



BIG SPRING

HERALD

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Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

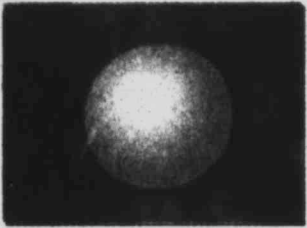
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

MONDAY

December 13, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 24°-27° TOMORROW 41°-43°

INSIDE

TV listings reprint included today

It was literally *deja vu*. If readers were confused by the television listings in Sunday's paper there was good reason. A computer malfunction resulted in a reprint of the previous week's listings. However, corrected television listings are inserted in today's edition of the *Big Spring Herald*.

BRIEFLY

Angels available for adoption now

The Salvation Army Angel Tree program is in place for the holiday season. Angels are ready for adoption at Wal-Mart, Scenic Mountain Medical Center and the Big Spring Mall. Teen Angels are ready for adoption at Nannie's Attic and Senior Angels are available for adoption at the *Big Spring Herald*.

College group collecting toys

The Mexican-American Student Association at Howard College is collecting toys to give to homeless children around Howard County. Toys should be brought to the college library, administration building, STEPS lab, student services office or the registrar's office. Off-campus collection points are the *Big Spring Herald* and KBYG. Gifts for children of any age will be accepted. The drive will be held through Dec. 15.

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Vol. 101, No. 15

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

'Messiah' performance to be monumental undertaking

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Special to the Herald

Music lovers can sing Hallelujah: The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra will present Handel's "Messiah" Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium. Dr. Keith Graumann will conduct the rare combination of the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus with members of the Midland-Odessa Symphony Chorale. "This is a marvelous and monumental work,"

said Graumann. Planning for this event has been in the works for more than a year, resulting in the collaborative effort from Big Spring as well as Midland and Odessa. The orchestra, Graumann said, "will be the best string section ever assembled in West Texas."

Soloists from Big Spring will highlight the evening, including soprano Joyce Bradley, contralto Linda Lindell, tenor Jose Gonzales and bass Kyle Wheeler. Joseph

"This will be a very memorable event for everyone."



Keith Graumann

Dawes also has a solo part in the production.

Graumann said while he personally has conducted "Messiah" several times, the piece has not been performed with a

professional orchestra in the Permian Basin in several years.

"The timing was right," he said.

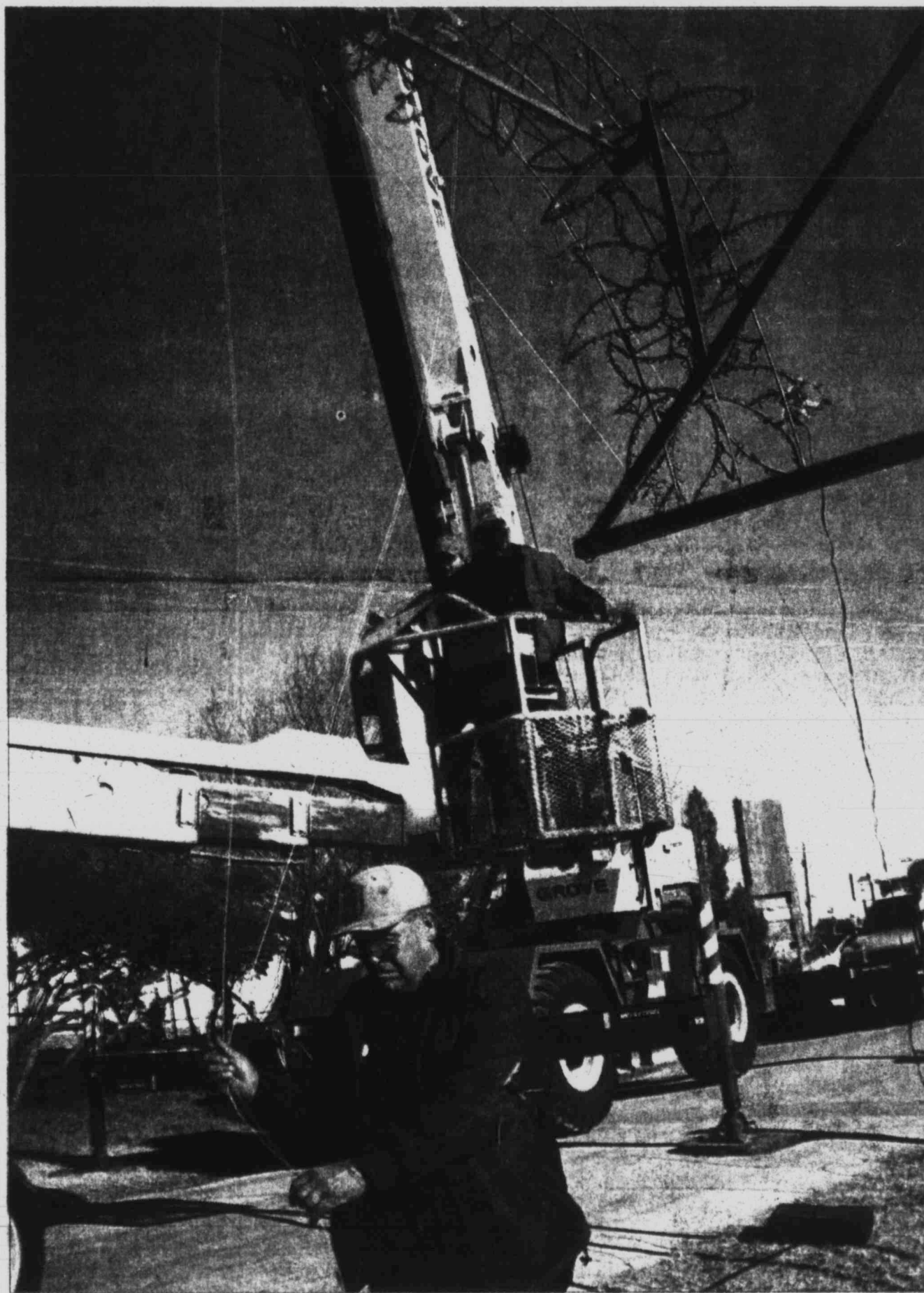
While part of "Messiah," especially the Hallelujah Chorus, may be one of the most recognizable musical pieces in the world, there are parts of Handel's composition not commonly heard. Graumann said audiences will be surprised and pleased to hear "new" parts of the work with which they may not be

familiar. "These are some of the best parts of the piece," he said.

Tickets are available now at \$10 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for students. A book of four tickets is \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$15 for students. They are available at the *Big Spring Herald*, Blum's Jewelers, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, First

See MESSIAH, Page 3A

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS NEARS



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen

Cathey Construction workers John Renteria, front, Donny Davis and Jack Cathey set up an archway at the entrance to Comanche Trail Park, where the Festival of Lights will be held beginning Wednesday evening. A list of volunteer greeters for the lighting display is on Page 3A.

Landfill hot topic for city council

Meeting set for 5:15 p.m. Tuesday in council chambers.

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

It appears the Big Spring City Council is going to tackle the municipal landfill issue once again Tuesday, as council members are expected to hear emergency readings concerning an agreement between the city and county and implementation of a \$5 gate fee at the facility.

The council's agenda includes emergency reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with Howard County for the operation, closure and post-closure maintenance of the landfill and an ordinance amending chapter 11, Article 2, of the code of ordinances by establishing a landfill gate fee.

A city ordinance raising commercial and residential solid waste collection fees received emergency approval from the Big Spring City Council in September — minus the controversial \$5 gate fee, which drew fire from the county when it was first passed in September of 2003, and was immediately repealed.

Mayor Russ McEwen said the gate fee was left out of the city ordinance designed to cover the cost of closing the existing landfill and opening a new one because an agreement has yet to be reached between the city and county.

Shortly after the commercial and residential solid waste collection fees were raised in September, Councilman Woody Jumper said he hopes to see the matter come to a close soon.

"We have to do something now," Jumper said emphatically. "We can't wait and let this turn into a catastro-



JUMPER

See COUNCIL, Page 3A

Herald, KBYG, Salvation Army teaming together for toy drive

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Managing Editor

The third time, they say, is a charm. That's exactly what the *Big Spring Herald*, KBYG and the Salvation Army are hoping for this Christmas season, as they've teamed together for a third annual Children's Christmas Toy Drive.

"For children, Christmas just isn't Christmas without a new toy," *Herald* Publisher Susanne Reed said in stressing the importance

of the toy drive. "We've basically made that phrase the trademark for this drive for the last few years because that's something we've all known for years. After all, we were all children once. What child doesn't love and want new toys?"

"Since this is the third year for us to take part in the toy drive, we're hoping this is the best one yet," Reed added.

The toy drive was the brainchild of former *Herald* advertising representative Bob Rumpff three years ago.

Rumpff, now a KBYG employee, saw that many needy children in our community were receiv-

ing new clothing and shoes from the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Project, but was convinced something was missing if children weren't getting new toys as well.

With little more than a week remaining before Christmas, the call went out though the community seeking toys for the new effort and Howard County residents responded in impressive fashion, dropping off hundreds of gifts at the *Herald's* office and another \$3,000 in cash donations came in to purchase toys.

"Most of us can only imagine what Christmas

See TOYS, Page 3A

Meteor shower to light up the sky this evening

By DR. TONY PHILLIPS
Special to the Herald

Make hot cocoa. Bundle up. Tell your friends: the best meteor shower of 2004 is about to peak on a long cold December night.

It's the Geminids. The best time to look is tonight. Sky watchers who stay outside for a few hours around midnight can expect to see dozens to hundreds of "shooting stars."

The source of the shower is asteroid 3200 Phaethon. There's a cloud of dust trailing the asteroid and Earth plows through it every year in mid-December. Bits of dust traveling 80,000 mph

hit our atmosphere and turn into glowing meteors.

Where should you look? Anywhere. Geminids streak all over the sky. Trace some backwards; they all lead to a radiant point in the constellation Gemini. This year the radiant lies next to Saturn—a beautiful coincidence. Gemini and Saturn are high overhead at mid-night, easy to find.

