

# SPRING - 1

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

#### TUESDAY

December 14, 2004

WEATHER



TONIGHT TOMORROW 24°-27° 51°-53°

BRIEFLY

#### City council to mull landfill fee tonight

Big Spring City Council members, meeting at 5:15 p.m. today, are expected to hear emergency readings concerning a landfill agreement between the city and county and implementation of a \$5 gate fee at the facility.

An emergency resolution authorizing an agreement to perform a feasibility study and project scope plan for construction of a conference center or hote! complex is also on the agenda.

#### 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 Spring Mall. 1 n 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 follege 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 Wednes-

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# Commissioners agree to landfill pact

But don't obligate the county to future facilities, on advice of attorney

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners approved a new contract with the city of Big Spring concerning the municipal landfill during their meeting Monday, but only after removing

references to future landfill facilities from

the document. The removal of the contract language that

The city agrees to own the landfill jointly with Howard County and "maintain and operate" the facility, in addition to maintaining a landfill closure and post-closure maintenance fund.

referred to "any successor landfills" was struck from the contract after County Attorney Mike Thomas expressed his concerns over future obligation in the proceed-

**FESTIVAL ORGANIZER HONORED** 

"My only suggestion at this point is to strike references to successor landfills. Thomas told the commissioners. "I think that needs to be addressed in a future contract. I wouldn't feel comfortable obligating the county until we knew more about it. As far as closing this landfill is concerned, we certainly have that obligation.

Thomas went on to say he was concerned the county was entering into an agreement

See LANDFILL, Page 3A

# Cost cutting

## Lower interest rate to save county \$90,000

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

County Howard commissioners approved the refund and refinance of general obligation bonds from 1995 totaling \$1.2 million, saving the county nearly \$90,000, thanks to lower interest rates.

Commissioners approved the deal, which is being worked out by Lubbock-based First Southwest Company, at an interest rate almost 2 percent lower than established in 1995 when the bonds were issued to finance renovations to the county courthouse.

"The interest rate we were able to issue on these refunding bonds was 3.61 percent," said Vince Viaille, representative for First Southwest Company. "The average interest rate on the old 1995 bonds was at 5.5 percent. We were also able to get bond insurance on this issue."

County Auditor Jackie Olson said Monday's decision was simply a matter of taking advantage of lower interest rates.

"The total amount of the bonds were \$1.6 million, and we've paid the principal down to \$1.2 million," said Olson. "Now interest rates are around 3.5 percent, so we're hoping to take advantage of the drop and save the county some money.

"When we met, we talked about looking at refunding the 1995 general obligation bonds for the county to achieve some debtservice savings," Viaille told the court. "Issuing the bonds at a lower interest rate. Since that meeting, we've been in the market place and we've structured the refunding issue. I'm presenting you with the

See INTEREST, Page 3A

Pat Simmons, organizer of the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights, cuts a cake in her honor Monday at the historic spring. Volunteers stopped their work briefly to recognize Simmons' birthday, which was Saturday, before getting displays ready for Wednesday's opening.



Pool photo/Justin Sullivan

Howard Kutzly, Krystyna Wiener, left, and Kimberly Hovorta, second from left in white, react to the death penalty verdict in the Scott Peterson case outside the courthouse in Redwood City, Calif.

## Peterson sentence: Death

**By BRIAN SKOLOFF** 

Associated Press Writer

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. -Upon learning of his death sentence, Scott Peterson sat defiantly still and tight-jawed, the same vacant expression he wore See PETERSON, Page 3A

throughout a murder trial in which he never spoke. And to hear the jurors tell it, Peterson's apparent lack of emotion was the final piece that doomed him. The jury had been told that

# Area school districts bring home the gold

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN

Special to the Herald

Area school districts brought home gold in an academic olympics awarded by the Texas Education Agency.

Superintendents from Forsan, Big Spring and Coahoma learned last week that they were eligible Gold Performance Acknowledgments based on student performance in several different areas.

"The Texas Legislature in 2001 created the Gold Performance Acknowledgment to publicly recognize districts and campuses for high performance in areas that are in addition to those used to determine state accountability ratings," said Commissioner of Education Shirley J. Neeley.

Forsan ISD received three GPAs district-wide, recognizing student test scores in two areas.

"We've been working on writing skills for a long time and we've had these good

scores for several years."



Kingston

as well as high school students completion of rigorous graduation requirements.

"Over 20 percent of our students scored high enough on the TAKS (Texas writing Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test that they received commended status," Superintendent Randy Johnson. Forsan High School students also

See GOLD, Page 3A

## **Obituaries**

Wayne E. Dietz



Wayne E. Dietz of Houston passed away Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004, at the age of 59. He was born Feb. 27, 1945, in Big Spring to Nathan Eugene and Geraldine

Dietz, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his loving wife, Sherry Dietz; son, Nathan Wayne Dietz and wife, Ashley of San Antonio; daughter, Melissa Kay Dietz of Arlington; stepson, Chad Sells of Cleveland; stepdaughter, Crystal Sells of Arlington;

brother, Teddy Dietz and wife, Sarah of Big Spring; sisters, Carolyn Davey and husband, Bill of Big Spring and Janet Bryant and husband, Kenny; grandchildren, Shelby Dietz, Dylan Dietz, Baylee Dietz, Karlee Dietz, Justin Sells and Camrin Langston.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004, at noon in the Blessed Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Cleveland with interment at Evergreen Cemetery in Evergreen.

Arrangements are under the direction of Pace-Stancil Funeral Home 303 E. Crockett St., Cleveland 77327 281-592-2641.

Paid obituary

### 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

□ 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 ORIENTA-TION 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 ASSO-CIATION 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

☐ 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 on Gibson's condition www.carepages.com/ServeCarePage?cpn=Sagepage&u niq=923947. For more information about the Buffalo Fina fund-raiser call 267-5050.

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

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

☐ 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.

## **Coronado Hills Apartments**

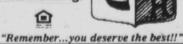
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## Police blotter

LOCAL

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

· DAVID CHRISTOPHER PETREE, 20, of 6306 Walter Road, was arrested Monday on municipal war-

· JESUS MARTINEZ, 24, of 805 Willia, was arrested Monday on local traffic warrants and a Howard County warrant.

· RAMONA CERVANTES, 33, of Monticello, was arrested Monday on local traffic warrants.

• RICHARD KEITH HUCKABEE, 44, of 1516 Stadium, was arrested Monday on loca traffic war-

• THEFT was reported:

- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

- in the 2500 block of Gregg Street. - in the 2300 block of Wasson.

- in the 1100 block of Lamesa. - in the 1200 block of 11th Place

- in the 900 block of Willia.

- in the 100 block of Ninth Street. - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

- in the 400 block of Birdwell.

- in the 1700 block of FM 700. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:

- in the 500 block of Abrams.

- in the 3200 block of Cornell. - in the 3000 block of Rutgers.

- in the 3200 block of Duke.

- in the 3300 block of Duke.

- in the 2600 block of Gregg Street.

- in the 200 block of Johnson.

- in the 3200 block of Ave. C. - in the 600 block of Bucknell.

 CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - IMPAIRING PUBLIC **COMMUNICATIONS** was reported in the 2500 block

 CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY A MINOR was reported in the 800 block of Gregg Street.

 AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 2000 block of Goliad.

 AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1600 block of Stadium.

 ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY was reported:

- in the 700 block of Creighton.

- in the 1800 block of Donley.

 ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:

· in the 3900 block of Parkway.

in the 500 block of Aylesford.

- in the 3200 block of Ave. C.

 POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 1100 block of Father Delaney.

· POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARA-PHERNALIA was reported in the 1200 block of Third

• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 2500 block of Gregg Street.

BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported:

- in the 1800 block of Mittel.

- in the 3300 block of Highway 80.

 BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: - in the 600 block of Drake.

- in the 1300 block of Johnson.

· CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.

 UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 200 block of NW Fourth Street. • EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WITH A

VEHICLE was reported in the 300 block of Fifth · ESCAPE WHILE ARRESTED/CONFINED -**FELONY** was reproted in the 300 block of Fifth Street.

FRAUDULENT USE/POSSESSION OF IDENTI-FYING INFORMATION was reported in the 200 block Note: The BSPD police report includes activity log

information for Dec. 10 through today.

## Sheriff's report

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

· MARJORIE CRISTINA COKER, 23, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on chartges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and possession of drug paraphernalia.

· KAREN HARRISON, 56, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of issuance of a bad check, theft of services by check and bondsman off of bond for theft of service by check.

· ROMAN MARTINEZ CISNEROS, 27, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.

 CHRISTOPHER MARK GREEN, 19, was arrested Monday on a charge of evading arrest or detention. · ESTHER MEJIA, 26, was arrested Monday by DPS

on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

NORMAN HARRIS, M.D.

## **OBSTETRICS-GYNECOLOGY**

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## **Bulletin board**

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

· Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628. · Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

· A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.

· Master Gardeners orientation meeting at 6:30 p.m. Call 264-2236 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

· Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

· Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

· Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

· Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

· Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club. • Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in

the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St. · Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park opens. Admission is free and donations are accepted.

**THURSDAY** 

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

· Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet

· Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-

· Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels. American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.

## Correction

In the Dec. 11-12 edition of the Herald's Public Records, a marriage license was listed for Christopher Wayne Clanton, who's last name should have read Claxton.

## Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday

Winning numbers drawn: 2-12-31-33. Bonus Ball: 21. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$625,000.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 10-20-29-31-33. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$39,169. Winning tickets sold in: Laredo. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-8-5

## Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Light and variable winds in the evening becoming south 5 to 10 mph after midnight.

