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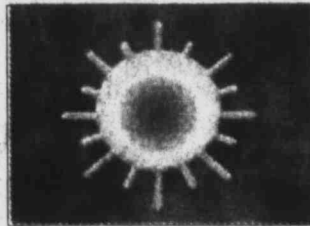
Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

WEEKEND EDITION

November, 27-28, 2004

WEATHER



SUNDAY 59°-61° SUNDAY NIGHT 44°-46°

BRIEFLY

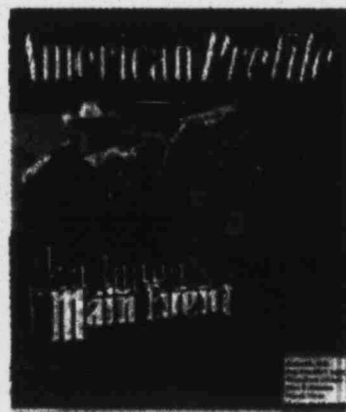
What do you think?

What do you think? The Big Spring Herald has added a reader's poll to its Web site. This week's question concerns what you think county commissioners should do about the stray animal problem in Howard County. Give us your opinion by going to www.bigspringherald.com

Flu vaccine to be given 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 six to 23-months old, 65 and older and those who are at high risk due to chronic illness. Families with children less than six months old will also be able to get immunized. The shots cost \$10 for those that do not have Medicaid or Medicare.

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Vol. 101, No. 2

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 noon Sunday.

Because they won't be home for Christmas

Washington Elementary class making sure troops don't have a blue holiday

By KENDRA WISS

Staff Writer
They won't be home for Christmas. Lance Cpl. James Helms and the rest of his Marine platoon stationed at the Abu Ghurayb prison between Fallujah and Baghdad, won't be able to be home for Christmas, so a group of students at Washington Elementary School decided to take Christmas to them.

"When we realized that James and his platoon wouldn't be home for the holidays, we decided to start a Christmas care project to adopt these soldiers and send them items they would enjoy," said Rosie Lain, a fourth-grade teacher at Washington.

Lain's class and the other classes at the school

each adopted two or three soldiers and filled care boxes for them.

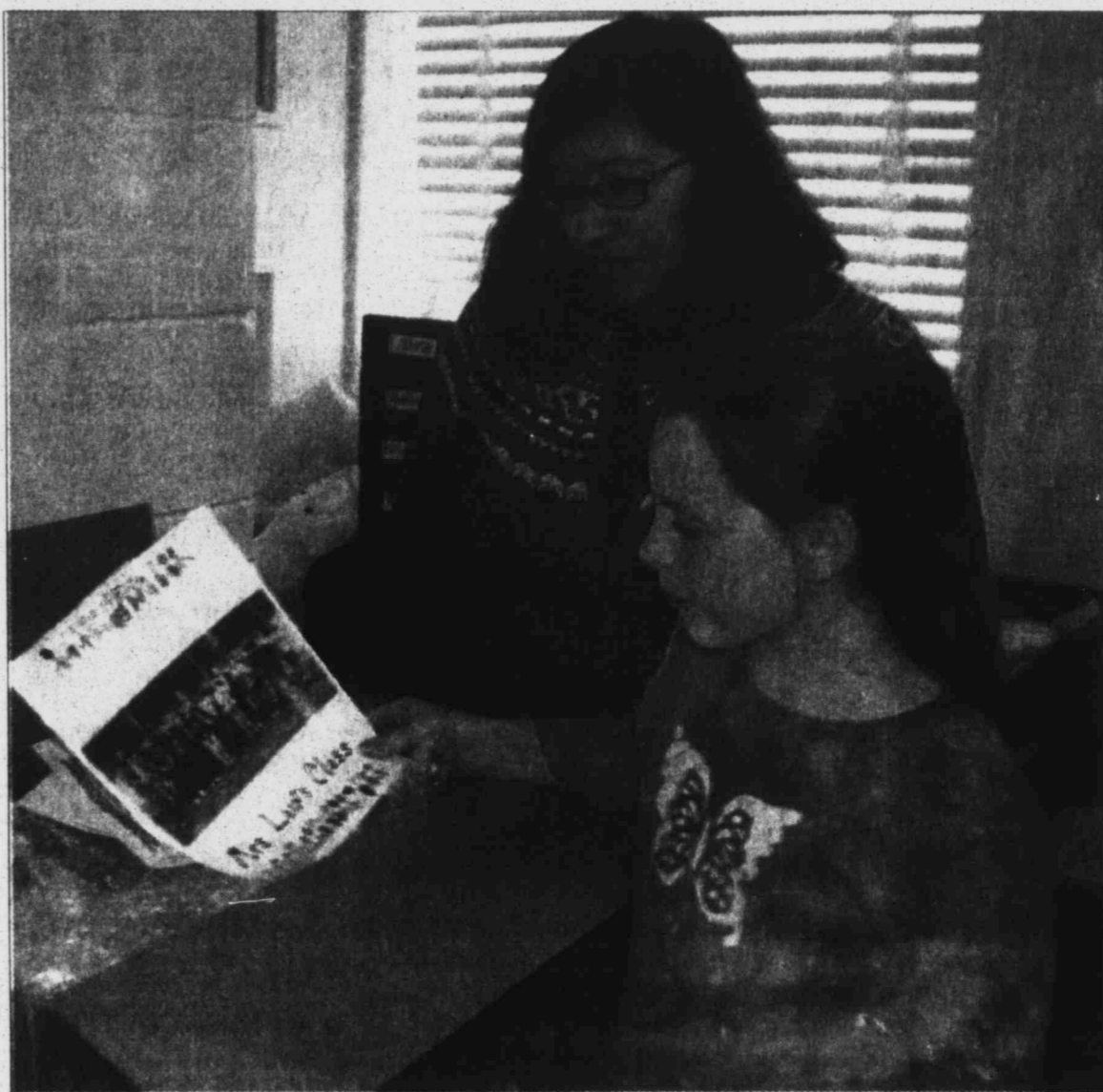
Lain's son, Arthur Reyes Jr., is a Marine who just returned to the U.S. from serving in Afghanistan. "When I asked him what they enjoyed receiving the most, he said phone cards and pictures of school kids who are thinking of us," said

"I did this project because I want them to know we are thinking about and care about them."

—Cassandra Kirk, fourth grader

Lain. That inspired the teachers to include cards and pictures of their classes with the care packages. Also included in the boxes were items such as sports magazines, Carmex, eye drops, Gatorade and music CDs.

"I sent Pringles, a tuna kit and two decks of cards," said Cassandra Kirk, a fourth grader in Lain's class. "I think the



HERALD photo/Kendra Wiss
Cassandra Kirk and her fourth grade teacher Rosie Lain add their Washington Elementary School class picture to the last of the boxes they have packed for James Helms and his platoon stationed in Iraq. The class is seeking funds to ship the final boxes for Christmas delivery.

soldiers will be really happy to get the boxes because they won't get to be with their families." Helms' mother, Connie, says she is humbled by the outpouring of support. See **TROOPS**, Page 5A

Bush calls on Americans to volunteer

CRAWFORD (AP)— President Bush issued a holiday-season call on Americans to volunteer and give to charity — "to share our blessings with the least among us."

He singled out for special praise those who have given time and energy to U.S. troops stationed around the world.



BUSH

"The greatest challenges of our time have come to the men and women who protect our nation," Bush said in his weekly radio address Saturday.

"Like generations before them, today's armed forces have liberated captive peoples and shown compassion for the suffering and delivered hope to the oppressed," Bush said. "In the past year, they have fought the terrorists abroad so that we do not have to face

those enemies here at home."

Bush said there was much to appreciate this Thanksgiving weekend. "We're grateful for our beautiful country, and for the prosperity we enjoy. We're grateful for the chance to live, work and worship in freedom," Bush said.

"We also recognize our duty to share our blessings with the least among us," the president said. "Throughout the holiday

season, schools, churches, synagogues and other generous organizations gather food and clothing for their neighbors in need. Many young people give part of their holiday to volunteer at homeless shelters or food pantries.

"On Thanksgiving, and on every day of the year, America is a more hopeful nation because of the volunteers who serve the weak and the vulnerable."



HERALD photo/Kendra Wiss
Jana Slaughter, with daughter Morgan, shops at Suggs Hallmark on Friday. Although she is hoping she won't spend as much money on Christmas this year, Slaughter says she is always on the lookout for bargains.

Merchants happy with early sales

By KENDRA WISS

Staff Writer

It starts the holiday shopping season.

Called "Black Friday" by retailers, the day after Thanksgiving is the traditional start of Christmas shopping in America. According to ABC news, 78 percent of Americans shop on the Friday after Thanksgiving, making it the busiest shopping day next to the Saturday before Christmas.

Were Big Spring businesses successful in their quests to attract local shoppers? Many business owners and managers believe they were.

"We did very well



SWINNEY

today," said local Sears owner Jody Swinney. "We had more than 600 customers. We broke our daily sales quota at 11:30 a.m. and are

looking to break our largest day goal by the end of business."

Swinney gave away \$10 gift cards to the first 25 customers who were in the store, within five minutes of opening the doors.

He had customers from Snyder, Colorado City and Garden City but the

See **SALES**, Page 3A



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Obituaries

Emma Jean Graham

Emma Jean Graham, 84, passed away Nov. 21, 2004, at Saint Johns Hospital in Nassau Bay. Jean was born Feb. 13, 1920, in Eastland to Roy and Katie O'Brien. She was a member of the American Legion.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents; son-in-law, Roy Kirkpatrick; two sisters; and six brothers.

Jean is survived by her husband, Eschol Graham; daughter, Carol Kirkpatrick; sister, Betty Jo McLaurin; grandchild, Mark Kirkpatrick; and great-grandchildren, Kayna, Kandis and Kristin Kirkpatrick. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 29, 2004, at the Trinity Memorial Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park Cemetery in Big Spring.

Paid obituary

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday:

- PAMELA C. HENRY, 26, of 2516 Ent Dr., was arrested Friday on a Howard County warrant.

- TYSON DIONE SMITH, 24, of Burlson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less.

- KRISTLE MARIE MARTINEZ, 22, of Burlson, was arrested Saturday on charges of possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less and possession of a controlled substance.

Note: A police activity log for Friday afternoon through Saturday morning was not available at press time.

Support groups

MONDAY

Encourager's Support Group for widows and widowers begins at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels streets. Enter through the north door. Please bring a covered dish. Call 398-5522 for more information.

TUESDAY

The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

THURSDAY

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

SATURDAY

Open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 to 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Take note

CHRIS'S CROSSES WILL BE ON SALE AT THE EAST DOOR OF WAL-MART Thursday as a fundraiser for Home Hospice Halos relay For Life team. Call Shrry or Rose Ann at 264-7599 for more information.

A BENEFIT FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Jeremiah Best to help with the cost of his cancer treatment. Contributions and prayers are appreciated.

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 Friday and Saturday 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&u=niq-923947. For more information about the Buffalo Finna 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.

FORSAN SCHOOL BAND WILL PERFORM IN WASHINGTON D.C. JULY 4, 2005, by special invitation, representing Texas. Funds are needed to cover the \$145,000 cost of the trip. Donations are being accepted at the First Bank of West Texas, account name Forsan Band Trip. Contact Forsan Superintendent Randy Johnson or band directors Jim Rhodes and Jeremy Higgenbotham at 457-2223.

A FUND TO HELP DEFRAY the funeral costs and medical bills of Johnny Darden, a Howard County man who was killed by a swarm of bees, has been set up at State National Bank under account no. 2007126.

A SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT LOVE FROM HOME has been established at Citizen's Federal Credit Union. Love From Home is a local effort to provide personal items needed by the soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Contact the credit union at 267-6373 to contribute funds to offset the cost of postage for the packages mailed to the soldiers.

CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

MANNA RELIEF, a non-profit ministry that provides glyconutritional supplements to critically ill children, is accepting donations for the program. Call Gene or Robbie Froman at 263-0385.

POTTON HOUSE, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

HERITAGE MUSEUM, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday and from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday.

BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

Bulletin board

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

MONDAY

- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at 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.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-12-19-24-30.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Saturday night.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-1-6

Weather

Sunday - Mostly cloudy. Highs near 60. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night - Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday - Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain. Highs near 50. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph in the morning shifting to the northeast 15 to 25 mph in the afternoon.

Monday night - Cloudy with a mix of light rain... Sleet and snow. Lows near 30. The chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Tuesday - Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs near 40.

Tuesday night - Partly cloudy. Lows near 30.

Wednesday - Partly cloudy. Highs near 50.

Wednesday night - Mostly clear. Lows near 30.

Thursday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s.

Thursday night - Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Friday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s.

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.bigspringherald.com

Reflecting A Proud Community

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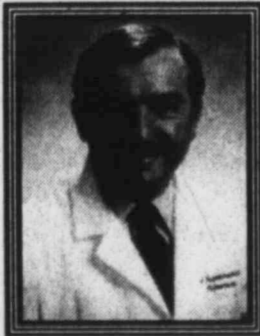
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The Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press, Texas Press Association, Inland Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Newspaper Association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

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SALES

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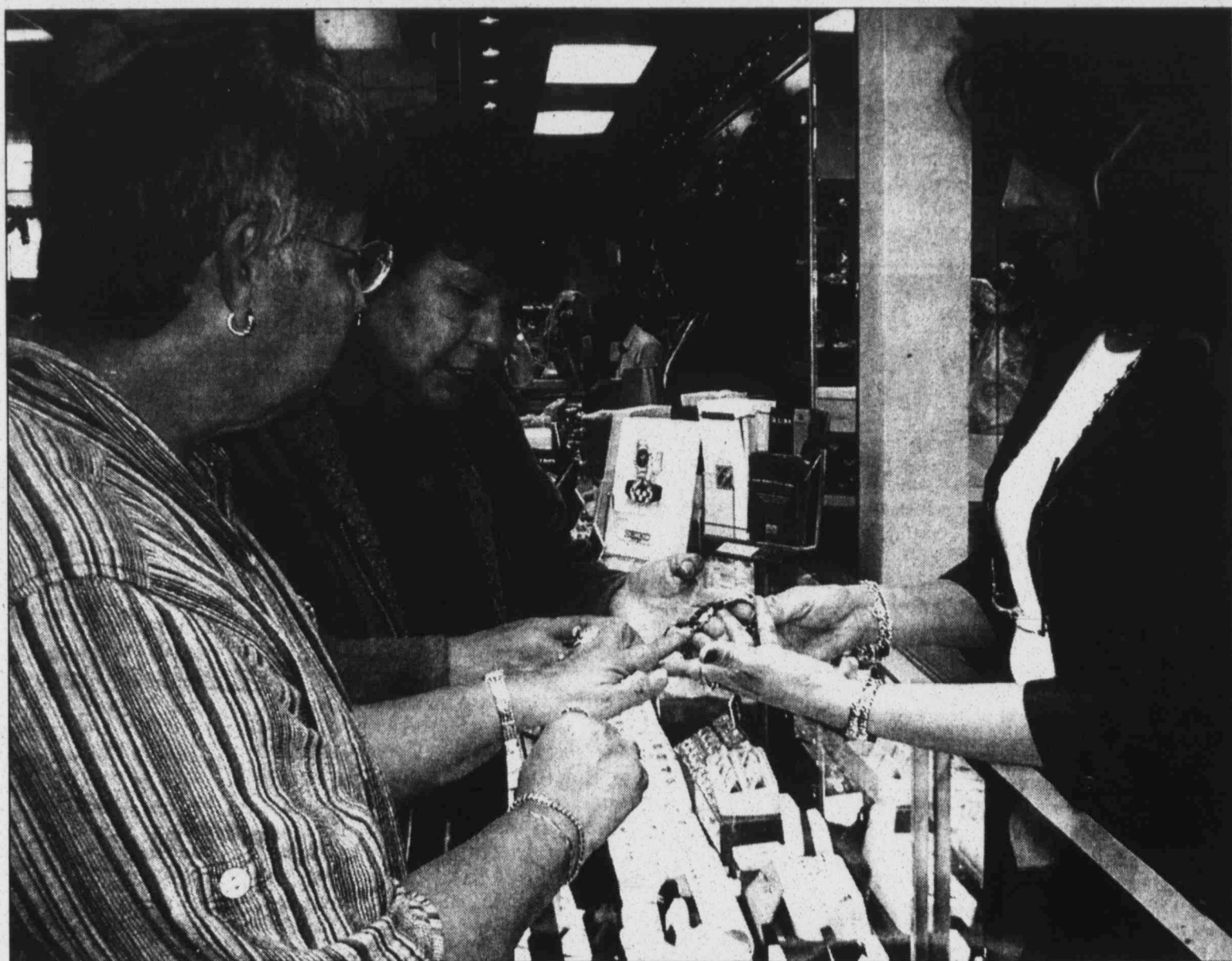
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HERALD photo
Erilinda Rios, left, of Big Spring and her sister-in-law Olivia Escovedo of Little Rock, Ark., hit Blum's Jewelry store inside the Big Spring Mall Friday to check out the after-Thanksgiving sales. Assisting the two early-rising shoppers is store employee Betty Gamboa.

SALES

Continued from Page 1A

largest percentage of sales were local shoppers.

"We are up in sales by 6 to 8 percent so we are expecting a very positive Christmas season," Swinney added. "We're extremely pleased and very proud that people are shopping at home."

Wal-Mart saw success early in the day as well, as shoppers were lined up by 5:30 a.m. for the 6 a.m. sales event.

"We get there early every year," said Dora Hernandez, who arrived at 4:45 a.m. to survey sale items. "My family and I plan out what we are going to buy by going over the ads. Then we get there early and get in position near the sales items."

Hernandez was joined by four family members who left with their carts full of discounted gifts.

Wal-Mart manager Karla Grimes said the store did very well Friday.

"I think some people went to Midland earlier in the day and then came home to finish their shopping," she said. "The shoppers are spending about the same amount as last year, but they are being cautious with their money and are making every dollar count."

Grimes said the hot toys for this year, among others, are the 1/6-scale Cadillac Escalade and Hummer H2, the Schwinn 20-inch Stingray bicycle and Sesame Street's E-L-M-O. Elmo gives a rousing rendition of The Village People's YMCA tune.

At Suggs' Hallmark, sales were booming, according to owner Ricky Suggs.

"Overall this was a very good sales day," he said. The store had more than 250 customers.

"We think that people in Big Spring are buying in Big Spring," said Suggs. "We are expecting a good Christmas. It looks like people are spending a little more than last year."

The store is offering free gift wrapping to its customers and Suggs said that Jingle Pals, The Polar Express Santa and

Jim Shore's Angel collection are hot items this year.

Veronda Vassar, owner of The Master's Touch, said her store had lots of traffic.

"We had many customers who brought friends and family members from out of town," she said.

Vassar said the store had experienced a hard year and she was hoping for steady Christmas sales.

"Since it seems customers are buying less this year, we hope people will shop Big Spring first," said Vassar.

Due to the large number of people listening to Christian music, Vassar explained, the music sales at The Master's Touch are on the rise. She says that Christian music is the best-selling item at her store.

Sharon Cofferen, assistant manager at Bealls, said that store was having

good traffic flow and added that she thinks people are shopping Big Spring first.

Bealls had more than 15 customers waiting for the doors to open at 7 a.m. Friday.

"We hope everyone will come out and shop locally," she said. "Christmas sales are looking very good for us. Customers are really shopping the sale items and using their coupons, so it looks like they are buying more this

year." Burke's Outlet also experienced good sales Friday.

"I think a lot of that has to do with our discount of 50 percent off items already on clearance," said store manager Cindy Clinton.

"For us it's so far, so good," she added. "We encourage customers to keep their dollars at home and shop Big Spring. We've noticed that even though shoppers are being cautious with their spending, our children's clothing and new Polo items have been big sellers," said Clinton.

Lynda Elrod, co-owner Elrod's Furniture, said the store experienced good traffic Friday.

"Sales have been very good the past month, with a large percentage of our sales from out-of-town customers," she said.

According to Elrod, customers in Midland and Odessa are coming to Big Spring for the best deals, while, ironically, local shoppers are driving to Midland to search for bargains.

"Our Christmas sales outlook is positive, even though customers are being very cautious and thoughtful in their purchases," she added.

New business owner Casey Bobbitt, who opened her store Spice a little more than a month ago, says sales are good and getting better.

"I don't know yet what our holidays sales will be, but I'm hoping that people will shop locally," she said. Her shop carries unique gift items which are hard to find, said Bobbitt.

The hot item at Spice is

a 14-ounce soy candle from Archipelago, which burns for twice as long as its waxy counterpart.

"Caramel and clove are the best-selling fragrances. I can hardly keep them in stock," she said.

Big Spring businesses are trying to get the public to shop locally by offering discounted and low priced items but no matter what the store's location, the product or the price range, the theme from every business is clear — shop Big Spring first.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Charles "Chuck" Meacham, 74, died Wednesday. Services were at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial was at Trinity Memorial Park.

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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

Remember to be giving this season

'Tis the season. Thanksgiving is gone for another year and residents of the Crossroads area, like everyone else across the nation, begin to turn their thoughts to Christmas. And that means it's time to begin remembering the various charitable drives that take place every year here in Big Spring.

While there's about a month of shopping days each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas, there's less time to help out charities.

Now is really the time to take a few minutes and remember those less fortunate than ourselves. And to remember the spirit of giving far outweighs that of getting. It's a message we preach to our children at an early age during the Christmas season.

And this Christmas, as is always the case, there are a number of agencies that need our help.

We would also ask our readers to remember that for children, Christmas just isn't Christmas without a new toy.

The Herald and the Salvation Army want to make sure no child in Big Spring has to experience that feeling this Christmas season, and that's why we'll again be partnering a joint toy drive again this year.

We're concerned that not all the children will receive a gift. So, if you can, please heed the call. We'll have the doors open here at the Herald every Monday through Friday morning at 8 a.m. and will be here until 5 p.m. on those days for those wishing to donate to the drive.

The toys will be taken to the Salvation Army and distributed on Dec. 23. Help us make sure they can give every child in need at least one new toy this Christmas.

And don't forget, the Salvation Army's Angel Trees have the Christmas wishes of many needy children and elderly citizens on them as well this season.

The Angel Trees are within easy reach, located at the Big Spring Mall and Wal-Mart. Still another will go up at Scenic Mountain Medical Center on Dec. 1. In addition, the tree for seniors is located here at the Herald.

There's also still time to help out the Giving Trees project in Big Spring.