City lights are bad for meteor showers. The glare can reduce the number of meteors you see 3- to 10-fold. Consider taking a trip to the countryside. Because the

See SKY, Page 3A

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Take note

□ **MOSS ELEMENTARY PARENTS/TEACHERS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday. The program will include a song written by Big Spring resident Mamie Lee Dodds. The public is invited. For more information call the school at 264-4148.

□ **BUS BARN YELLOW DOGS BAKE SALE FUND-RAISER TO BENEFIT RELAY FOR LIFE** is 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday in the Big Spring Mall. Order cookies by the dozen to be picked up that day by calling 264-4108.

□ **MASTER GARDENER'S TRAINING ORIENTATION** for a Master Gardener's workshop is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at 1606 Phillips Dr. Cost for the course in January is \$75. Scholarships are available. Call 264-2236 for more information.

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

□ **THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF HOWARD COLLEGE HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE** continues through Wednesday. Bring toys to the Howard College library, which is open from 7:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Toys may also be taken to the administration building, the STEPS lab, the student services office or the registrar's office. Gifts for children of any age are appreciated, especially for children 13-15.

□ **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.

□ **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#iq=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.

□ **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 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.

□ **MANNA RELIEF**, a non-profit ministry that pro-

vides glyconutritional supplements to critically ill children, is accepting donations for the program. Call Gene or Robbie Froman at 263-0385.

□ **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM**, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

□ **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.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 10 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. today:

- **IGNACIO PEREZ**, 18, of 507 NE Sixth Street, was arrested Saturday on two local warrants.
- **ROBERT RIVERA**, 33, of 1104 S. Nolan, was arrested Saturday on three local warrants.
- **KAREN SUE HARRISON**, 56, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 214, was arrested Saturday on two Ector County warrants and a Howard County warrant.
- **TONY RANDALL PARTEE**, 45, of 1429 E. Sixth Street Apt. 4, was arrested Sunday on four local warrants and a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **MICHAEL LEE LOPEZ**, 17, of 411 N. Scurry, was arrested Sunday on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- **ISREAL MIRAMONTES**, 21, of 411 N. Scurry Street, was arrested Sunday on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and felony escape while arrested/confined.
- **MARJORIE COKER**, 23, of 210 Moore Road, was arrested Monday and held for the HCSO.

Note: A police activity log for the corresponding times was not made available to the press.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

- **SHAYNE C. HUDGINS**, 35, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **JORGE ANTONIO ARMENDARIZ**, 53, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **FIDENCIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**, 35, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **LAURA CLARE HILL**, 38, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of assault - family violence.
- **STEVE ROLAND HILL**, 44, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of assault - family violence.
- **FABIAN ALLEN CARPENTER**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less - in a drug free zone.
- **KENDRA LYNN HARRISON**, 33, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft and two charges of theft.
- **JUAN PABLO HERNANDEZ**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less - in a drug free zone.
- **ALFONSO BACA III**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **DANIR ALEJAN NAVARRO-OBANDA**, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by INS on an order to detain.
- **MICHAEL LEE LOPEZ**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- **MAJORIE CRISTINA COKER**, 23, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana - two ounce or less and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** was reported in the 4400 block of Elder Street.
- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** was reported in the 3900 Block of Gail Highway.

Bulletin board

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

- TODAY**
- 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.
 - Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
 - 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.
 - Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
 - Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.
 - Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
 - Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.
 - Big Spring Commandery No. 31 meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple at 221 1/2 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.
 - Big Spring Assembly No. 211 Social Order of Beauceant meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Temple at 221 1/2 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Weather

Today — Mostly sunny. Colder. Highs near 50. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
 Tonight — Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.
 Tuesday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 40s. Light and variable winds.
 Tuesday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Light and variable winds.
 Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
 Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

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 Dianne Marquez Business Office Manager.....Ext. 255

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 BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$99.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).
 MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
 Winning numbers drawn: 13-20-3-27-5. Bonus Ball: 2.
 Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: zero.
 Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$28 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:
 Winning numbers drawn: 23-35-27-8-36.
 Number matching five of five: zero.
 Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

ERNESTO FERNANDEZ, M.D.
 is pleased to announce the opening of his new office for the practice of **PSYCHIATRY** at **Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez, Texas State Veterans Home**
1809 N. Hwy. 87 Big Spring, Texas
 For appointment please call **432-268-8387 ext. 107**

Happy Holidays
 You are cordially invited to join us for our **Open House Tuesday, December 14th**
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Refreshments will be served.

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FEST

WEDNESDAY, 6-8 p.m., Juc (Lions Club); Russ and McEwen, Katie Grimes.

THURSDAY, DE 6-8 p.m., Juc (Lions Club); Lisa Barber (Banking Cente

FRIDAY, DEC 6-8 p.m., Juc (Lions Club); Lisa Barber (Banking Cente

SATURDAY, DE 6-8 p.m., Juc (Lions Club); Lisa Barber (Banking Cente

SUNDAY, DEC 6-8 p.m., Juc (Lions Club); Jane and D.W. Jeannie Husky

MONDAY, DEC 6-8 p.m., D Verde (Big S Chamber of Cr 8-10 p.m., M Kohl, Audrey

TUESDAY, DE 6-8 p.m. Thompson National Ba p.m., Judy (State Natio Bob and Holly

WEDNESDAY, 6-8 p.m. Burleson (Cris 8-10 p.m., Ren (Crisis Center

THURSDAY, D 6-8 p.m., Ji

SKY

Continued from I
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 Although the night is looking for G soon as the dawn. The hours after when Ea appear.
 Earthgrazers ors that skim izontally across Earth's atmos a stone skippi pond. You mig when Gemin peeking over horizon. Earth bright, long ar
 Finally, the are a little s

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 Bank of West Heritage Mu Big Spring



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Big Spring Blum's Je Ch. of Col Faye's Fl First Ban Heritage Symphon At the d

Newspaper In Education Each Tuesday

HERALD

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS GREETERS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15
6-8 p.m., Judy Plumlee (Lions Club); 8-10 p.m., Russ and Laura McEwen, Katie and Jerry Grimes.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16
6-8 p.m., Judy Plumlee (Lions Club); 8-10 p.m., Lisa Barber (Big Spring Banking Center)

FRIDAY, DEC. 17
6-8 p.m., Judy Plumlee (Lions Club); 8-10 p.m., Lisa Barber (Big Spring Banking Center)

SATURDAY, DEC. 18
6-8 p.m., Judy Plumlee (Lions Club); 8-10 p.m., Lisa Barber (Big Spring Banking Center)

SUNDAY, DEC. 19
6-8 p.m., Judy Plumlee (Lions Club); 8-10 p.m., Jane and D.W. Overman, Jeannie Husky

MONDAY, DEC. 20
6-8 p.m., Debbye Val Verde (Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce); 8-10 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. Kohl, Audrey Able.

TUESDAY, DEC. 21
6-8 p.m., Judy Thompson (State National Bank); 8-10 p.m., Judy Thompson (State National Bank), Bob and Holly Moore.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22
6-8 p.m., Rene Burleson (Crisis Center); 8-10 p.m., Rene Burleson (Crisis Center)

THURSDAY, DEC. 23
6-8 p.m., Jill Shannon

(Senior Center); 8-10 p.m., Jack Cathey, Homer Tomerlin

FRIDAY, DEC. 24
6-8 p.m., Mike Henry, Pat Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Thiry; 8-10 p.m., Dusty and Patty Choate

SATURDAY, DEC. 25
6-8 p.m., Pat Simmons; 8-10 p.m., Pat Simmons

SUNDAY, DEC. 26
6-8 p.m., Jerry and Jan Forsyth, Iva Joe Hanslik (VA Medical Center); 8-10 p.m., Gloria Feddersen, Iva Joe Hanslik (VA Medical Center)

MONDAY, DEC. 27
6-8 p.m., Nancy Raney (Heritage Museum); 8-10 p.m., Nancy Raney (Heritage Museum)

TUESDAY, DEC. 28
6-8 p.m., Wanda Roman, Jerrie Burchell; 8-10 p.m., Emma and Stanley Bogard

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29
6-8 p.m., Quail M. and Judy Dobbs, Linda and Ace Berry; 8-10 p.m., Katie Cathey, Laneta Fryar

THURSDAY, DEC. 30
6-8 p.m., Charlene and Robert Ragan; 8-10 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. Pete Hernandez, Rene Valdez

FRIDAY, DEC. 31
6-8 p.m., Pat Simmons; 8-10 p.m., Pat Simmons, Rene Valdez

TOYS

Continued from Page 1A

with no toys is like to a child, but unfortunately there are some who do," Reed noted. "They tell us there's little joyousness in that kind of Christmas experience. And that's why we're teaming up with KBYG and the Salvation Army to make sure no child in Big Spring has to experience that feeling this Christmas season.

"We're asking people to bring by an unwrapped new toy by the Herald's offices this week," she added. "The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. We'll have the doors open here at the Herald from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. through Friday for those wishing to donate to the drive."

The toys will be taken to the Salvation Army and

they will be distributed Dec. 21.

"Please help us make sure the Salvation Army can give every child in need at least one new toy

Reed also noted that the Herald is also taking part in the canned food drive for the Salvation Army. "We'd really like to ask people to not only bring a

deserved reputation of opening their hearts and wallets for special causes. And we can't think of anything much more important that making sure children have toys at Christmas and that the needy have food."

Capt. Russ Keeney also stressed that there are still plenty of angels on the Salvation Army's Angel Trees, which have the Christmas wishes of many needy children and elderly citizens.

The Angel Trees are located at the Big Spring Mall, Wal-Mart and at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The tree for teens is located at Nannie's Attic and the tree for seniors is located at the Herald.

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

"We're asking people to bring by an unwrapped new toy by the Herald's offices this week," she added. "The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. We'll have the doors open here at the Herald from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. through Friday for those wishing to donate to the drive."

Susanne Reed
Herald Publisher

this Christmas," Reed said. "Just imagine the joy you'll be bringing to a child, especially those who've come to expect nothing special during the holidays."

news unwrapped toy, but to include a few cans of food when they come by the office," Reed explained. "The people of Big Spring and Howard County have a well-

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

ph. We can't close the landfill without having some type of ongoing situation we've set up and accrued some money to so we can open a new landfill.