Wednesday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Wednesday night - Mostly clear. Lows near 30. South winds 5 to 10 mph in the evening shifting to the

northwest after midnight. Thursday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. North winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday night - Partly cloudy. Lows near 30. Friday - Partly cloudy. Highs near 50. Friday night - Partly cloudy. Lows near 30. Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Saturday night - Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Sunday - Partly cloudy. Highs near 60. Sunday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

# **SPRING**

www.bigspringherald.com Reflecting A Proud Community

Monday - Partly cloudy. Highs near 60.

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Susanne Reed John A. Moseley

.Ext. 240

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#### LANDFILL

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that was anything but the norm for West Texas cities and coun-

"We called Glasscock County. and they do run the survey there," said Thomas. "Martin County participates, but there's is a 50/50 deal and they don't charge the county residents for dumping. In all of the other surrounding counties the landfills are all city owned."

"The city does a wonderful job with the landfill. I just don't want Howard County to be the unique county participating in a landfill and it's not the usual."

the city Todd Darden said the landfills in those counties were Type 4 landfills, which provided for much different restrictions than the municipal landfill, which is a Type 1 facility.

Darden told commissioners the space in the current landfill cell being used has approximately four years left before it reaches its capacity, and if a recent modification the city has asked for from the state is approved, a total of seven years

"After either 2015 or 2018, depending on whether or not the state approves the modification, we still have 30 years from that date to final-out that landfill," said Darden. "That's the complete site. Somewhere

Director of Public Works for around 2007 or 2008 we're going to have to start looking at a new site."

> The new cell Darden said the city is looking at opening at the current location should provide approximately seven years of service, he said. And although it doesn't have to be permitted because of existing permits at the site, it will cost the city \$1.7 million to open, bringing the total cost to transition from the current cell to a new one to \$3.2 million over the next four to seven years.

City Secretary Peggy Walker said the revised version of the contract the commissioners signed Monday will have to be approved by the city council before it can go into effect.

agrees to own the landfill jointly with Howard County and "maintain and operate" the facility, in addition to maintaining a landfill closure and post-closure maintenance fund.

According to the document, the county agrees to pay the city \$44,753 in fiscal year 2004-2005 for its portion of the operation and maintenance costs. The amount will be adjusted annually, increasing decreasing by 1 percent for each point increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index.

The county also agrees to pay the city \$22,092 each fiscal year for its part of the landfill closure and post-closure maintenance fund.

While the new contract is e-mail In the contract, the city very similar to past contracts citydesk@bigspringherald.com

between the city and county concerning the landfill, one of the major differences is the lack of a clause disallowing a fee for county residents who use the facility. That is excepted to result in a \$5 gate fee to help finance the closure of the existing cell, and eventually the opening of a new one.

The city council is expected to consider the contract/tonight during its regular meeting. which will get under way at 5:30 p.m. today in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by

#### **GOLD**

Continued from Page 1A

scored high enough on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test before graduation that they were exempt from the entrance test that most college freshmen must take, the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP), Johnson added.

Finally, high school students from Forsan were recognized for their choice of graduation plans. At least half of the students there completed one of the two most rigorous plans - recommended or distinguished, rather than pursuing the basic plan.

Elbow Elementary students were also given GPAs for three areas based on their TAKS scores in reading, math and writing. More than 20 percent of students scored high enough in the three areas to receive "commended" designation.

Coahoma received a district-wide GPA for the number of high school students who chose the more rigorous graduation plans, while the elementary school also earned gold for its writing scores. "We're very pleased

that,' with said Superintendent of Coahoma Independent School District Kingston. "We've been working on writing skills for a long time and we've had these good scores for several years. We're very

pleased to get some recognition."

Big Spring received GPAs for three elementary campuses. Kentwood, Marcy and Washington earned gold for the reading scores of students, and Kentwood also got the nod for students' writing scores.

"These are above and beyond," said Michael Downes, superintendent of the Big Spring Independent School District. "We're always excited about receiving

performance acknowledgments."

While all five local elementary schools earned recognized status this year, the GPAs, which went to three campuses, are a different method of acknowledging student achievement, Downes said. "All of these are meant to be accolades."

Johnson said Gold Forsan, the Performance Acknowledgments were a real boost. The school was notified earlier this year that its ranking fell from "exemplary" to "academically acceptable," apparently due to the performance of a small group of students in science.

"We were quite upset when the accountability ratings came out," Johnson said. "We felt the performance of a small group brought the whole district down. Now we can point to these areas that show the excellent performance of our stu-

dents."

#### **PETERSON**

Continued from Page 1A

Peterson did not wear his emotions on his sleeve. But juror Richelle Nice ABC's told "Good Morning America" on Tuesday that she noticed Peterson becoming emotional during the penalty phase of his trial.

"Is it just that he doesn't show emotion for Laci and Conner?" she asked. She said her thoughts

were with Laci Peterson and the fetus she carried. "They can rest in peace," she said. "Justice

was done." A cheer went up outside the courthouse Monday as the jury announced its decision after 11-1/2 hours of deliberations over three days. The same six men and six women who convicted Peterson of murdering his pregnant wife recommended that he be sent to death row at San Quentin State Prison outside San Francisco, the infamous lockup overlooking the bay where Laci Peterson's body was discarded.

Inside, Laci Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, cried quietly — her lips quivering after the verdict was read. Scott Peterson's Jackie, showed no apparent emotion.

Three jurors said at a let go of the fact that the sense to me. At all." ashore a few miles from where Scott Peterson claimed he went fishing the day she disappeared. Juror Greg Beratlis said the jury was convinced of

"many, many things," but added: "Those bodies were found in the same place. That played in my mind, over and over."

Most unsettling, the jurors seemed to agree, was Peterson's dispassionate demeanor. "He has no remorse,"

juror Michael Belmessieri said Tuesday on CBS "The Early Show."

"He lost his wife and his mother, child — it didn't seem to faze him," said juror Steve Cardosi. while that was going on ... press conference after- he is romancing a girlward that they couldn't friend. That doesn't make

bodies of Laci Peterson Peterson did not testify and her fetus had washed 'during' the six-month

"Anything — a plea for his life, or just his opinion on everything that went on in the last two years. ... I would have liked to have heard his

voice on that," Beratlis said.

Nice even took issue with Peterson's manner Monday in the moments before the sentence was read, chatting casually with his attorneys. "Today — the giggles at the table," she said. "Loud and clear."

Peterson was convicted Nov. 12 of one count of first-degree murder in the death of Laci, and one count of second-degree murder for the killing of her eight-month old fetus. The jury had two options in deciding the 32-year-old former fertilizer salesman's fate: life in prison without marole or death

by injection.

Alfred Judge Delucchi will formally sentence Peterson on Feb. 25. The judge will have the option of reducing the sentence to life, but such a move is highly unlikely. Peterson still might not be executed for decades and it can take years for even the first phase of the appeals process to begin. Since California brought back capital punishment in 1978, only 10 executions have been carried

out. The state's clogged death row houses 641 prisoners.

In a brief news conference after the verdict. defense attorney Mark Geragos said he was "very disappointed.

MYERS & SMITH **FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

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## **INTEREST**

Continued from Page 1A

final numbers this morning concerning how the final transaction comes

out. "The total debt-service savings to the county over the life of the refund issue is \$88,175. Which came out to about \$8,800 a year in savings by refunding those bonds at a lower interest rate."

Commissioner Jerry

**Benny Boyd** Chevy · Chrysler · Dodge · Jeep GMC · Pontiac · Buick · Cadillac 1611 N. Lubbock Hwy. Lamesa, TX 866-236-2693

Kilgore said he believes 7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail the savings will help the

guilt

Peterson's

"We've been looking at the bonds and watching the rates really closely for several years because the interest rates were so much lower," Kilgore. "We did this at the first available chance. It's going to save us nearly \$9,000 a year, so it's certainly going to help."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

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#### **BIG SPRING** SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BS Symphony Orchestra & Chorus Midland-Odessa Symphony Chorale DR. KEITH GRAUMANN, CONDUCTING

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**Ticket Locations:** 

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Single tickets: Ad \$10 Sen. \$8 Stud. \$5 Book of four: Ad \$35 Sen. \$30 Stud. \$15

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FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed

John A. Moselev Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

OUR VIEWS

# Share the magic at Big Spring's **Festival of Lights**

Thile workers may still be in the process of putting the finishing touch to their displays, there's little doubt the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park will once again be a major attraction for Big Spring during the Christmas season.

The giant poinsettias that line the Comanche Trail Lake dam are among the most striking displays, but there's much, much more for visitors to the park each night during the festival.

Poinsettias, arranged around and reflected in the waters of the historic Big Spring and those lining the dam along U.S. 87 grab the eye, but they are just a few of the attractions at this year's new and improved Festival of Lights.

This year, businesses, civic groups and individuals have again been invited to take part in decorating for the festival and they've come through with even more magnificent efforts than they did a year ago.

The festival begins Wednesday night and

will continue through Dec. 31.

Be sure to take a few moments this holiday season, pack up the family or a few friends and take a tour through the park and enjoy the almost magical display volunteers have created.

We're convinced you'll be pleased with what you see and glad you took the time.

#### HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opin-

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- · In person at 710 Scurry St. · By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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- 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

Dear Lord, we cannot erase yesterday, but we can take our mistakes to You and do better today.

## Beware the human encyclopedia

Editors note: Roger Simon is on vacation. The following column was originally published in . February 1997.

am sure you remember my friend Jack, the man who knows a little about every-L thing, though not a lot about any one thing.

