race car driver. This is a desire, not a need."

— Jim Utter



Gaughan

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers of the 2004 season:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. K. Busch (97)	6506	21. S. Marlin (40)	3857
2. J. Johnson (48)	6498	22. C. Mears (41)	3690
3. J. Gordon (24)	6490	23. R. Gordon (31)	3646
4. M. Martin (6)	6399	24. R. Rudd (21)	3615
5. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8)	6368	25. B. Vickers (25)	3521
6. T. Stewart (20)	6326	26. T. Labonte (5)	3519
7. R. Newman (12)	6180	27. S. Wimmer (22)	3198
8. M. Kenseth (17)	6069	28. B. Gaughan (77)	3165
9. E. Sadler (38)	6024	29. S. Riggs (10)	3090
10. J. Mayfield (19)	6000	30. J. K. Roush (43)	3054
11. J. McMurray (42)	4597	31. K. Schrader (49)	3032
12. B. Labonte (18)	4277	32. W. Burton (0)	2929
13. K. Kahne (9)	4274	33. K. Petty (45)	2811
14. K. Harvick (29)	4228	34. R. Craven	2086
15. D. Jarrett (88)	4214	35. J. Spencer	1969
16. R. Wallace (2)	3960	36. J. Sauter (09)	1430
17. G. Biffle (16)	3902	37. C. Edwards (99)	1424
18. J. Burton (30)	3902	37. D. Blaney	1347
19. J. Nemechek (01)	3878	39. B. Hamilton Jr. (32)	1271
20. M. Waltrip (15)	3878	40. D. Cope (50)	1058

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers of the 2004 season:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Truex Jr.	5173	11. K. Kahne	3713
2. K. Busch	4943	12. J. Leffler	3661
3. G. Biffle	4568	13. M. Waltrip	3649
4. R. Hornaday	4258	14. S. Compton	3614
5. M. Bliss	4115	15. R. Pressley	3604
6. J. Keller	4088	16. T. Fedewa	3480
7. D. Green	4082	17. M. Wallace	3461
8. A. Lewis	3892	18. J. Sauter	3411
9. K. Wallace	3851	19. C. Atwood	3130
10. D. Stremme	3738	20. K. Harvick	3129

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers of the 2004 season:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. B. Hamilton	3624	6. D. Starr	3298
2. D. Setzer	3578	7. J. Sprague	3167
3. T. Musgrave	3554	8. T. Kvapil	3152
4. C. Edwards	3493	9. S. Park	3138
5. M. Crafton	3379	10. C. Chaffin	3122

The pass that would have changed everything just wasn't to be

One pass. Forget about the record eight-point margin by which Kurt Busch beat Jimmie Johnson to win the 2004 Chase for the Nextel Cup. It was even more basic at the end of Sunday's Ford 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

On a green-white-checked finish, Tony Stewart's race-leading car sputtered with a fuel-intake issue as he hit the gas and Greg Biffle, running behind Stewart, saw what was happening.

"I got off the gas, on the brakes and jerked the wheel to the right," Biffle said.

The maneuver allowed Biffle to avoid wrecking his Ford. Stewart's Chevrolet and who knows how many others. It also gave Biffle the lead in a race in which his No. 16 Ford was clearly the strongest car.

Jeff Gordon and Johnson, desperately racing to catch Kurt Busch in the title Chase, also passed Stewart, whose en-

gine finally came to life in time for him to pull off in fourth place just ahead of Busch.

Behind Busch, Brendan Gaughan, Jamie McMurray and Rusty Wallace still had nearly two laps left to try to pass the 26-year-old driver trying to hold on for the championship.

On the final lap, Johnson got past Gordon for second. But Biffle was long gone, on his way to his second win of the season.

What if Biffle had suffered the same fate Ryan Newman had on Lap 265, when he cut a tire while leading,

wrecked and wound up finishing 30th? First, Johnson would have won the race. In doing so, he would have earned

185 points in the final race instead of 170 — 180 for winning and five bonus points for leading a lap, something he had not done.

That would have given Johnson 6,513 points for the year. Busch, meanwhile, would have successfully held off Gaughan and the others for fourth instead of fifth.

Busch also led a lap, the race's first four laps after earning the pole on Friday, so a fourth-place finish would have given him 165 points in the finale and 6,511 points for the year — two fewer than Johnson. It would have cost him about \$3 million, the difference between first- and second-place money from the Nextel Cup points fund.

But that one pass never happened and, like the what-if game people have tried to play all year with the former points system, those "would-have-been" numbers don't matter.

Johnson will have to wait another year, at least, to win his first championship.

Busch, on the other hand, got to hoist the trophy and celebrate the ultimate NASCAR moment with car owner Jack Roush, crew chief Jimmy Fennig and the rest of a team that passed every test the Chase threw at them since Sept. 19, when Busch won at New Hampshire in the No. 97 Ford.

The 10 Chase-eligible drivers won eight of the 10 "playoff" races — half of those by Johnson. But Busch is the sport's champion because he found ways to finish in the top 10 nine times in that span after being in the top 10 only 12 times in the 26 "regular season" races that came before it.

In at least five of those races, Busch could have just as easily finished within 10 spots of last. He spun out at Kansas, Charlotte and Phoenix. His car was handling so badly at one point in last week's race at Darlington, it was all he could do

to drive it around the track under caution so he could bring it back in for more work.

And then on Sunday at Homestead, his right-front wheel just came right off his car. The metal center of the wheel itself broke off.

Fennig has been racing so long Busch kidded him Sunday that he'd meant to say "70" years instead of "several" years, and Fennig said he'd seen that happen once before. Roush said he'd heard of it happening but had never actually seen it himself.

Still, Busch kept fighting. When he saw Gordon and Johnson just in front of him in the final laps, he thought he was close enough to pass the ultimate test.

Finally, as he went down the backstretch, somebody finally got through on his radio to confirm that he was, indeed, the champion.

"We did it, boys!" he exclaimed. "We did it!"
By one pass.



DAVID POOLE