"We just can't put this on a future council to handle when we're gone. So we're trying to be proactive instead of reactive in this situation."

Tuesday's agenda includes the following items:

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute an agreement with the Texas Department of Public Safety for the release of driver records.
- Final reading of a res-

olution authorizing the city manager to execute an agreement for long distance service.

- Acceptance of minutes from the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark Development Board, Howard County Appraisal District Board of Directors and Moore Development for Big Spring Board of Directors.

- Approval of request for proposal and permission to advertise for lease purchase financing and award bids for five police vehicles; one sanitation truck; one 1-ton utility truck; one dump truck; one 1/2-ton full size pickup; one 3/4-ton extended cab pickup; and a track loader.

- First reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager and the

director of administration services to act as the city's authorized signatories for the Texas Community Development Program.

- Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement with HVS International to perform a feasibility study and project scope plan for construction of a conference center or hotel complex.

- First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with Memorial Monuments Inc. as a supplier of markers and monuments.

- Confirmation of appointments to the Civil Service Commission.

- Graduation ceremony and swearing in for newly appointed city chaplains. The meeting will get

under way at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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SKY

Continued from Page 1A

Moon is almost new, country skies are going to be very dark and perfect for meteor watching.

Although the middle of the night is best, start looking for Geminids as soon as the sun goes down. The first dark hours after sunset are when Earthgrazers appear.

Earthgrazers are meteors that skim almost horizontally across the top of Earth's atmosphere, like a stone skipping across a pond. You might see a few when Gemini is first peeking over the eastern horizon. Earthgrazers are bright, long and colorful.

Finally, the Geminids are a little strange. It's

their parentage: 3200 Phaethon. Meteor showers are supposed to come from comets, but 3200 Phaethon looks like an asteroid. This has puzzled astronomers for years.

Comets are made of ice and dust and rock. Sunlight vaporizes the ice, opening fissures which spew gas and dust into space. This is why comets have tails. When Earth runs into an old comet tail we see a meteor shower. Asteroids, on the other hand, are mainly rocky and they rarely spew anything. No tail means no shower.

Asteroid 3200 Phaethon might have gotten a tail, of sorts, by bumping into another asteroid. 3200 Phaethon spends much of its time in the asteroid belt. Hitting a neighbor

could have created a cloud of debris that follows 3200 Phaethon around the solar system.

That's one idea. Another is that 3200 Phaethon is a comet — a dead one. It died from too much Sun. Every year and a half, 3200 Phaethon dives inward from the asteroid belt. Passing only 2 million miles from Earth's orbit, it approaches the Sun closer than Mercury does. Repeated sunbaking could have vaporized all of 3200 Phaethon's ice long ago, leaving behind a rocky skeleton with a drizzle of comet dust in its wake.

Comet? Asteroid? Comet-carcass? No one knows for sure.

It's a mystery to savor tonight with the Geminids overhead.

MESSIAH

Continued from Page 1A

Bank of West Texas, the Heritage Museum, the Big Spring Symphony

office at 808 Scurry, and at the door.

Graumann encouraged everyone to turn out to hear Handel's 250-year-old masterpiece, performed as they may have never heard it before.

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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

No better place to get your gifts than right here

There's not any doubt about it, the holiday season is in full swing. Everywhere you look around Big Spring, Christmas decorations are up. It's a Crossroads Christmas, and there is none better.

Stores seem to be getting a little busier. That's not really a surprise because, as usual, most of us haven't finished all of our holiday gift shopping.

And that's why we want to take this opportunity to again remind our readers that we've found there's no better place to shop for Christmas gifts than right here in Big Spring.

If you haven't been looking around, you probably don't realize just how many shops there are. From the downtown area to Scurry and Main streets with all of their interesting boutiques, to Big Spring Mall and all along Gregg Street and FM 700, there are a wide variety of gifts.

From the latest item to hit the stores to antiques and hand-crafted items, you'll find just about everything you need right here at home.

As we have noted in the past shoppers are limited only by their imagination.

With our Festival of Lights, the performance of "The Messiah" and so much more on tap in the next few days, we encourage you to take advantage of everything the Crossroads has to offer — not just for entertainment, but for shopping, as well.

Make this a completely Crossroads Christmas. We'll all be the better for it.

YOUR VIEWS

To the Editor:

I would like to let the lowlives who stole all my Christmas decorations out of my yard last Sunday night know that they really made my children's Christmas so special.

We have lived on Vicky Street for the last two years and I would never have expected someone to be so thoughtless. My husband has been deployed to Iraq to protect your freedom and your rights, leaving me here to protect our three children and our home, and this is the thanks he gets?

When he came home on leave to see our yard empty, he was disgusted that people have no respect for other people's property.

It is a sad day when you can't even decorate your house for your children's sake on Christmas because there are selfish individuals like yourself out there ruining their spirit.

I wish you would explain to my 2- and 4-year-old children why someone took our deer, train set, snowmen and tree.

I also have a teen-ager and have stressed to her that even as a joke that stealing is not acceptable. She now knows how it feels when someone steals from her.

I still have hope that my belongings will be returned.

Maureen Cadenhead
Big Spring

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You hear our voice when we pray, Lord, please bless us and give us Your heavenly joy and comfort.

Amen

Inside report: A loss for Rove

Rejection of John Snow as secretary of the treasury was viewed in the Capital's inner circles as a defeat for presidential adviser Karl Rove, who wanted a high-profile manager of President Bush's second-term economic program.

Two Wall Street executives were approached as Snow's possible successor, but neither expressed any interest. Without a ready replacement, it was decided at the White House to relieve Snow from his uncertainty and keep him in office.

Bush's hand was forced by a Wall Street Journal lead editorial Wednesday calling for "a stronger Treasury" and boosting former Sen. Phil Gramm. Anticipating continued pressure for specific Treasury candidates, it was decided to stick with Snow for now.

Sources at the Federal Reserve Board close to Chairman Alan Greenspan admit he made "an uncharacteristically poor choice of words" in Frankfurt, Germany, recently when his remarks accelerated the dollar's fall. Greenspan was described by his colleagues as trying to warn against exposed financial positions based on the expectation of perpetually low interest rates. Instead, his impromptu comments sounded like a warning of impending financial crisis.

Breaking normal civility between central bankers,



ROBERT NOVAK

European Central Bank officials are furious with Greenspan for what they considered talking up the already excessively strong euro.

National Republican planners feel that Rep. Katherine Harris, attacked nationally by Democrats as the villain of the 2000 recount when she was Florida's secretary of state, is the GOP's strongest candidate against Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson in 2006.

Harris has not been a controversial member of Congress since her election in 2002, and President Bush's comfortable re-election margin has quieted outrage over her role in the 2000 recount. With Gov. Jeb Bush ruling himself out of the Senate race, Harris is the best-known potential Republican candidate.

A footnote: The appointment of Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns as secretary of agriculture does not take Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson off the hook for re-election in 2006. Although Johanns would have been an overwhelming favorite in the Senate race, Nelson is in trouble in the heavily Republican state no matter who opposes him. Nelson has begun reaching out to conservative groups. A likely Republican candidate is State Attorney General Jon Bruning.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner has received private assurances from the Republican leadership that tighter immigration restrictions that he failed to include in the intelligence reform bill definitely will be passed next year.

While Sensenbrenner lost out in seeking driver's license control for

aliens and other proposals, House GOP insiders feel the fight was a major political benefit for him. For the first time in his 13 terms in Congress, the 61-year-old lawyer from Menomonee Falls, Wis. commanded a national audience on immigration issues.

A footnote: Passage of the reform bill marked a major victory for House Speaker Dennis Hastert, who had been privately criticized for bringing up the measure in the brief lame-duck session. He not only got the bill passed, but refused to rubber-stamp the Senate version.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist has enraged the Democratic minority by pressing for two-thirds of the Senate's internal budget to pay staffers, though the Republicans control only 55 percent of the Senate.

When Republicans had only 51 out of 100 members following the 2002 election, they were given 51 percent of most of the budget. If Frist gets his two-thirds share, Democrats claim they would lose 80 staffers. The move is regarded as part of Frist's intent to take tougher positions as majority leader after gaining four Republican senators in the 2004 elections.

A footnote: Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an unexpectedly easy winner this year in Alaska, on Nov. 19 announced she was firing her entire staff (with the option of hiring back some aides). Murkowski felt that several members of her staff, confident she would lose, viewed a trip back to Alaska to work on the campaign as an opportunity to vacation.

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Looking back: Crime and children

Editors note: Molly Ivins is on vacation this week. The following is a column previously published in September 1994.

The case of Robert Sandifer, the 11-year-old suspect in the death of a 14-year-old in Chicago who was, in turn, gunned down by a couple of ancient 16 and 14, is much more than a case of ain't-it-awful. Believe it or not, this boy's stunted, twisted life may yet be of great use to this nation.

If his case helps us break out of the sterile, polarized debate about crime that has us spending more money on prisons than on schools, then young Sandifer will have come to the aid of his country in such a way as to rank him right up there with Patrick Henry.

Ask, as Russell Baker did, what in the recently passed federal crime bill would have helped Sandifer? Answer: not a damn thing.

Maybe more cops on the streets to keep the gangs down. It certainly would have helped if teen-age and even 11-year-old delinquents didn't have access to guns. But Sandifer wasn't even old enough for the midnight basketball leagues.

Those who still think whipping a kid will make him act right should note that that was Sandifer's problem to begin with. By the time he was 3, the child had been so badly abused, beaten and burned with cigarettes that social workers removed him from his mother's care. He was already vicious — more punishment would only make him more vicious. He was bounced between his grandmother's and various state homes. The only family he had was his gang.

Right there, we have a large cud to chew on. Those who insist on "family values" may be contribut-

ing to the crime problem. Social-service agencies, as a matter of policy, work to keep families intact. Abuse, neglect and cruelty all have to reach staggering proportions (Sandifer had scars all over his body at age 3) before a child is taken away from abusive relatives. There have actually been calls for a return to state-run orphanages for abused and neglected children, but one would have to hesitate long and hard before endorsing that concept. Those such as writer Andrew Vachss who know a great deal about abused children consider "state-raised" to be the vilest epithet in the book. Certainly, changes in adoption law, including making it easier for foster parents to adopt, would help.