This means that Jack is not an expert, but a human encyclopedia and an invaluable resource if you are on deadline, say, and can't remember the size of Finland (130,119 square miles) or where Herbert Hoover was born (West Branch, Iowa).



SIMON

The only problem. with Jack is that he likes to give answers to questions you never

I called him the other day, for instance, to find out how old Robert Redford is, and Jack replied: "Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon played the roles of Walter Burns and Hildy Johnson in the 1974 version of the 'Front Page,' but who played the roles in the original 1930 film by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur?"

Uh, Robert Redford? I said. "No, you dummy!" he yelled. "It was Adolphe Menjou and Pat O'Brien. It was also remade in 1940 with Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell. Mae Clarke plays the prostitute in that version, but is more famous for taking a grapefruit in the face from James Cagney in the 1931 classic 'Public Enemy.

What does this have to do with Robert Redford? I asked.

"Hey," Jack said, "two Americans have been on the presidential ticket five times each. Both were victorious in four elections and lost one. Who were they?

Harold Stassen and, uh, don't tell me, I said. Ross Perot!

"You are too dumb to breathe!" Jack screamed. "Franklin Roosevelt was elected president in 1932, 1936, 1940 and 1944, and was

James Cox's running mate in 1920, when Republican Warren G. Harding was elected. Richard Nixon ran unsuccessfully for president in 1960, was victorious in 1968 and 1972 and was Dwight Eisenhower's running mate in 1952 and 1956. George H.W. Bush came close, but was on the national ticket only four times.'

Jack, I said, this is all very fascinating, but I am on deadline and I need to know ...

"You need to know in which film Greta Garbo first speaks and first laughs!" Jack said.

"'Anna Christie' was Garbo's first talkie," Jacks said, "and her first line is: 'Gimme a whiskey. Ginger ale on the side. And don't be stingy, baby.' In 'Ninotchka,' she laughs when Paris playboy Melvyn Douglas falls off his chair in a bistro.'

Why does he fall of a chair in a bistro? I asked.

"That's the spirit!" Jack said. "How about this one: Who is the only speaker of the House to be. elected president of the United States?'

Newt Gingrich? I said. Or is he the first speaker of the House to be voted Most Likely to Commit a Felony?

"Your humor escapes me," Jack said. "It was James K. Polk, though he was not the speaker when elected.'

What a shame, I said. "I don't suppose you would care to know the women in King

Kong's paw?" Jack said. Not unless they are planning to drop by tonight, because I don't have a thing in the house, I said.

"Fay Wray played Ann Darrow in the 1933 version and Jessica Lange in the 1976 version," Jack said. "In the remake, at the end of the film Jessica Lange simply looks bewildered, but in the original, Robert Armstrong concludes with the line. 'It was beauty killed

Fascinating, I yawned. Truly fas-

"Wait, wait," Jack said. "This is a good one: What two U.S. presidents made speeches about their dogs that became part of history?"

It's a trick question, I said. No U.S. president has ever been responsible enough to keep a dog.

"Wrong!" Jack crowed. "Franklin Roosevelt loved his little Fala, and when Republicans accused him of sending a Naval destroyer to pick Fala up when it had been left behind after a visit to the Aleutians. Roosevelt said: 'These Republican leaders have not been content with attacks on me or my wife or on my sons, no, not content with that. They now include my little dog, Fala. Well, of course, I don't resent attacks and my family doesn't resent attacks, but Fala does resent them."

They say if your brain gets overloaded, it can actually explode, I said. I think I read that in Parade magazine.

"And Richard Nixon used his family dog, Checkers, to save his career in 1952," Jack went on. "News reports charged that he kept a gift fund for political purposes, and in a famous televised speech, he defended the fund and insisted there was one gift he was not returning: Checkers.'

Gotta run, Jack, I said. "One last one, one last one," he said. "Which of the following actresses never played in an Alfred Hitchcock film? Tippi Hedren, Kim Novak, Ingrid Bergman, Joan Fontaine or Marilyn Monroe.'

Let's see, I said. Marilyn Monroe played Anthony Perkin's mother in "Psycho" and ...

"Wrong!" Jack said. "Anthony Perkins played Anthony Perkin's mother in 'Psycho.' Marilyn Monroe never played in an Alfred Hitchcock movie! Tippi Hedren played in 'The Birds' and 'Marnie.' Kim Novak played in 'Vertigo.' Ingrid Bergman played in 'Notorious.' Joan Fontaine played in 'Rebecca' and 'Suspicion.' Tippi Hedren, by the way, is the mother of Melanie Griffith.'

I think I knew that, I said. "I doubt it," Jack said, and he hung up.

Which is the way it is with human encyclopedias: They know a lot, but they are very, very touchy.

#### ADDRESSES

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 JOHN CORNYN U.S. Senator

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Displaying arro-

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While this conduct contradicts

Bush's campaign posture, there is

no mystery about what is going

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Buttiglione, just as the leftist-dom-

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can give the back of his hand to

"Old Europe," at the cost of alien-

ating the traditional Catholic con-

on. The re-elected president is

"morally revolting."

 RANDY NEUGEBAUER U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District)

the beast."

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# Inside report: Bush's closed door

to seat him as a commissioner. occo Buttiglione, the For an old reporter, this incident internationally esteemed brings back memories of nearly 30 Italian philosopher and years ago, when President Gerald statesman, visited R. Ford snubbed Russian novelist Washington last week. Doors were and dissenter Alexander opened to this Italian cabinet Solzhenitsyn, the symbol of resismember and devout Catholic as a tance to Soviet tyranny. Then, as courageous exemplar now, the White House did not of conservative deign to explain itself, but every-Western ideals one knew Ford stayed away from against the European Solzhenitsyn because Soviet leader Union's leftist ruling Leonid Brezhnev warned that establishment. But detente was at risk. In cases sepaone door was closed rated by three decades, a to Buttiglione. It was Republican president was down-George W. Bush's grading values and upgrading ROBERT realpolitik.

The usually helpful Goeglein told me brusquely he could say nothing. Press secretary Scott McClellan said the Italian's treatment "should not be viewed as a friends in hostile Western Europe sign of disrespect. The president an appointment with President had a heavy schedule, and it is Bush or a senior aide. There was rare when he meets with a minisno pretense of an overly tight ter separate from a prime minisschedule. It was just plain "no!" ter." Sen. Rick Santorum, chair-Tim Goeglein, Bush's staff liaison man of the Senate Republican with Catholics, told Buttiglione's Conference, is seen as a rock by entourage there was nothing he fellow Catholics. An Acton could do. Father Robert A. Sirico, Institute award to Buttiglione was president of the Acton Institute, presented in Santorum's Capitol based in Grand Rapids, Mich. Hill office last week with the sena-(sponsoring the visit), informed tor present. But when I sought the White House the snub was Santorum's comment about the White House snub, he apparently

> he could not be reached. The guess among well-placed administration sources is that Bush has no idea who Rocco Buttiglione is. The decision to shut him out appears likely to have come not from the White House political office, but from the National Security Council staff and the State Department, where the warmth toward the EU

approaches John Kerry's.

disappeared, because a staffer said

Although Bush likely could plead ignorance of Buttiglione (a defense denied Ford in explaining his treatment of Solzhenitsyn), that would not be an appealing posture for the president. Catholics all over the world know Buttiglione and recognize him as a figure of towering rectitude, whose treatment by the dominant European left is a global outrage. The EU parliament refused to accept him as justice minister on the 25-member European Commission, and his name was withdrawn. The only constitutional reasons

for rejecting Buttiglione would have been incompetence or immorality, and neither charge applied. He told me last week that he failed the EU test on four grounds: He serves in the cabinet of conservative Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi; he is a traditional Catholic; he follows the course of conservative Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger; he is a friend of the United States (called a "crypto-American" inside the EU). "Any one of these would be enough to reject me," he said. It is hard to tell whether anti-

Americanism or anti-Catholicism runs deeper in Europe's corridors of power. In The Weekly Standard, Christopher Caldwell wrote that what was done to Buttiglione looked "like a bunch of progressives gathering round the dead horse that is European Christianity and giving it a few joyous kicks." At the Vatican, Cardinal Renato Martino called the EU parliament's interrogation of Buttiglione a "secular inquisition." The White House last week gave its tacit approval.

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## WORLD BRIEFS

Trials of former Iraqi regime members to begin next week: Interim PM

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - War crimes trials against Iraq's former Baath Party leaders will begin next week, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Tuesday. He didn't say whether Saddam Hussein would be among them.

Many members of Iraq's former regime have been in jail for more than a year, and few have been able to meet with counsel. Saddam's Jordan-based lawyers say they have not seen the former dictator, who was arrested a year ago Monday.

Officials had given conflicting accounts about when the trials would begin. They have also said Saddam might not be the first to be tried.

"I can now tell you clearly and precisely that, God willing, next week the trials of the symbols of the former regime will start, one by one so that justice can take its path in Iraq," Allawi told Iraq's interim National Council, without saying who would be

#### Insurgents hit Baghdad's Green Zone with second suicide attack in two days

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A suicide car bomber killed seven people when he struck a checkpoint at Baghdad's Green Zone early Tuesday, the second attack in two days at the district that houses Iraq's interim government and the U.S. Embassy, officials

In western Iraq, two U.S. Marines were killed in action, the military said Tuesday, bringing the number of Marines killed in the region over three days to

A military statement said the two Marines were assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and died Monday "while conducting security and stabilization operations" in the vast Anbar province west of Baghdad, which includes the battleground cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

Seven other Marines died in action Sunday in Anbar and a 10th was killed on Saturday. The U.S. military did not provide details of their death, but they brought to nearly 1,300 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the invasion in March

As insurgents pressed forward with attacks ahead of next month's elections, the country's interim president Ghazi al-Yawer told British Broadcasting Corp. radio, that "as soon as we have efficient security forces ... we can see the beginning of the withdrawal of forces from our friends and partners and I think it doesn't take years, it will take months."

Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. Richard Myers, arrived Tuesday in Iraq for a morale boosting visit to the troops. U.S. celebrities, including actor Robin Williams, former Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway and sportscaster Leeann Tweeden, accompanied him:

#### Palestinian leader Abbas

calls for end of armed uprising

JERUSALEM (AP) — The armed uprising against Israel is a mistake and must end, interim Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said in an interview published Tuesday, signaling his determination to change direction after Yasser Arafat's death.

Palestinian militants have enjoyed broad support among Palestinians during more than four years of conflict with Israel. Abbas' affirmation of a somewhat unpopular view comes at the height of his campaign for Palestinian Authority president.

Abbas is the front-runner in the Jan. 9 election to succeed Arafat as Palestinian Authority president. Abbas, a pragmatist, has the support of Israel and the international community.

While Arafat was still alive, Abbas told associates in closed-door meetings that he felt the uprising was a mistake, but rarely spoke out in public. When Abbas criticized the armed uprising during the launch of the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan in 2003, he drew sharp condemnation at home.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper Asharq al-Awsat published Tuesday, Abbas said Palestinians should resist Israeli occupation without resorting to violence.

It is important to "keep the uprising away from arms because the uprising is a legitimate right of the people to express their rejection of the occupation by popular and social means," Abbas said.

'Using the weapons was harmful and has got to stop," Abbas said, referring to shootings and bombings by Palestinian militants that have killed hundreds of Israelis since September 2000.

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## Report: Medicare payment errors totaled nearly \$20 billion last year

By MARK SHERMAN

**Associated Press Writer** WASHINGTON

Medicare-wants to cut the rate of questionable payments by more than half, to 4 percent, by 2008, administrator McClellan says.

"The main objective here is to pay it right," McClellan said Monday, the day Medicare reported that private companies that process health claims from its beneficiaries made nearly \$20 billion in erroneous or questionable payments last year, an error rate of 9.3 percent.

That performance was a slight improvement over the previous year.

The error rate measures claims that were paid despite being medically unnecessary, inadequate-

ly documented or improp-said. instances. response.

alleged fraud, McClellan documentation. said.

reviews and other quality agency achieve the 4 percent goal, he said.

Medicare, the govern-Americans, contracts

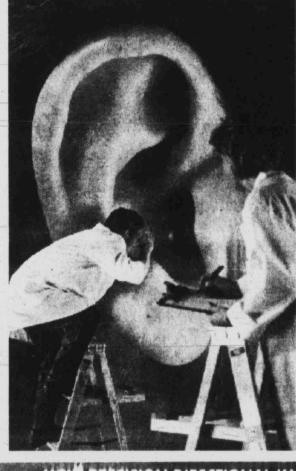
erly coded. In some Last year, Medicare "With an improper pay-Medicare reported the error rate as ment amount of nearly asked health care 5.8 percent, but that fig- \$20 billion and an error providers for medical ure had been adjusted to rate approaching double records to back up their factor out a high propor- digits, there is clearly an claims and got no tion of claims for which unacceptable problem the health care provider here." The survey does not did not respond to document instances of Medicare's request for

The unadjusted rate was More extensive payment 9.8 percent, using the same criteria that procontrols will help the duced this year's 9.3 percent rate. Medicare said it aban-

doned the adjustment ment health program for because its analysis was older and disabled larger and more detailed. Sen. Charles Grassley, with private insurers to R-Iowa, who sharply critipay more than 1 billion cized last year's adjustclaims each year. ment, said Monday the Monday's report was public is getting a more based on a survey of complete picture in the 160,000 claims, Medicare new report.

Still, Grassley said,





# Hearing Problems?

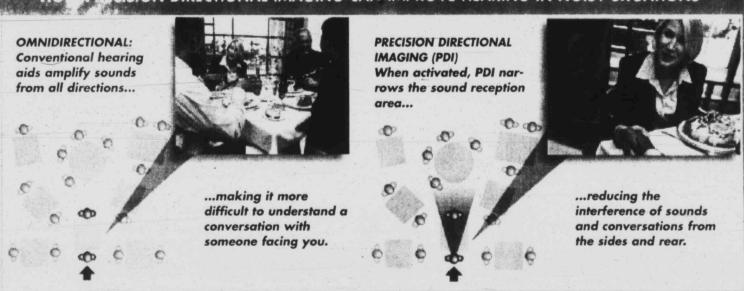
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BIG SPRING

Tuesday,

## Trying to make sense of something that makes no sense

s I sit down to write my column this week. I'm finding it kind of hard to muster any humor or wit. It's the holiday season, and the hustle and bustle even seems kind of dim right now.

One of my heroes died last week Since I was a kid, with my Chuck Taylors hanging open and

my jeans

ripped just

**THOMAS IENKINS** 

right - I bet if you try real hard, you can remember those days in spite of yourself Darrell Abbott was one of my guitar heroes.

Of course, if you had called him "Mr. Abbott" back then, I would have probably looked at you cross-eyed. To those of us who played the guitar, especially in the metal circles, he was "Dimebag Darrell," or just "Dime."

Before you jump up and down and point your finger at his nickname, understand one thing... I have no idea how he got it, and for the most part, I don't really care. His nickname wasn't what got my attention. It was his sound. It was the way he attacked the guitar from some left field angle, coaxing sounds out of it I had never heard before. It was magic, plain and simple.

For those of us that live in caves and still beat our food to death with a big stick, here's the tall and skinny of what happened. While playing a gig at a small club in Columbus, Ohio, had a gun. Dime was shot five to six times at point blank range by a deranged man who climbed onto the stage. Five people died that night, including the shooter, who was finally shot down by a police officer.

There are plenty of other details, theories and rumors out there and it seems like the media is spitting them out faster than the public can eat them up. Fans of Damageplan, the band Dime was playing with when he was killed, are chomping at the bit to tell what they saw and heard and I suppose that's their right.

Taking a step back from the whole situa tion, I have to ask myself some pretty hard questions. The hardest, of course, is the most important.

Why is Dimebag Darrell dead?

Theories are already spawning left and right, ranging from his break up with Pantera and bitter fans to some sort of personal grudge between the shooter and Darrell. But we're just muddying the waters so we can try to make sense of something that simply won't make sense. It can't make sense and it never

will. Dime is dead because someone shot him. Why he was shot doesn't real ly matter in the end, although I find myself believing if I just knew why it happened it wouldn't hurt quite as bad. It's a fool's errand. Yet another of my musical heroes, who helped shape the music I enjoy today, is dead because someone who shouldn't have had a gun... well.

My psychology professor once told me we, as a society, make mountains out of molehills because it's the only way we can maintain the illusion we're in control of life. We take the things we can shape and make them a lot bigger than they really are while the big issues slip right under our noses.

Guns are so easy to get in America. It's a step well beyond just frightening. Children are caught with guns in their backpacks and Scooby Doo lunch boxes. No place is immune to it. Not even Big Spring. A recent incident where a small child accidental-Iv shot his infant sister with a shotgun proved

And while we carry the emotional scars of these tragedies, the people that carry the physical scars are left to suffer. And, just as my psychology professor said; the big thing just slips right under our noses.

Maybe — just maybe we need stricter gun control in this country. There, I said it. I'm sure all of my NRA card toting buddies are gonna' love this.

We've done everything to tie guns to America, Old Glory, apple pies, God and mothers. The media, which is probably just as much to blame as the rest of the world, has gone right along with it. Can't have Billy Bob's Gunstore and Ammunition Dump pulling those ads, right? No one is untouched. No one is blameless.

Guns and mothers? If you put the decision of gun control into the hands of the mothers of

this country, they would be nothing more than a sad memory before you could say Smith & Wesson. No one wants to see their child shot, and if they do, then they need mental care in addition to gun control.

Guns and God? Last time I read the Bible, I don't remember reading about Jesus carrying a six-shooter. I don't remember reading about God giving Moses a 12gauge and telling him to go spread the gospel. In fact, I took theology in college and I don't remember reading that in any religion. And don't tell me Jesus didn't carry a gun because they hadn't been invented yet. He was Jesus and I'm pretty sure he could have invented one if he wanted to.

Why do hunters need to have access to armor piercing bullets? Are deer investing in Kevlar these days? Are they trying to tell us something?

Why do hunters need access to AK-47s, the assault rifles that have claimed countless American lives in combat all over the world?

The answer is simple. They don't need those things. They never did and they never will.

I know there are a lot of hunters out there that will get angry when I mention gun control — I've seen several bumper stickers in and around Big Spring that say, "You can have my gun when you pry it from my cold, dead hands" but let's be reasonable. Guns are killing people that shouldn't be killed. If guns were baby cribs, what in the world would we be doing? Think about it. I understand the nation

is divided over gun control and new gun laws, but my point of view is simple. If some whackjob wasn't able to buy a handgun on the street for around \$200 or didn't already have one in his or his parents' closet, I believe Dime would still be alive. He would still be making music. He wouldn't be another name on a cold granite stone in a cemetery.

One of my favorite Pantera songs is titled "Cemetery Gates," and the lyrics seem like the best way to close this out. The world will miss him, but I'm pretty sure musicians all over the world will miss him even more.

"The reverend he turned to me, without a tear in his eyes. It's nothing new for him to see, I didn't ask him why. I will remember, the love our souls had sworn to make. Now I watch the falling rain, all my mind can see now is your face."