Child Protective Services annually sponsors a Giving Tree in the lobby of Wells Fargo Bank. The tree is trimmed with paper ornaments, each bearing the name of a child who has three wishes for the holidays. People purchase the gifts indicated on those ornaments and return them, unwrapped to the tree. Each ornament is marked with the child's shoe and clothing size.

That tree will go up Monday morning, so, if you can, take a few minutes to drop by Wells Fargo Bank and pick an ornament off the Giving Tree and make this a special Christmas for a special child.

Let's all be able to say we did our best to make it a joyous holiday season throughout Big Spring and Howard County.

Remember, the feeling you will receive from helping others is truly what is meant by the Christmas spirit.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we have faith in you, Lord, we aren't afraid of our future.

Amen

Inside report: Scaring specter straight

Before Sen. Arlen Specter stood beside other Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee last Thursday and pledged support as their chairman for any judge that President Bush nominates, he had been scared stiff by his colleagues and by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

It was close. As late as Wednesday night, his statement of party loyalty was rejected by Frist as inadequate. When the Judiciary Republicans caucused Thursday, two of them were not yet on board for Specter. To achieve the chairmanship that he has coveted for years, Specter had to promise he would seriously dilute the "independence" he brags about. The achievement suggests that Frist is getting the hang of being leader after a rocky first year in the job.

That offers hope for an end to recent Democratic success in using the filibuster to block every Bush judicial nomination deemed objectionable to liberal pressure groups. The stakes grow higher with the probability of Supreme Court nominations. But Frist will have four additional Republican senators, thanks to this year's elections, and enhanced confidence, thanks to the way he handled the Specter affair.

Specter endangered his own succession to the Judiciary chairmanship the day after he was easily re-elected to a fifth term from Pennsylvania, a state that rejected Bush in the same election. Unable



ROBERT NOVAK

to contain his arrogance and exuberance, he blundered into warning the president not to name Supreme Court justices who oppose the Roe v. Wade abortion ruling.

That triggered a massive campaign by conservative activists to stop Specter from becoming chairman. Frist quickly raised the bar for Specter. It would not be enough, as Specter promised following his post-election outburst, to guarantee that judicial nominees get out of his committee. "I would expect Chairman Specter to go one step further," the majority leader said on Fox News Sunday Nov. 14. He must have a "strong predisposition" toward supporting nominees. The implication: Specter better take that course, or he would not become chairman.

Without a doubt, Frist could muster the votes to block Specter as chairman and name a more reliable Republican (such as Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona). But that would leave a wounded, probably vengeful Specter. He might well cross the aisle to the Democratic side, perhaps forcing a change in committee ratios of the parties. Even if he remained in the Republican caucus, Specter would still be on the Judiciary Committee and could be counted on to raise havoc with Bush's nominees.

What to do with Specter, then, was explained to me by one of the committee's most politically astute Republicans, who asked that his name not be used: "We have to scare the hell out of Arlen before he gets to be chairman — scare him so badly he will act properly as chairman."

Frist told Specter he must pro-

duce a written statement pledging his cooperation as chairman. What he wrote pledged only that judicial nominations would get out of his committee. That was not good enough, Frist told him Wednesday night. He would have to pledge support for Bush judges and declare himself open to a rules change blocking filibusters of judicial nominations. Specter must have been frightened. He wrote a new four-paragraph statement incorporating the majority leader's demands.

Even so, when Judiciary Committee Republicans assembled behind closed doors Thursday, two conservative Southerners still had their doubts about him: Sens. Jeff Sessions of Alabama and John Cornyn of Texas believe voters across the country on Nov. 2 voted for an end to the tactics that have blocked action in the Senate. Although he never mentions it, Sessions has to remember that Specter helped block his nomination to the appellate court before he ran for the Senate.

In the Thursday meeting, Specter convinced Sessions, Cornyn and everybody else that he meant what he said in his statement. The senator who had told me it was necessary to really scare Specter suddenly contracted amnesia about that tactic. There was no desire to embarrass a senior senator. But everybody will be watching carefully next year to see whether Arlen Specter was frightened sufficiently.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Taking the hard path not popular

Editor's note: Roger Simon is on vacation. The following column was first published in January 1997.

As Bill Clinton took his second oath of office and gave his second inaugural speech, I could not help but think of one person who was not here this day.

It was February 1992, and so, of course, we were all in New Hampshire watching the petting zoo of candidates they call the presidential primary.

Bill Clinton was running, and so was Jerry Brown and Tom Harkin and Bob Kerrey and some of the other usual suspects, including one called Paul Tsongas.

Tsongas was hardly unknown in New England — he had been a senator from Massachusetts — but he was something new on the national scene: He was a presidential candidate who told people what they did not want to hear.

He told them they would have to sacrifice and that the path ahead would be hard.

"I don't do the middle-class tax cut," he told audiences, which was a reference to what Bill Clinton was promising. "I don't give tax credits for children. That's walking downhill. It is easy. But it's a rut. It's time to walk uphill. It is hard. You sweat. But you get to the top of the mountain."

He was at Daniel Webster College in Nashua, N.H., and there was a good crowd, mostly of young people, who seemed to enjoy someone who did not pander to them.

"Ideas count in America," Tsongas said that day, "and not 30- or 60-second sound bites. In America, if you present a vision, Americans will move to it and embrace it."

And that is when a young student stood up and said she trusted nobody. She had heard politician after politician and candidate after candidate, and it just made her more suspicious and more angry.

A look of genuine pain passed across Tsongas' face.

"When I was in college, the farthest I had ever been away from home was to go to Annapolis to swim against Navy," he said. "A few months later, I was in Ethiopia working for the Peace Corps. Why? Because of a president. A president drew me in. And that's the kind of president I want to be. I want to be the kind of president you can trust."

It was John F. Kennedy who drew Paul Tsongas (and thousands of others, including Bill Clinton) into public service. In 1960, Kennedy did not promise good times. He asked for sacrifice; he asked Americans to ask themselves what they could do for their country.

But now it was the '90s, and would sacrifice work today? Tsongas thought it would, and in his speeches in 1992 he emphasized a word that by 1996 would become very popular.

"Values," Tsongas said. "What are the values we are giving our children? Look at our beer commercials."

The audience members would always laugh, but they would also think. Beer commercials offered pleasure, satisfaction, good times all without effort. All you had to do was pop the top of the right beer.

Tsongas believed America could not survive as a pop-top society. "If you are supporting me, you

have great courage and no political instinct whatsoever," Tsongas would say. "But I'll take courage!"

He had courage all his life, battling cancer and still running for office. Though his speeches were filled with a certain number of one-liners, he was not a jovial man. He had decided not to sugar-coat reality, and so that also made him a lonely man.

He was the man who would not play the game, who would not take the downhill road, who believed the unpleasant truth would, in the end, be more appealing to the voters than the pleasant untruth.

He lost, of course. Bill Clinton beat him.

But Tsongas always asked his supporters to do the same thing after each primary. "I want you to go into a room in your home and sit down in a chair by yourself," he would say. "And I want you to contemplate what you have done. I want you to feel good about yourself. Feel it. Enjoy it. Savor it."

Which is how he experienced his own life: feeling it, enjoying it, savoring it.

Paul Tsongas died Saturday at age 55.

Sunday, Bill Clinton said of him: "Our country is deeply indebted to him for having had the courage to stay active in public life and to battle through his own illness and his own pain and his own disappointment to continue to fight for America's well being."

Pain and disappointment. Maybe that's what you have to expect if you decide to follow the hard path.

But Paul Tsongas wanted it that way.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Iraq experience shapes lawmaker's opposition to intelligence overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Duncan Hunter says his son, a Marine artillery officer who has served in Iraq, asked him for two favors. One was to fix his Ford Bronco. The other was to stand firm in opposing an intelligence bill that would strip authority from the Pentagon.

Hunter didn't repair the Bronco. But he came through on the intelligence bill — a key reason that a compromise favored by President Bush, top congressional leaders and the Sept. 11 commission fell apart.

To his critics, Hunter, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has been the Pentagon's tool, undermining bipartisan efforts to make urgently needed intelligence reforms in an effort to protect the Defense Department's turf.

But Hunter insists he isn't protecting turf. He

says he's trying to protect the lives of soldiers, including his 27-year-old son, 1st Lt. Duncan Duane Hunter, who has served two tours in Iraq. The lawmaker believes that shifting responsibility for satellite images and other intelligence now handled by the Pentagon could ultimately endanger soldiers.

In an interview, Hunter said his son and other soldiers who have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan told him of the importance those images play in combat.

"My son was able to do things with intelligence in his artillery operations that my father, who was a World War II Marine artillery officer in the south Pacific, was never able to do," said Hunter, R-Calif.

Hunter's concerns have been echoed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. Richard Myers. But lawmakers who support-

ed the compromise say it would have ensured that soldiers receive timely intelligence. Some are skeptical of Hunter's motives.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., said he believes Hunter "would oppose the bill no matter what argument he had to use to kill it."

"I believe this is primarily an issue of turf," Shays said in an interview.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said in a statement that "cynical House Republicans" never had any intention of reaching a deal.

The other main opponent of the compromise, House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., has said such comments will only make it harder to pass an intelligence reform bill.

Hunter shrugged off both criticism and White House pressure. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney have called Hunter to seek his support.

"You don't ever get a sense that he feels that pressure," said retired Marine Corps Gen. Terry L. Paul, a friend of Hunter's. "Once he formulates an opinion on something, he's steadfast in it."

Paul said he learned that about a dozen years ago, before becoming friends with Hunter. Paul was in the office of Sen. William Cohen, R-Maine, a future defense secretary, who was out negotiating a military issue with Hunter.

He said Cohen walked into his office and "threw down his papers on the floor in a display of frustration" and said jokingly, "If I had a gun, I don't know who I'd shoot first, me or Duncan Hunter."

Man critical after possible road rage incident off I-35

FORT WORTH (AP) — A 38-year-old man remains in critical condition Saturday after a road rage incident where he may have been mistaken for someone else, police said.

Steven "Kent" Schnable suffered brain damage after being beaten after his pickup was run off an Interstate 35 access road-way early Thanksgiving Day, police said.

"He's not in good condition," said Kyle Schnable, Schnable's brother. "He's in a drug-induced coma right now. It's a wait-and-see type of deal." Schnable has not regained consciousness since he was taken to John Peter Smith Hospital.

"Road rage is what we surmise," said Fort Worth police Lt. Abdul Pridden.

After forcing the truck off the road, three occupants of a blue pickup approached Schnable. The driver then attacked Schnable, fracturing his skull and causing a brain injury, police said.

The friend said the pickup had driven up to Schnable's white pickup and flashed its lights, presumably to get Schnable to move over from the left lane.

Before Schnable could switch lanes, the truck swerved and passed several cars on the left shoulder.

The friend told police he noticed another white pickup then cut off the blue pickup.

Police believe the driver of the blue pickup may have mistaken the driver of the pickup that cut him off with Schnable's pickup.

Married for 69 years, husband, wife both die on Thanksgiving

HURST (AP) — Relatives say Gracie Jackson's wish was always that she and her husband J.C., the love of her life for seven decades, would go to heaven holding hands.

On Thanksgiving Day, her wish came true.

J.C. Jackson, 97, died of congestive heart failure about 2:30 a.m. Thursday at a nursing home in this Fort Worth suburb. Twenty hours later, Gracie Jackson, 88, joined her husband of 69 years, dying of pneumonia.

The family insists J.C. Jackson did not go to heaven 20 hours sooner than Gracie.

"No, Daddy waited on her, and they went together," daughter Cathy Jackson said in a Saturday afternoon telephone interview.

Relatives described the Jacksons as a devout, big-hearted couple from East Texas. They married on Christmas Day 1934 in Terrell and raised two sons and three daughters.

During World War II, the couple opened their home — with hot chocolate and dancing — to English fly-boys who came to Texas to train.

"The Jackson house was big, with a ballroom. I can still see the winding

stairs," said daughter Judy Earhart, 67, of Overton. "It was like a

J.C. Jackson spent a half-century as a grocer, while Gracie helped make ends meet by sewing. And everyone knew about her cooking, relatives say.

"The tramps and the hobos would be riding the rails through there — there were a lot of them at the time," Spence said. "She never gave them money, but she would feed them."

Fried eggs mostly — sometimes bacon, toast and what the family remembers as heavenly biscuits.

Described as a little, slender couple who toiled together, the Jacksons

Henderson in the early

"We know they loved each other, and they loved us," said daughter Toni Hood, 69, of North Richland Hills.

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TROOPS

Continued from Page 1A

"It is wonderful support for our troops," she said. "It will give them a piece of home and help them to feel loved."

Helms has strong ties to the school. Connie works for Big Spring Independent School District in the technology department and his aunt, Beccie Helsley, is a fourth-grade teacher at Washington.

Helms is scheduled to be home for a 30-day leave in February. He has been in Iraq since May. Although once scheduled to come home in January, he volunteered to stay an

extra month to help in a transition time.

"He said he felt that soldiers who are fathers and husbands needed to get home to their families sooner, so he volunteered," said Connie. "It makes us so proud that James thinks of others first."

The school has already mailed some of the Christmas packages but due to the high cost of shipping, the teachers are still gathering money to send the rest.

"We've had some really great businesses and individuals give money for the shipping," said Lain. "I especially want to thank Tommy Churchwell. His donation helped so much. We are

hoping others will also help so we can get these last few boxes to our soldiers."

When asked why she wanted to participate in the project, Kirk embodied the spirit of the holiday season when she said, "I did this project because I want them to know that we are thinking about and care about them."

For more information about the Christmas Care Project or to make a donation, call Washington Elementary School at 264-4126.

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

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Some photographers still cling to the 'wet' technology

By VALERIE TAKAHAMA

Orange County Register

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Maybe it's the womb-like seclusion of the darkroom or the briny smell of the chemicals, but few photographers ever forget the thrill they felt when they developed their first photo.

"I can still see the picture. My mother had a coat with a raccoon collar. 'Gee, that's my mother,'" says Eugene Lally, 70, of Mission Viejo, Calif.

Mark Angus, 51, of Laguna Beach, Calif., remembers a similar moment during a photo class at Orange Coast College about 10 years ago.

"You look at a piece of paper in this soup, and all of a sudden, this image magically appears. It's very cool," he says.

Lally and Angus are serious amateur photographers a generation apart who got hooked on the possibilities of the medium in that moment. But with the popularity of digital cameras and computer programs like Adobe Photoshop, today's photographers will experience a different sort of aha! moment.

"When you can turn something into a posterization or make it look like a watercolor, it's a tremendous lift," says Chauncey Bayes, an art director and photographer who teaches at OCC. "It's exciting. They almost become snake-bit."

While nobody is saying that film is dead, that daguerreotypes — not just yet, anyway — the triumph of digital is nearly a fait accompli. Last year, digital cameras outsold traditional cameras for the first time, and more than 40 percent of U.S. households are expected to own digital cameras by the end of this year.

One more clear sign of film's demise: Eastman Kodak stopped making the slide projector altogether this year. Soon, only purists and artists will use the old technology.

"I'm sure there will be people who hang onto traditional, wet photography for quite a while, but I think if you were to survey universities and colleges, fewer and fewer are putting an emphasis on wet photography and more on digital," says Steve Thomas, curator of collections at the UCR/California Museum of Photography.

"Look, Kodak is no



Mark Angus of Laguna Beach, Calif., was once dedicated to film. He now embraces digital technology and manipulates his photographs on his computer.

longer producing black-and-white paper," he says. "Those photographers who are still doing black and white have to give up the 'big yellow god.' The whole industry is shifting that way, much to the dismay of the disgruntled traditionalist."

Until digital cameras dominate the market in the same way that CDs overtook record albums, there's bound to be a period of turbulence in the collective cultural consciousness.

Surely, as more and more digital images are sent as e-mails, people miss flipping through a photo album with a friend. And as fewer photos are printed, stored in their envelopes in a shoebox, there's less chance of coming across them serendipitously and reliving forgotten moments of that trip to Italy or that family celebration.

Perhaps the slow fade-to-black of the old technology has registered most strongly among photographers themselves.

Lally, a retired aeronautics engineer at the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Calif., started taking pictures more than 50 years ago when his grandmother gave him a Brownie Box camera. He's an accomplished photographer specializing in landscapes and American Indian subjects. He stands by film.

In his opinion, film is not only technical superior — it offers better color, especially the red tones, higher resolution and no capture-delay problems — but it's unsurpassed in abstract ways, as well.

"The thing I like about slides, there's a certain romance to them," says Lally, whose work has been exhibited at Soka University in Aliso Viejo and elsewhere, and whose articles on photography are published in academic journals on archaeology.

"This slide I took in December 1971. This piece of film was in my camera when I took this picture, and the color is still terrific. I can hold it. These slides mean even more now than they ever did."

The slides are not only more concrete than digital images, they're less hassle to manage, he says. As proof, he recounts photo excursions with fellow photographers, about half of whom use digital cameras.

"At night, when the shooting is done," he says, "I come back and I have loads of film. I put it away. I say, let's go walk around. They say, no, we're going back to the motel, and we're downloading our images onto our laptop. ... I'm out there communing with nature and these guys are playing with zeroes and ones."

Even more disheartening, he says, is that photographers have begun to accuse each other of doctoring their work on the computer.

"People look at that and say, you really cranked your colors up in Photoshop," he says, pointing to a photo with strong red tones and a dramatic, darkening sky taken at Yellowstone National Park. "It was pretty aggravat-

"The ability to show realism and that truth was handed to photography, and painting had to reinvent itself. If it wasn't for the camera, the Impressionists, the Cubists, the Abstract Expressionists wouldn't exist."

In a way, Jerry Burchfield was searching for the photographic equivalent of a new Impressionism or Cubism when he organized the "Phone Camera/Camera Phone" exhibition at Cypress College and put out the call for submissions of snapshots taken with phone cameras this fall.

Burchfield, a photographer and director of the college's photography gallery, likens today's camera phones to the cheap toy camera called the Diana that artists used to take intriguing

photos in the 1970s.

"They were out of focus, they had light leaks and other problems. Yet people were able to make serious art works with them," he says. "They opened the door to images that had a wonderful character to them if you used it right."

He also saw the low-resolution camera phones as an alternative to the high-tech focus in photography today.

"One thing that's happened with digital is there is such an emphasis on the technology and getting better and better stuff," he says. "How many mega-pixels does your camera have? When in reality, this toy-like, low-resolution image can produce high-quality art that has character and magic on their own. The idea is to acknowledge that not everything has to be high-tech."

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Audit

WASHINGTON — A third or more government Halliburton Co. to manage for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, but not located there, investigators reported to Congress Sunday.

Halliburton's subsidiary "did not properly manage CPA property" and could not locate CPA items worth millions of dollars and Kuwaiti funds, the report said. General Stuart reported to Congress two reports.

Bowen's find

Hispanic

SAN ANTONIO — Numerous agencies are working to boost enrollment in bilingual programs, but a severe gap in experts say.

Based on the survey, Hispanics for about 40 percent of college-age students, the only a quarter of the state's 1.2 million education students.

A number of agencies contribute to the gap, Antonio Ex reported Saturday.

Much of the Hispanic population is a result of who may have lower incomes, lower education and speaking English. Antonio Flores of the Association of Universities, organizations in Antonio.

These immigrants not familiar

Colora

HOUSTON — Heavy rain that Texas this Friday as the River crest the rain came.

At least 75 displaced a damaged, WBryce Kociar

"The way it is going to gradual decrease of the crest at 48 afternoon. It's quite a before it get stage."

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"It just took after the rain them to feel it," he said, wet weather the way Su

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Audit: Halliburton lost track of government property in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — A third or more of the government property Halliburton Co. was paid to manage for the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq could not be located by auditors, investigative reports to Congress show. Halliburton's KBR subsidiary "did not effectively manage government property" and auditors could not locate hundreds of CPA items worth millions of dollars in Iraq and Kuwait this summer and fall, Inspector General Stuart W. Bowen reported to Congress in two reports. Bowen's findings mark

the latest bad news for Vice President Dick Cheney's former company, which is the focus of both a criminal investigation into alleged fuel price gouging and an FBI inquiry into possible favoritism from the Bush administration. The Associated Press reported Wednesday that FBI agents have extensively interviewed an Army contracting officer who last month went public with allegations that the Bush administration was improperly awarding contracts to Halliburton without competitive bidding. Halliburton and the

Pentagon deny wrongdoing, and say they are cooperating in all investigations. Company spokeswoman Cathy Gist said Friday that KBR recently conducted a "wall-to-wall" review of all property it is managing for the Pentagon in war zones including Iraq and Afghanistan and produced results far better than Bowen's findings. "We are pleased to report that this total inventory review confirmed 99.4 percent accountability of all property," she said. "The facts show that KBR has adequately managed property

for this mission by aggressively monitoring its property management functions — above and beyond what is required." The U.S.-backed CPA officially dissolved after a year in power in Baghdad when an interim Iraqi government took control of the country this summer. But Bowen's office continues to review how money was spent and it gave a tough assessment of KBR's performance. KBR won a key logistics contract to manage everything from trucks and generators to computers. Bowen reported that an audit earlier this summer found KBR had lost track

of more than \$18 million worth of equipment in Iraq. Investigators could not track down 52 of 164 randomly selected items in an inventory of more than 20,000 items overseen by KBR, including two electric generators worth nearly \$1 million, 18 trucks or SUVs and six laptop computers. Pentagon and Halliburton officials have been searching since the summer for the missing items and have tracked down many of them. Some were found in the hands of "unauthorized users" and 111 vehicles had not been returned for required check-in, they

said. Bowen's auditors found the problems extended beyond Iraq's borders. More recently, auditors sought to determine how well KBR managed the inventory and supplies of the CPA offices and warehouses in neighboring Kuwait, initially sampling 90 items from an inventory of more than 3,000. The auditors found 30 of the 90 items could not be accounted for, and then reviewed additional documents and projected a total of 1,297 of the 3,032 property items, or 42.8 percent, could not be accounted for.