Hawaii has a successful program to help teen-age mothers learn to parent that cries out for the honor of imitation. Slightly more than half (51 percent) of all pregnancies in this country are still unplanned, so a better system of birth-control clinics is obviously needed. (That fact should be of special interest to those Americans now in Cairo, preaching population control to the rest of the world.)

Frederick Goodwin of the National Institute of Mental Health made himself mildly infamous by comparing inner-city violence with primate studies showing that young males were more violent and sexually active when they had to compete for scarce resources. The notion that people were being compared with monkeys set off a predictable furor. Goodwin, resigned to being misunderstood and willing to act as a lightning rod just to get debate started, now half-seriously proposes licensing people for biological parenthood according to the same criteria used for adoptive parents.

The Atlantic Monthly had an excellent piece summarizing the latest research on the old conundrum of nature vs. nurture. The rather archaic phrase "temperament" is now back in vogue in everything from sophisticated research to the sort of astrological

chart system called the Enneagram. I have yet to talk to a parent who is not convinced that children come whooshing out of the womb equipped with personality. It is how that personality is nurtured that makes all the difference.

Those who are upset about comparisons in primate research will be even less delighted to learn that David Lykken, a psychologist interested in temperament, uses his own experience as the owner of a bull terrier as a take-off point for the nature-nurture debate. His dog, bred to be a fearless, tenacious, fighting machine, needs careful raising. "Harsh treatment would render the feisty animal vicious; permissiveness or neglect would produce an uncontrollable bully."

Athena, the world's smartest puppy and an incurable social butterfly, and I have been attending dog obedience school. Last week, she learned to program the VCR; next week, she shall play Mozart upon the cello. One of the things that has changed about dog training since my last dog and I flunked out of obedience school 20 years ago is that negative reinforcement is now considered almost entirely useless, even with "dominant dog personality." Could it be that we know more about how to train dogs than how to raise children?

The real crime of "the crime problem," says Lykken, is that "across the land, but mainly in the inner cities, thousands of children aren't being brought up but only domiciled with parents who are indifferent, incompetent or unsocialized themselves. We're running a crime factory that turns out little sociopaths." If he's right, more prisons are not the answer.

And if stable, caring families are the answer, then the fact that males with a high-school education have suffered a 50 percent drop in real wages during the last 15 years is a large part of the problem. We desperately need to start looking in the right places for answers to crime — and perhaps Robert Sandifer can help.

'Main

It's the ho and howe celebrate, involved. American will seven pounds t Thanksgiving year. For man, weight is not a realistic goal d ing this time o seasonal high calorie foods. However, it is realistic for pe ple to stay at t current weigh "Maintain, do gain" is the go "The basics of effective weigh loss comes do to this: eat fe calories than y The average A more than his needs, which i body turns the to fat. It doesn have to turn d day foods, but

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By REBECCA

Associated Pre

SEATTLE - to cancel 1,00 in four states al vaccine sh supply two m Now Watso a plenty — at them away.

"My biggest to end up wit and there's ; age," said Wa Prevention screening ar company. H shots Monda at his Seattle Public hez California, C states have fears. Some rules to offer ple.

In October people stood i get one of the shots. But no cine is availa million mor from British pliers — dem "It's one of Beanie Babie said Doug Mc for the Tex: State Health can't get som more people Supply ex some areas, t for Diseas Prevention other areas, j

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'Maintain, don't gain' should be goal for holidays

It's the holiday season, and however you choose to celebrate, food probably is involved. The average American will gain five to seven pounds between Thanksgiving and the new year. For many people, losing weight is not a realistic goal during this time of seasonal high-calorie foods. However, it is realistic for people to stay at their current weight. "Maintain, don't gain" is the goal.



DR. PATTI J. PATTERSON

The basics of effective weight loss comes down to this: eat fewer calories than your body burns. The average American eats far more than his or her body needs, which means that your body turns the extra calories to fat. It doesn't mean that you have to turn down all the holiday foods, but it does mean

that you will need a strategy to help keep you on track.

- Some holiday tips for you:
- Be aware of portion sizes. Endless buffet choices can be a nightmare for someone trying to maintain his or her weight. By carefully watching your portion sizes, you can keep yourself on track. Instead of saying "never" to a food, say "only a small bite" and stick to that. Take a small plate, take small portions and choose only foods that you really want.
 - Don't spend all your time by the food table. Move away from the table, and keep yourself occupied with conversation. If you stay close to the food, you are more likely to keep dipping into the chip bowl. Make it easy on yourself and walk away from the food table. You can always go back for seconds, but it takes an effort and you will be more aware of how much you are eating if you do this.
 - Know your own particular vices in terms of tempting food. Everyone has a weakness

- for one particular food item — chocolate, chips, pecan pie... Aim for not eating them "most of the time." It's not realistic to say you're not going to eat them at all, but if you save them for a special treat, and then only take a small helping, you will help yourself reach your goal of maintaining your weight.
- Be careful on the clean-up. Many people snack on the leftovers when they are cleaning up a meal. However, eating a piece of pie because "it's too small to save" doesn't mean the calories don't count. It helps to chew some sugar-free mint gum or brush your teeth because then the leftovers will be less tempting.
- Make sure you drink enough water. Most people do not drink enough water. Additionally, it can be hard to distinguish between thirst and hunger. If you are not sure which you are, drink a glass of water. If that satisfies you, then you were thirsty. If you're still not satisfied, you

- might be hungry so find a piece of fruit or a healthy snack to keep you going until your next meal.
- Don't forget to move your muscles. When you're waiting for the turkey to cook, take the family out for a walk. It will help rid children of their excess energy and help you burn calories. What a great present to give yourself and a great way to spend time with your children.
- Don't starve yourself so you can eat more. It's common for people to not eat breakfast or lunch because they want to "save" the calories for the big holiday meal. This is not effective most of the time because by the time you get to your big meal, you are so ravenous that you eat everything in sight far too quickly. A better strategy is to eat a healthy breakfast (oatmeal, fruit etc), a small lunch (bowl of soup with some crackers). Then, when the big meal comes around, you can make nutritional choices that do not sabotage your goals of

- maintaining a healthy weight.
 - Slow down your eating. It takes approximately 20 minutes for your body to register that it's full from your meal. However, by that time, many people have already had seconds. If you want to maintain (or lose) your weight, eat slowly. Chew your food and put your knife and fork down between bites. Give your stomach a chance to register how full it is, and you'll be surprised at how fast you feel satisfied.
- Maintaining a healthy weight is accomplished by making healthy choices every day, one choice at a time, and it is one of the best gifts that you can give yourself. It's something that will last much longer than the holiday season, and it's free.

Dr. Patti J. Patterson is the vice president of rural and community health at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. She grew up in Hale Center.

Anyone want a flu shot? Supply grows, demand withers

By REBECCA COOK
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Rod Watson had to cancel 1,000 flu-shot clinics in four states when the national vaccine shortage cut off his supply two months ago.

Now Watson has flu shots aplenty — and he can't give them away.

"My biggest fear is I'm going to end up with a lot of serum, and there's a national shortage," said Watson, president of Prevention MD, a medical screening and immunization company. He offers \$20 flu shots Monday through Friday at his Seattle-area office.

Public health officials in California, Colorado and other states have voiced similar fears. Some are relaxing the rules to offer shots to more people.

In October and November people stood in line for hours to get one of the precious few flu shots. But now that more vaccine is available — with a few million more doses expected from British and German suppliers — demand is dwindling.

"It's one of those things like Beanie Babies or something," said Doug McBride, spokesman for the Texas Department of State Health Services. "If you can't get something, you've got more people wanting them."

Supply exceeds demand in some areas, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention acknowledges. In other areas, people are still des-



Seattle Times photo/Bejamin Benschneider

perate for the vaccine. The best way to find a flu shot is to call your local health department, the CDC advises.

The CDC says 98 million people need the vaccine this winter. About 65 million doses will be available in the United States, including a nasal vaccine that's safe only for healthy people.

Public health officials say they hope demand is dwindling because they've reached the people who need flu vaccine the most: babies, the aged and the

infirm. But they acknowledge that other factors — from frustration and apathy to simple human nature — might be at work too.

When something is scarce, people naturally want it more. Being told they can't get a desired immunization is an unfamiliar and unwelcome sensation for most Americans.

"Anytime a commodity is scarce, and it is a desired item, demand will increase," Dr. Louis Manza, psychology professor at Lebanon Valley

College in Pennsylvania, said in an e-mail.

Some people probably gave up after trying unsuccessfully to get a flu shot, said Mary Selecky, director of the Washington State Health Department and member of a national advisory group on flu vaccine distribution. Recent reports on this flu season's mild start may have convinced others that getting a flu shot wasn't worth the trouble — an impression Selecky is trying to erase.

"It's a mild flu season up to now, but next week could be another story," Selecky said. "As a society we're driven by what's in front of us... We're having to work a little bit harder so people know that getting a flu vaccine in December and January is still very effective."

David Marks was surprised at how easy it was to get vaccinated at a Seattle grocery store last week.

The line in the express check-out lane was longer than the line to get flu shots.

"I just assumed it was going to be hard," said Marks, 44, whose severe asthma puts him in the high-risk group. "I think people have given up."

High-risk groups, as defined by the CDC, are people age 65 and older, adults and children with chronic diseases, babies 6 months to 23 months, pregnant women, nursing home residents, and people who live with children under 6 months of age. Some state officials are

expanding eligibility to younger people, those just over 50. The CDC is encouraging state officials to set their own guidelines based on local needs.

"They know what's best for their community," CDC spokesman Llewellyn Grant said. The federal agency is also working with state and local officials to redirect vaccine to areas where it's most needed for high-risk patients.

Health officials are worried about elderly and infirm people who don't live in nursing homes and who lack the resources to track down a flu shot.

"There are still some real desperate people out there," said Watson, of the Seattle medical company. "We just don't know how to find them."