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



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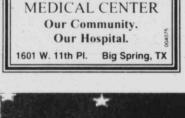
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sounds funny, doesn't it?

up to bat. The pitcher

hurled the ball to her and



# **SOFTBALL-LOVING TURTLE NAMED SNAPP**

was a pretty softball field. It had nice green grass. It had shade trees all around the outside edges.



It had lots of space for people to park their cars. It had wonderful running water in a nearby stream. It had everything.

Snapper lived in that stream and he loved to watch the kids playing softball. He always wanted to play too, but he is a turtle, and turtles don't play softball, or do they? After all, they don't have hands to hold the bat. They can't run very fast.

They can't pitch the ball Let's get on with the story and maybe we'll find out!

"What a beautiful day." Snapper thought as he watch, wishing that he thing! What do you think loved him! woke up that morning. was nice and The warm. birds were chirping, the



were playing tag. "It would be a good day for me to play softball, if only the kids would ask me." Then along came the kids

with their softball and their gloves and their bats.



the wrong way! That's found right! It went straight the fastest little kid couldinto the water. Splash! stream's bank with that base once, and third.

was down there playing, he should do? Did you do? Are you ready to find does Snapper live? Can he out what a turtle can do' swim? Can he swim all in a softball game? It even the way to

the bottom of the stream? The first little kid came After all, he is a turtle!

Snapper dove into the really hard. But, it went down to the bottom and the grabbed it with his teeth n't catch it before it went came crawling up the Now, what will the kids softball in his mouth, all of the pond. It was the They were so glad to have only softball the little that ball back. All of the sure thought so! kids had. What will they little kids loved Snapper

There were a lot of kids do? Ok, here is where after that. Each and every to the batter. What do coming to play today. Snapper makes a lot of time that ball went into you think Snapper could More than Snapper had friends. He saw that the the water, there was do if he played softball? ever seen before! They little kids were upset Snapper ready to go get it. formed two teams and about losing their soft- He did this for years and game. ball. He didn't like it years. And he made new Snapper climbed up onto when the kids were sad! friends each year. He just the bank of the stream to He just had to do some- loved it. And the kids just

Are you thinking that The sun was shining. It too. But, what could he guess what he did? Where Snapper still wasn't playing softball? Well, that wasn't the end of this story. It went on and on. For you see, the first base pad was torn and gone and Snapper told the kids that he would be first base. And he did! Every she whacked that thing water and went straight time that a kid would come running towards softball, him, all he had to do was pull his legs and his head towards the stream! Even and swam back to the top inside his shell and he in no time at all. When he made a perfect first base. He even played second

Now, do you think do? The softball sunk of the little kids started Snapper was really playright down to the bottom clapping their hands. ing softball? All of the kids in the neighborhood

So did Snapper!

nowi piece of adv parents - I brate the bir precious bat purchase of ture and car Our

daughter was born, and subsequently, we bought new living room and dining room furnishings. We also had new carpet laid.

### Webb rei

Keep Wel 2005 is the t Webb Air Reunion, se 2005 at the F Museum. Plans are lated now f

and all Wel Base alumni ed persons a attend. Contact I 264-1999 for mation or

Box 2925, B more inforn Also, u schedules v on the www.hanga um.com. Or

hangar25@c write reuni ject line.

## Do you

Beginnin and contin the 1970s, B a country jamboree Municipal on at leas basis.

A feature these ja planned for tion of th Herald in J The edit

individuals ber the ja will share ence and whether th member or pant or a enjoyed the Also, any from thes

being soug Please co editor at 236 or bigspringl you have tion abo borees.

## Life! pu

Wedding, and announce published Spring H end editio within th the event. Birth a with or w are also of charge. All pho must be c for repre poses., Photogr meetings

> in the He informati in the pho tiified. All arti for style and must nection and Howa Articles Herald's each W weekend cation.

> gathering

accepted

Call 263 articles bigspring

## How to avoid some of the mistakes made by new parents

nowing what I do now, I can offer this valuable piece of advice to all new parents - Don't celebrate the birth of your precious baby with the purchase of new furniture and carpet.

Our daughter was born, and subsequently, we bought new living room and dining room furnishings. We also had new carpet laid.



CHRISTY ALTON

Mistake. Big mistake. Fast forward 10 years. I totally rue the day I picked out a damask sofa and expensive table and chairs.

If only someone had cautioned me, not that I would have listened.

I'm advising readers everywhere, now, based upon my experience, that

they should run, if not leap and gallop to the superstore and buy blowup, plastic kiddie chairs and loveseats with which to grace their living rooms.

Just a barn wood dinette set, complete with mismatched chairs from yard sales is good enough for the dining room. Non-breakable

dishes are best and plastic throw away cups are a must.

Carpet is just plain scary. Mine, once a beautiful color, is now black or brown in spots and faded and flat in others.

Rugs harbor spillage and pillage and can be quite unforgiving.

On good days I want to

rip it up. On bad days, rip and burn it up.

New moms and dads, heed the voice, of observation.

If the deed has already been done, have a laminator come in and coat everything with thick, unpenetrable plastic.

If not, wait. Life's too short to have

to cover up your beautiful divan with a comforter and shampooing flooring causes backache pain.

Christy Alton works full time, is a mother of two and married to her park ranger, Ron. She writes this column for the Big Spring Herald.

### Webb reunion set

Keep Webb Alive in 2005 is the theme for the Webb Air Force Base Reunion, set for October 2005 at the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

Plans are being formulated now for the event and all Webb Air Force Base alumni and interested persons are invited to attend.

Contact Hangar 25 at 264-1999 for more information or mail to P.O. Box 2925, Big Spring, for more information.

Also, updates and schedules will be posted on the Web site, www.hangar25airmuseum.com.

Or hangar25@crcom.net and write reunion in the subject line.

#### Do you recall...

Beginning in the 1950s and continuing through the 1970s, Big Spring had a country and western jamboree innithe Municipal Auditorium on at least a monthly basis.

A feature story about jamborees these planned for the life! section of the Big Spring Herald in January.

The editor is seeking individuals who remember the jamborees and will share their experience and memories, whether they be a band member or other participant or a spectator who enjoyed the music.

Also, any photographs from these events are being sought.

Please contact the life! editor at 263-7331, ext. 236 or e-mail life@ bigspringherald.com if you have any information about the jamborees.

#### Life! publications

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Wedding, anniversary engagement announcements published in the Big Spring Herald's weekend edition at no charge within three months of the event.

Birth announcements with or without photos are also published free of charge.

All photos submitted must be of good quality for reproduction purposes.

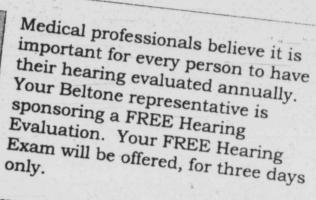
Photographs of events, meetings and other gatherings are also accepted and published in the Herald with the information and people in the photographs iden-

tiified. All articles are edited for style and content and must contain a connection to Big Spring and Howard County.

Articles are due in the Herald's office by noon each Wednesday for weekend edition publication.

Call 263-7331 or submit articles to life@ bigspringherald.com

# Beltone Hear EVERY WORD this Holiday Season!



Otoscope technology, a Beltone representative inspects the inside of your ear canal. This procedure is completely painless. In addition, we offer an audiometric hearing evaluation, to further identify and hearing difficulties. THE ENTIRE EVALUATION IS FREE, AND YOU ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION. We believe in making a difference in our community.

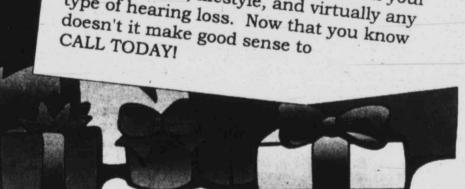
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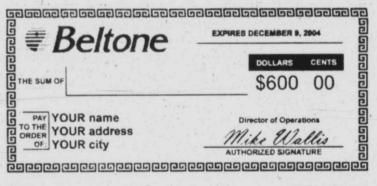




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# \* Shoppin' Robin \* \*

Christmas is steadily approaching and the dynamic duo of the Big Spring Herald may be seen fluttering in and out of local stores like moths to a flame, taking advantage of Koliday sales or at least taking advantage of the excuse to shop.

Topics for this week's column are collectibles, tents, hand-painted Santa Clauses, spas, hummingbird feeders, dishware, cookbooks and children's formal wear.

Susanne: When my children were small, I remember throwing blankets over their bunk beds to make tents. Can you believe they actually make bunk bed tents now?

Lyndel: That's a neat idea. Where can you find

Susanne: At Branham Furniture, 2004 W. Fourth St. The store has one that looks like a fire truck. It comes with two twin mattresses and even has book shelves built into each end. Another version is fashioned after a playground with a slide. It also has a bookshelf. These beds are colorful and so cute.

Lyndel: I bet you wished you had something like



Wind chimes found at Cathy's Collectibles, 1107 11th Place.

that when your kids were Clauses. still children.

met Dixie McClellan, our unique wood figurines news editor's wife? Did and sells them nationally. you know she has a very creative side to her?

Cathy's Collectibles at gives artwork. ture of Jesus set against a Nannie's Attic. blue background is should check her work



Branham Furniture, 2004 W. Fourth St.

Susanne: Lyndel you

sure missed out Saturday

when some of the Herald

employees volunteered to

get a display ready for the

annual Trail of Lights at

Comanche Trail Park. My

back is sure tired from

hanging all those lights. I

just wanted to take a long

soak, which got me think-

ing, how would you like

Lyndel: Why? You buy-

Susanne: Ah, not yet.