Hispanics' college enrollment lags behind in Texas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Numerous agencies are working to boost Hispanic enrollment in Texas' colleges and universities, but a severe gap remains, experts say. Based on the 2000 census, Hispanics account for about 40 percent of college-age Texans. However, they make up only a quarter of the state's 1.2 million higher education students. A number of reasons contribute to the enrollment gap, the San Antonio Express-News reported Saturday. Much of the growth in the Hispanic population is a result of immigrants who may have low incomes, low levels of education and difficulty speaking English, said Antonio Flores, president of the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities, a national organization based in San Antonio. "These immigrants are not familiar with the

higher education system, and are not aware that that they should be encouraging their children to take college preparatory classes in high school, Flores said. "It's like a one-two punch between the home and the schools they attend," Flores said. Also, Hispanic families feel strongly about family unity, and parents who live in rural areas may discourage their children from leaving home, said Claudia Rodriguez, a staff clinician at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Rodriguez counsels first-generation college students. "It's not about values," she said. "It's about awareness." Moreover, Hispanics who do go to college often deal with another round of challenges, experts say. They often have to work part-time, increasing their stress and leaving little time for extracurricular activities. Also, as

the first person to go to college in their family, the student may get additional pressure from family members who have unrealistic expectations, Rodriguez said. In the case of Dean De La Cruz, when he finally gave college some thought, it was too late. His grades at Fox Tech High School were so awful, no college would have admitted him. His father, a former migrant worker, returned to the fields so his son could qualify for admission to Our Lady of the Lake under the federally funded College Assistance Migrant Program. "If I don't succeed, I will be letting so many people," the son said. The state has set specific enrollment targets for Hispanics and laid out a plan to serve them, but the efforts and funding are falling short. Statewide, about 312,000 Hispanic students are enrolled in colleges and

universities, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. That's an increase of 20,000 students from last year, but still 28,000 students below the state's target. Public schools that educate Hispanic students need more money, and the public and policy makers need to understand the importance of higher education, Flores said. "It's really not rocket science, so to speak," he said. "We know what needs to be done. What we need to do is invest a lot more in our homegrown talent."

Colorado River floods city of Wharton

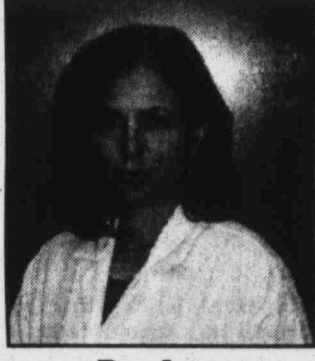
HOUSTON (AP) — Heavy rain that drenched Texas this week flooded the city of Wharton Friday as the Colorado River crested days after the rain came to a stop. At least 75 people were displaced and 150 homes damaged, Wharton Mayor Bryce Kocian said. "The way it is sounding, it is going to be a very gradual decrease," he said of the river that crested at 48.1 feet Friday afternoon. "It is going to be quite a few hours before it gets below flood stage." National Weather Service meteorologist Kent Prochazka said the river was about 10 feet deep near Wharton before the rain started. The river's flood stage is 39 feet. "It just took a few days after the rain ended for them to feel the worst of it," he said, adding more wet weather could be on the way Sunday through

Wednesday. "It looks like it should drop to around 45 feet Saturday night. So that is three feet of relief." But if more rain comes, the river has a "tremendous head start," he said. "The ground, as you would imagine, is totally saturated," Prochazka said. Harry Priesmeyer, a spokesman with the Wharton County Emergency Management office, said the flood had taken its toll on residents who were displaced from their homes by the rising water. "We are making them

as comfortable as possible, but it is devastating when you don't have a place to go back to right now," he said. "We are trying to make their life as comfortable as possible." Priesmeyer said Thanksgiving dinner was catered and a television had been brought to the shelter so those who were displaced could watch football. Most of the homes impacted by the river's rising waters were single-level, lower-income homes that were impacted during previous floods, he said.

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U.S. goods face penalties approved by WTO in trade dispute

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Trade Organization imposed penalties Friday on U.S. exports ranging from apples to textiles, escalating a trade dispute the Bush administration has struggled to defuse by unsuccessfully urging Congress to repeal legislation aimed at protecting American steelmakers.

The administration signaled it would accept the penalties short term, but also warned that the United States would aggressively protect its own trading interests and expects fair treatment from the WTO.

"We've worked hard to comply with the WTO," President Bush said, speaking to reporters in Crawford, Texas. "It's important that all nations comply with WTO rul-

ings." Bush said he has worked with Congress "to get in compliance," and "we expect the WTO as well to treat our trading partners as they treat us."

In Geneva, the 148-nation WTO, which refers global commerce, approved punitive taxes long sought by the European Union and other countries because of a law they say unfairly protects U.S. steel companies and other industries.

EU trade chief Peter Mandelson said the sanctions could be applied early next year.

The 2000 law, known as the Byrd amendment for its backer, Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., lets the U.S. government fine foreign companies that it judges to be selling goods in America at below-mar-

ket prices. The revenue is paid to U.S. companies to help them better compete.

Two years ago, the WTO ruled the law was illegal, arguing that it punishes exporters to the United States twice: First they are fined, then those fines are given to their competitors.

American officials said Friday that the United States would comply with the ruling that declared the law illegal.

But WTO members expressed skepticism about the compliance promises.

"The United States cannot point to any progress for the repeal of the Byrd amendment," even though it has "received ample time to bring itself into compliance," said Canada trade official Rambod Behboodi.

EU trade official Raimund Raith said Brussels wants the Bush administration to "transmit this message to Congress" and defend "U.S. credibility in the WTO."

But overwhelming Senate support for the Byrd amendment makes changes unlikely.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said he was disappointed but not surprised by the WTO ruling. He criticized how the law was implemented — by being inserted in an appropriations bill instead of going through the authorizing committee process.

"The fact that we are now subject to sanctions only underscores the need for quick congressional action," said Grassley,

whose committee oversees international trade issues. "I intend to consult closely with my colleagues in determining the next steps."

The value of the sanctions hasn't been determined, but trade officials estimated them at more than \$150 million a year. That compares with the \$2 billion in sanctions the EU threatened in its successful bid to force the United States to lift illegal tariffs on foreign steel last year.

The EU was joined in the complaint by Brazil, Canada, Mexico, South Korea, Japan, India and Chile.

Other products on the strategic target list include U.S. cod, glassware, cigarettes, mobile homes and heavy machinery made by companies

such as Caterpillar Inc., based in Illinois — the home state of House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

The Consuming Industries Trade Action Committee, a Washington-based group representing manufacturers, farmers, retailers and other businesses, has called the Byrd amendment "the equivalent of a tax on American consumers."

Mother turns in son accused of killing nine in school dorm

BEIJING (AP) — The mother of a 21-year-old man accused of slashing as many as nine boys to death as they slept in their high school dormitory turned her son in after he attempted to commit suicide, a news report said.

Yan Yanming, 21, was reported to police after he attempted to take his life late Thursday in the city of Ruzhou, the Xinhua News Agency said on Saturday. The agency said Yan confessed and said he slashed the students out of hatred.

Xinhua put the death toll in the attack at eight, but another state-run news agency, the China News Service, said nine students were killed.

Yan broke into the central China dormitory at 11:45 p.m. on Thursday and "chopped eight people to death," Xinhua said. The China News Service cited a survivor as saying that during the attack, the man with the knife said, "Don't blame me."

It was the fourth knife attack reported at a Chinese school or day care center in as many months. The earlier assaults left one child dead and 42 people injured.

The spate of violence prompted the government of President Hu Jintao to issue a nationwide order in September for schools to hire guards and tighten security.

The reason for the surge in knife attacks isn't clear. They have taken place in areas throughout China and involve attackers from different backgrounds. In the only other fatal case until this week, an attacker at a Beijing kindergarten was reported to be an employee of the school who had a history of mental illness.

But China's cities and towns seethe with grudges and personal feuds amid wrenching economic and social change.

Fatal bombings, mass poisonings and other attacks are reported frequently, usually blamed on people trying to hurt business rivals or seeking revenge in often minor

disputes. Firearms are rarely used because private gun ownership is illegal in most parts of China.

Last month, six men were arrested in Beijing in a knife attack at an

Internet cafe that left 14 people bloodied. News reports said the attackers wanted revenge on several men they had met at the cafe and when they couldn't be found slashed customers at random.

Ukraine's parliament declares presidential election invalid

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's parliament on Saturday declared invalid the disputed presidential election that triggered a week of growing street protests and legal maneuvers, raising the possibility that a new vote could be held in this former Soviet republic.

Parliament's vote came amid a flurry of domestic and international support for the possibility of a revote. A European Union envoy — Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot — said new elections were the "ideal outcome" for the standoff between Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Viktor Yushchenko. Asked if new elections were the only solution, Ben Bot answered: "Yes."

The Unian news agency quoted Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko as saying Friday that Moscow regarded a potential revote favorably — an apparent significant retreat from its earlier insistence that the Nov. 21 elections were fair and valid.

Parliament's move was not legally binding but clearly demonstrated rising dissatisfaction with the announced outcome. The United States and other Western nations contend the vote was marred by massive fraud.

The presidential election was won by the Russia-backed Yanukovich, according to the Central Elections

Commission, but Yushchenko's supporters streamed into the streets, claiming he was cheated out of victory. The Supreme Court will hear an appeal by Yushchenko's supporters on Monday, and Yanukovich will not be inaugurated before that appeal is decided.

Regional courts also are considering some 11,000 complaints — from both sides — about alleged voting fraud.

"The most realistic political decision, taking into account the mutual claims of massive violations, is to pronounce the

elections invalid," parliament speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn said.

Parliament's decision is not binding without President Leonid Kuchma's endorsement. The vote came as negotiators from both candidates' camps were expected to meet for talks in a format worked out with European envoys a day earlier.

Also, parliament Saturday passed a vote of no confidence in the elections commission, which also has no legal ramifications but steps up pressure on Yanukovich and his supporters.

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HEALTH HAPPENINGS

Scenic Mountain Medical Center invites you to join our...

November 2004 Schedule

SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER IS SELLING **KRISPY KREME DONUTS** for \$6 per dozen as a Relay For Life fund-raiser. Orders are due Nov. 24 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.

November 21 • Sunday
Open

November 22 • Monday
• Games - 2:00 pm
• Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm

November 23 • Tuesday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am
• Supper Club "Cowboys" - 5:30 pm
• RSVP - 3:00 pm
Polly Mays Municipal Annex Bldg.

November 24 • Wednesday
• Stretch & Tone - 11:00 am
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

November 25 • Thursday
Thanksgiving Holiday

November 26 • Friday
Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27 • Saturday
Open

November 28 • Sunday
Open

November 29 • Monday
• Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm

November 30 • Tuesday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am
• Supper Club "Spanish Inn" 5:30 pm

LOOK FOR DECEMBER - ANGEL TREE

Volunteer/Sr. Circle Director Anita Cline 268-4721	Free Pregnancy Testing Every Day - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm OB Department, 2nd Floor, Results in 4 Minutes Donna Mills, R.N., Director Of Women's Services OB Dept., 268-4550	Road To Recovery (Transportation For Cancer Patients) LaWanda Ham 263-7827
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The Cross is looking for ball officials upcoming.

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YMCA ext youth reg
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Sign ups Coahoma
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Sports

Event, Time, Location vs. Team

Event, Time, Location vs. Opponent

Event, Time, Location vs. Opponent

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

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 Tuesday through Thursday at the Coahoma Junior High Gym. The Tuesday 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.

Sonics continue to roll through league

SEATTLE (AP) — Danny Fortson came off the bench to score a season-high 20 points, Ray Allen added 19 points, Vladimir Radmanovic scored 14 and Reggie Evans had 11 rebounds as Seattle improved the NBA's best record to 12-2.

Seattle handed the Nets their eighth consecutive defeat.

ON THE AIR

Event, Time	Station
Sports Illustrated Schedule	Sunday
Event, Time	Station
Tuesday	
Event, Time	Station
Wednesday	
Event, Time	Station

Big Spring falls short in football title game

• Division I Steers finish inaugural youth football season with 8-2 overall record

Special to the HERALD

The Division I Big Spring Steers played in the National Youth Football championship game against Seminole Saturday, Nov. 20. The game was played at Wig Wam Stadium in Seminole and the Steers lost, 8-6.

The Steers' lone score came on a 45-yard run by Michael Olivio, but the PAT to tie the game failed.

Olivia led the offense this year with 28 touchdowns, while Joseph Morelion led the defensive unit all season.

Both Big Spring and



courtesy photo

The Big Spring Division I Steers, which play in the Big Spring Youth Football League, went 8-1 this season and competed in the National Youth Football championship game recently. The Steers wound up losing to a team from Seminole, 8-6. The team consists of Michael Olivio, Javon Brown, Elias Bihls, Brandon Leos, Matthew Yanez, Trent Thomas, Joe Juarez, Jarred Doporto, Matt Beal, Joseph Morelion, Tyler Graves, Jacob Davis, Alex Juan, Christopher Nunez, Ryan Pollard, Drake Worthan, head coach Bill Davis and assistant coach Joe Lujan.

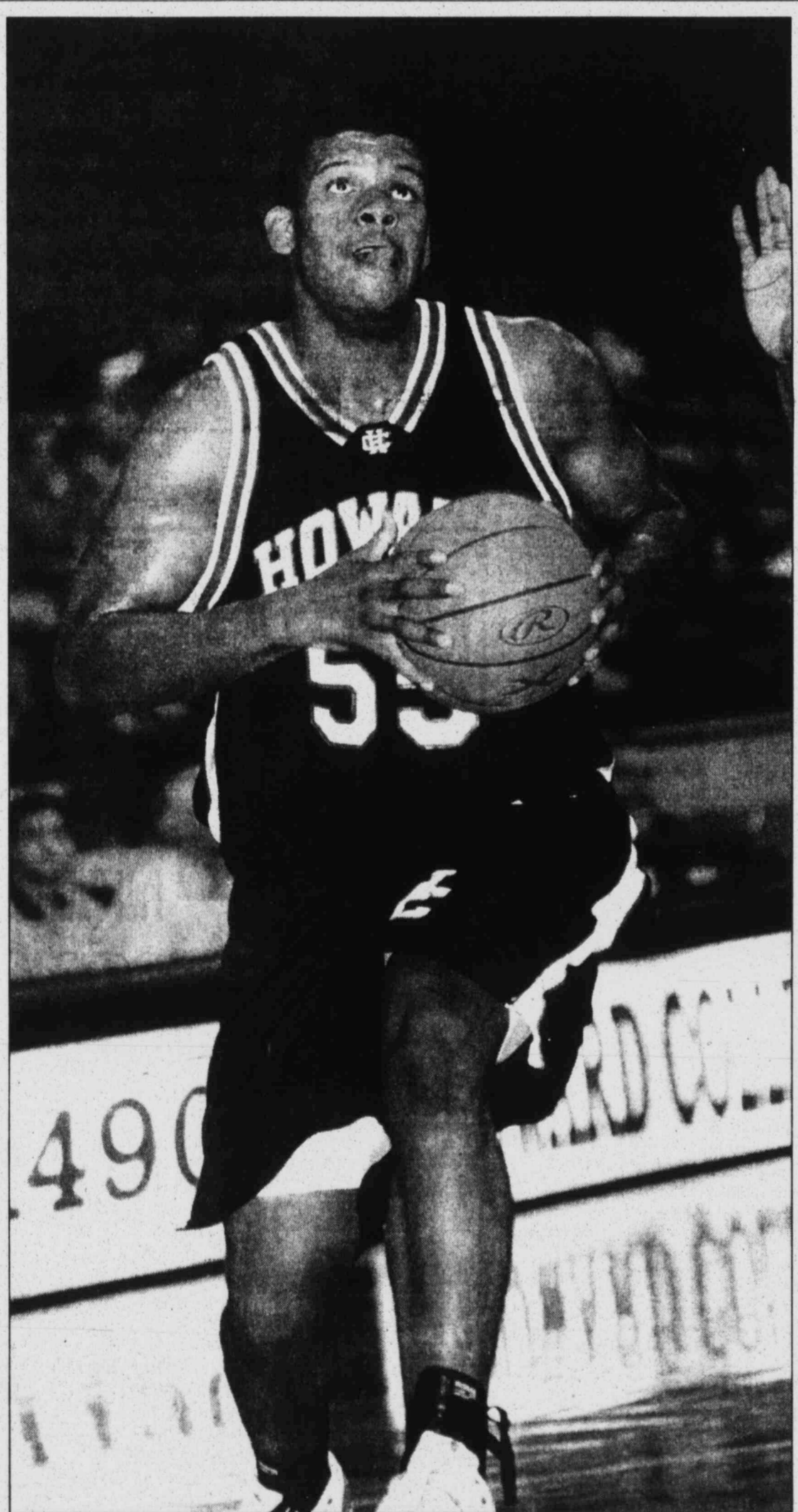
Seminole ended their respective seasons with 8-2 records.

This was the first season of the Big Spring Youth Football League (BSYFL).

The Youth Football League (YFL) was started in Andrews in 1998 by George Lopez and Danny Turnbow. The Division I

level is for players in the third and fourth grade, while the Division II level features fifth- and sixth-graders.

The YFL consists of teams in Big Spring, Andrews, Kermit, Wink, Seminole and Seagraves. The league will add teams from Midland and Lamesa next year.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Howard freshman Brandon Sampay takes the ball strong the basket in a previous game earlier this season. The Hawk men defeated Eastern Arizona University Friday 64-63 in overtime at the Eastern Arizona Classic. They took on Northern Arizona University Saturday, but the results were unavailable at press time. The Hawks are now 8-1 this year.

Twenty unanswered points sends Horns past Aggies in Austin

By JOEL ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN - Texas A&M had a 7-point lead, the ball to start the second half and a rowdy section of maroon-clad fans in a silent sea of orange.

The Aggies lost it all just four plays into the third quarter.

Bobby Tatum returned a blocked punt for a score and Texas followed that with a rare 1-point safety after a missed extra point, swinging the momentum decisively toward the Longhorns just a minute into the second half of a 26-13 win over No. 22 Texas A&M on Friday.

"I don't know that I've ever won a game after having a punt blocked," A&M coach Dennis Franchione said. "That was a big play against us."

The Aggies dropped their fifth straight to their hated in-state rival, but have considerably closed the gap on Texas since the losing streak began in 2000. The Longhorns had won the previous four games by an average of 25 points, including a 50-20 romp last season that finished off A&M's first losing season in 21 years — Franchione's first in College Station.

The Aggies came much closer this time around. Well, at least for one half.

"It was a battle out there," A&M defensive tackle Johnny Jolly said. "We just ran out of time this year."

After driving 88 yards to the A&M 1, Texas was on the verge of scoring with less than 30 seconds left in the half.

Longhorns quarterback Vince Young leaped over the line of scrimmage and tried to stick the ball over the goal line, but A&M's Justin Warren slapped it away. The ball bounced right to Jonte Buhl, who scooped it up and dashed 98 yards for a touchdown and a 13-6 Aggies lead at halftime.

The Aggies' sideline erupted with a wild celebration and their small section of fans whooped it up as a great hush fell over the mostly burnt orange-clad crowd of 83,891.

"It was the most freakish play I've ever seen," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "I'm not sure I've ever seen the momentum change that quickly."

Said Buhl: "That gave us more confidence but we still knew we had a long way to go."

Then came the play that

See RIVALRY, Page 2B

Benson, Johnson go out on top at UT

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — After the final seconds ticked off the clock of yet another win over Texas A&M and his coach had been doused with Gatorade, Cedric Benson took a slow victory lap around the field to the cheers of Texas fans.

Derrick Johnson should have joined him.

Although they still have a bowl game to play, the sixth-ranked Longhorns' 26-13 win Friday over the No. 22 Aggies was the symbolic end of two of the greatest individual careers in Longhorns history.

"I wanted to get a good look at everything my last time out," Benson said. "The fans made me feel really good."

Benson ran for 165 yards and a touchdown in his final game in Royal Memorial Stadium, his 10th 100-yard effort this season.

Johnson, a finalist for several major defensive awards this season, was just as good.

He finishing with eight tackles, one sack and a blocked extra point.

The fifth straight win over A&M meant both players will leave Texas without ever suffering a loss to the Aggies. Friday's win was tougher than the previ-

ous four, which Texas won by an average of 25 points.

"To never lose to the Aggies is great. That's something I'll always remember," Johnson said.

Johnson and the defense didn't allow a touchdown after the first quarter and completely shut down a potent A&M offense in the second half. A fierce Texas pass rush sacked A&M quarterback Reggie McNeal eight times.

The Aggies had just 94 total yards after halftime and drove past midfield just once in their final eight drives.

Johnson had one out-of-character moment in the second half when television cameras spotted him making a throat-slashing gesture after McNeal threw an incomplete pass in the third quarter.

"I had a little emotion going on there," Johnson said.

For Benson, his game Friday and season stats might be enough to make him a finalist for the Heisman Trophy.

After the game, Benson was asked what message he'd give to Heisman voters.

"Vote Benson," he said with a smile and flashed the "Hook'em Horns" sign with both hands.

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Friday Night Football

Area playoff results

Snyder	21
Iowa Park	7

Sweetwater	58
Glen Rose	20

Valley	40
Ira	14

Highland	60
-Chillicothe	15

Abilene Wylie	14
Canyon	13

Sunray	14
Seagraves	0

Okur's perfect night leads Jazz to victory

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Mehmet Okur sunk an improbable baseline jumper over Yao Ming, a perfect ending to a perfect shooting game.

Okur, who signed a six-year free agent contract with Utah over the summer, had his best game with the Jazz by scoring a season-high 20 points on 8-of-8 shooting as Utah defeated Houston 90-80 Friday night.

"I felt good, especially playing against a big guy like Yao Ming. Tonight I could take the 3-pointer or put the ball on the floor and make foul shots," said Okur, who played only 25 minutes and has yet to start for the Jazz.

Yao acknowledged he struggled with Okur's agility and said, "On any team he plays for he could star, but he plays 1/8 off the 3/8 bench for the Utah Jazz and makes them much stronger."

Andrei Kirilenko, playing with a renewed enthusiasm that was missing as the Jazz dropped four of their previous five games, had 21 points and 12 rebounds. He also had four blocks and three steals as Utah held Houston to 37 per-

cent shooting.

Kirilenko "dominates the stat sheet and has a lot of energy. It seems he doesn't have a defensive assignment. He was just all over the place blocking shots on the weak side. He has great instincts," said Tracy McGrady, who had 17 points.

Jim Jackson scored 18 points for the Rockets, who have lost four of their last six games. Houston launched 28 3-point attempts, making eight, as the inside game was noticeably absent. Yao had only nine points and four rebounds.

As Yao struggled, Okur thrived.

"He shot the ball very well," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said.

"Once he got on a roll, he was on a roll. Everything fell for him tonight," said Carlos Boozer, who had 15 points.

The Jazz, who led the league in field goal shooting before its recent swoon, shot 50 percent and had 27 assists on 36 field goals.

"We set more screens to try and help other people instead of thinking about ourselves," Sloan said.