It's still too soon to tell whether more people will get sick and die this year because of the vaccine shortage. Most years, the peak flu month is actually February, according to the CDC. Public health officials say the silver lining may be that the shortage focused more attention on simple, common-sense ways to stop the spread of the virus — washing your hands, staying home from school or work when you're sick, and avoiding touching your nose, eyes and mouth.

"At the turn of the 20th century, public health was all about teaching people not to spread disease," Selecky said. "Now at the turn of the 21st century, here we are again."

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Cynthia Salazar of Big Spring picks toys for her three children during Spring Tabernacle's annual toy giveaway held Friday. Salazar was just one of hundreds of parents that benefited from the program, which is expected to provide at least five toys each for more than 200 children in the community.



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen
Daniel Moreno, left, and Zachary Hernandez, both sixth graders at Goliad Intermediate School, stack donations to the school's canned food drive on Friday. The 10-day drive brought in 8,616 cans, surpassing a goal of 6,000 cans. Sixth graders, who contributed 4,705 cans, won the contest between the grades and earned the right to sit anywhere they like in the cafeteria next week. Top classes included Patsy Sanchez's sixth graders with 1,099 cans and Mona Green's fifth graders with 906 cans.

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Ron and Glenna Osborn portray one of the many scenes from the Bible during Friday's opening night of the 18th Annual Drive-Through Nativity at Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene.



Courtesy photo
Ann Reed receives the Civilian of the Year Award from Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith Friday evening during the Police Association's annual Award Ceremony. Also receiving awards were Cpl. Brian Gordon, Officer of the Year; Sgt. Tony Everett, Supervisor of the Year; Officer Scott Knight, who received a letter of commendation; and Lt. Robert Fitzgibbons, the Jerry G. Edwards Award for Professionalism.

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IN B

Basketball needed for
The Cross is looking for basketball officials for upcoming season. For more information, contact Rodriguez at 517-0300.

The game played in... such as B. Forsan and and will be junior high school level.

B.S. football slated for
The Big Spring ball banquet set for 7:30 p.m. in the Junior Cafetorium. The meal \$10. For more information, call the Training Center at 3662.

Booster Club more Stee
The Ladies Booster Club received a grant of \$1,000. The Booster Club carries jackets, long sleeve T-shirts, visors, toe warmers. They are offering T-shirts in sizes. For more information, call Jerry at 264-0023 or Kerry at 263-6100.

YMCA and gymnastic
The YMCA is hosting its gymnastic Friday. The program consist of all ages and it will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The community is attend. The kindergarten will be from 4:30 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. The twiddle sessions of the will begin and 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. tively.

Klitschko name as
LAS VEGAS (AP) - Vitali Klitschko's claim to true champion night, known as Williams times and savage beatings finally stop the eighth Klitschko his WBC title in a 12 that left bloodied, barely able to stand. William game eventually knocked eighth round up at the and want ue. But referee decided it enough and wave a close a round.

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.

B.S. football banquet slated for Monday

The Big Spring football banquet has been set for tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Big Spring Junior High Cafetorium.

The meal will cost \$10.

For more information, call the Athletic Training Center at 264-3662.

Booster Club gets more Steer gear

The Lady Steers Booster Club has just received a new shipment of Lady Steer Gear.

The Booster Club carries jackets, sweatshirts, long and short sleeve T-shirts, hats, visors, toboggans and ear warmers.

They are also now offering sweatshirts and T-shirts in youth sizes.

For more information, call Janet Abner at 264-0023 or 466-1711 or Kerry Rodriguez at 263-6100.

YMCA announces gymnastics program

The YMCA will be hosting its Christmas gymnastics program Friday.

The program will consist of children of all ages and abilities and it will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. The entire community is welcome to attend.

The kidnastics program will last from 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., while beginning gymnastics takes place from 5:20 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The tumbling and sidewinders team portions of the program will begin at 6:05 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively.

Klitschko engraves name as true champ

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Vitali Klitschko staked his claim to being the true heavyweight champion Saturday night, knocking Danny Williams down four times and giving him a savage beating before finally stopping him in the eighth round.

Klitschko retained his WBC heavyweight title in a lopsided fight that left Williams bloodied, battered and barely able to see.

Williams remained game even after the final knockdown in the eighth round, getting up at the count of nine and wanting to continue.

But referee Jay Nady decided he had taken enough punishment and waved the fight to a close at 1:26 of the round.

Strong defensive effort helps Lady Steers to win

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

MONAHANS — A great defensive effort and 13 turnovers outweighed another poor shooting night for the Big Spring girl's basketball team as the Lady Steers recorded their third win of the season after defeating Lubbock High, 32-21, in the team's final game at the Monahans Tournament.

"We picked up our play a bunch in this tournament and really looked

good (Saturday)," said Big Spring head coach Tim VanHecke. "Our goal now is to get ready for Jan. 7."

"The defense was great and it was fun game. It is so much more to win."

Big Spring's District 4-4A season begins Jan. 7 as the Lady Steers host Lake View.

Lubbock High led 13-12 after the first quarter, but Big Spring held its opponents to two, four and two points, respectively, in the final three quarters.

The Lady Steers led 24-15 at halftime and

outscored Lubbock High 10-2 in the final period.

"We really slowed down and ran the offense," said VanHecke.

"We pressed them a lot and got a ton of steals."

The Lady Steers recorded 23 steals on the day, led by junior Carmen Lewis's five.

VanHecke was also pleased with the 13

turnovers. Big Spring had turned the ball over more than 20 times during Friday's loss.

"It was a nice day," said VanHecke. "We still have some work to do offensively, but it was nice to get a win."

Lewis led Big Spring with 11 points and eight rebounds, while junior Raegan Ritchey added nine points and eight rebounds.

Chalesa Johnson, who started her first varsity game since being moved up from the JV last week,

scored eight points. "She did a really nice job responding to her role the lineup change," said VanHecke.

J.J. Terrel added two assists and three steals and junior Codye Burt had three steals, as well.

Big Spring (3-9) will travel to Midland High Saturday for a game at the Chap Center.

The varsity starts at 8 p.m.

The boy's team travels to Snyder Tuesday before hosting Greenwood Friday.



JOHNSON

Lady Buffaloes finish host tournament with large win over Kermit

• Stanton boys miss chance at title, third place with two losses

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

STANTON — The Stanton Lady Buffaloes finished up their play at

the 14th annual Hooptown Classic Saturday with a 20-point win over Kermit,

while the boy's team lost two games to Greenwood and Reagan County.

The Lady Buffaloes jumped out to 14-0 first quarter lead against Kermit and cruised to a 51-31 victory. The two teams were even in the second and fourth quarters, but Stanton's six-point advantage in the third quarter allowed for

the 20-point margin. Stormie Duggan led Stanton with 12 points.

The Buffaloes began the day with a chance to play in the championship game, but a loss to Greenwood in the semifinals ended Stanton's hopes. Greenwood defeated Stanton, 54-47, despite 16 points from sophomore Michael Washington. Junior Matthew Ruiz pitched in with 10 points.

The loss sent the Buffaloes to the third place game against Reagan County Saturday afternoon.

Stanton got out to a 16-9 advantage after the first quarter, but Reagan County answered with a 15-5 second quarter run to take the lead by three at halftime. They then outscored Stanton 17-7 in the final quarter before winning the game 50-36 and claiming third place.

Washington again led the Buffaloes with 14 points.



RUIZ



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Stanton junior Bonnie Kendall tries to get off a shot in the lane during the Lady Buffaloes' loss to Iraan at the Stanton Hooptown Classic Friday night. The Stanton girls ended the tournament with a win Saturday against Kermit.

Coahoma splits two at Stanton tourney

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

STANTON — Both Coahoma boy's and girl's basketball teams split two games each during action at the 14th annual Hooptown Classic in Stanton Saturday.

The Bulldogs defeated Borden County and lost to the Midland High JV team, while the Bulldogettes found the win column against Pecos and lost to Wink.

The Coahoma boys continued to struggle offensively Saturday, but its defense was great against Borden County as the Bulldogs won 33-26.

They led 8-7 after one quarter and took an 18-13 lead into the locker room at halftime. The Bulldogs only scored five points in the third quarter, but held Borden County two. Coahoma was outscored 11-10 in the final frame.

Senior Adrian Abrego, who has played minimal minutes most of the season after recovering from a knee injury suffered during football season, is nearly full strength as he scored 14 points to lead the Bulldogs.

The Midland High JV team defeated Coahoma 53-44 in the Bulldogs' other game Saturday.

The Bulldogs trailed by five points at halftime before getting outscored by four in the final two quarters. Abrego led Coahoma again, this time scoring 10 points.

The Bulldogettes first took on Wink Saturday and lost 55-46. Mendy Morgan led Coahoma with eight points, eight rebounds and three steals, while Sterling Gee scored a team-high nine points. Sarah Collom and Janice Gonzales each had three steals.

Coahoma got its first win of the tournament against Pecos, winning easily 52-31. The Bulldogettes led by three at halftime and by eight after three quarters, but outscored Pecos 22-9 in the final frame.

Morgan led Coahoma with season-highs of 20 points and 12 rebounds, while Collom added nine points and Christie Rich pulled down nine rebounds. Gonzales also had five steals.

Both the boy's and girl's teams host Seagraves tonight. The girls begin at 6:30 p.m. and the boys game will follow at around 8 p.m.