But Ponderosa Nursery

has Caldera Spas. The

Kauai seats two, has 27

jets and holds 200 gallons.

It comes with a cover,

steps, an Eco-tech cabi-

net, circulation pump and

heating system, Monarch

CD ozone-ready, and foam

insulation. Ahhh, would-

n't it be nice to have a

long soak in one of those.

to own your own spa?



A Texas-shaped hummingbird feeder is available at Ponderosa Nursery,

plethora of items at the store. You can find anything from specialty knives to glassware, flatware, autographed, nictures, candles and even collectable cookie jars. And speaking of creative

ity, did you know Ellen Barefoot of Nannie's Attic, 117 Main St., has a huge selection of handpainted Santa Clauses?

These attractive figurines are molded from pecan shells and resin and Ms. Barefoot painstakingly paints each one, down to the very last detail. She has Santa Clauses for each month and some representing each state. Santa Claus riding a cow, big Santa Clauses and small Santa

In fact, she custom Hey, Susanne, you've paints all types of these

Nannie's Attic also offers a ton of other col-I was walking through lectibles and Ellen even scrapbooking 1107 11th Place the other lessons. In fact, the store's day and came across her slogan is old, new, used, She does borrowed, not stolen scrolling. Her wood pic- you can find it at

Susanne: I've been absolutely gorgeous. You meaning to take a trip down town because I heard Ellen has decorat-In fact she is just one of ed her store front for



A hand-painted Santa Claus available at Nannie's Attic, 117 Main St.



Nursery, 2300 Goliad.

Enough relaxing.

If you still haven't decorated your home for the holidays, Ponderosa also has fresh wreaths and garland to decorate mantels and stairways. They smell wonderful... sure beats plastic.

Hey, Lyndel, don't your parents have hummingbird feeders?

Lyndel: Yea, why? Susanne: Well, while I was at Ponderosa, I noticed a cute Texasshaped hummingbird feeder. Some people are just so creative.

On the way out, Donna reminded me that now is the right time of year to plant trees. Ponderosa Nursery is located at 2300 Goliad St.

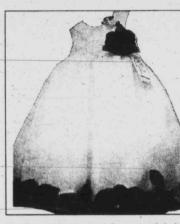
Lyndel: Mmm,

Christmas present. Hey, Susanne, you know one thing I hate about not having kids is that I don't get to buy those cute little outfits. I popped into Jazzy's located inside the Big Spring Mall and just fell in love with the formal wear the shop has on

The store offers several lines, such as U.S. Angles and Gallery. Oooh, wouldn't that be so cute on a little boy or girl.

Susanne: I was at the mall the other day and didn't see those. I guess, I'll just need to take a trip back. Like I a need an excuse.

I did notice a gorgeous set of red Fleu Rouge dishware that Beall's had



A formal dress for a girl is available at Jazzy's in the Big Spring Mall.

in stock. It included a three-piece dip set, a foursection server, a fiveand a pitcher.

Lyndel, are you think-

December 17 • Friday

\*Christmas Pot Luck Party & "Presents" - 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

December 18 · Saturday

December 19 · Sunday

December 20 • Monday

December 21 • Tuesday

\* Supper Club "Cowboy's" - 5:30 pm

\* R.S.V.P. Christmas Council Party Gale's - 3:00 pm

December 22 • Wednesday

\* Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

Stretch & Tone - 11:00 am

\* Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am

December 24 • Friday

\* Mall Walking - 8:00 am

December 23 • Thursday

December 25 • Saturday

December 26 • Sunday

December 27 • Monday

\* Senior Circle Office Closed

· Senior Circle Office Closed

December 28 • Tuesday

\* No Sit & Be Fit Today!

\* Mall Walking - 8:00 am

Open

Christmas Holiday - Merry Christmas!

\* Games - 2:00 pm

\* Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm

\* Mall Walking - 8:00 am



This salad serving set is available at Beall's Department Store in the Big Spring Mall.

ing about buying me a Christmas present? (Hint, hint).

They also have a collection of cookbooks. "The Cake Doctor" by Anne Byrn helps you create more than 150 luscious desserts with honest-togoodness from-scratch taste.

Another shopper was telling me it is great for those who are involved in a lot of bake sales. "The Dinner Doctor" by the same author looked like a good idea for family cooks. And they have the popular "Chicken on a Beer Can" and 74 other offbeat recipes for the grill by Steven Raichlen.

Beall's also has a selection of stocking stuffers by Totes in the men's department. The heated auto mug plugs into your cigarette lighter. There are also digital tire gauges, whistle key finders, coin sorters, air compressors and a fisherman tool set.

Lyndel: Don't you love Christmas, so many shops stay open way past 6 p.m. which gives us more time piece salad server, plates to do what we love shop.

Well, let's get at it.

#### Scenic Mountain Medical Center invites you to join our... **December 2004**

#### December 6 • Monday

Games - 2:00 pm Sit & Be fit - 4:00 pm

#### December 7 • Tuesday Mall Walking - 8:00 am

Coffee @ Parkplace - 10:00 am America Heart Association -12 Noon Board Meeting - Brew Pub

Dinner & A Movie "Furr's - 5:30 am

#### December 8 • Wednesday

\* Stretch & Tone - 11:00 am Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

December 9 • Thursday \* Mall Walking - 8:00 am

#### Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am

December 10 • Friday

December 11 • Saturday

#### December 12 • Sunday Joseph The Amazing Technicolor

Dream Coat -1:00 pm - MCT (Midland Community Theatre)

#### December 13 • Monday Sit & Be fit - 4:00 pm

December 14 • Tuesday Mall Walking - 8:00 am

Lunch Brunch & Birthdays - 11:30 am - "Hunan's

'Gingerbread House @ Gale's - 6:00 pm

#### Stretch & Tone - 11:00 am Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

December 15 • Wednesday

#### December 16 • Thursday

\* Mall Walking - 8:00 am

Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am -Guest Speaker Dr. Rutledge "Realistic Goals For 2005"

\* Senior Circle Office Closed

December 30 • Thursday

December 29 · Wednesday No Stretch & Tone Today!

Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

#### \* Mall Walking - 8:00 am

#### \* Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am.

### **No Child Birth Classes** In December

\*Anita Cline, 268-4721

Senior Circle Office Hours: Tues. Thurs.

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Free Pregnancy Testing Every Day 9:00 am -6:00 pm OB Department, 2nd Floor, Results In 4 Minutes

Director Of Women's Services

OB Dept., 268-4550

Road To Recovery (Transportation For

LaWanda Ham, 263-7827

Basketball r needed for s

The Crossro is looking for ball officials upcoming sea For more tion, contac

Rodriguez at or 517-0300. The games played in loc such as Big Forsan and and will be fo and HS levels

#### **Booster Club** more Steer g

The Lady Booster Club received a n ment of La Gear. The Boost

carries jacke shirts, long a sleeve T-shir visors, tobog ear warmers. They are offering sw

and T-shirts sizes. For more tion, call Jan at 264-0023 or or Kerry Rod 263-6100.

#### YMCA annot gymnastics The YMCA

hosting its ( gymnastics Friday. The progr consist of ch

all ages and and it will t from 4:30 p.1 p.m. The en munity is w attend. The kidna

gram will 4:30 p.m. to while beginn nastics tak from 5:20 p.1 p.m. The tun sidewinders tions of the will begin at and 6:30 pm tively.

Martinez clo on deal with ANAHEIM Pedro Marti in on a four with the N Mets, and t

themselves

the three-

Red

Young Awa as baseball winter mee ished. Also, the White Sox d Lee to Milv Scott Podse Vizcaino an to be named free-agent were Catcher Mik reached lion, three y

ment Francisco der Esteb agreed to a lion, two year with Anthe hander To finalizeda \$ one-year Florida and Wil Carde \$600,000 on tract III fro Washingto

Expos In awaiting second bas Hernandez

## 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 JH and HS levels.

#### **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 com-munity 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.

#### Martinez closing in on deal with Mets

ANAHEIM, Calif. Pedro Martinez closed in on a four-year deal with the New York Mets, and the Boston Red Sox resigned themselves to losing the three-time Cy Young Award winner as baseball's annual winter meetings fin-

ished.
Also the Chicago
White Sox dealt Carlos
Lee to Milwaukee for Scott Podsednik, Luis Vizcaino and a player to be named, and four free-agent agreements were announced. Catcher Mike Matheny reached a \$10.5 million, three year agreement with San Francisco right-hander Esteban Yan agreed to a \$2.25 million, two year contract with Antheim, right-hander Todd Jones finalizeda \$1.1 million, one-year deal with Florida and outfielder Wil Cordero got a \$600,000 one-year con-tract from the Washington-bound Expos.

h agreement awaiting a physical, second baseman Jose Hernardez agreed to a 1.8 million, one-year helped Marinez pitch loston to its first

brld Series title since

# Howard College welcomes Diddle into coaching family

Special to the HERALD

Howard College officials have announced the hiring of Earl Diddle to head up the Hawk women's basketball program. Coach

Diddle replaces formerhead coach Lorin Miller, w h o recently resigned.

DIDDLE Diddle, an East Liverpool, Ohio, native, comes to Howard from Butler County Community College in El Dorado, Kan., where he a great recruiter national- Sterling, Colo.

served as the head ly and world-wide. women's coach of the BCCC Grizzlies. brings a variety of experiences from various academic levels including high school, junior college, and II and preparation for

Emirates. His 30-plus years of gram," said Adams. coaching has captured him an accumulated lifetime record of 375-247.