NFL Standings

AFC East	Record	PF	PA
New England	9-1	264	171
New York Jets	7-3	212	166
Buffalo	4-6	190	183
Miami	1-9	140	210

AFC North	Record	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	9-1	240	161
Baltimore	7-3	204	140
Cincinnati	4-6	183	196
Cleveland	3-7	177	208

AFC South	Record	PF	PA
Indianapolis	8-3	380	239
Jacksonville	6-4	186	181
Houston	4-6	196	239
Tennessee	4-6	186	212

AFC West	Record	PF	PA
Denver	7-3	233	167
San Diego	7-3	285	190
Kansas City	3-7	276	265
Oakland	3-7	182	270

NFC East	Record	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9-1	266	158
New York Giants	5-5	196	172
Dallas	4-7	193	289
Washington	3-7	131	178

NFC North	Record	PF	PA
Minnesota	6-4	264	246
Green Bay	6-4	256	230
Detroit	4-7	192	257
Chicago	4-7	172	221

AFC West	Record	PF	PA
Atlanta	8-2	206	194
New Orleans	4-6	211	288
Tampa Bay	4-6	192	182
Carolina	3-7	196	222

AFC West	Record	PF	PA
Seattle	6-4	230	185
St. Louis	5-5	220	254
Arizona	4-6	177	214
San Francisco	1-9	175	296

PF — points for
PA — points against

NBA Standings

Atlantic Division (Eastern)	Record	GB
Philadelphia	6-6	—
Toronto	6-7	.5
New York	5-6	.5
Boston	4-7	1.5
New Jersey	2-10	4

Central Division (Eastern)	Record	GB
Indiana	10-3	—
Cleveland	8-4	1.5
Detroit	6-6	3.5
Milwaukee	3-7	5.5
Chicago	1-9	7.5

Southeast Division (Eastern)	Record	GB
Miami	9-5	—
Orlando	7-4	.5
Washington	5-5	1.5
Charlotte	2-9	5.5
Atlanta	2-10	6

Southwest Division (Western)	Record	GB
San Antonio	10-3	—
Dallas	9-5	1.5
Houston	6-8	4.5
Memphis	5-8	5
New Orleans	1-10	8

Northwest Division (Western)	Record	GB
Seattle	12-2	—
Utah	8-5	.5
Minnesota	7-5	3.5
Portland	6-6	4.5
Denver	6-6	4.5

Pacific Division (Western)	Record	GB
Phoenix	11-2	—
Sacramento	8-4	2.5
L.A. Lakers	7-6	4
L.A. Clippers	7-6	4
Golden State	3-9	7.5

GB — games behind



University of Texas senior RB Cedric Benson (32) takes a last lap around Royal-Memorial Stadium after beating the Aggies, 26-13, in Austin Friday.

Duncan leads Spurs to win over Nuggets

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP Sports Writer

DENVER — The Denver Nuggets signed Kenyon Martin to slow down players like Tim Duncan. With Duncan dominating on both ends while Martin was on the bench with the flu, it was easy to see why.

Making shots on one end and altering them on the other, Duncan had 23 points, 13 rebounds and six blocks Friday night to help the San Antonio Spurs snap Denver's four-game winning streak with an 89-75 victory.

The two-time Most Valuable Player scored 19 of his points in the first

half while the Spurs were building their double-digit lead.

Manu Ginobili, a player the Nuggets tried to sign in free agency, had 16 points and five assists for San Antonio.

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RIVALRY

Continued from Page 1B

had everyone scratching their heads.

After Tatum returned a blocked punt 10 yards for a touchdown, Texas holder Matt Nordgren bobbled the snap and kicker Dusty Mangum drove the ball along the ground. In the ensuing scramble for the football, A&M safety Jaxson Appel ended up on

top of the ball in the end zone.

That gave the Longhorns a 1-point safety on the unusual "initial impetus" rule that tied the game at 13 and swung momentum back to the Longhorns.

"I think everyone kept fighting," A&M receiver Terrence Murphy said, "but that probably was the big momentum changer in the game. That was frustrating."

The Aggies missed a handful of other opportunities to seize the momentum.

Texas missed its extra-point after scoring the first touchdown of the game and A&M quickly responded with McNeal's 33-yard touchdown pass to DeQawn Mobley. But the Aggies had their extra-point blocked, leaving the game tied at 6.

"I couldn't figure out who was going to screw up the kicking game the worst," Brown said.

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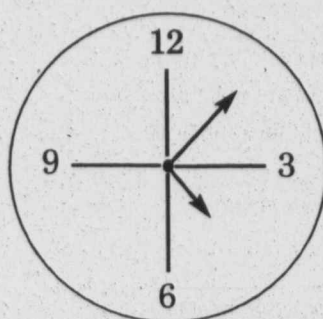
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Fish

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-feet 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 striped 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.

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.

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.

Texans, Titans hope to avoid last place

By JOEL ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer
HOUSTON — Steve McNair and Drew Bennett waited until the final 17 seconds of last year's game in Houston to break the hearts of nearly 71,000 Texans fans.

The old Houston football team had again tormented the fans of the new Houston team.

When the Tennessee Titans (4-6) and the Texans meet again Sunday, a sellout crowd at Reliant Stadium will eagerly anticipate another chance to see their estranged team leave Houston with a defeat. The Texans (4-6) won the first matchup between the teams more than a month ago, but the chance to complete the sweep at home would indeed be a sweet moment for the NFL's youngest franchise.

The game will also have more than bragging rights at stake, because the loser will move into sole possession of last place in the AFC South.

"It would be big to be able to go and get two from them in the same year," Texans quarterback David Carr said. "I know our crowd is always fired up when we play against the old Texans. They are going to be extra excited."

The win over the Titans in Nashville Oct. 17 was one of the last highlights of the Texans' rapidly deteriorating season.

Carr threw for 266 yards and a touchdown and the Texans intercepted McNair four times in the franchise's first win over the team it replaced in Houston. The victory was also the Texans' third win in four games, igniting talk around town about a possible playoff run.

That talk probably won't be heard again

around Houston for a while.

Houston has since dropped three straight, including a last-second 16-13 loss to Green Bay last Sunday. The Texans have reverted to their expansion ways, ranking 30th in the NFL in defense and doing so badly on offense their fans started booing in the defeat to the Packers.

"The thing is, we never talked about the playoffs before," Texans cornerback Aaron Glenn said. "We're in a situation now where our backs are against the wall. That's not saying anything about the playoffs. We just need to get victories."

Meanwhile, McNair and the Titans have slowly turned around their season since that deflating loss to the Texans.

On Sunday, McNair started for the first time since Oct. 24 and finished a game for the first time since the Texans' loss, leading the Titans past Jacksonville 18-15 by engineering a drive for the winning score with 3:31 left.

The victory was the Titans' second in three games.

"It's definitely more upbeat, and we've got more confidence behind us," Tennessee offensive tackle Fred Miller said. "We've got Steve back and he's going to play very well."

The Titans beat the Jaguars despite playing without six starters, including running back Chris Brown (turf toe), left tackle Brad Hopkins (broken right hand) and both safeties. Coach Jeff Fisher announced Monday he had lost two more players to season-ending injuries.

Cornerback Andre Woolfolk, who needed

surgery to repair a dislocated right wrist, and rookie safety Justin Sandy, who broke his left ankle 48 hours after being promoted from the practice squad, won't be available to help a secondary that lost safety Tank Williams to a torn ACL last week. Left cornerback Samari Rolle tweaked his left knee in the third quarter last Sunday and had to leave the game, and Scott McGarrahan, the replacement for Williams, was hurt on the next series.

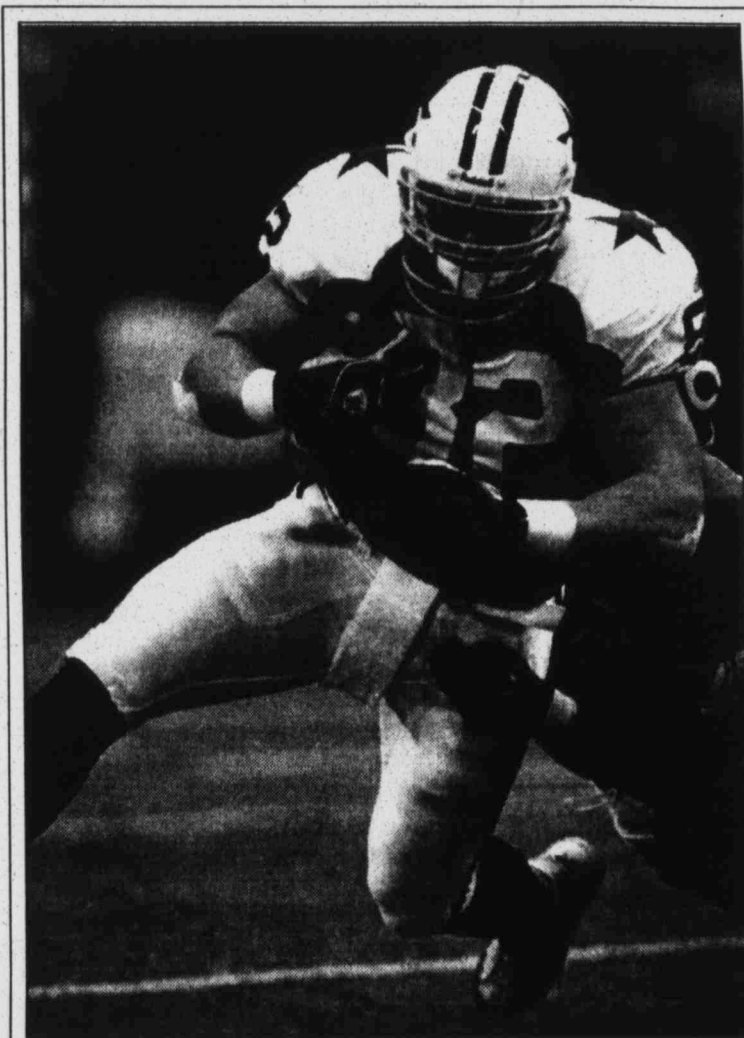
"It is going to be a challenge for us, but we will have enough out there," Fisher said of his banged-up secondary. "I can't tell you where they are going to line up and play right now. I may not for competitive reasons, but we

will have enough out there to play."

The Texans surely won't have much pity for the Titans, especially considering the amount of grief they've caused them over the past two years.

A Houston victory would certainly go a long way in erasing those painful memories of McNair's winning 23-yard touchdown pass to Bennett on fourth-and-10 in last year's game at Reliant Stadium.

"It would be the major focus of their 2004 highlight tape if they could sweep us," Titans defensive end Carlos Hall said. "Everyone on their team feels that they should have won the last game we played down there. They feel we stole that game away."



KRT photo/Kelley Chinn, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Dallas' Jason Witten (32) is taken down on a run against Chicago Thursday. The Cowboys won, 21-7.

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Wildflowers everywhere

Johnny Wildflower (a.k.a. Larry Wilhelm) came to visit Big Spring for a wildflower seminar. More than 40 people attended the event at Dora Roberts Community Center. The group not only learned how, when and where to plant wildflowers, but also were entertained by this storyteller about the history of this region of the state.

The seminar ended with the group planting wildflower seeds outside the center on the west side of the parking lot. Keep Big Spring Beautiful and the city of Big Spring sponsored the event.

Attendees from Alon, Master Gardeners, TxDOT and Howard College, among others, were there. After the seminar, a few in the group stayed for a brainstorming session with Wilhelm to develop initial plans for a Wildflower Trail in Big Spring.

Wilhelm has been instrumental working with other communities in obtaining grants for such trails. He has also worked with the Master Gardeners several times in the past to offer a Master Composting class in Big Spring.



KBSB Skit Cast
Jan Hansen as Betty Baggett,
Todd Darden as Randy Recycle
and Barbara Brumley as Claire Clutter. Not pictured are Loyce Phillips as announcer and Debbie Wegman as Sally Shopper.



"The U.S. has only 5 percent of the world's population, yet we create over 50 percent of the world's waste. That's got to change, and composting is the way to do it." Larry Wilhelm,

According to the Green Guide to Yard Care, disposing of organic material in Texas landfills costs more than \$150 million a year and consumes more than 15 million cubic yards of space.

Photos and information for this page provided by KBSB members.



Keep Big Spring Beautiful's mission is to empower Big Spring citizens through education to take responsibility for enhancing their community environment.

KBSB's vision is that every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the cleanest, most beautiful city in Texas.

The group meets at noon the first Monday of each month in Gale's Sweet Shoppe, 1200 E. Fourth St.

KBSB has nine committees available for volunteers to join to make a difference in the appearance and environment of this community.

For more information about joining KBSB efforts, call President Jan Hansen at 264-5755 or any other KBSB member.

The Recycling/Composting Committee works toward educating the public to conserve valuable landfill space, energy and natural resources. The six basic elements for recycling/composting are source reduction, resource recovery, recycling, composting, reuse and landfills.

This committee sponsors

the Recycling Round-Up and the Don't Bag It program. They are creating an alternatives to household hazardous wastes pamphlet and also host an appreciation breakfast for the solid waste and sanitation workers of the city.

The Beautification Committee is composed of landscaping specialists, nursery owners, parks representative, garden club members and other interested citizens. They work on landscaping projects, tree planting programs, wildflower planting, parks improvements, downtown and historic projects.

The Civic and Neighborhood Groups Committee focuses on involving civic organizations and civic groups such as churches, civic clubs, service clubs, PTAs, neighborhood groups and senior citizen groups.

The Education Committee is comprised of teachers, administrators, PTA representatives and other interested volunteers. They provide curriculum for all schools, such as Waste in Place for elementary students and Waste: A Hidden Resource for secondary students. This

committee also meets with administrators, conducts training workshops, sponsors the Litter Art Show and field trips to the compost facility and landscaping schools.

The Business and Industry Committee sponsors a monthly or annual Clean Business Award and also awards certificates and recognition for litter-free businesses. These members are also available to conduct educational workshops at local businesses.

The Cleanup Committee address the symptom, litter, rather than the problem, littering.

They also participate in the Great American Cleanup and Trash-offs and they work to encourage adoption of roads and parks for cleanup by community groups.

The Fund-Raising/Finance Committee is responsible for planning innovative fundraisers and seeking government and private sector funding.

Other committees include Neighborhood Revitalization, Crime Watch, Housing Rehabilitation, Law Enforcement, Membership and Public Awareness.



At the Regional Compost Facility, Larry Wilhelm, instructor, along with Gloria Blackburn, Debbie Wegman, Barbara Brumley, Linda Hunnicut, Brad Richardson, Debbie Green, Dick Dubose and Hank Williamson toured the facility and built a compost pile after the class.

Simple, Easy Recycling Ideas

These tips will help to divert organic materials from going to the landfill. It has been noted that up to 80 percent of land-fill volume can be attributed to organic materials that can be recycled!

- Leaves — use on flower beds to mulch and keep warm. This is a lot less work that bagging them up and filling up the dumpster.
- Yard trimmings, grass and withered flowers — spread on lawn and mulch with

- the mower to add compost materials to your lawn.
- Newspapers — reuse for a variety of uses, such as
- Cleaning windows or mirrors
- Disposal for trimmings to go in the compost pile.
- Weed barrier — since it is organic, use six to eight pages to block weeds and encourage worms. And, you do not have to pull it up!
- Seed cover when

- planting new seeds — use one layer and water, the seeds stay in place and it will not inhibit their growth
- Food waste — all except meat, dairy products and their by-products can be composted in your back yard
- Large tree trimmings and other yard waste and wood can be taken to the local compost facility to be recycled into chips and mulch or compost.

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Poetry

Sunday Morning Ride

By Louise Burgess



LOUISE BURGESS

It just don't seem that long ago
When in a horse drawn wagon, off
to church we'd go
The horses weren't bothered by the
heavy load
As we ambled along those country
roads

Mama always looked so sweet
Riding high on the wagon seat
In a homemade dress and matching hat
She looked so pretty dressed up like that

Papa in a starched shirt and overalls
And a hat he kept hanging on a peg on the wall
None of us kids wore store bought clothes
Mama made our dresses with sashes and bows

We sat on quilts in the wagon bed
With a jug of water and some fresh-baked bread
Sometimes we'd sing, sometimes we'd fight
Then Papa would yell, "You kids be quiet!"

The clop, clop, clop of the horse's feet
Lulled my baby brother off to sleep
He'd climb over in Mama's lap
And settle down for a mid-morning nap

Winding through a meadow of wild daffodils
Home of the meadowlark and the whippoorwill
God's feathered creatures, wild and free
The robin red breast and the chickadee

We'd pass fields of cotton, corn and oats
Grazing cattle with sheep and goats
The road led through a forest of pine and birch
A happy family on their way to church

Around the mountain and over the ridge
We'd cross the creek on a covered bridge
The horses would smell the water, I think
We always stopped for them to drink

When the service was over we'd hurry outside
Climb back in the wagon for the homeward ride
The horses were eager to be on their way
Back to their stalls and a feed of hay

Things have sure changed since a way back then
I'd give all I own to relive it again
My Cadillac now is my joy and pride
But I'd give it up gladly for one wagon ride.

Who's Who

Miranda Jennings

Miranda Jennings, daughter of Mike and Heather Jennings, has been selected as a candidate in the Distinguished Youth of Texas Scholarship and Recognition Program that began Friday in Austin.

During the weekend event, two Texas students will be chosen to receive a \$1,000 United States Savings bond and the right to serve as a state program titleholder for one year. In addition, both winners will receive \$250 to present to their respective schools from the Distinguished Youth Program.

The Program Finals are Sunday, with the naming of the new Little Miss of Texas and the new Young Miss of Texas.

Miranda is a fifth grader at Elbow Elementary.

She was sponsored for the weekend by Sid Richardson Carbon Company, Colorado City Electric, NAPA Auto Parts, No Fences, Joe and Elizabeth Jennings, Judy Belcher and Herman and Catrina Aguilar.

Luan Carlton Chisum

Luan Carlton Chisum of Big Spring, daughter of Emma Carlton and the deceased Travis Carlton and the wife of Joseph Chisum, will receive a bachelor of business administration in accounting with an infrastructure assurance and security minor from the University of Texas at San Antonio during fall commencement exercises Dec. 18.

She is currently attending UTSA, working on her master's of business administration in accounting, and will sit for the certified public accountant exam in the

spring of 2005.

William Morgan

William Morgan, a junior psychology major from Big Spring, was among 62 student scholars inducted into the Alpha Chi National Honor Society at Lubbock Christian University recently. This honor society recognizes junior and senior students who rank in the top 10 percent of their class.

Shasta Fuqua

Shasta Fuqua, a junior family studies major from Big Spring, was among 62 student scholars inducted into the Alpha Chi National Honor society at Lubbock Christian University recently.

This honor society recognizes junior and senior students who rank in the top 10 percent of their class.

National Honor Roll

The National Honor Roll released the names of the 2004 recipients. Only students with a B average or better are eligible to apply.

They are: Bradley Bair, Big Spring High School; Ashley Barnett, BSHS; Beverly Bennett, BSHS; Lara Breckenridge, BSHS; Trey Ransen Chavez, Westbrook High School; Viviana Gamboa, Garden City; Kourtney Graves, Stanton High School; Stacy Marie Gully, Garden City High School; Rebekah Horton, BSHS; Coy Keaton, BSHS; Whitney Kellermeier, Garden City; Tiffany Land, BSHS; Jessica New, BSHS; Daniel Rodriguez, BSHS; Jared Henry Sanchez, BSHS; Bobby Shubert, Matt Soto, BSHS; Sarah Beth Vela, BSHS; and Kelly Wingert, BSHS.

Engagement



Kristen Barrera and Michael Anthony Ross

Barrera, Ross to wed

Kristen Barrera of Midland and Michael Anthony Ross of Tyler will exchange wedding vows at 7:30 p.m. June 18, 2005, in the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Tyler.

The bride is the daughter of Rogelio and Margaret Barrera of McAllen and the granddaughter of Maria and the late Jose Barrera and the late Felix M. Pauline Puentez.

She is a graduate of Big Spring High School, Howard College with an associate degree in biology and Scenic Mountain Medical Center School of Radiological Technology as a certified radiologic technologist.

She is employed by Basin Orthopedic Surgical Specialists and

Sports Medicine in Odessa.

The groom is the son of Phillip and Irene Bustamante of Big Spring and the grandson of Isidoro and Manuela Galan of Big Spring and the late Julian Bustamante. He is the great-grandson of Florencia Gamboa.

He is a graduate of Big Spring High School, Howard College with an associates degree in nursing, Texas Tech University with a bachelors of science degree in nursing and Stanford University School of Medicine.

He is a certified family nurse practitioner and a certified physician's assistant. He is employed by Tyler Radiology Associates in Tyler.

Menus

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

MONDAY
Spaghetti/meat sauce, salad, milk, garlic bread, fruit.
TUESDAY-Stew, salad, cornbread, milk, pie.
WEDNESDAY-Meatloaf, blackeyed peas, okra, salad, milk, cornbread, cobbler.
THURSDAY-Chicken & dumplings, mixed vegetables, salad, milk, fruit gelatin.
FRIDAY-Catfish, French fries, beans, coleslaw, milk, cornbread, fruit.

THURSDAY-Cereal, toast, jelly, juice, milk.
FRIDAY-Sausage-n-blanket, cereal, juice, milk.
LUNCH
MONDAY-Chalupas w/cheese, salsa, salad, corn, fruit cups, milk.
TUESDAY-Barbeque on bun, ranch beans, salad, applesauce, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Tacos, salsa, salad, Spanish rice, pear halves, milk.
THURSDAY-Frito pie w/cheese, pinto beans, peaches, cornbread, milk.
FRIDAY-Cheeseburgers, vegetable fixings, French fries, peanut butter strips, milk.

THURSDAY-Sweetened rice, ham, apple juice, milk.
FRIDAY-Pancake sausage on a stick, syrup, grape juice, milk.
LUNCH
MONDAY-Pizza, chips, baby carrots w/dressing, mixed fruit, milk.
TUESDAY-chicken & dumplings or corndog, sweet peas, pears, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Smothered steak or BBQ beef on bun, creamed potatoes, corn, roll, milk.
THURSDAY-Nacho Grande, apple, salad, milk.
FRIDAY-Chicken patty or burritos, green beans, buttered potatoes, bread, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Cinnamon pastry, sliced pineapple, milk.
THURSDAY-Cereal, sausage pattie, juice, milk.
FRIDAY-Grape biscuit, sausage link, applesauce, milk.
LUNCH
MONDAY-Pepperoni pizza, potato rounds, corn, mixed fruit, milk.
TUESDAY-Chicken pattie, mashed potatoes, orange glazed carrots, green grapes, roll, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Taco, salad, refried beans w/cheese, Spanish rice, pears, milk.
THURSDAY-Fish strips, mac & cheese, blackeyed peas, grape freeze bar, hushpuppies, milk.
FRIDAY-Chili cheese dog, potato chips, ranch style beans, mandarin oranges, milk.