Grady girls finish Hooptown with victory

• Tubb's 14 points leads Grady past Greenwood at Stanton Classic

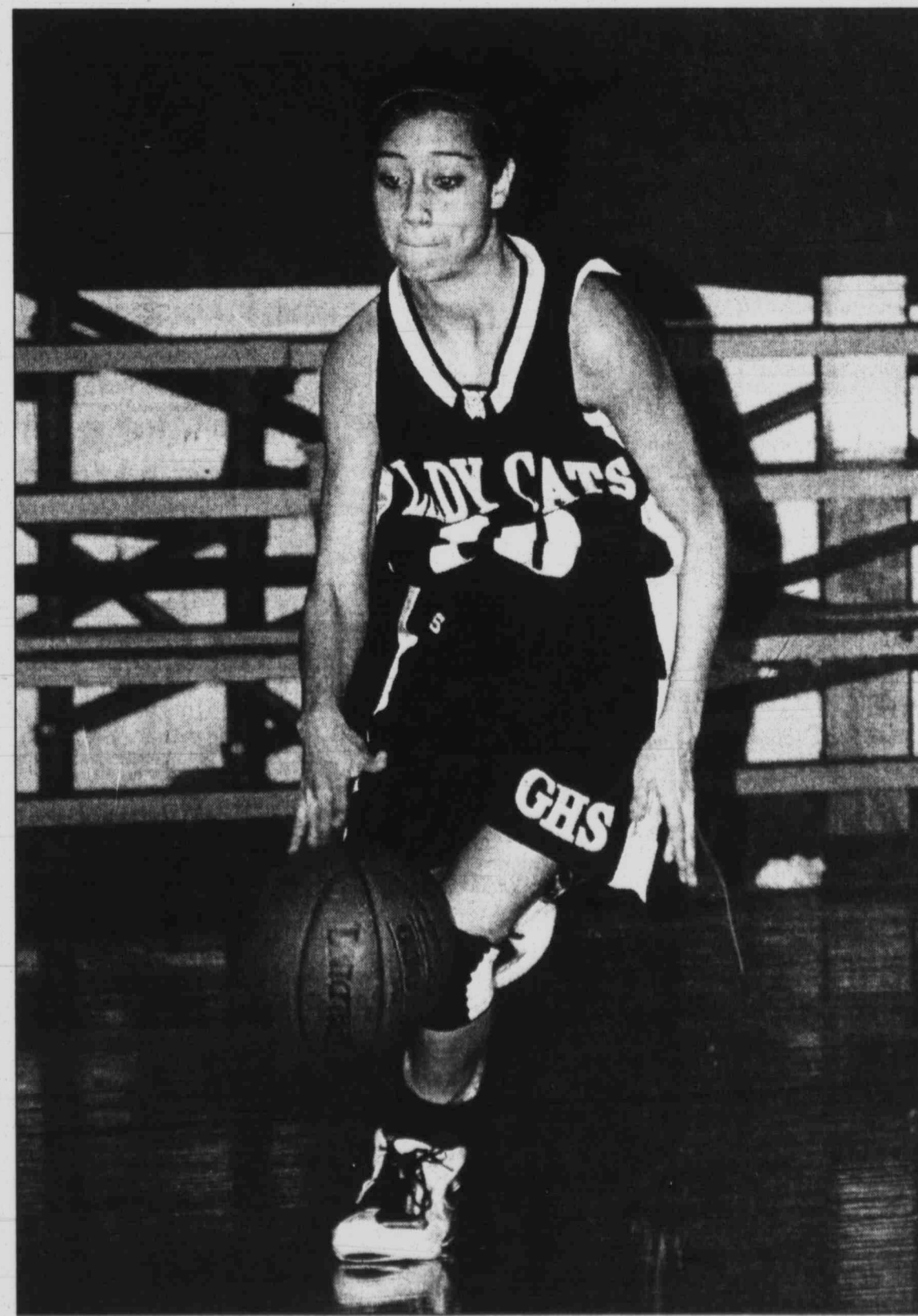
By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

STANTON — Grady's fast start Saturday propelled the Lady Wildcats to a 51-35 victory over Midland Greenwood during action at the 14th Annual Hooptown Classic in Stanton.

The Lady Wildcats led 17-8 after the first quarter and grabbed a 32-15 lead at the break. They were outscored by one point in the second half.

Grady senior Kelsey Tubb led the Wildcats with 14 points.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Grady's Brittney Rivas dribbles the ball upcourt during one of the Lady Wildcats' games at the Stanton Hooptown Classic, which took place Thursday through Saturday. Grady defeated Greenwood on Saturday, 54-35.

Hooptown Classic Saturday's results

Boys

Greenwood 54, Stanton 47
Reagan County 50, Stanton 30
Coahoma 33, Borden County 26
Midland JV 53, Coahoma 44
Brownfield 57, Reagan Co. 56
Kermit 58, Tahoka 48
Wink 55, Sterling City 44
Borden Co. 48, Colorado City 40

Girls

Grady 51, Greenwood 35
Stanton 51, Kermit 31
Coahoma 52, Pecos 31
Wink 55, Coahoma 46
Iraan 52, Borden County 19
Sterling City 66, Iraan 59 (2OT)
Wink 37, Brownfield 29
Midland Christian 71, Sterling City 54 (championship)

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Texas A&M booster dies of long-term illness at 84

• Bum Bright responsible for selling Dallas Cowboys to current owner Jerry Jones in 1989

DALLAS (AP) — Harvey R. "Bum" Bright, a staunch Texas A&M booster best known for buying the Dallas Cowboys from founder Clint Murchison and selling them to Jerry Jones, has died. He was 84.

Bright died Saturday at his Highland Park home after a long illness.

"He was a close friend and a businessman that I respected and admired tremendously," Jones said in a statement Sunday. "Our agreement on the purchase of the Dallas Cowboys was finalized with a few notes on a napkin and a handshake. With Bum, his word meant everything. He was one of the most honorable men that I have ever had the privilege of knowing and working with."

Bright was chairman of the Texas A&M Board of Regents in 1982 when he was responsible for hiring Jackie Sherrill as the football coach and making him the highest-paid coach in college football at the time. Two years later, he bought the Cowboys, then sold them in 1989.

"When the Cowboys thing came up, he was so worried they were going elsewhere," said former Texas A&M football coach R.C. Slocum, a good friend of Bright's. "Buying the Cowboys was a business deal, but a big part of it was also keeping the Cowboys in Texas."

Bright toyed with the idea of firing coach Tom Landry, a move Jones made soon after buying the team.

Bright received a degree in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M in 1943.

In 1997, Bright made an unrestricted endowment of \$25 million to Texas A&M. At the time, it was the largest gift of its type the university had ever received.

"He bled and died maroon," former Cowboys director of player personnel Gil Brandt said.

"The Cowboys were something he did for the community, but his first love was Texas A&M."



KRT photo/Harry E. Walker, KRT
New Orleans Hornets Chris Andersen (12) slam dunks during their game played at the MCI Center in Washington, D.C., Sunday.

Manning doesn't set record, Indianapolis still defeats Texans

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer
HOUSTON — Peyton Manning broke one of Dan Marino's touchdown records, just not the one everybody has been talking about.

But Manning got the only things that really matter to him — an Indianapolis win and a playoff berth. The Colts beat the Houston Texans 23-14 Sunday to clinch their second straight AFC South title with their sixth consecutive win.

Manning threw touchdown passes on the first two Colts drives to get within two of Marino's 20-year-old record of 48 TDs in a season. It was his 13th straight multi-TD game, breaking the NFL record held by Marino, Johnny Unitas, Don Meredith and Brett Favre. Unitas was the only other to do it at the beginning of a season, for the Colts 45 years ago in the midst of his record streak of 47 straight games with a TD pass.

The Colts (10-3) didn't get into the end zone again after Manning's fast start, settling for three field goals by Mike Vanderjagt (30, 43 and 40 yards) in the second half.

The next chance for Manning to catch Marino for the single-season TD record comes at home, next Sunday night

against Baltimore.

With a chance to become the first NFL team to score 40 points in five straight games, the Colts had a season-low points total. Manning didn't have at least three TD passes for the first time in nine games.

Manning was 26-of-33 for 298 yards. Reggie Wayne had seven catches for 96 yards, including a 12-yard TD.

Edgerrin James ran for 104 yards on 28 carries, and had seven catches for 54 yards.

Domanick Davis had 201 total yards for Houston (5-8). He had 23 carries for 128 yards and a touchdown, and caught six passes for 73 yards.

The way Manning started Sunday, it looked like he would catch Marino by halftime.

Seven plays after Jason David intercepted a pass by David Carr at the Texans 38, Manning threw a 3-yard TD to Marvin Harrison. It was the 13th TD this season for Harrison, who this week signed a \$66 million, seven-year contract extension.

It also was the 81st between Manning and Harrison, the second-most for quarterback-receiver duo behind 85 by Steve Young and Jerry Rice.

Cowboys stumble at home, now re-thinking playoff run

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer
IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys might have to rethink their plans for the rest of the season. It's tough to consider yourself a playoff contender after scoring only one penalty-aided touchdown at home against the league's worst defense.

Deuce McAllister ran for two touchdowns, John Carney kicked two field goals and Joe Horn added a 31-yard touchdown catch in the closing minutes, carrying the New Orleans Saints to a 27-13 victory that seriously dampened the Cowboys' wild-card chances.

Dallas (5-8) had won consecutive games, including a thrilling 43-39 victory over Seattle on Monday night. With running back Julius Jones reviving the offense, Cowboys coach Bill Parcells said his team was peaking at the right time.

Instead of continuing the momentum, Dallas lost at home to a team that had lost three straight and was more

curious about its coach's status than its playoff possibilities. The Saints (5-8) also wound up with their first road win over the Cowboys in 10 tries.

While Dallas has lost five games by at least 18 points this season, including drubbings by Philadelphia and Green Bay, this one will hurt more because of what was at stake — and because it was so winnable.

The Cowboys led 10-0 after one quarter, but managed only one field goal the rest of the game. An offense that put up 22 points in the fourth quarter against the Seahawks six days earlier hardly spent any time across midfield over the final three quarters.

Most of the boos were for Vinny Testaverde, who was 14-of-35 for 167 yards with an interception that set up New Orleans' first touchdown and a fumble that ended a Dallas drive with 1:40 left and the Cowboys trailing by a touchdown.

Two plays later, Aaron Brooks hit Horn on the right sideline. He leaped

over cornerback Terence Newman and went into the end zone, then celebrated by running to a sign and running a finger under the words "Remember Our Troops."

What the Cowboys will remember is all the blown opportunities. They could've been up 21-0 after their first three drives, but wasted the first one with a missed field goal after getting to the 19, then got just a field goal after reaching the 18 next time.