Howard College Athletic record. Director Mark Adams

SPRING HERALD

"I have known Coach He Diddle for a good while and coached against him in the past. He is a high energy individual and is well respected by his col-NAIA, NCAA Divisions I leagues throughout the coaching profession. the National Olympic Howard College is very Team for the United Arab fortunate to have Earl lead our women's pro-

The Hawk women's team heads into the holiday break with an 11-5

They will resume play describes Diddle as an January 5-6, participating effective teacher and in the Northeastern coach of the game and as Colorado Classic in

## **Bulldogs roll past former-rival**

· Bulldogettes lose despite 19 points, 12 rebounds from Mendy Morgan

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor COAHOMA - The Bulldogs started strong Monday and recorded their seventh win of the season, while the Bulldogettes suffered another loss on the hardwood Monday. The boys defeated Seagraves, 62-42, while the girl's team lost to its former-district rival, 69-41.

The Bulldogs jumped

one quarter before holding a 31-16 halftime advantage. Coahoma (7-5) outscored Seagraves in the third quarter 20-5, which proved to be enough to capture the victory.

Tyler Fowler hit four 3pointers and led the Bulldogs with 17 points, while Isaac Brewer and Adrian Abrego added 12 and nine points, respectively.

team, which was led in County. The girls will scoring by Darchelle begin at 6:30 p.m., while a 23-8 second quarter p.m.

out to a 19-9 lead after and 20-8 third quarter advantage to defeat the Bulldogettes.

Mendy Morgan led Coahoma with 19 points and 12 rebounds and Lauren Yeater added seven points and six rebounds.

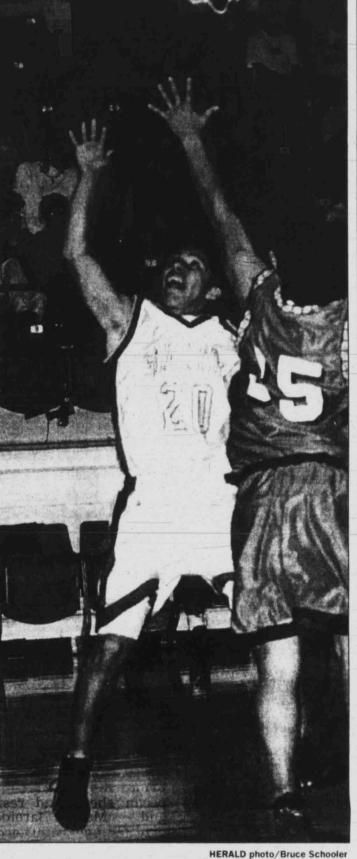
Callie Paige and Sarah Collom pulled down five rebounds, while Sterling Gee added four rebounds and five assists.

Coahoma's next game will take place Friday in The Seagraves girl's Gail against Borden Griffin's 20 points, used the boys tip-off around 8



Right: Big Spring senior Curtis Osburn, middle, receives a handshake and gift from assistant coach Jay Kennedy during the Big Spring football banquet Monday night. Above: Head coach Dwight Butler, far right, speaks about each senior member of the football team. The banquet, which included a dinner, honored the football team, coaches, cheerleaders and booster members. Several awards and presentations were also announced. Regan Creswell won the Academic Award, while Ryan Yeats took home the Antoine Edwards Award.





Stanton junior Matthew Ruiz goes up for a layup during the Hooptown Tournament last weekend. The Buffaloes cruised past Sterling City Monday.

## Stanton finds split with Sterling City

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor STANTON Stanton basketball teams split in action against Sterling City Monday as the boys won, 55-35, and the girls t e a m

37. The Buffaloes used a strong first quarter to defeat

lost, 62-

WASHINGTON Sterling

City at home. They outscored the Eagles 19-5 in the first period before coasting to the victory.

halftime before outscoring Sterling City by four

Sophomore Michael Washington led Stanton (7-6) with 21 points, while Dex Shafer added

The Stanton girls kept the game close through three quarters before Sterling City used a 21-7 fourth quarter advantage to claim the 25point win.

The Lady Buffaloes trailed 26-19 at halftime. Bonnie Kendall led Stanton (6-8) with 10 points, while Amy Jo Bryand and Malorie Cotton pitched in with nine and seven points,

respectively. Both teams will take part in a tournament in Stanton led 33-17 at San Angelo starting Dec.

The Buffaloes take on points in the second Wall it their first game,

## Finley's buzzer beaters help send Mavericks past Bulls

Dallas Mavericks had to make do without Michael Finley for a month as the veteran recovered from an injured ankle.

He's proving that it was worth the wait.

Finley capped his 27point night with a 17-foot jumper with 3.2 seconds left to lead the Dallas Mavericks to a 94-93 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Monday night.

Dirk Nowitzki had 21 points for Dallas, despite a poor-shooting night.

He was 4-of-18 from the floor, but made 13 of 19

CHICAGO (AP) — The from the free throw line. After missing a month with a sprained right ankle, Finley is averaging 24 points in his first three games back.

beaters at the end of the second and third quarters before sinking the gamewinner to give the Mavericks their fourth straight road win.

"We needed him." Nowitzki said. "We needed another shooter back out there who can spread the defense, and make some big shots for us."

Chicago's Ben Gordon

hit a 3-pointer from the turnovers. At the end, I foul, he just gave them corner to give Chicago a 93-91 lead with 12 seconds left. Nowitzki was fouled by Tyson Chandler with 9 seconds remaining, hit He hit 3-point buzzer- the first free throw, but missed the second.

> Dallas' Josh Howard sneaked around Chandler to get the rebound and Chandler knocked the ball out of bounds.

the inbounds, Finley got free and knocked down the shot. Chicago's Kirk Hinrich missed a 15-foot jumper as time expired.

"They made some costly

just got a good look and the ball," said Skiles. let it go," Finley said.

Nowitzki was happy to

escape with a win. "That's definitely one

we should've lost," said Nowitzki. The Bulls thought that

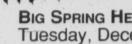
Howard was the last to touch the ball before it went out of bounds and Bulls head coach Scott Skiles was also critical of the officiating throughout the game.

Howard, but Bob Delaney Tyson, so rather call a with 2:21 left.

Howard finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds for Dallas.

Eddy Curry scored 20 points and Luol Deng added 16 for Chicago, who lost to Dallas for the 13th straight time.

Gordon gave the Bulls a 90-84 lead on a 3 with 3:11 left, but Howard responded with a three-point play on the other end and "It probably went off Erick Dampier had a putback basket with 2:21 left felt it was a foul on to cut the lead to 90-89





KRT photo/Michael Perez, Philadelphia Inquirer Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers squeezes past Milwaukee Bucks Desmond Mason (right) and Mike James (left) on a drive to the hoop in the second quarter. The

## **USC's Leinart leads all-Americans**

Sixers defeated the Bucks, 107-101, at Wachovia Center in Philadelphia, Pa. Sunday.

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Southern California is No. 1 in All-Americans, too.

Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart and three of his Southern California teammates made The Associated Press All-America team announced Monday.

Tailback Reggie Bush, defensive lineman Shaun Cody and linebacker Matt quarterback on the first team. Bush, a Heisman finalist, was picked as the \_team. all-purpose player.

the kind of season we've had," said Leinart, in New York on Monday for the Heisman banquet. "It just speaks volumes for our program."

The junior left-hander has passed for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns this season, leading the topranked Trojans (12-0) to a perfect regular season and becoming USC's sixth Heisman trophy winner.

Oklahoma tailback Adrian Peterson, the Heisman runner-up who has run for 1,843 yards. and 15 TDs, is the first AP freshman American since North Carolina cornerback Dre' Bly in 1996.

They'll line up against Leinart and USC in the Orange Bowl Jan. 4.

Oklahoma quarterback Jason White, a first-team All-American and the Heisman Trophy winner

last season, was a third- sive end Marcus Spears, team selection Monday. Utah quarterback Alex Smith was the secondteam QB.

USC also had a thirdteamer in defensive tackle Mike Patterson for a total of five players on the three AP All-America teams, tying Oklahoma for the most.

second-ranked The Sooners (12-0) also put wide receiver Mark Grootegoed joined their Clayton on the second team and defensive end Dan Cody on the third

Big Ten co-champ "It's really a tribute to Michigan (9-2) matched USC for the most firstteam All-Americans with four: wide receiver Braylon Edwards, center David Baas and defensive backs Marlin Jackson and Ernest Shazor.

> Jackson and Edwards were among 20 seniors on the first team, and two of those who decided to delay an NFL career and return to college for their final seasons.

linebacker Texas Derrick Johnson and Florida State tackle Alex Barron both returned to school after being All-Americans last season and ended up repeating.

Georgia defensive end David Pollack, LSU defen-



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Miami cornerback Antrel Rolle and Auburn cornerback Carlos Rogers all considered bypassing their final years of eligibility and went on to become All-Americans.

California running back J.J. Arrington, second in the nation in rushing at 167.7 yards per game, and Purdue wide receiver Taylor Stubblefield, who caught 82 passes 1,014 vards and 15 touchdowns, made the AP first team.

Virginia and Ohio State joined Oklahoma as teams with two first-team All-Americans. Guard Elton Brown and tight end Heath Miller made it from the Cavaliers, and linebacker A.J. Hawk and kicker Mike Nugent were picked from the Buckeyes.