MONDAY-Cereal, yogurt, juice, milk.
TUESDAY-Oatmeal, toast, juice, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Breakfast bagels, juice, milk.
THURSDAY-Pancakes, sausage, juice, milk.
FRIDAY-Breakfast pocket, juice, milk.
LUNCH
MONDAY-Grilled cheese, vegetable soup,

crackers, orange slices, milk.
TUESDAY-Enchiladas, pinto beans, Spanish rice, mixed fruit, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Chicken pot pie, sliced carrots, crackers, peaches, milk.
THURSDAY-Ham sandwich, chips, pickles, apples, milk.

See MENUS Page 3C

WESTBROOK ISD

BREAKFAST
MONDAY-French toast sticks, little smokies, juice, milk.
TUESDAY-Oatmeal, toast, cereal, juice, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Sausage, bacon, biscuits, cereal, juice, milk.

COAHOMA ISD
BREAKFAST
MONDAY-Waffles, sausage, applesauce, milk.
TUESDAY-Breakfast pizza, apple juice, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Biscuits, gravy, orange juice, sausage, milk.

BIG SPRING ISD

BREAKFAST
MONDAY-Cereal, apple cinnamon bar, juice, milk.
TUESDAY-Breakfast pizza, mixed fruit, milk.

FORSAN ISD

BREAKFAST

A special tour for a special event.

BirthPlace Tour: Monday, December 6 at 7:00pm

For over fifty years, little Midlanders and their families have counted on Midland Memorial Hospital... for life. Meet us at the first floor lobby to take part in our special BirthPlace Tour. Visit our Postpartum, Labor, Delivery, Nursery, and our new Breast Feeding Shoppe, *Beautiful Beginnings*. Meet our outstanding staff and find out what to expect when your special time arrives.

The smallest details matter most to us. Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and *Beautiful Beginnings* in The BirthPlace at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus.

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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

Brownfie

Floyd and Nancy Stephenson celebrated their 50th anniversary in their home from 5 p.m. Saturday by their church. Floyd was born in Lubbock and Nancy Stephenson in Canton. They were married in 1952 on the town. They visited phone for the first time before they were married. They were born on May 25, 1954, in Canton, Texas, at the Methodist Church in Lubbock. The couple...

En



Lauren Marshall Hillman

Hillman

Lauren Marshall Hillman and her husband, George A. Hillman, celebrated their wedding on May 14, 2004, at the Lighthouse Aransas Bay. The bride is the daughter of Frank and Runge Hillman of Odessa and the groom is the son of George and McAlister. She is a 1998 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 2002 graduate of the University of Texas at San Antonio. She earned a bachelor's degree in business and a master's degree in education.

Menus

Continued From Page 3C

FRIDAY-French fries, beans, peas, milk.
STANTON
BREAKFAST
MONDAY-Cereal, apple cinnamon bar, juice, milk.

Ya

As

Learn about

- Botox®—can temporarily smooth the brows.
- Restylane®—volume and facial wrinkles.
- Meso-therapeutics—cellulite and skin texture.
- Diamond®—stimulate the skin's youthful look.
- Microdermabrasion—delivers a smooth, fresh complexion.
- Anti-aging—cellular activation.

Fri
Upt
Admissi

Anniversary

Brownfields celebrate 50 years wed

Floyd and Nancy Brownfield celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a small, informal reception at their home from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, hosted by their children. Floyd was born in Lubbock and the former Nancy Stephens was born in Canton. They met in 1952 on the telephone. They visited on the phone for three months before they met in person. They were married Nov. 25, 1954, Thanksgiving Day, at the First Methodist Church Chapel in Lubbock. The couple have three

children, Janis Brown of Big Spring, Kevin Brownfield of Colorado City and Holli Adams of Abilene. They have eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They have lived in Lubbock, Verhalen, Odessa, and in Big Spring for 28 years. Floyd is the vice-president of manufacturing for Fibercom, Inc. Nancy is a retired medical records clerk. They are affiliated with Hillcrest Baptist Church. Floyd enjoys fixing things and working in the yard. Nancy enjoys painting.



Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Brownfield

They enjoy each others company and have learned to laugh a lot.



Mr. and Mrs. Floyd and Nancy Brownfield in 1954

Engagement



Lauren Marie Hillman and Markus Ashley Balderach

Hillman, Balderach to marry

Lauren Marie Hillman and Markus Ashley Balderach, both of Odessa, will exchange wedding vows at 6:30 p.m. May 14, 2005, at Lighthouse Inn at Aransas Bay in Rockport. The bride is the daughter of Randy and Cindy Hillman of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Frank and Aliene Gohlke of Runge and the late George and Lavonia McAlister. She is a 1999 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 2002 and 2003 graduate of Texas Tech University, having earned a bachelors degree in business marketing and a master's of busi-

ness administration. She is employed by Lincoln Properties in Dallas. The groom is the son of Tom and Mary Balderach and Sharon and James Johnston, all of Big Spring. He is the grandson of D.D. and the late Lois Johnston of Big Spring, the late Leo and Genevieve Fisher of San Antonio and the late Doris and Bill Balderach. He is a 1997 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 2003 graduate of Texas Tech University, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in restaurant and hotel management. He is employed by Glazer's Distributors in Dallas.



Julia Louise Covington and Cooper Bennett Tate

Covington, Tate engaged

Julia Louise Covington of Alpine and Cooper Bennett Tate of Tarzan will exchange wedding vows at 2 p.m. Jan. 1, 2005, in the Faith Alive Cowboy Church in Marfa. The bride is the daughter of Carl and Andrea Covington of Alpine and the granddaughter of Sam and Betty Lou Beach of Alpine and the late W.O. and Olga Covington. She is a 2003 graduate of Covenant Christian Academy. The groom is the son of Art and Tammy Ramsey of Tarzan and Tim and Liz Tate of Midland.

He is the grandson of T.E. and Wanda Nelson of Lubbock and Newell and Frances Tate of Tarzan. He is a 2001 graduate of Grady High School and a 2004 graduate of Sul Ross State University.

Births

David Rios, Jr., a boy, was born Nov. 22, 2004, at 6:46 a.m. weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. His parents are Andra Hilario and David Rios Sr. His grandparents are Luis and Janie Rios and David and Viola Canales, all of Big Spring and Gilbert and Amelia Hilario of San Antonio. He was welcomed home by big sister, Makaylah Nadine Rios.

Her parents are Josh and Summer Valenzuela. Her grandparents are Norma Valenzuela of Big Spring, Lisa Blatchford of Arizona, Richard Ramirez of Big Spring and great-grandfather Edward Ramirez of Big Spring.

Sydney Lee Valenzuela, a girl, was born Nov. 22, 2004, at 12:44 p.m. weighing 5 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Her parents are Marcelino and Peggy Ramirez. Her grandparents are Marcelino Ramirez Sr. of Vealmore and Alfred and Petra Hernandez of Ackerly.

Menus

Continued From Page 2C

FRIDAY-Spaghetti, French bread, green beans, pears, milk.

STANTON ISD

BREAKFAST
MONDAY-Cinnamon

roll, cereal, buttered toast, juice, milk.

TUESDAY-Cheese omelet, sausage, biscuit, cereal, buttered toast, juice, milk.

LUNCH

MONDAY-Cheeseburger or hamburger, French fries, hamburger salad, pears.

TUESDAY-Pepperoni

pizza or corndog, mixed vegetables, salad, apple.

NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MONDAY-Sloppy Joe on bun, tator tots, peaches, milk.

TUESDAY-Tacos, salsa, lettuce-tomato salad, orange halves, milk.

You are cordially invited to...
An Uptown Experience

A skin care seminar conducted by Dr. Anna Rosinska and Uptown Salon and Day Spa owner Helen Hernandez.

Learn about treatments that will help you feel and look your best !!!

• **Botox**®— A non-surgical, physician-administered treatment that can temporarily smooth moderate to severe frown lines between the brows.

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Friday, Dec 10, 2004 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
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Admission is Free • Seating is Limited • Must RSVP 5 Days in Advance • 267-1544

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Express yourself at Expressions

One of a kind merchandise available at local boutique

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Features Editor

Proving that good customer care and a variety of products mean success, Uptown Salon expands this weekend into Uptown Expressions, a specialty boutique at the Big Spring Mall. "We will offer merchandise that is one of a kind, that is unusual and unique. Once you buy that item here, that is the only one there is," said Gloria Rodriguez, manager.

Uptown Expressions opened Friday and will remain open through the holidays, keeping the same hours as the other mall stores. A variety of furnishing and specialty products will be displayed in a home-style, comfortable atmosphere within

Uptown Expressions, she said.

"We want to create an atmosphere where men won't feel this is a woman's store, and women will feel like they're shopping from the comfort of their own home," she said.

A leopard-print chaise lounge, along with a black-lacquered coffee table and a handmade, wooden chifforobe are just some of the pieces that grace

the mall location. "We travel to Dallas, Austin and Houston to select and buy merchandise for Uptown Expressions. These are things that are usually seen at these type of boutiques in the larger markets and we want to bring them to Big Spring," she

See EXPRESSIONS, Page 5C

"...this new location will allow us to have more inventory and more items to offer our customers."



Gloria Rodriguez



Fabiola Ochoa, left, checks out one of the many wraps available at Uptown Expressions. The new boutique store, an expansion of Uptown Salon and Day Spa, opened Friday inside the Big Spring Mall. Helen Hernandez, salon owner, assists Ochoa in her selection.

Uptown Salon employees take pride in giving customers a chance to 'get away'

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Features Editor

Once, a trip to the beauty parlor was a weekly treat for women across the nation. Then came the days of blow dryers and shag haircuts, and the idea of a day of beauty was eclipsed by the need for speed.

But Uptown Salon has brought back the opportunity for pampering oneself with a

day of beauty, bringing together a variety of contemporary augmentations that enhance every woman's lifestyle.

"People work so hard today and we offer them a chance to get away, to take personal time for themselves. We all work to make our customers feel special, and our greatest reward is when we see a boost in the self confidence of our clients," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez, along with her partner, friend and sister Helen Hernandez, opened Uptown Salon, 600 Runnels, in August of 2003.

Offering a variety of specialty services dedicated to pampering and beautifying clients, the salon has 10 employees today, including three hair stylists, three manicurist, a permanent makeup artist, a licensed esthetician, two massage thera-

pists and a makeover specialist.

From tanning booths to electrolysis to permanent makeup tattooing to hair styles to makeovers, the salon provides a variety of services to meet every need or request when it comes to beauty.

The salon is available for parties, a unique concept Rodriguez said has become popular among companies and other groups. A party of teen-

agers secured the salon for an evening makeover.

"We had 13-14 year olds here, who chose to do this instead of a birthday skating party. We educated them on makeup and skin care, how to do their nails and how to beautify themselves as they become young ladies. We did all the work, and it was a lot of fun," she said.

See UPTOWN, Page 5C

Tres Outlaws: Old-fashioned shop becomes boot maker to the stars

By CHRIS ROBERTS
Associated Press Writer

EL PASO (AP) — Tres Outlaws makes cowboy boots the old-fashioned way and owner Jerry Black isn't modest about the quality.

"I think I make the best boots in the country," said Black, who operates a 10-person shop near the U.S.-Mexico border. "We make them the way they were made 100 years ago. ... They'll last forever and fit perfect. If you can't wear them all day the first day, then there's something wrong."

Tres Outlaws' reputation for quality and durability is what's earned the company some famous customers.

The shop recently made a custom pair for California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger with detail work that included the governor's seal, the Golden Gate Bridge, redwood trees and the Hollywood sign.

Celebrities Michael Douglas, Jane Fonda, Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg, Clint Black, Bruce Willis, Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, James Gandolfini and Sean Penn also own Tres Outlaws boots, Black said.

Tyler Beard, a leading



authority on cowboy boots who's written three books on the subject, called Black and his partners "mad but brilliant wizards." He counts Tres Outlaws among the top three bootmakers in a world where cowboy boots have acquired a "cult following."

"Their work confounds and astounds other boot-

wrote his first cowboy boot book, there were about 300 bootmaker using old leather working techniques. Now, he said, the number is about 50. "It's definitely a dying art," he said.

The hours of handiwork that go into each pair make Tres Outlaws' boots expensive — the least expensive costing about \$600 and the most expensive ranging into the thousands of dollars.

In a workshop filled with tanned leather and radios tuned to different stations, the craftsmen — and one craftswoman — work. The leather is hammered, clipped, stretched, glued and stitched on turn-of-the-century sewing machines. One machine was owned by Black's grandfather.

"They are simple to work, low maintenance, but the parts are almost not available," Black said.

Along with using old machines, the artisans use old techniques. Small wooden pegs hold the soles to the boots. The pegs, made by only one company in the United States, are lemon wood and swell more than the leather when wet, holding the sole in place.

See BOOTS, Page 5C

ASK THE AGENT

Pecan show just around the corner

The Howard County Pecan Show will be held Dec. 6-8 in the Howard County Courthouse. The deadline for entry is Monday, Dec. 6 at 4:30 p.m. Judging will be completed by noon on Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Viewing for the public will be all day Dec. 8 on the first floor of the courthouse. No entry fee is required.

1. Exhibitors are limited to one entry of each named variety they grow.
2. The grower may enter as many seedlings, known hybrids or natives as he or she wishes.
3. Pecans must be grown in Howard County.
4. The exhibitor must be the grower.
5. An entry consists of a minimum of 40 pecans, 42 is preferred.
6. Entries containing more than one variety are disqualified.
7. Nuts which are cut, sanded, polished, or otherwise altered will be disqualified.
8. Pecans exhibited must be from the 2004 crop.
9. Pecans must be entered in a ziploc bag with name of person and variety on it.



TOMMY YEATER

Extension offers continuing ed course

Private pesticide users can earn five continuing education units at an upcoming right-of-way-management course held here Dec. 7.

Hosted by Texas Cooperative Extension, the "Vegetation Management for Right-of-Way Applications Course" will be held at the Texas A&M University System Research and Extension Center. The center is located north of San Angelo on U.S. Highway 87.

Course registration begins at 8 a.m. The program runs from 8:20 a.m. to 3 p.m.

John Begnaud, Extension horticulturist in Tom Green County and a course coordinator, said the training is open to anyone with a valid Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide applicators license.

Anyone can attend who needs Texas Department of See AGENT, Page 5C

Marriage License
Eutimio Ortega,
Marie Chavez, 37,
Spring

Warranty deeds:
Grantor: Andrea
Grantee: Perry D
Becky Dixon
Property: Lot 3
Cole & Strayhorn
Date Filed: Nov.

Grantor: James

Bob FFA

Special to the

Bob Brock FFA is sponsoring scholarships to be FFA members. Bob Brock is participating in Trucks/FFA program for the The scholars approximately \$1000. The program is funded by Ford dealers to FFA members in the area who are seniors or planning to at

UPTOWN

Continued from F

The salon offers that range in \$275, depending

BOOTS

Continued from F

"It can do the time," Black said. And Tres Outlaws puts three people inside, two on the inside, two on the outside," Black said. One cap with modern technique thread used, durable braided material used ago, Black said

EXPRES

Continued from F

said. Along with furniture, Rodriguez store will all clothing, accessories as scarves and specialty comedians that widely with Uptown. "We will take them at the location for the some of our will also come the mall location she said. The idea for boutique came from a small store merchandise at prove to be popular customers, with more items.

AGENT

Continued from F

Agriculture education units have specific details for persons who maintenance 'roadways,' Be Educational speakers and are:

- Roadside way Mesquite Dr. Darrell range research Angelo;
- Right-of-Identification Neile, range Natural Conservation

PUBLIC RECORDS

<p>Marriage Licenses: Eulimio Ortega, 40, and Tina Marie Chavez, 37, both of Big Spring Jesse Herrea Jr., 22, and Mindy Lea Tucker, 27, both of Clarksville, Tenn.</p>	<p>and Carolyn A. Baker Grantee: Jim Morris and Anita Morris Property: Lot 6, Block 1, Western Hills Date Filed: Nov. 17, 2004</p>	<p>Grantee: Craig Olson Property: Lots 9 through 12, Block 67, Original Town of Big Spring Date Filed: Nov. 18, 2004</p>	<p>25 of the Balch Subdivision No. 7 Date Filed: Nov. 19, 2004</p>	<p>Date Filed: Nov. 19, 2004</p>	<p>Grantor: Chad N. Conner Grantee: Bobby J. Driver and Mary Driver Property: Lot 8, Block 1, Buckner Place Addition Date Filed: Nov. 19, 2004</p>
<p>Warranty deeds: Grantor: Andrea Mills Grantee: Perry Dixon and Becky Dixon Property: Lot 3, Block 8, Cole & Strayhorn Addition Date Filed: Nov. 17, 2004</p>	<p>Grantor: Marcos Rocha and Juana Rocha Grantee: Marcos Rocha Jr. Property: A 3.5 acre tract out of Section 24, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey Date Filed: Nov. 18, 2004</p>	<p>Grantor: Christ's Community Church of Big Spring Grantee: DPR Investments Property: Lots 12, 13 and 14, Block 19, College Heights Addition Date Filed: Nov. 19, 2004</p>	<p>Grantor: Douglas D. Lloyd and Sandra J. Lloyd Grantee: William A. Bibb Property: Lot 9, Block 8, Amended Central Park Addition Date Filed: Nov. 19, 2004</p>	<p>Grantor: DPS Investments Grantee: PasoSan Properties Property: Lots 12, 13 and 14, Block 19, College Heights Date Filed: Nov. 19, 2004</p>	<p>Grantor: Gary W. Maddux and Julia A. Maddux Grantee: Darrell Hendrickson and Glenda Hendrickson Property: Lot 2 in a replat of tract 8, Kennebec Heights Date Filed: Nov. 19, 2004</p>
<p>Grantor: James C. Baker</p>	<p>Grantor: Archie Kinard and Charles Ray Kinard</p>	<p>Grantor: Temple Oneta Burt Grantee: Gary Burt Property: 1/2 interest in Lot</p>	<p>Grantor: Mattie Norwood Grantee: Noel Hoff and Brenna Hoff Property: Lot 8, Block 1, College Park Estates</p>		

Bob Brock Ford to award FFA scholarships again

Special to the Herald

Bob Brock Ford of Big Spring is sponsoring four \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded to local FFA members in the spring. Bob Brock Ford has been a participating dealer in the Ford Trucks/FFA Scholarship Program for the past three years. The scholarship is one of approximately 700 to be awarded by Ford dealers nationwide to FFA members in their trade area who are high school seniors or college freshmen planning to attend college dur-

ing the 2005-2006 school year. In addition, Ford Trucks sponsors five national scholarships, affording those applicants who do not fall within a participating dealership area. It's the eighth year of the scholarship program, which has awarded more than \$2 million to FFA members. Dealers contribute \$500 toward each \$1,000 scholarship and Ford Division and Ford Motor Company match the additional \$500. FFA members may apply for one of the 705 Ford scholarships

through a special application available from Bob Brock Ford. Students may also download the applications or view a list of participating dealers at www.ffa.org/programs/scholarships. The program is designed to recognize academic achievement, accomplishments and talents of FFA members. As a special incentive for FFA chapters and members, Ford Trucks has chosen to award a new F-150 to the FFA chapter with the three most high-scoring applications.

Wal-Mart clarifies policy regarding unions

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Although Wal-Mart prefers to handle labor negotiations directly with individual employees, the world's largest retailer does not have a global anti-union policy, a company spokeswoman said Friday. "Our global policy is to work within the laws of individual countries," said Wal-Mart international spokeswoman Beth Keck. Keck's comments followed news earlier this week that the company would permit branches of the official Communist Party-controlled union in its Chinese stores if employees requested it.

Keck said the statement didn't reflect a change in Wal-Mart policy. "(The statement) was to set the record straight and was oriented to the Chinese media and Chinese audience," Keck said. Wal-Mart, headquartered in Bentonville, operates 39 stores in China employing 20,000 people. Keck said Chinese employees thus far haven't requested the 123 million-member All China Federation of Trade Unions to represent them. "We have good relations with our associates in China," she said.

UPTOWN

Continued from Page 4C

The salon offers day packages that range in price from \$175-\$275, depending on the services

an individual selects. Rodriguez said another service offered through the salon is gift packages available to employees as presents, bonuses or rewards for employees. "I offer their employees with a special treat to the

salon, they are helping their employees and creating a great image for their business. We just started offering this for this holiday season and it has been well received," she said. Another service offered through the salon and Uptown

Expressions is weight loss injections, through Dr. Anna Rosinska. A special workshop, An Uptown Experience, A Skin Care Seminar, is set for Dec. 10. To make a day or evening appointment at the salon or to call Uptown Expressions at the

mall, dial 267-1544. 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.

BOOTS

Continued from Page 4C

"It can do that for a lifetime," Black said. And Tres Outlaws still puts three peg rows on the inside, two on the outside, because, "When you ride a horse, in the stirrup, you put more pressure on the inside than the outside," Black said. One capitulation to modern technology is the thread used, which is a durable braided nylon instead of the flax-type material used 100 years ago, Black said.

However, patterns remain hand-stitched. Black said a computer can stitch flawlessly, creating a pattern in minutes that takes hours by hand. However, slight variations in handmade boots make them unique and the rows of stitching can be much closer than those made on a computer-driven machine, he said. Finding skilled artisans is getting to be as hard as finding necessary materials, Black said. His master bootmaker is 81-year-old Asuncion Campos, who comes from a long line of bootmakers. "When I have any ques-

tions about anything," Black said, "I ask him." Campos said — "God willing" — he will continue to make boots for another 20 years. He is from Ciudad de Leon in central Mexico, where both his brother and father were bootmakers. He worked for big-name bootmakers Tony Lama

and Justin before starting with Tres Outlaws in 1985. "It feels good," Campos said in Spanish. "It's the work of my life." It has become a passion for Black as well. So far, the pinnacle of Black's art is a pair of boots depicting the history of Mexico, including the Aztec sym-

bol of the eagle and serpent, Mayan temples, turn-of-the-century revolutionary Pancho Villa, and real coins from five different centuries. The boots, which Black said took 600 hours to create, are worth between \$50,000 and \$75,000. They most likely never will touch pavement and are

kept in a safe, he said. "They believe in sweating the small stuff," Beard said. "I just find their work is awe-inspiring." On the Net: Falconhead Boots, Belts and Buckles, a distributor of Tres Outlaws boots: www.falconhead.com

EXPRESSIONS

Continued from Page 4C

said. Along with the furniture, Rodriguez said the store will also feature clothing, accessories such as scarves and jewelry, specialty comforters and linens that will work fluidly with Uptown Salon. "We will take appointments in the Expressions location for the salon, and some of our employees will also come to work at the mall location, too," she said. The idea for the boutique came from watching a small stock of merchandise at the salon prove to be popular with customers, who asked for more items.