Dallas will have to win its final three just to break even and hope that's good enough to keep up Parcells' streak of always making the playoffs in his second season with a team. It won't be easy: next up is Philadelphia.

The Saints were shut out in the first quarter for an 11th straight game, then tied it at 10 just before halftime.

They matched Dallas at 13 midway through the third quarter and went ahead on a 5-yard TD run by McAllister with 5:21 left.

Texas high school football playoff results/pairings

By The Associated Press

Six-Man
Richland Springs 58, Turkey Valley 38

Class 1A
Region I/II Semifinals
Stratford 34, Windthorst 31

Region III/IV Semifinals
Shiner 21, Big Sandy 17
Championship
Stratford (13-2) vs. Shiner (15-0), TBA

CLASS 2A
DIVISION I
Championship
Boyd 17, Newton 14
DIVISION II
Region I/II Semifinals
Crawford 24, Canadian 13

Region III/IV Semifinals
Troup 42, Lexington 13
Championship

Crawford (15-0) vs. Troup (14-1), 6 p.m. Saturday at North Richland Hills Birdville.

CLASS 3A
DIVISION I
Championship
Abilene Wylie 17, Cuero 14

DIVISION II
Region I/II Semifinals
Gilmer 53, Snyder 20
Region III/IV Semifinals
Jasper 35, Liberty Hill 27
Championship
Gilmer (15-0) vs. Jasper (12-3), Saturday, Time TBA at Stephen F. Austin's Bryce Stadium. TBA.

CLASS 4A
DIVISION I
Championship
Ennis 23, Marshall 21
DIVISION II
Region I/II

Semifinals
Dallas Lincoln 21, Aledo 7
Region III/IV Semifinals
Kilgore 10, Pflugerville Connally 7
Championship
Dallas Lincoln (13-1) vs. Kilgore (15-0), TBA.

CLASS 5A
DIVISION I
Championship
Tyler Lee 28, Spring Westfield 21
DIVISION II
Region I/II Semifinals
Southlake Carroll 37, Lufkin 30

Region III Semifinals
Smithson Valley 18, Houston Clear Lake 10
Championship
Southlake Carroll (15-0) vs. Smithson Valley (13-2), Noon Saturday at Texas Stadium.

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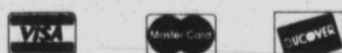


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Class A & 6 mos. exp. req.

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PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATOR

Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Manufacturing an Logistics Division has an immediate opening for a Program Administrator I - Freight Transportation position, posting no. 024378DL, located at the Daniel Unit in Snyder, Texas, \$2749.00/monthly. The position requires a Bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by an organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Each year of experience as described below in excess of the required three years may be substituted for thirty semester hours from an accredited college or university on a year-for-year basis. Three years full-time, wage-earning experience in trucking or dispatch operations experience. To Apply: A complete Job Description, Qualifications and Applications are available at www.tdcj.state.tx.us or contact Manufacturing and Logistics Human Resources at 936-436-6531. Submit a State of Texas Application for Employment to Missy Atchley, Manufacturing and Logistics Division, TDCJ, PO Box 4013, Huntsville, Texas, 77320; (overnight thru the UPS, Ded-EX, Airborne - 861 IH 45N, Rm. 112, Huntsville, Texas, 77320; overnight thru the postal service - PO Box 4013), by 12/17/04 At 5:00 PM.

ROUTE SALESPERSON

Ab-Tex Beverage Ltd. requires individual to complete a drug screen and work assessment test. Possess or able to obtain a Class A CDL. Beverage sales experience a plus. Comprehensive benefit program. Please apply in person: Ab-Tex Beverage Ltd. 3611 Hwy 87 North Big Spring, Tx 79720 EEO/AA Employer

Help Wanted

THE CITY of Big Spring will be testing for the position of Certified and Non-Certified Police Officer at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday January 13, 2005 at the Police Training Center on 307 E. 4th. Applications are being accepted through Wednesday January 12, 2005. Preference will be given to Certified Officers. For further information contact City Hall Personnel at 310 Nolan, Big Spring, Tx 79720 or call (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications may also be obtained from website: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

WAITRESSES NEEDED

Split Shift
Must be 18
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FULL SIZE hunter green sofa for sale. Best offer! (432)816-6942 evenings.

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Miscellaneous

2000 HITCHHIKER, 32 foot, 5th wheel. Excellent condition with 2 slides. Call (432)267-5420 for more information.

KING SIZE mattress with double box spring & frame. Three years old, like new, only used for guest. \$225.00. Call (432)393-5667 or leave message.

OAK - Finish bookcase 35x60, 4 shelves with glass doors, \$60.00. Can be seen at 1811 Runnels.

Mobile Homes

1983 SINGLE Wide, 2 Bedroom, 2 bath. Great Condition. \$5,500.00. To be moved. Call (254)442-2300.

1993 CAVLIER 16x80. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, remodeled kitchen. Excellent condition. \$16,500. Call (432)263-3547.

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1409 MT. VERNON. Newly remodeled. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, fenced yard with washer & dryer connections. \$515. month, \$395. deposit. Call 432-263-8005, 816-1330.

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Real Estate for Rent

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BY OWNER. Highland South. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, corner lot. By appointment only, call 432-264-7053. Home warranty. \$110,000.

Real Estate

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Venus and Saturn work together to make sure the lessons that guide our relationships are ones we learn well. During the last week of Mercury's retrograde, we're more conscious of not repeating mistakes -- and if we forget, an interfering friend nearby is sure to remind us, "Hey, didn't you do that last time? And didn't it turn out badly?"

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You haven't always been paid correctly for your effort. But at least now you have the benefit of 1,000 practice runs. You approach your work with precision and artistry, and it's impressive to exactly the person you want to please.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're enriched by a greater appreciation for the familiar. Maybe wild beauty isn't what defines your neighborhood, but there's a certain charm there, and you're comfortable. Positive thoughts of home keep you in fine health.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's the little interactions that have you feeling content, if not a tad smug. Your superior social skills work to smooth over hassles and get your free upgrades. Customer-service agents figure into the equation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A ragged relationship is shaping up bit by bit. Transformation is too much to expect, but growth, even rapid growth, is not so far-fetched. Put in the effort, and you won't be disappointed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In family matters, you state exactly what's going to happen before it does. Granted, you know your loved ones quite well and can therefore operate like an expert oddsmaker. Still, your handle on the situation protects all involved.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're impulsive now, so it's hard to know when you're onto something good or just going with the playful mood of the moment. Go for a quantity of ideas instead of worrying yet about which one is actually going to work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some of your cohorts will sink to petty and self-serving activities, so it's

important that you stay firmly grounded in your values. There's more at stake than the happiness of people who are already in power. Fair is fair.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Love relationships benefit from a dose of ambitious idealism. So what if it doesn't exactly happen the way you dreamed it would -- it's more important that you have joint aspirations. Be frivolous and fanciful!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Swiftly respond when duty calls! Your self-confidence soars when you know that you don't have to think about doing the right thing anymore -- it's an automatic response. You'll put all opponents on the defensive!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's hard to be honest with friends, especially the sensitive ones -- history proves they can't take the smallest dose of their own medicine. Timing makes all the difference. Speak your mind in the moment it's all going down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Significant others may say one thing and do another, but these are minor grievances, and there's no use fighting over it. Take the high road. You know you're

right, so is it really important that others acknowledge it, too?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've got that delicious excited edge, like you're not sure whether you can really pull something off. Though you'd probably perform better without the nerves, it wouldn't be as exhilarating. Love where you are!

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am a Gemini (born in 1982), and I have had an on-again-off-again relationship with a Pisces (also born in 1982) for over five years. He is my first love, but I feel like I want to give up on trying to make the relationship/friendship work. Do you see a future between us? While driving home from medical school today, I feel so tired of this relationship and want to give up."

I'm curious about why you feel you need permission to walk away from this draining situation. Your Pisces has probably accused you of being selfish and made you feel as though your unwillingness to put up with his emotional baggage is a sign that you're just not deep. Well, the lovely thing about your sign is that you tend to read the surface indicators in a relationship and take

them at their word. When the message you're reading is "I'm damaged, and I want you to be miserable just like me," maybe there's no need to go deeper. It's not your job to heal him. You're busy in medical school learning other ways to heal the world at large. Permission granted.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: After graduating from small-screen comedies, Jamie Foxx is one of the hottest dramatic actors around. This year, he blew us away as Ray Charles in "Ray" and held his own against Tom Cruise in "Collateral." It's difficult for actors to transition smoothly into new genres once they become known for one style, but then again, Foxx is a versatile Sagittarius. Variety keeps this sign going.

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have been dating "Jon" for two years, and we became engaged last November. I am wondering if it is normal for a man not to be affectionate.

Jon rarely holds my hand or cuddles in bed at night. We recently went on a trip without my children (from a previous marriage), and it was so relaxing. We were gone four nights, and to my dismay, Jon was not once romantic or tender. We were sexually intimate, but as soon as we were finished, he just rolled over.

Are there men like this who are happily married? I don't know if I can live without affection. It makes me feel used. I've been married before and have dated several men, but I've never experienced this. I thought touching and holding came naturally. Is he normal? -- Dumbfounded

Dear Dumbfounded: Well, yes, within certain limits. Not all men are naturally affectionate, especially if they come from non-demonstrative families. It doesn't mean he isn't happy with you, but we worry that you



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

might not be happy with him.

You need to discuss with Jon how important this is to you. He may not realize that you expect the hand-holding, cuddling and other signs that he is fond of you when you aren't having sex. Don't wait for him to make the first move -- teach him what you need. Take his hand when you are out walking. Ask for a hug before dinner. Put your arms around his neck and kiss him for no reason. If he doesn't make any effort to warm up, get couples counseling and see what can be done.

Dear Annie: Please

remind your readers of the importance of having a will and making arrangements for your burial.

I lost both of my parents within the past few months. They left very little assets and no will. My sister is in possession of some of the assets, and I am left to try and pay for the burials and their other debts. I am not financially well off, but I want to do the right thing.

It seems to me that the expenses of the funeral should be split evenly. Who is responsible for these costs? I don't want to alienate my sister, but I need her help.