"We started this in our salon, where we brought in a little bit of everything from jewelry to ponchos and that took off really well. We're trying this for the holiday season to see how well this is received and this new location will allow us to have more inventory and more items to offer our customers," Rodriguez said. To make a day or evening appointment at the salon or to call Uptown Expressions at the mall, dial 267-1544.

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.

AGENT

Continued from Page 4C

Agriculture continuing education units, but we have specifically tailored this particular training for persons who conduct maintenance work along roadways," Begnaud said. Educational topics, speakers and CEU values are: — Roadside/Right-of-way Mesquite Control," Dr. Darrell Ueckert, range researcher, San Angelo; — Right-of-way Plant Identification," Steve Nelle, range scientist, Natural Resources Conservation Service,

San Angelo; — Vegetation Management Practices for Roadways," Jim Crosby, BASF Corp., Georgetown; — Herbicides Mode of Action," Pascual Hernandez, Extension agent, Sutton County; — Non-Target Herbicide Damage," Begnaud; and — Laws and Regulations," Corey Pence, Texas Department of Agriculture, San Angelo. The course is free as is the on-site noon meal. No reservations are necessary. For more information, contact Begnaud at (325) 659-6528.

Falling Prices On Pollard's Pre-Owned Quality Vehicles!

<p>★ CARS ★</p> <p>2002 Chevrolet Prizm - Stk# D192A, 4-Cyl., 1.8 Liter, Auto., FWD, A/C, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Cassette, Alloy Wheels. Was \$9,995. NOW \$8,995</p> <p>1999 Mazda Miata MX-5 Convertible - Stk# D71A, 4-Cyl., 1.8 Liter, 5-Spd. Manual, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD, Alloy Wheels. Was \$11,025. NOW \$8,995</p> <p>2004 Chevrolet Impala Sedan - Stk# D173 & D174, Power Windows and Locks, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Power Seat, Teen Miles. 2 To Choose From. Was \$14,995. NOW \$11,995</p> <p>2004 Chevrolet Classic - Stk# D145, D223, D224, Automatic, Tilt/Cruise, Power Windows, Locks and Mirrors. 3 To Choose From! Was \$14,995. NOW \$11,995</p> <p>2004 Pontiac Grand Am SE - Stk# D80, V6, Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Rear Spoiler, Teen Miles. Was \$17,015. NOW \$12,495</p> <p>2001 Chevrolet Monte Carlo SS Coupe - Stk# D212, V6 3.8L, CD, Premium Sound, OnStar, Traction Control, Power Seat, Rear Spoiler, Alloy Wheels. Was \$13,995. NOW \$12,995</p> <p>2002 Chrysler PT Cruiser - Stk# D144B, Automatic, Tilt/Cruise, Power Windows, Locks and Alloy Wheels. Was \$13,995. NOW \$12,995</p> <p>2004 Dodge Intrepid SE Sedan 4D - Stk# D114, V6 2.7 Liter, Auto., FWD, A/C, Power Equipped, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Alloy Wheels. Was \$16,925. NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2003 Pontiac Grand Am - Stk# D163, GT, 4 door, Ram Air, White, Sunroof, Loaded, One Owner, 12,000 Miles! Was \$15,995. NOW \$14,995</p> <p>1993 Cadillac Allante - Stk# D122, Red, Black Convertible Top, Only 45,000 One Owner Miles. Was \$18,995. NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2002 Chevrolet Monte Carlo SS Coupe 2D - Stk# D217B, White, V6, 3.8 Liter, Auto., CD, Leather, Power Seat, Sliding Sun Roof, Rear Spoiler, Alloy Wheels. Was \$18,995. NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2004 Buick Park Avenue - Stk# D198, V6, 3.8 Liter, Auto., A/C, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD, 11K Miles, Alloy Wheels. Was \$25,995. NOW \$22,995</p> <p>2004 Cadillac DeVille Sedan 4D - Stk# D222, Brown, Automatic, FWD, Bose Premium Sound, OnStar, Leather, Dual Power Seats, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Dual Power Seats. Was \$35,995. NOW \$29,995</p>	<p>★ SPORT UTILITY ★</p> <p>2003 Ford Expedition - Stk# D132, V8, 4.6 Liter, CD, Power Seat, Third Seat, Towing Pkg, Alloy Wheels. Was \$25,995. NOW \$23,995</p> <p>2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Stk# D187, V8, 5.3L Loaded, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD, Towing Pkg., Alloy Wheels. Was \$25,495. NOW \$24,495</p> <p>2004 Nissan Pathfinder Armada SE SUV 4D - Stk# D197A, V8, 5.6 Liter, Auto., 2WD, A/C, Rear Air, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD, Dual Front Air Bags, Alloy Wheels. Was \$31,995. NOW \$29,995</p> <p>★ PICKUPS ★</p> <p>1998 Chevrolet S10 Ext. Cab - Stk# D144, V6, 4.3 Liter, Automatic, Third Door, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD, Alloy Wheels, 63,000 Miles! Was \$9,995. SOLD</p> <p>2001 Chevrolet S10 Ext. Cab - Stk# D209, 4 Cyl., 5 speed, Third Door, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Dual Front Air Bags, Alloy Wheels. Was \$10,995. NOW \$9,995</p> <p>2001 Nissan Frontier Supercharged Crew Cab - Stk# D216A, V6, 3.3L Supercharged, Auto, 2WD, A/C, Power Steering/Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, Bed Liner. Was \$16,995. NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2002 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LS - Stk# D142, V8, 2.3 Liter, Automatic, Power Equipped, CD, Dual Power Seats, Towing Pkg. Was \$18,585. NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2004 Chevrolet Silverado - Stk# D205, V6 4.3L, 6K Miles, Automatic, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Running Boards, Hard Tonneau Cover, Bed Liner, Alloy Wheels. Was \$17,995. NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2002 Chevrolet Avalanche - Stk# D192, V8 5.3L, 4WD, 271 Off-Road Pkg., Leather, Rear Air, Power Equipped, CD, Premium Sound, Towing Pkg. Was \$19,995. NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2001 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Ext. Cab - Stk# D140, V8, 8.1 Liter, Power Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Roof Rack. Was \$20,995. NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2004 Chevrolet 1500 Ext. Cab LS - Stk# D162, 5.3 V8 Auto, Beautiful Black! Was \$21,995. NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2001 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab - Stk# D207, V8, 6.0 Liter, Power Equipped, CD, Dual Power Seats, Towing Pkg., Alloy Wheels. Was \$20,995. NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab - Stk# D168, V8, 5.3 Liter, Auto., 2WD, LS, A/C, Tilt/Cruise, Alloy Wheels. Was \$21,545. SOLD</p> <p>2000 Dodge 3500 Pickup - Stk# D196, 6-Cyl., Turbo Diesel, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Cassette, Sliding Rear Windows. Was \$21,995. NOW \$20,995</p> <p>2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab - Stk# D94, V8, 5.3 Liter, Auto., 4WD, 271 Suspension, LS, A/C, Alloy Wheels. Was \$24,710. NOW \$21,995</p> <p>2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab - Stk# D168, V8, 5.3 Liter, Automatic, 4WD, 271 Suspension, CD, Power Seat, Alloy Wheels. Was \$23,995. SOLD</p> <p>2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab - Stk# D211, V8 6.0L, 4WD, Power Equipped, CD, Power Seat, Bed Liner, Alloy Wheels. Was \$27,995. SOLD</p> <p>2003 GMC Sierra 1500 Ext. Cab - Stk# D168, V8, 5.3 Liter, Automatic, 4WD, 271 Off-Road Pkg., CD, Premium Sound, OnStar, Leather, Stepside Bed, Towing Pkg. Was \$27,995. NOW \$25,995</p> <p>2003 Chevrolet Avalanche - Stk# D200, V8, 5.3 Liter, 4WD, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD, Towing Pkg., Alloy Wheels. Was \$27,995. SOLD</p> <p>2001 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Crew Cab - Stk# D203, V8 6.6L Turbo Diesel, 4WD, Power Windows, Doors & Locks, CD, Premium Sound, OnStar, Leather, Bed Liner. Was \$32,995. NOW \$29,995</p>
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Announcements

MAJOR INVESTOR seeks packages on selling institutions. Att: Crozier Corporation, P.O. Box 13, Winters, TX 79567.

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THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the National Classified ads. Before investing money in a business/employment opportunity with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

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SPACES 3 & 4, Trinity Memorial Park, Garden of Bethany. \$1380 each. Reduce to \$900 each. Call (325)773-3029.

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COOK, Chinese Food: Plans menus and cooks Chinese dishes, dinners, desserts, and other foods. 2 yrs. exp. Contact Nancy of Hunan Chinese Restaurant at 1201 Gregg St., Big Spring, TX 79720. (432)267-4500 (432)267-4509 (F).

DRIVER WANTED: Bob Tail/Transport Driver. Excellent starting pay. All benefits - Medical & Retirement. Must have Class A CDL & good driving record. Call for appointment (432)263-0033.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY person needed to move furniture. Must be motivated. Good driving record required. Must be 21. Paid vacation & holidays. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg. No Phone Calls!

Help Wanted

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Please come by the Duncan Disposal office/yard at 1104 N.W. Broadway, Coahoma, Tx - Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please.
The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri.; with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer.

HOWARD COLLEGE is seeking applicants for a full-time coliseum Custodian. High school graduate and 1 year related experience required. Pre-employment physical exam and background check required. Flexible work schedule. Excellent benefits. Please apply at Howard College Human Resources Office.

Help Wanted

SALES ADVISORS
PDS, a food demo co. for HEB is now hiring **P/T Sales Advisors**. Ideal candidates will be friendly & enthusiastic with good communication skills. Great pay, flexible work schedule, working in the Big Spring store. 401k available to PT employees. **Positions available immediately.** Weekend Work is required. For more information please call 800-292-9655.

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George & Hazel Fillpot Estate
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DIRECTIONS: From Hwy. 87 & N. 4th St. go West on 4th (Seminole Hwy.) to Ave. Z then South 1 Blk to Juniper Then West to Auction Site. Watch for Auction Signs.

PARTIAL LISTING ONLY!!!!
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Position available in Texas for an Equipment Technician to assist in the operation, maintenance and repair of medical equipment, and electrical systems.

Individual is required for all technical training mandated by state regulations and experience a plus.

We offer a complete and benefits package including medical/dental profit sharing, reimbursement, and more. Interested candidates contact Lisa Coleman, Manager at BMA #1921, 501 E. E. #10, Big Spring, TX. Phone: (432)267-1756 or resume to eman@fmc.na.com

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Help Wanted
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Position available in West Texas for an Equipment Tech to assist in the operation, maintenance and repair of all water treatment equipment, medical equipment, and mechanical/electrical systems.

Individual is required to attend all technical training programs mandated by state/federal regulations and FMC policy. Experience a plus, but not required.

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FAR WEST Children and Family Services is now hiring day and night staff to work with boys ages 5-17. To inquire call (432)353-4464.

LONG JOHN Silvers, Day and evening shifts available. Must be energetic. Apply in person, 2403 S. Gregg. No phone calls, please.

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WAITRESSES NEEDED Split Shift Must be 18 Monday-Saturday Apply in person, Red Mesa Grill 2401 Gregg

WANT Mechanic at natural gas plant, northeast of Big Spring. Send resume to: Plant Supervisor, 11703 E. FM 846, Coahoma, TX 79511 or fax (432)399-4290.

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FOUND Boston Terrier in the vicinity of the Scenic Mountain Hospital. Call (432)466-1845 to identify.

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1212 EAST 19TH. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath with CH/A. Great kitchen. Really nice house. \$350. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1400 MT. VERNON. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. \$285. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1405-1/2 SETTLES. Very clean one bedroom, fenced yard. Stove & refrigerator furnished. \$200. month, \$100. deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

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2110 NOLAN. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, carpet. No indoor pets. \$250.00 month, \$100.00 deposit. Call (432)267-5464 leave message.

2523 DOW. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath with CH/A. \$385. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

2604 ENT. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, New paint/ carpet. References. \$450. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)267-7449.

600 STEAKLEY. Nice 3 bedroom, 1 bath. New central AC/Heat, fenced corner lot with garage. \$250. month, \$380. deposit. Call (432)263-0122.

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TWO BEDROOM, two bath, CH/A, carpet, quiet area, 4104 Muir. Call (432)270-3848.

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3309 CORNELL- Lease to Own. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, garage, CH/A, large fenced backyard. Recently remodeled inside. \$525.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. Call (432)268-8353 or (325)699-1042.

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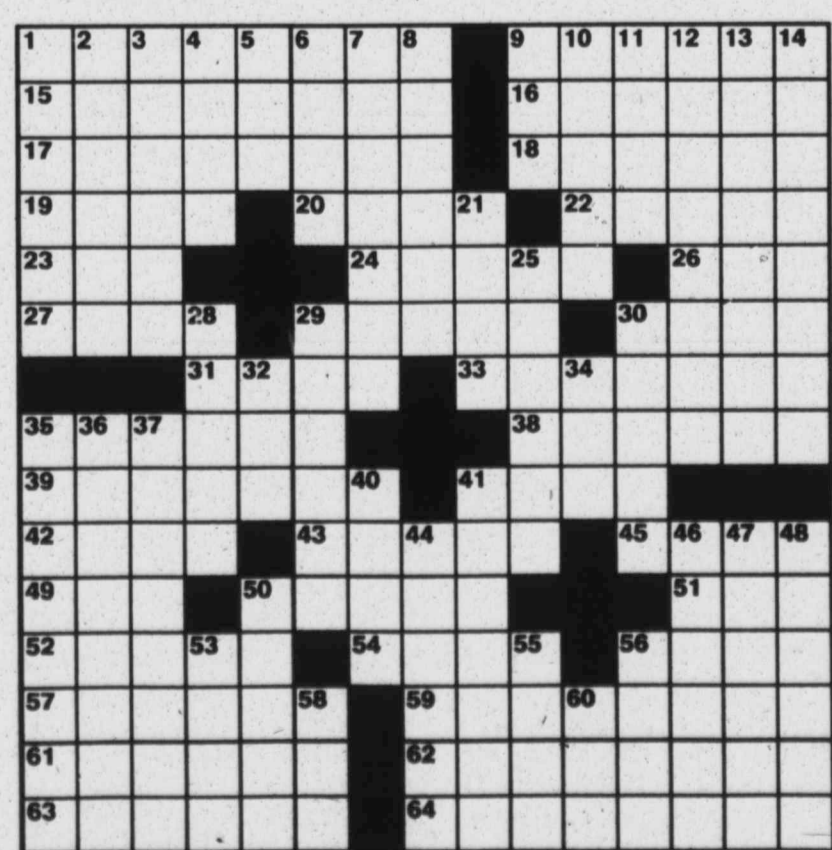
Newsday Crossword SATURDAY STUMPER by Daniel R. Stark Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cleaver's relative
 - 9 Beat soundly
 - 15 Mexican sandal
 - 16 Kind of shelter
 - 17 One there
 - 18 Leader since '59
 - 19 History subjects
 - 20 Copper
 - 22 South American runners
 - 23 *Amour-propre*
 - 24 Goes first
 - 26 Multiple of XIII
 - 27 Hangouts
 - 29 Oft-quoted catcher
 - 30 First-class
 - 31 Deeply impressed
 - 33 Mule, for one
 - 35 Medieval stewards
 - 38 Hologram makers
 - 39 Absorption method
 - 41 Stamps unit
 - 42 Maple genus
 - 43 Chops finely
 - 45 Seven in Martinique
 - 49 ___ es. Salaam
 - 50 Long
 - 51 *Notorious* setting
 - 52 Top of some buildings
 - 54 Occupies, as a post

- DOWN**
- 1 Warmed up
 - 2 Lighting problem
 - 3 Married woman
 - 4 Son of Hera
 - 5 Chinese dynasty
 - 6 Like some radios
 - 7 Rolled along
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- 8 Not as dull
- 9 Where to see *What Not to Wear*
- 10 Is told of
- 11 Too fast
- 12 Safari sight
- 13 Kitchen gadget
- 14 Big Ten team
- 21 Surfaces
- 25 Soap that lasted 13 years
- 28 Relish
- 29 By
- 30 Church sections
- 32 Montgomery of jazz
- 34 Adjective suffix

- 35 Word in the etymology of "hot rod"
- 36 Prank
- 37 Retired
- 40 River Kwai locale
- 41 Le Carré or Twain
- 44 In a box
- 46 Quick trip
- 47 Barbara Bush's maiden name
- 48 Blew
- 50 Mideast nation
- 53 Human ___
- 55 Omit
- 56 Willing to confide
- 58 German verb
- 60 Chemical suffix



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Answer to previous puzzle

MESA	HAIIG	RAJAH
AXIS	ALSO	EMOTE
SPAN	ZIANY	PAGER
SOMEMISTAKES		
RREEK	EASTER	
SSW	TRAVAIL	LADIA
THEIR	WART	FOUIZ
ARETOO	MUCHFUNTO	
GODS	NON	ROTOR
EVE	VENTURA	SRS
REDSEA	SAMS	
ONLYMAKEONCE		
ALIBI	EDGE	FOOD
FOLIC	AVER	AMID
BULGE	HISS	RELY

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NOV 27 2004



West Texas
**Business &
Agriculture**

- Weather problem for cotton
- Oil prices helping region
- Holiday business outlook
- New businesses arriving

Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald and Sweetwater Reporter

Cover story

COTTON:

A better season sits mired in muddy fields

Wet. Unusually wet weather arrived in West Texas this month. And at harvest time in the cotton business, that's not good.

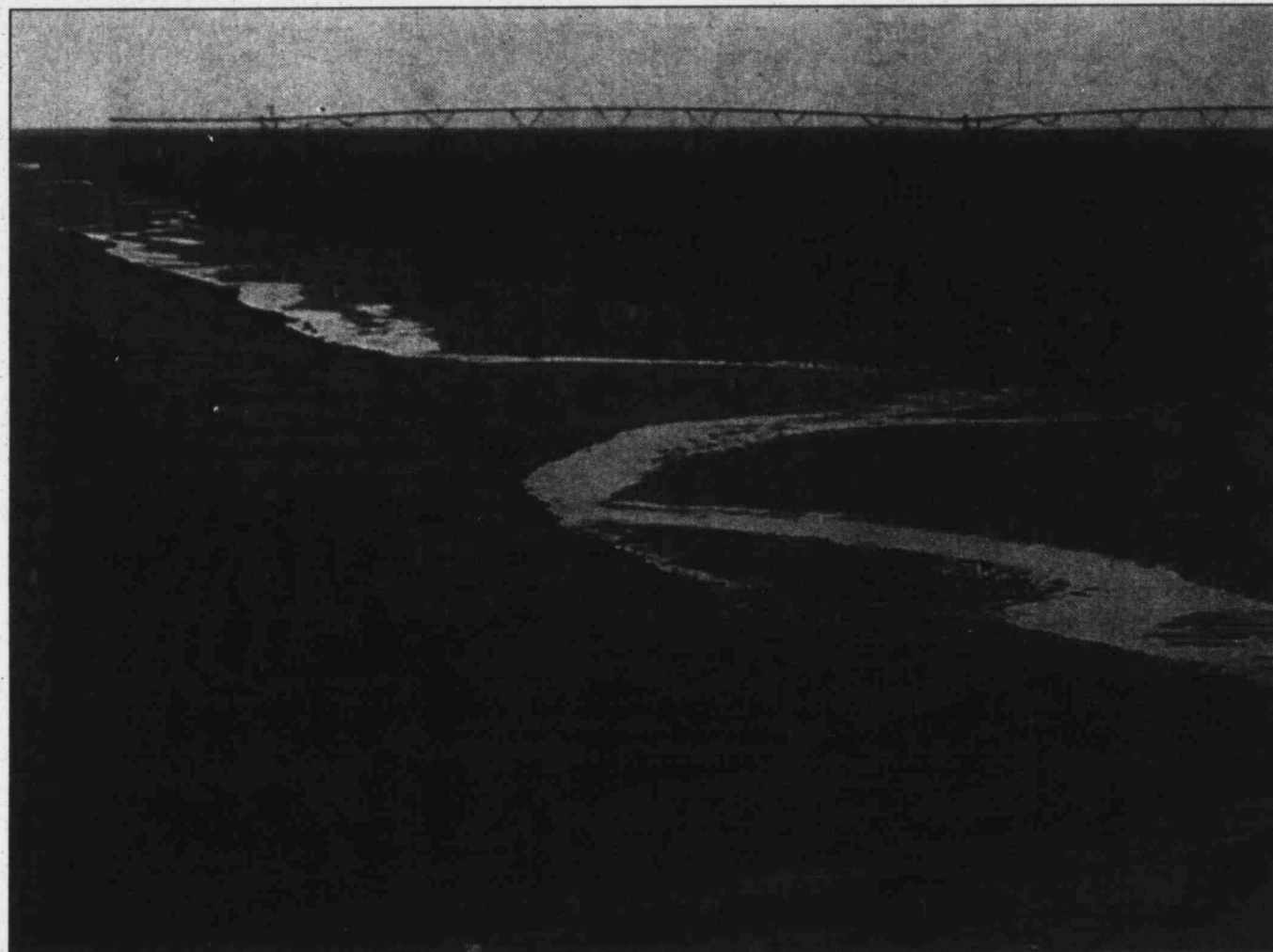
"It's going to take 10 days to two weeks before we can get back in the field after this rain stops," said Lee Howard, Cooperative Extension agent for Martin County. "That is if we don't have another front come through in the meantime."

Howard's comment was echoed by Extension agents from Glasscock to Nolan County at mid month as wet, muddy fields were preventing farmers from completing a harvest that in most counties have barely gotten under way.