What should I do? -- Still Grieving

Dear Still Grieving: You are no more responsible for these costs than your sister. If she has not offered to split the expenses with you, pick up the phone and ask her to do so. Offer to send her an itemized accounting, and then ask her to please pay her share. If this is a financial hardship for your sister, perhaps a payment plan can be worked out, or you can ask her to contribute

whatever she can manage. If you aren't willing to do this, prepare to be stuck with the bills.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Karen in the Midwest," who asked about having a baby shower in absentia, because the mother-to-be was in the Army and could not attend. Thank you for saying it was OK.

I hosted a baby shower for my sister-in-law, who was unable to attend for similar reasons. I decided to have a "Video Baby Shower." Each guest brought an item, along with wrapping paper, bows, ribbon, card, etc. I set up a specially decorated table and chair where the guest would sit and wrap the gift. Each guest looked into the camera and gave the new mother good wishes, told baby anecdotes or explained something special about the gift. We then had a delicious luncheon.

I sent all the wrapped gifts to my sister-in-law, along with the videotape of the event. She loved unwrapping the presents while watching the tape. -- West Greenwich, R.I.

Dear R.I.: Many readers suggested videotaping

showers where the bride or mother-to-be cannot attend due to extreme distance or unusual circumstances. We like it.

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

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Discover Another World, Read! You never know what you might find.

The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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MONDAY

DEC. 13

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPICE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	TMC (250) Premium
6 PM	News (CC)	News	La Mujer de Madera	Maicoin-Mid. Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anita No Te Rajes	News Sanford (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Joseph Good John Hagee	News-Laher	Monster Nation (CC)	Wonderful	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Movie: The	Sister, Sister That's-Raven	College Basketball	Monday Night	
7 PM	Life of Luxury (CC)	Life of Luxury (CC)	Rubi	Trading Spouses	Still Standing Listen Up	La Mujer en el Espejo	Fear Factor (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Sam Peak	Antique Roadshow	Monster House	Movie: Terms of Endearment (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Five Heartbeats	Movie: Sluck in the Suburbs (CC)	Wake Forest at Temple (CC)	Countdown (CC)	Movie: Rocky V (CC)
8 PM	NFL Football Kansas City	NFL Football Kansas City	Amor Real	The Swan	Raymond Two-Hat Men	Gitanas	Las Vegas (CC)	Family Guy Family Guy	Light of the Southwest	Great Performances	Monster Garage	45 Movie: American Chopper	WWE Raw (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comicview	Phil of Future	Figure Skating Cup of Russia (CC)	45 Movie: Glory (CC)	
9 PM	Chiefs at Tennessee	Chiefs at Tennessee	Cristina	70s Show	CSI: Miami (CC)	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	DateLine NBC (CC)	Raymond Raymond		(CC) Singl (CC)	American Chopper	45 Movie: On Golden Pond	2003 Video Game Awards	Without a Trace (CC)	Nightly News Grown Folks	Even Stevens Boy World	3 Nation Dale Earnhardt		
10 PM	News (CC)	News	Estamos Unidos	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	The Late Late Show (CC)	Al Rojo Vivo-	Show (CC) Late Night	Booker Scrwner	Update/Israel N. McBride	American Chopper	Movie: Terms of Endearment	Videos Blind Date	Ult. Gamer Widest Police	NYPD Blue (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	NBA Fastbreak NFL's Greatest Game (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Paid in Full (CC)
11 PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	Alma Rebelde	Dharma-Greg	The Insider		Fraser (CC)	Multiplicity											
12 AM																			

DENNIS THE MENACE

"MOM, IF YOU COULD HAVE ANYTHING IN THE WHOLE WORLD FOR CHRISTMAS... UNDER TWO DOLLARS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"...THEY WOULDN'T... LET POOR RUDOLPH JOIN IN ANY REINDEER GAMES..."

"When they played hide-and-seek, Rudolph couldn't hide because of his nose."

HAGAR

"RRROAR! GRRRRR!"

"DON'T WORRY! DRAGONS ARE AFRAID OF FIRE!"

"DO YOU REALIZE THAT WAS OUR LAST LOG?"

BC

"SIGH... I DIDN'T GET THE SANTA JOB."

"BECAUSE YOU'RE A TURTLE?"

"BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A LAP."

BLONDIE

"GO TELL THOSE PARTYING VAHOOS UPSTAIRS TO TONE DOWN THAT CHRISTMAS PARTY OR I'M CALLING SECURITY!"

"THUMP THUMP"

"THERE, THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!"

"SANTA WAS AT THE PARTY AND WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT HE ADDED YOUR NAME TO HIS NAUGHTY LIST."

WIZARD OF ID

"HAIL TO THE CHIEF"

"DID SOMEBODY SAY HAIL?"

"PUNK"

AGNES

"WE HAVE AN ODD TYPE OF FRIENDSHIP, DON'T WE?"

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?"

"IT'S NOT LIKE IN THE MOVIES. FRIENDSHIPS ARE TENDER AND LOVING WITH SPECIAL MOMENTS."

"OUR FRIENDSHIP IS ALL GOOFY AND WEIRD AND RIDDLED WITH ENOUGH HOLES TO SUCK MUCH AIR IN A LOW WIND."

"SIGH, YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU SHOULD WRITE GREETING CARDS!"

HI AND LOIS

"CHRISTMAS TREES. WHAT'VE YOU GOT FOR \$10?"

"WE'LL HAVE A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS."

THE OTHER COAST

"VICKY I'M HAVING NO LUCK ATTRACTING WOMEN."

"LEARN FROM NATURE, SIMON. IN THE CHIMP WORLD, THE FEMALE CHIMPS RESPOND BETTER TO THE MORE ASSERTIVE MALE CHIMPS."

"BANANA?"

"IF YOU STRIKE OUT, I'VE GOT SOME LICE YOU CAN PICK OFF MY HEAD."

SNUFFY SMITH

"I REMEMBERED TO BRING TH' WORMS!!"

"DANG IT, LUKEY!! YOU WUZ S'POSED TO BRING TH' SAMMICHES!!"

"SIGH... AT LEAST TH' FISH ARE EATIN' GOOD!!"

BEETLE BAILEY

"OKAY, BEETLE! YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE TO LIVE!"

"OKAY, I'LL TAKE 12:01, SEPT. 3, 2030"

Newsday Crossword

WOODWORK by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Performs in a play
- 5 Diagram
- 10 Snow remover
- 14 General vicinity
- 15 Sound from a broadcast
- 16 Country singer McEntire
- 17 Wrestling hold
- 19 Wicked
- 20 Went fast
- 21 Very pale
- 22 Fruit skin
- 23 Elevator alternative
- 25 True blue
- 27 Like a sauna
- 30 Spheres
- 32 Electrical unit
- 35 Significant period
- 36 Snatches some shuteye
- 38 Friend
- 39 Auto-top carrier
- 41 Tree liquid
- 42 Cleans the chalkboard
- 44 Espionage org.
- 45 Attempt
- 46 Scissor sound
- 47 Cattle enclosure
- 50 Additional
- 52 Lightning feature
- 55 Sassy
- 57 Completes
- 60 Printed mistake
- 61 Garfield dog
- 62 Manicurist's application

DOWN

- 11 Maximum effort
- 12 Theater award
- 13 Room divider
- 18 Revise a mistake
- 24 Smells awful
- 26 Egg part
- 28 Jackie's second
- 29 Voyager Polo
- 31 Practice in the ring
- 32 Baboon, for example
- 33 The fourth planet
- 34 Tour over the Grand Canyon, e.g.
- 36 Winter neckwear
- 37 James Bond, for one
- 39 Labor Day mo.
- 40 Tire filler
- 43 "Sweet" age
- 47 Party snack
- 48 Choir member
- 49 Concealed oneself
- 51 Subscribe again
- 53 Backbone
- 54 Leno and Letterman
- 55 Soup vessels
- 56 Singer Adams
- 58 Vegas cubes
- 59 Sow's supper
- 63 Scoreboard postings: Abbr.
- 64 Like jalapeño peppers

This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 13, the 348th day of 2004. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 13, 1944, during World War II, the U.S. cruiser Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack that claimed more than 130 lives.

On this date:

In 1577, Sir Francis Drake of England set out with five ships on a nearly three-year journey that would take him around the world.

In 1769, Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, received its charter.

In 1862, Union forces suffered a major defeat to the Confederates at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

In 1918, President Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive

to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's musical work "An American in Paris" had its premiere, at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1964, in El Paso, Texas, President Johnson and Mexican President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz set off an explosion that diverted the Rio Grande, reshaping the U.S.-Mexican border and ending a century-old dispute.

In 1978, the Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation the following July.

In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

In 1993, the space shuttle Endeavour returned from its mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that people were entitled to a hearing before real property linked to illegal drug sales could be seized.

Today's Birthdays:

Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 84. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 79. Actor Christopher Plummer is 75. Actor Robert Prosky is 74. Country singer Buck White is 74. Movie producer Richard Zanuck is 70. Singer John Davidson is 63. Singer Ted Nugent is 56. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 56. Country musician Ron Getman is 56. Actor Robert Lindsay is 55. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 55. Actress Wendie Malick is 54. Country singer John Anderson is 50.

Answer to previous puzzle

S	E	T	S	A	T	B	O	O	K	S	H	O	P
E	N	R	I	C	O	A	R	M	A	T	U	R	E
A	G	E	N	T	S	L	A	N	T	E	R	N	S
B	R	A	K	E	S	A	L	I	A	R	A	T	
O	A	T	D	E	R	N	E	L	A	T	E		
A	V	I	S	D	A	C	R	O	N	H	E	R	
R	E	S	T	S	P	E	E	P	E	R			
D	R	E	A	M	U	P	D	E	M	O	T	E	
B	E	H	E	L	D	Y	O	U	V	E			
N	A	T	A	S	L	E	E	P	F	R	E	T	
O	C	H	E	R	D	R	A	M	N	N	E		
M	E	A	L	C	O	G	R	O	A	S	T	S	
A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E	A	D	R	O	I	
D	I	C	T	A	T	O	R	D	E	L	O	U	
S	C	H	E	M	E	R	S		E	M	O	T	