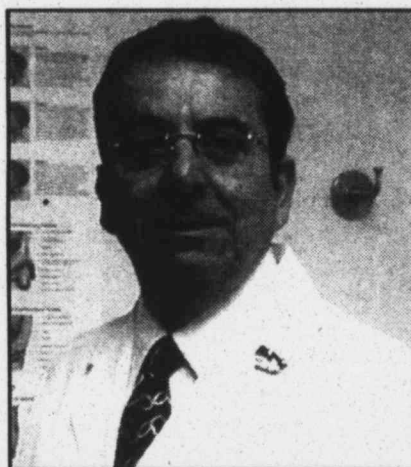
In Howard County, only about 5 percent has been harvested.

"Ninety-five percent is still out in the field,"

See **WET**, Page 16



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NEW PROGRAM: TSTC teaching creative cooks

Kandace Arrott is the program director of the new culinary arts program being offered at Texas State Technical College West Texas in Sweetwater this fall, and she is excited to be part of this first for TSTC.

She described the course as "very broad," including restaurant management, baking, pastries and culinary arts. Arrott enjoys the hands-on aspects of the course most of all and points out that the course is great for hands-on learners.

Arrott was raised in Rawls, 30 miles east of Lubbock. She earned her bachelor's degree in home economics education from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. She also received some training at Johnson Wales University in Rhode Island, one of the largest culinary arts schools in the United States.

Arrott later went on to teach in Dallas a year then to Central High School in San Angelo where she started the culinary arts program there.

She and her husband later moved to Bronte where she taught fourth grade and her husband was a teacher and coach.

Now, her husband teaches fifth grade at Sweetwater Intermediate School. They have one daughter who is a kindergartner at East Ridge and a 1-year-old son.

Arrott has always loved cooking. She started cooking at the age of nine and enjoyed experimenting, which comes in handy with this program. She is enjoying setting up her own college program at TSTC, but points out that she now has a lot of decisions and had to purchase lots of equipment.

Arrott now has 17 students in her program, which she thinks is outstanding for a new program in a small college. The ages of the students vary. She also said that her students are very diverse in what they want to do with this type of education.

Safety and sanitation are now very important aspects of any type of cooking or culinary arts programs now because of what could happen out in the real world. "If

A multi-purpose room in the Temple Dickson building on campus is being remodeled into a kitchen and restaurant-type setting. They plan to open it up to the public as a restaurant so the students can get some real-life experience and offer something to the community at the same time.

you mess up one day in your own restaurant and get some people sick, you could ruin the reputation of your business," Arrott explained.

One thing Arrott and her students have to look forward to is having their own area to do the hands-on classwork, which involves all the cooking, baking and culinary arts. Now, they use a room at First Baptist Church for cooking.

A multi-purpose room in the Temple Dickson building on campus is being remodeled into a kitchen and restaurant-type setting. They plan to open it up to the public as a restaurant so the students can get some real-life experience and offer something to the community at the same time. Arrott expects this to be completed at the end of the spring semester and hopes to have it ready for students next school year.

Those interested in attending the culinary arts school at TSTC can earn a one-year degree or an associate's degree, which is five semesters. Contact admissions at 235-7361 for more information.

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Training

EDUCATION: TSTC unveils its new auto-technology facility

TSTC unveils new auto-tech facility

BY KYLE DAVIAN

Special to the Reporter

Texas State Technical College West Texas Sweetwater (TSTC) unveiled a new state-of-the-art auto-tech facility at a dedication ceremony Thursday.

The new Transportation Technologies Center is a 27,000-square foot facility and contains such features as progressively-equipped classrooms, computer rooms and laboratories. The new center caters to students and faculties of the Automotive Technology, Auto Collision Repair and Diesel Technology programs.

Homer K. Taylor, president of TSTC West Texas, spoke during the opening ceremonies and said, "How appropriate to dedicate the opening of such a facility as we enter into another chapter of our involvement."

Several funding sources helped make the project a reality, including the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$800,000; the Sweetwater Enterprise for Economic Development (SEED) with \$200,000 and the State of Texas in the amount of \$2.4 million.

Kathy Kennedy of TSTC West Texas acknowledged the help of the Economic Development Administration and also SEED.

"Please join me in thanking these individuals that have worked so hard to promote student learning and economic development in Texas," she said.

Economic development is what keynote speaker Dr. Diane Rath of the Texas Workforce Commission focused on as she shared statistics that many in the audience commented as being "eye-opening."

"It's no accident that Texas is the leader of concrete production," said Rath. She said there was a lot of road-building going on in Texas, as well as plenty of vehicles that would be traveling on them. The need was there, she said, for qualified auto-tech people.

She also said the outlet was good for Texas in general. "A lot of people do not realize it," she said, "but Texas has the eighth largest economy in the world. Texas is number one in (U.S.) exports for the past three consecutive years."

As for unemployment, she said it was at 5.5 percent, "down a full point over last year. In 2004, Texas leads the nation in the number of jobs created."

Rath stated that Texas has a young population, and that "our challenge is to make sure they have the skills that employers need. You know ... if we have an experienced workforce, then the employers will bring the jobs to Texas. In order to develop the state, we have to develop knowledge. We must be receptive to change. Our workforce must be able to adapt to change. That's the only constant we have."

Student Arturo Medellin of Sweetwater said he was already applying for an automotive-based job, and said he enjoys the new

See TSTC, Page 17

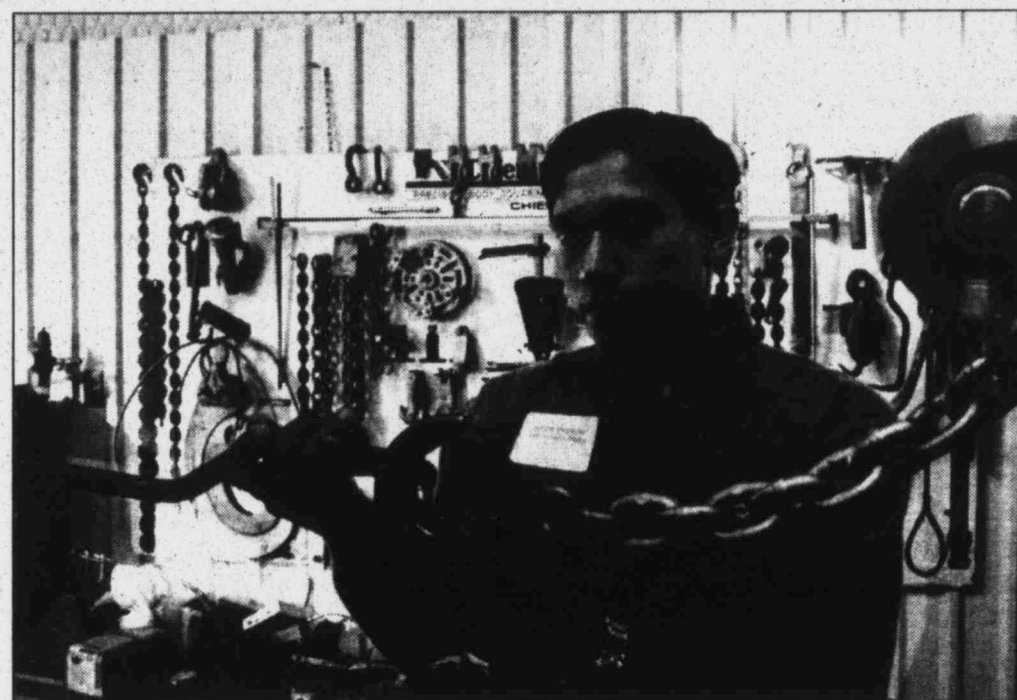


Photo by Kyle Davian

Arturo Medellin of Sweetwater shows off some of the tools students utilize in Texas State Technical College's automotive technology programs.

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Industry

OIL: Steady growth forecast for foreseeable future

Less is more ... well kind of. At least that's the way some in the oil and gas industry see their business as crude oil prices have dropped back below the \$50 per barrel level.

And most, like Morris Burns, executive vice president of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association, aren't a bit concerned that record-setting crude oil and gasoline prices haven't translated into a "major" boom in the West Texas oil fields.

"We don't really need that here in West Texas now," Burns explained. "Booms like we saw in the late 1970s and early 1980s create a real problem. When things boomed back there in the late '70s and early '80s, you had some pretty unsavory folks that came in and took advantage of people trying to cash in and make big money quickly. In the long run, they did a tremendous amount of damage.

"In 1981, we have more than 4,000 rigs drilling in the U.S. — a thousand of them in Texas," Burns added. "But that boom went from boom to bust in a hurry and took a lot of people with it. When the price of oil dropped from \$32 a barrel to \$9 in what seemed almost overnight it was devastating."

But there is a oil boom in West Texas right now, it's just not like we saw 20 to 25 years ago.

"Companies around Fort Stockton have been having trouble getting people to move down there," Burns said. "So some of them have done things like open up restaurants and entertainment venues ... that sort of thing to help attract the people they need. That's reminiscent of the old days when oil companies built oil camps for

their employees to have housing."

Today, with just 1,250 or so drilling rigs in operation across the United States — some 234 of them in the Permian Basin — and crude oil futures prices at a little less than \$48 per barrel, Burns predicts steady and profitable growth in the West Texas oil patch.

In fact, Burns said he believes there were be even more drilling, not only in Texas, but across the country, were it not for a shortage of skilled oil field workers.

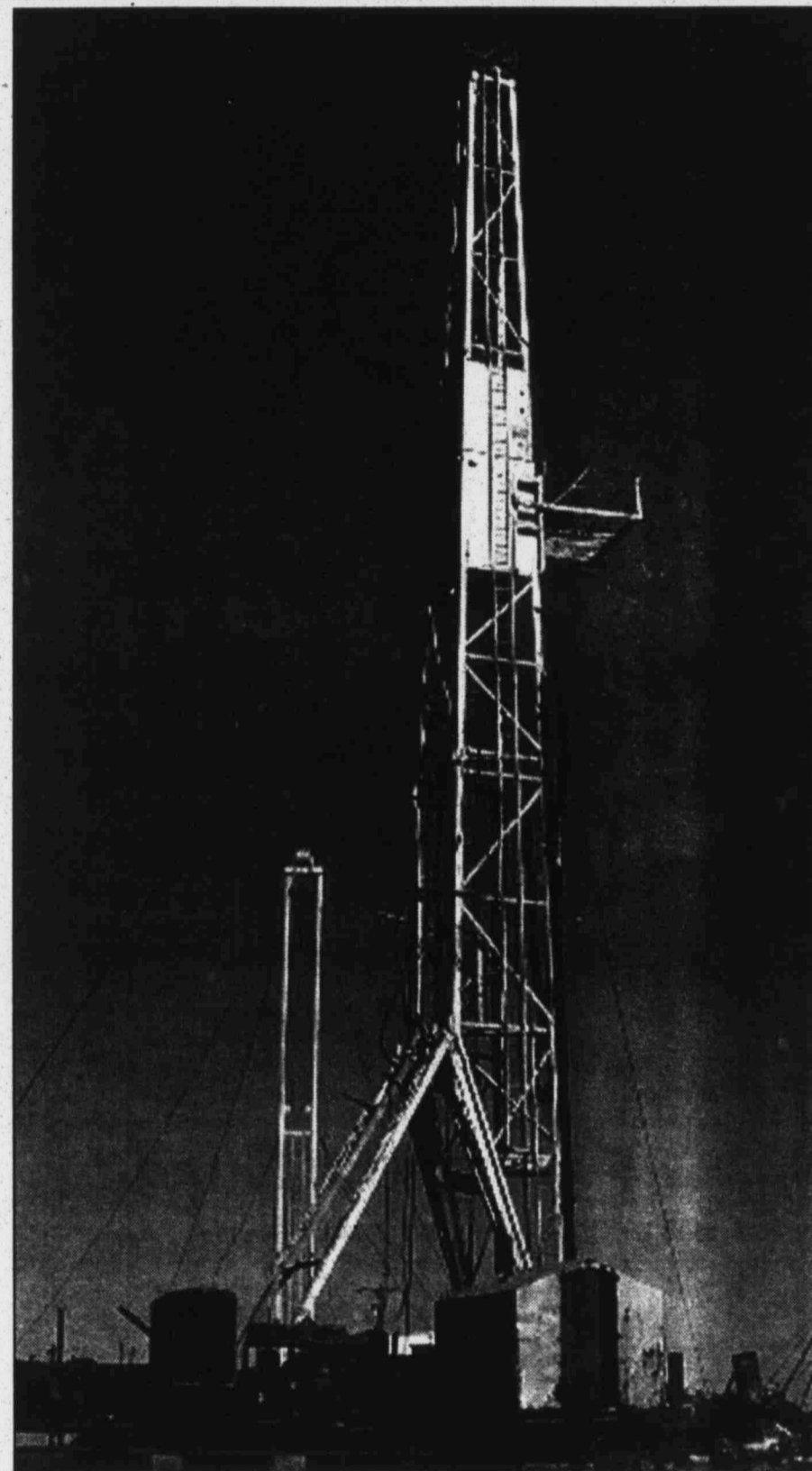
"The lack of skilled labor is a little bit of a problem right now, because we had a lot of people get out of the business," Burns noted. "These folks rode that roller coaster a few times and had to do something else. There's not a drastic shortage of people out there, but experienced people aren't having any trouble finding a job."

And Burns says he believes that will be the case for some time to come, although he expects the price of oil will drop to some degree.

"I think for the foreseeable future we're going to see oil prices around the \$35 to \$40 per barrel range and that's very good news," he noted. "What we've got is a truly market-driven price right now. That's what we in the industry and what we've been asking for all along.

"With a true market-driven price, OPEC can't determine the price of oil like it has in the past," Burns continued. "Prices reached record levels a few weeks ago and are still pretty high because of a number of factors. Hurricane Ivan damaged a lot of the

See **OIL**, Page 18



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Business

SUPER RETAILER: *Wal-Mart Supercenter comes to Sweetwater*

Amid rumors that have circulated for years, super retailer Wal-Mart has finally broken ground on their new site in Sweetwater.

The new store, located across the interstate from major retailer Kmart, now makes Sweetwater home to two major retailers, somewhat unique for a town this size.

Wal-Mart training assistant Debbie Black came to town last month, along with new store manager Mauro Rodriguez and set up a local employment office in the old student center building on the Texas State Technical College West Texas Sweetwater campus. The college had donated facilities for Wal-Mart to utilize in accepting employment applications from local people.

Rumors began once again, this time that Wal-Mart was accepting applications immediately. But in reality, Black said their first week in town was spent obtaining phone and fax services, as well as obtaining required posting signs such as the minimum wage laws to be hung up before applications could be accepted. Once applications started to be accepted, Black said almost a thousand applications were received within a week.

And on to the next rumor, that surely Wal-Mart would open in November in time for the holiday rush.

— It's not true, — Black said. She said it was impossible to get the store ready in time for the Christmas shopping season. "It would be too hectic. In fact, when everything gets going, there'll be



probably 20 trucks with 22 pallets each coming in continuously. It'll be busy just setting up the store itself."

And that's where the sudden call for employees (or "associates") comes in.

"We [Wal-Mart] will be taking ownership of the building on January 26, 2005. We will need associates to help in setting up the store. The initial associates will be

dealing with empty store shelves."

In fact, the work will not be easy. "This job is harder than a lot of people realize," she said. "You have to be willing to do what it takes." And she predicts it will get very busy at the new location, commenting that a lot of the store traffic will come in off the Interstate.

Wal-Mart is expected to employ some 200 store associates, both full

and part-time at the Sweetwater store. This includes some half dozen store managers and their assistants.

Black said she is excited about being in Sweetwater, and said she has had pleasant encounters meeting residents. As for Wal-Mart, she said, "I think competition will be good for this town. Everyone

See **WAL-MART**, Page 17

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GROWTH:

Big Spring's business community witnessing new business, expansion

If it seems like the Big Spring business community is growing, it's not a figment of your imagination.

With the addition of nearly a half-dozen new businesses, which include major construction that is still ongoing at three locations in Big Spring, the city's economic climate seems to have hit a pleasant growth spurt.

One local business that's growing is Leonard's Pharmacy, which has been a part of downtown Big Spring for many years. The business will be shedding its "downtown skin" by moving into a brand new building located in the 700 block of Scurry Street, directly across the street from the *Big*

Spring Herald's offices.

Construction on the new building began July 1, and according to Leonard's Pharmacy President Larry McLellan, should be completed by the end of January 2005.

"The bid contract requires that the building be completed within 180 days of the start date," said McLellan. "We expect it to be ready around the latter part of January. That should put us within that six-month contract."

McLellan said he and his employees are excited about the new building, which will include some modernization and maintain a certain level of nostalgia at the same time.

See **GROWTH**, Page 19



Photo by Thomas Jenkins

Juan Bonilla, an employee with a Midland-based concrete company, helps set the posts during initial construction of O'Reilly Auto Parts' new Big Spring location on Gregg Street. O'Reilly officials expect the new building, which is being built from the ground up, to be completed and ready for business in January.

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Business

'TIS THE SEASON: *As always, retailers hope for good Christmas sales*

With Christmas just weeks away, shoppers and business owners alike look forward to the holiday shopping season.

At the Big Spring Mall, shop owners are hoping Santa will bring them shoppers in the mood to spend.

"We are hoping and praying for a good Christmas season," said Sherry Phillips, owner of the Merle Norman store in the mall. "Our store is full and ready for the season. I hope people will shop at home."

Phillips' store is full of hard-to-find gifts and clothing. From pink and purple purses to leopard print pencils, her shop is filled with unique items she hopes will whet the appetites of many shoppers.

Store owners are reporting sales increases in unison. Jody Swinney, owner of the local Sears franchise, said, "We are anticipat-

ing a good season. It's better now than it has been in a long time."

He, like many other store owners, says the completion of the presidential election seems to have boosted the sales of his store.

"With the election over, it's now looking very encouraging," said Swinney. "Many people can now breathe a sigh of relief and start shopping for Christmas," he said.

Swinney also says that many people are taking advantage of the store's sale prices now.

In an identical sentiment, Betty Gamboa, manager at Blum's Jewelers, said, "Things are looking good now that the election is over. We hope people will get out and shop local stores — and buy lots of jewelry!" She added that Blum's is offering sale prices for the holiday season in the hopes of luring many local shoppers.

See **SEASON**, Page 12



Photo by Kendra Wiss

Deborah and Ricky Suggs (left) help Karen and Channing Martin with their purchases. The Suggs say their sales are up from last year and they are anticipating a good holiday season.



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SEASON

Continued from Page 10

Even very small businesses seem to feel the ripple effect of the election's end.

Audrey Bayes, who owns Audrey's Cakes, Cookies and Lots More, has her shop set-up at a kiosk in the mall's center. "Things started picking up after the election," she said. "The big thing is letting people know we're here and that they need to keep supporting local businesses."

Bayes creates one-of-a-kind cakes, cupcakes and sweets for her customers. She also has a photo album available to show potential customers the wide variety of cakes she can create.

Several businesses are hosting open houses and special sales events to jump-start holiday sales.

"We had a great open house," said Suggs Hallmark owner Ricky Suggs. "It brought in lots of traffic. We are showing better sales than at this time last year and hope people will shop locally first."

Suggs like other business people is ready for Christmas sales with new items that have arrived just in

Photo by Kendra Wiss

Sherry Phillips, owner of Merle Norman located in the Big Spring Mall, helps Judy Brown of Big Spring with her purchases. Phillips is hoping for a profitable holiday season where shoppers keep their dollars close to home.

See SALES, Page 17

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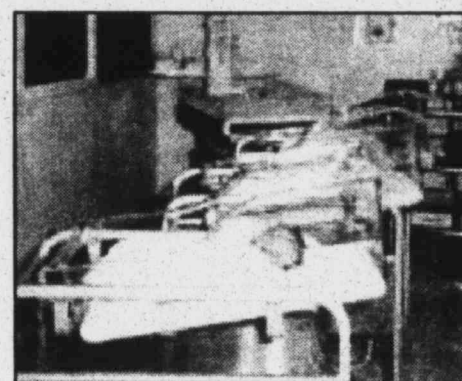
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Industry

MATTER OF SURVIVAL: *Freecom teams to save sinking museum ships*

The 280-foot, steel-hulled historic ferry Berkeley, serves as a floating museum and waterfront headquarters for the San Diego Maritime Museum. They say that rust never sleeps and the Berkeley, the finest surviving ferry on the West Coast, was sinking.

The Berkeley was built in 1898 and ferried passengers between San Francisco and Oakland for decades, but became famous for its role in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

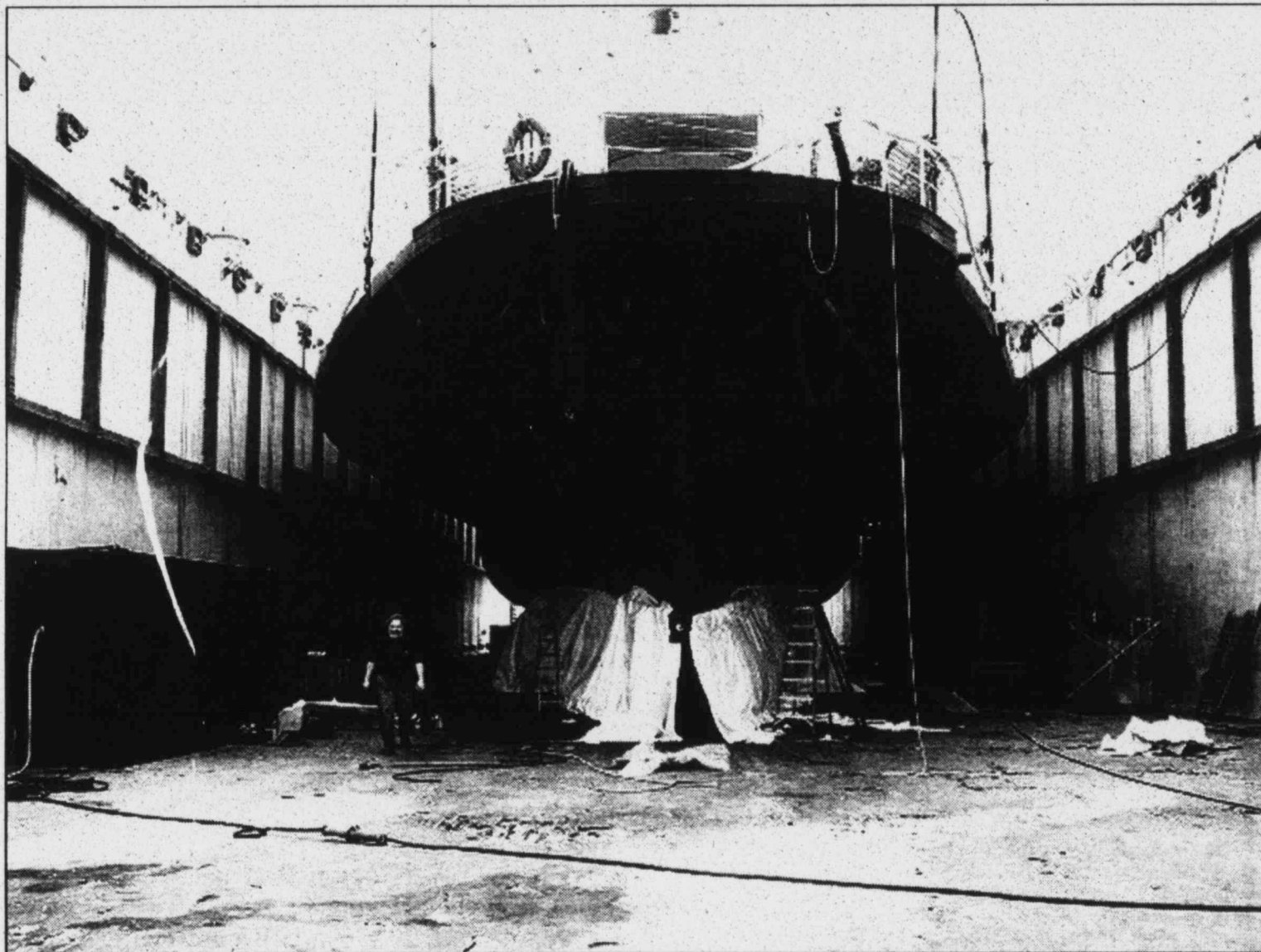
During that time, the Berkeley worked around the clock transporting survivors to Oakland and returning with medical supplies, food, clothing and fire fighting equipment.

Several years ago, the Berkeley was facing a crisis of her own. She is made of steel, 100 years old and has several strikes against her. In 1980 many leaks occurred. Upon inspection it became evident that she was rusting from the inside out. To stop the rusting, an impermeable foam was applied that sheathed the vessel from the inside was applied. It was the only solution to save the ship with the resources available.

About 10 years after the application of that foam, it was noticed that the old ferry was still deteriorating and Maritime Museum officials began looking at other solutions.

The traditional fix was to weld new plates on the hull, but that solution was too costly for the museum.

That's when Big Spring-based



Courtesy photo

The ferry Berkeley sits in drydock as Freecom Inc. personnel provide a ceramic coating to her hull to prevent the historic ship.

Freecom Inc. came to the rescue.

Responding to the SOS sent throughout the boating community, Bill Kraus, Freecom's CeRam-Kote representative for California,

an avid boater, tossed Berkeley a life ring.

Kraus joined the Freecom team in 1997 almost as a hobby to sell to the marine industry for pleasure

boats and as an alternative to copper bottom paints. Kraus is now salesman and technical represen

See **FRECOM**, Page 15

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Continued from Page 14

tative for Freecom's California operations.

CeRam-Kote is a modified epoxy that is loaded with more than 60 percent ceramic particles sub-micron in size. The 100 percent solids coating was initially developed to combat corrosion/erosion in oil industry tubular goods and even stands up to hydrogen sulfides.

CeRam-Kote products provide a corrosion barrier ideal for high abrasion, erosion and corrosive environments in oil industry tubular. It is being used and has been used on offshore platforms, equipment and work boats for more than 18 years.

A few tug boats in San Diego had been coated with CeRam-Kote SPG when the Maritime Museum became quite interested in its use. It was a few years away from redoing the Berkeley hull, so steel pipe coated with CeRam-Kote SPG was hung off the side of the Berkeley for testing. When the money was raised to fix the Berkeley some two years later, the pipe samples were raised.

After constant immersion in salt-water, the coating was still performing very well. That convinced the Maritime Museum to use the material.

Few non-profit organizations have the cash reserves to embark upon such a costly and ambitious project and the San Diego museum was no exception.

Another SOS was broadcast to scuba divers, tugboat operators, shipyards, sand and hydro-blasters: "Send us your best men at your lowest possible price."

Freecom and its team of coating professionals joined those who rallied.

The restoration project was

Coatings save World War II sub

As a result of the successful application of CeRam-Kote to save the Berkeley, the museum at Pearl Harbor decided to save its World War II submarine, the USS Bowfin, in the same manner.

Kraus once again was able to assemble a crew to dry dock the Bowfin and arrange for the preparation of the submarine for CeRam-Kote SPG. All necessary equipment, supplies and coating were packaged into an ocean vessel container and shipped to Pearl Harbor.

Sometime in the past, the torpedo rooms in the submarine had been filled with concrete as ballast to keep the submarine stable in its mooring. That concrete was causing severe corrosion to the interior of the submarine, so the first order of business was to cut the skin off the Bowfin and remove the concrete.

Once the skin was removed to expose the concrete, high pressure hydro-blasting was attempted to remove the concrete. Due to the age and total cure of the concrete, the removal was not possible.

As an alternative, CeRam-Kote SPG was applied to the entire area where the concrete was located as well as all the steel structure inside the torpedo bays. The skin was then welded back on the submarine and the dry dock person-

nel prepared the Bowfin for the application of CeRam-Kote.

nel prepared the Bowfin for the application of CeRam-Kote.

Due to dry dock delays and equipment breakdowns, the coating process was accomplished over a five-day period. In addition, the museum elected to prepare and coat the entire top side of the submarine as well as the hull.

The top side of the Bowfin was coated with Freecom's CeRam-Kote 99M which is similar to CeRam-Kote SPG, but is thinner and does not require special equipment for application like the CeRam-Kote SPG.

After the CeRam-Kote 99M was applied, CeRam-Thane 300, a polyester/polyurethane, was applied to give many years of ultra violet resistance to the CeRam-Kote 99M.

The Bowfin looks better than it did new and will last many years without requiring coating maintenance.

She is now back at her mooring at the Arizona Memorial dock.

This second successful salvage of a priceless museum ship now has the Freecom team being considered to coat the battleship U.S.S. Missouri that is also moored in Pearl Harbor.

Freecom is hopeful that its team will be allowed to save that priceless ship as well.

Berkeley was taken to the shipyard, dry docked and hydro-blasted to remove 30 years of growth.

After the growth was removed, the hull was grit blasted to clean the steel of rust and to prepare for the application of CeRam-Kote. In all, more than 600 tons of marine growth and rust had been knocked from the vessel's hull.

After cleaning and blasting the hull of the Berkeley, holes were

patched and other repairs made. When the patching was completed, the hull was inspected and pronounced ready for the application of CeRam-Kote by a Freecom team from Texas.

Along with the coating crew, Freecom shipped in the necessary spray equipment and a supply of coating. After insuring that the substrate was dry and that the conditions were satisfactory, the Texas crew began spraying at 7 p.m. with the idea of finishing by daylight the next morning.

The shipyard and museum personnel lovingly call Freecom's application team, "Roughnecks." Most of the Freecom team has worked in the oil fields of West Texas and work hard around the clock six days a week.

The application of the CeRam-Kote went smoothly with only a few breakdowns of the equipment.

Once the application crew started at 7 p.m. it didn't finish spraying until 8 a.m. the next day.

"Good old West Texas problem solving experience kept the application process on schedule," Freecom President and CEO John Freeman noted.

The hull was finished by day-break. The Berkeley had to be moved about three feet in order to expose the areas where the hull had been supported during the initial coating process.

Once that move was accomplished, the Freecom team finished the coating process. The Berkeley was allowed to dry overnight and was returned to her museum headquarters berth at North Embarcadero on San Diego Bay the next day.

Kraus and his "Roughnecks" feel proud of their part in preserving the historic ship. The new CeRam-Kote ceramic hull will keep the Berkeley afloat for many years and Maritime Museum officials won't be broadcasting another SOS anytime soon.

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Continued from Page 2

said Tommy Yeater, Extension agent. "The rain is really hurting some of this cotton, the quality of it. Other cotton was planted last and it has been sprayed in an effort to try to speed it up. That cotton may be OK."

According to Farm Service Agency Executive Director Rick Liles,

Howard County producers reported 113,530 acres of cotton this year. Approximately 7,400 acres of cotton were lost to drought, high winds, excessive moisture and hail.

Martin County is in the same shape, with only a small percent of the crop harvested.

"Maybe 5 percent," said Lee Howard. "The jury is still out as far as the crop and when we are finally going to get to harvest. We're not only losing yield but the quality is going down. The problem is, this time of year it takes a long, long time to dry out."

Some 143,000 acres were planted in Martin County, which like every other county in the area is in wait-and-see position right now.

"Gins are running but they've come to a kind of standstill at the moment," he added.

That's the case in the Colorado City area.

"What we need is 70-plus degree days with some wind to help dry the fields out," said John Center, Mitchell County Extension agent. "The last five days we've had more than four inches of rain county-wide. That has halted any field preparation."

Some 50,000 acres were planted in Mitchell County this year but only a fraction has been harvested.

"In a normal year around the Thanksgiving holiday you're looking at getting a third to a half of

AREA GIN REPORT:

Note: Numbers of modules in no way indicate the total amount of cotton any gin may process by the end of the season, but do indicate cotton assigned to that gin at this time. Report date as of Nov. 16.

Big Spring Gin — ginned 1,550 bales, 30 modules in the yard or field.

Co-op Gin Big Spring — 1,650 bales ginned, 83 modules in the yard.

Roscoe Co-op Gin — 3,383 bales, 174 modules in the yard or field.

Co-op Gin, Ackerly — 8,000 bales ginned, 76 modules in the yard.

Tarzan Gin, Lenorah — 3,144 bales ginned, 40 modules in the yard, 80 in field.

Farmer's Co-op Gin, Stanton — 5,480 ginned, 213 modules in yard or field.

Mustang Gin — 2,600 bales ginned, 100 waiting.

Glasscock County Co-op — 26,000 ginned, 1,500 modules in yard or field.

the cotton crop out, but this year not even 10 percent has been harvested in Martin County. "Any time cotton sits in the field for a lengthy time, it's detrimental to the crop. You lose some of the potential yield to the natural act of weather. Wet weather has a tendency to make bolls drop and cotton on the ground isn't going to the gin. You also risk loss in value to decreased color and quality grade."

In Borden County, Agent Dennis Pool estimated that 75 to 80 percent of the 20,200 acres planted there is still in the field.

"We've all got concerns about the yield and the cotton stringing out. The uncertainty about when we can get back in there (to harvest) is causing a lot of concern," Pool said.

Zachary Wilcox, Extension agent for Nolan County, said the 40,000-acre cotton crop in the Sweetwater area was shaping up well — before

the latest rainfall.

"It looks good, if we could just get it out of the field. Now, everyday it sits out there the grades are going to get a little worse and it is going to get a little more strung out," he said.

Glasscock County, which has a good amount of irrigated cotton and had not received as much moisture as some of the other counties prior to the weekend rain, has also been backed up.

"Probably closed to half the crop has been harvested," said Walter Multer, Cooperative Extension pest management agent for a tri-county area that includes Glasscock. "The rest is ready to go, or most of it is. But we're at a standstill right now. We've had right at five inches of rain and it will be 10 days to two weeks before we can get back in the field."

"We've got more harvested because we were dry for the last 10 days previous to this. Now we just

have to wait," he said.

John Kinnibrugh, Farm Service Agency executive director for Glasscock County, said there were 24,307 acres of irrigated cotton and 60,188 acres of dryland cotton planted in the county this growing season.

The Glasscock County Co-op Gin, one of the largest operations in the area, reported 26,000 acres ginned so far, with another 1,500 modules sitting in the yard or in fields.

An increase in fuel costs and the fact that the loan value on cotton is 52 cents aren't helping the cotton farmer either. Looking past the cotton crop, the news isn't all bad.

"I've been in Big Spring three years and Borden County right at 20 and I've never seen this much rain," said Pool. "We're starting to get some runoff in Bull Creek so that will help Lake Thomas. And if this continues you won't be able to put enough cattle on wheat and small grains this spring — if a guy can look that far ahead. I hate it for the cotton farmers, but I bet everyone of them can remember when it was real, real dry."

"It's helping to replenish tanks and the subsurface moisture and it's good for the wheat," noted Center.

"We're still above average, I would say. We're still in decent shape, countywide," added Yeater. "Unfortunately, we are still at the mercy of the market; the market is not very good right now. Cotton is bringing about 39 cents (on the worldwide market) but it changes every day. That's part of farming."

"We still have a chance to pull off some good cotton," said Lee Howard. "I was surprised to hear that on Nov. 12, the Texas Ag Statistics Services was still saying the state cotton crop was at a \$7.7 million pace. I don't know if that is going to happen, but I do know it could be a lot worse. It could be 20 degrees with the wind blowing."



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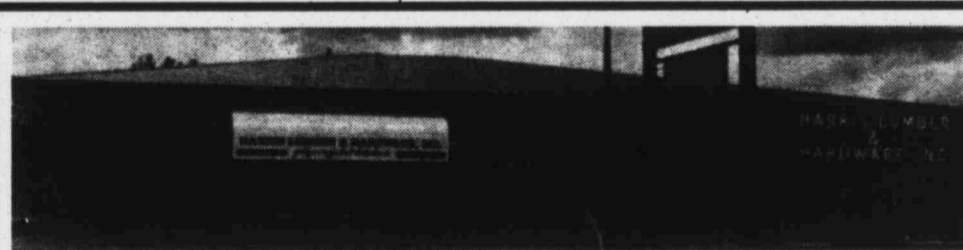
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SALES

Continued from Page 12

time for the holiday.

Specialty stores in small towns often have a difficult time getting local people to shop at their stores first. However, Shelby Simmons said things are looking good for Christmas sales at his store, I've Been Framed.

"The outlook for Christmas sales is very good," Simmons said. "We hope people know that we can provide better, less expensive products than even galleries and large stores. Shop locally first."

I've Been Framed has expanded to offer designer jeans and gift items at discount prices. "You can't find a better deal on designer jeans anywhere else," said Simmons.

At the end of the mall, Bealls General Manager Jay Howell says his store has already begun to wrap Christmas packages.

"That's a good sign," he said. "Our fragrance department is doing really well and the cool weather has increased our coat sales. We invite the public to visit our expanded gift area, and shop locally first."

WAL-MART

Continued from Page 8

seems to be ready for it."

The Sweetwater location will be unique, said Black, because Sweetwater is a central location accessible by many highways and

TSTC

Continued from Page 4

building because it is spacious. "I think it will help make learning easier."



HERALD photo/Kendra Wiss
Jody Swinney, owner of the Sears in the Big Spring Mall, shows Phyllis Turney one of the store's best-selling products. Swinney says business is picking up and better than it has been in a long time.

With the close of Dunlap's, many in Big Spring will seek out stores like Bealls to complete their holiday shopping. "Our store is ready for the holiday," said Howell.

Even outside of the store-packed mall, other local businesses are also wishing for a green Christmas.

Patsy McDowell, manager at The Master's Touch, says she is hoping and praying for a good sales season. "The season's sales always

will, she believes, attract consumers and employees from a multi-county area.

She said the Sweetwater store will be opening along with 41 other Wal-Mart stores nationwide in the month of January 2005. It will be open 24-hours a day and will include gas pumps.

TSTC plans to remove an older structure and remodel two structures to meet its current and future needs.

The college's current auto-tech facilities were over 20 years old and did not meet industry standards.

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last two weeks. "Business has picked up and we are anticipating a good Christmas season," said salesperson DonNell Herm.

Although shoppers in the mood for a good deal, many are planning to spend the same amount this year as they did last year.

"I'm probably going to keep my Christmas budget the same this year as I did last year," said Amy Thomas of Big Spring. "I'm making more money, but have more bills, so it will probably equal to about the same."

Debbie Anderson of Big Spring said she will spend a comparable amount also. "We plan on spending about the same amount of money this year as last year," said Anderson. "We haven't bought our gifts yet, but we'll wait until after the day-after Thanksgiving rush."

Many shoppers wake up before dawn to beat out other shoppers to get the best deals.

"My mom goes every year - religiously," said Marlena Haynie. "I'd rather sleep and pay full price." Haynie's family plans to shop locally for their gifts which is good news for retailers. However, she also plans on spending less this year for Christmas, which is understandable since their family has a new addition.

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Continued from Page 6

offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, you had labor disputes in Nigeria and Norway and there continues to be a disruption of Iraq's production.

"But the price is going down and it needs to," he added. "We don't want to see the price to be too high and hurt the nation's economy."

The inflationary impact of high oil prices has already been seen across the country, with the federal government announcing a 0.6 percent climb in the Consumer Price Index in October.

That report came one day after the government released data showing the wholesale costs soared in October by 1.7 percent, the biggest increase in more than 14 years.

Economists said they expect both wholesale and consumer prices for November to look a lot better, citing a moderation in crude oil costs among other factors.

Oil prices, which hit a record high of just over \$55 a barrel late last month, have moderated recently. Oil prices closed last Tuesday at more than \$46 a barrel.

Those oil prices will only to

some extend, Burns said, because of increasing demand worldwide, particularly in China and India.

"China and India are tremendously big users," he said. "Both of those countries are in the midst of an industrial revolution on the magnitude that we here in the United States saw in the 1900s. In fact, just this month China overtook Japan as the second largest oil importing nation in the world, second only to the U.S."

"When you take all that into account, the oil business here in West Texas is going to grow steadily for the foreseeable future," Burns added. "We're still the largest producing basin the United States and we're going to see a gradual growth of drilling in the Permian Basin."

Some communities, Big Spring being a distinct exception, may not benefit from that upswing in the oil industry as they might have in the past, simply because there is so little oil refining left in the region.

"Since 1980, more than half of the nation's refineries have closed and that's going to limit our refining ability," Burns noted. "The only inland refineries left operating in this region are Big Spring, Borger and Artesia, N.M., and none of



them are really big. But with prices like they are now, and even with a slow decline as crude prices drip, their future looks good."

Crude oil futures continue decline to below \$48

NEW YORK (AP) — Crude-oil futures settled below \$48 a barrel for the first time in seven weeks during mid November amid expectations of steady increases in U.S. petroleum inventories and global crude supplies.

Analysts estimated commercial crude and refined-product inventories would rise in U.S. government and industry data this week, driving the sell-off.

The weakness also stemmed from a bearish outlook afoot in

London, as traders braced for a wave of crude to hit the already well-supplied North Sea market, citing initial details of the December Brent loading program.

"The consensus for inventories is extremely bearish, so people are discounting that in the price," said Michael Guido, director of commodity strategy in New York for bank Societe Generale. "And the North Sea Brent program was much stronger than people expected."

Benchmark light, sweet crude futures for December plunged \$1.72, to \$47.37 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

December heating-oil futures fell 2.44 cents to \$1.3420 a gallon on Nymex, while December gasoline slumped 4.14 cents to \$1.2339 a gallon and December natural gas dropped 12.9 cents to \$7.471 per million British thermal units.

The Nymex front-month January Brent crude futures contract in Dublin ended at \$44.40 a barrel,

down \$1.17. The fledgling exchange, opened Nov. 1 by Nymex, garnered about 7 percent of the Brent business the IPE had.

In the United States, analysts forecast across-the-board builds in crude and refined-product stocks.

Commercial crude stocks are expected to rise about 2.8 million barrels, distillate stocks are seen up 770,000 barrels and gasoline stocks are seen rising 1.2 million barrels in reports for the week ended Friday.

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November 2004

GROWTH

Continued from Page 9

"I think one of the biggest improvements our patients are going to notice right away is the accessibility of the new location," said McLellan. "At our current downtown location, if they're having court next door, it's almost impossible to find a place to park. The new location will solve that problem."

"We're going to be doing the store front in stone, and I think when people see it, they will really get a feel for the nostalgia of this new building. We've also added two drive-through windows, which will offer our customers an even easier way to pick up their prescriptions."

McLellan said the move from the pharmacy's downtown location was given a great deal of thought, and although it no longer be located in downtown Big Spring, technically, he feels like the new location is close enough to maintain that identity.

"We really wanted to try to maintain that downtown identity and feel," said McLellan. "We looked around for a place to build for quite sometime and finally settled

on Scurry Street because we felt like that spot accomplished that. It's only four blocks from our current downtown location."

McLellan said another big difference customers will see is in the size of the business, which is expected to more than double from its current 1,500 square feet.

"The new building is going to be a 4,300-square-foot facility," explained McLellan. "It's going to have the same pharmacy and retail sides as the current building, two clinical services rooms for things like immunizations, an office and a special room set aside for compounding."

While Leonard's Pharmacy will be getting a new look, the city of Big Spring is going to be getting a new auto parts store, as O'Reilly Auto Parts continues construction on its new Gregg Street location.

O'Reilly District Manager Randy Morris said breaking ground in Big Spring is a result of massive growth from the auto parts retailer.

"We've built approximately 200 new stores during 2004," said Morris, "and we have plans to build another 200 next year. The company is growing very rapidly and we're just trying to keep up."

Morris said the Big Spring loca-

tion will be 7,000 square feet, and for those that have already shopped at an O'Reilly location elsewhere, it should feel like home.

"The Big Spring store is based on a prototype plan," said Morris. "So it will be set up and look almost identical to the other O'Reilly stores in other towns."

The Big Spring location is expected to open sometime in January of 2005, according to Morris, and is part of the company's effort to "fill in the gaps."

"We have stores in Midland and Sweetwater," he explained. "We really like the market here and we see a lot of potential in it, so we're excited about opening in Big Spring."

Morris said the company is currently accepting employment applications for the facility. For more information on employment opportunities, call 325-795-2637 or write to Randy Morris, 2366 S. 27th, Abilene 79605.

Also on the list of new businesses in Big Spring is the Dragon Chinese Buffet, located in the 1300 block of Gregg Street.

Renovations to the building, which once housed a medical center, are still underway and are expected to be completed on or

close to Dec. 1, according to owner Tony Lyn.

"The restaurant will feature both buffet and menu items, with more than 100 dishes to choose from. We also have two party rooms over here," said Lyn as construction workers and contractors bustled about. "We also have an enclosed area for our patrons who smoke over there."

According to Lyn, the restaurant won't be tackling the delivery side of the business, but take-out orders will be welcome.

Lyn said the Dec. 1 completion date is rather ambitious, but expects to have the doors open and the food cooking close to that date.

Also new to Gregg Street is Good Morning Dounts, which is also expected to open sometime toward the end of November.

The hours of operation posted at the business are Tuesday through Friday, 5 a.m. until 12 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and closed on Mondays.

Construction of a new 300-unit mini storage facility is also expected to begin in the near future at a site located between 22nd and 23rd streets, facing Goliad Street.

A second reading of a zoning change must be approved by the city council for that project.

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