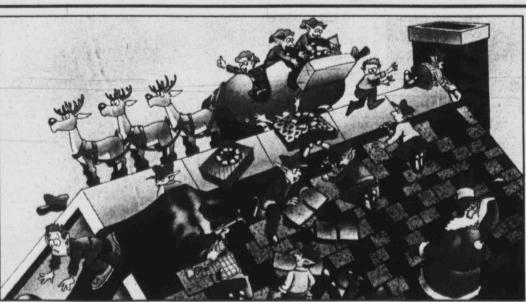
The Big Ten had the most first-teamers with nine. The Pac-10 had five. followed by Southeastern Conference Atlantic Coast Conference with four each. The Big 12 had

three. Cedric Benson of Texas and Auburn's Carnell Williams were the running backs on the second team.

State's Dante Ball Ridgeway also made the second team.

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**Henry Backes** 

# Notre Dame finally finds its 'fourth' man in Pats' Weis

By TOM COYNE

AP Sports Writer

SOUTH BEND, Ind. -Charlie Weis promises to give Notre Dame an arrogant attitude and turn the Fighting Irish into an intelligent, hard-working, nasty football team.

"I hate to include the 'nasty,' but that is part of being a winning football team," Weis said as he was introduced Monday as the new Irish coach.

Weis says his job is to raise expectations and win games.

Simple, but not easy.

Notre Dame hasn't posted back-to-back winning seasons since 1997-98 under Bob Davie. Tough academic standards and a difficult schedule have been blamed for the demise of the nation's most storied football program.

Weis, who will remain as offensive coordinator for the New England Patriots through the end of the season, said he doesn't believe any of that.

"I think that the people who complain about those things are looking for excuses," Weis said.

He wants to instill in the players an arrogance that they can win anywhere against anyone.

"That's the way I have to get the kids thinking, because once they are thinking like that it doeshe said. "You can call any play in the world, on offense or defense, but if the kids know the play is going to work, they are going to make it work. You'll look like a genius, but you have to sell the fact to them. Don't make

Weis replaces Tyrone Willingham, who was fired after going 21-15 in three seasons at Notre Dame. Just days after letting Willingham go, Notre Dame officials flew to Utah to meet with Utes coach Urban Meyer. They returned empty handed and Meyer decided to take an offer from Florida.

excuses."

Athletic director Kevin White said he interviewed five candidates about the job opening, talked contract details with two, but only offered the job to Weis. He said Weis was the most impressive candidate.

"I like his demeanor. I like his passion. I like his body of knowledge," White said. "He's coached a lot of different positions. You put the whole package together, it says what we want to hear."

Weis returns to his alma mater in the midst of what former Irish football player Dave Duerson, now a member of the school's board of trustees, described as great dissension.

That comment came

n't make any difference," several days after the Rev. Edward Malloy, who is retiring in June after 18 years as Notre Dame's president, said he was embarrassed that the school had fired Willingham. Malloy's assistant, Chandra Johnson, the school's highest-profile black administrator; shaved her

head in protest. Malloy and the Rev. John Jenkins, the incoming president, downplayed talk about dissension, saying the hiring of Weis would go a long way in settling things.

"Healing is too strong of a word," Jenkins said. "The board of trustees consists of 50 different people who all have very different opinions. That's not going to stop. You try to achieve the right balance. You're not going to please all the people all of the time."

Just hours after Weis was introduced at Notre Dame, Willingham officially became the new coach at Washington.

Weis said as a former student he understands the "idiosyncrasies" of being in South Bend. New England coach Bill

Belichick praised the job Weis has done for the Patriots.

"He's been a good friend," he said. "I'm happy for him personally, and we all at the Patriots wish him well."

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're not striving to merely get ahead of the ball; you want to sink it in the goal and win the whole game! Don't be surprised if everyone around you is thinking much smaller. Give yourself and your colleagues a pep talk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not fair. While some try hard to capture the attention of an uncaring world, you simply show up, and everyone responds. To claim you've got charisma would be an understatement. You're electro-luminescent!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Others are so friendly and helpful, you'll wonder if they're up to something! No, you're just easy to be nice to. Continue to tip big and bring your winning personality to all you encounter. A new love is among your admiring public.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you dare to speak up, you surprise yourself! More than another opinion from the peanut gallery, you're a self-styled revolutionary force. So express in the moment. Don't let your ideas swim in the sea of afterthoughts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll feel like the parent, especially when people who are supposed to be your superiors act like Angst-ridden, misunderstood teens. When they finally ask for your input, you provide an earnest stream of useful feedback.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're centered, but your team is a mess. It falls on you to pull everyone together, or the group could polarize just when unity is what's required. Reiterate the bottom line, and stress the goal you all have in common.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Clear up misunderstandings so you can build a more solid support system. You're given an uncensored forum to air your grievances, but that doesn't mean you should lose your signature diplomacy. Being nice is still effective.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The only difference between lettuce and garbage is timing. Your own fine timing could land you a piece of the action in a business venture, a killer deal on a big-ticket item, or a date for Saturday

night! SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're determined to be pro-active instead of reactive. Be sure to reinforce that to the quantum computer that lives in your brain! Giving yourself simple tasks to accomplish is your key to success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It feels like your life is in the blender. While you're handling the blur around you, you don't have time to put up with anyone's antics! Draw boundaries, or you risk being inundated with the relationship equivalent of useless junk.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It looks like things are going your way, so back off, and trust the process. Otherwise, your expectations could get so high that your nervous system doesn't know how to react! As the teens say, "Be more chill."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Once again, you're floating in a sea of emotions, but this time, it's in more of a yacht than a lifeboat. It's your reward for investing your feelings in a situation that actually deserves your passionate contribution. © 2004 CREATORS SYNDI-

CATE, INC.

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARIA HOAG, Deceased, were issued on November 23, 2004, in Cause No. P-13206, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to : Jim

Legals

this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Representative,

Attn: Jim Weaver P.O. Box 425 Big Spring, Texas 79721 DATED the 8th day of December,

Attorney for Estate State Bar No.: 19845200 P.O. Drawer 2117 Big Spring, Texas 79721-117 Telephone: (432)263-414 Facsimile: (432)267-2763 #4409 December 14, 2004



"A Visit Fro known as "T Christmas." usually credi He gave this present on C



When what to appear, But a miniatur reindeer;

Tore open the

The moon, on

Gave the luste

sash.

The Mir Learn all ab each of the · Full-page pict

 Signatures · Biographical · Dates of pres • Important ac · Stories about of the preside vote process, and a visit to

each, including posta free number 1-800-59 Address: City ESSIM M

All the follow guess the cor

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Pierre: Ho Ginger: W









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#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Weaver All persons having claims against

Estate of Maria Hoag

C.E. (Mike) Thomas III

BU SPRIM HERALD



By BETTY DEBNAM



"A Visit From St. Nicholas" is better known as "The Night Before Christmas." Dr. Clement Moore is usually credited as being the author. He gave this poem to his children as a present on Christmas Eve in 1822.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,

Tore open the shutters and threw up the

The moon, on the breast of the new-fallen

Gave the luster of midday to objects below.

When what to my wondering eyes should

But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse:

With a little old driver so lively and quick,

I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they

And he whistled, and shouted, and called

'Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer

"On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and

them by name

Blitzen!

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.



While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.

And Mamma in her 'kerchief and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long

When out on the lawn there arose such a



"To the top of the porch, to the top of the

"Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all!" As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane

When they meet with an obstacle, mount to So, up to the housetop the coursers they

With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas

Maria Sharapova is 17 years old and the teen

Attractive, talented and poised, Sharapova

caught everybody's eye when she upset Serena

Native of: Russia

Goldie Goodsport's Report

Supersport: Maria Sharapova

Williams last summer to win the Wimbledon singles title.

tennis legend Martina Navratilova. Maria moved to the

United States, attended a tennis academy in Florida, and

Still a high school student, Sharapova is like many girls

her age. She enjoys fashion, likes to talk on the phone and

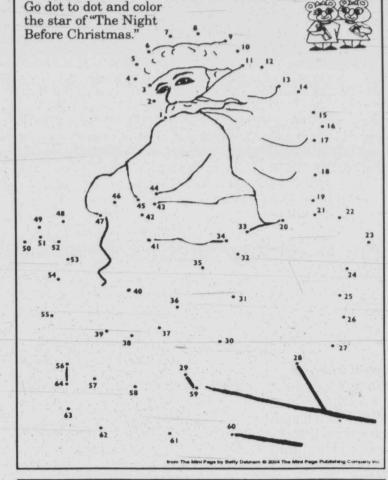
spend time on her computer—and enjoys blasting forehands and backhands.

Born in Russia, Sharapova was discovered at age 8 by

queen of women's tennis.

Born: 4-19-87

became a star with the looks of a model.





You'll be using an electric mixer for this recipe, so be sure to

Glaze:

• 2 cups powdered sugar

Hayley Westenra, 17, is an international

classical artist. After her performance in a

school Christmas play when she was 6, her

teacher said she had perfect pitch. She told Hayley that she should play an instrument,

so her parents signed her up for violin

Hayley's first international album is called "Pure." She

has performed before President Bush, Prime Minister

Hayley was born in Christchurch, New Zealand. She

enjoys swimming, netball, indoor rock-climbing and ballet.

and her younger sister, Sophie, both play the piano and

violin. Her younger brother, Isaac, plays the flute. She

get an adult's help. You'll need: • 2 cups self-rising flour • 2 (15-ounce) cans of plums, drained, pitted and chopped • 2 cups sugar • 1 cup vegetable oil

· 1 teaspoon ground cloves

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

What to do:

1. In a large bowl, mix sugar, oil and spices. 2. Add the eggs one at a time and mix well.

3. Add the flour and plums and mix well.

4. In a small bowl, stir the powdered sugar and lemon juice. Set aside

5. Beat plum mixture with an electric mixer on medium speed for 3 minutes.6. Pour cake mixture into a bundt pan (a pan with a hole in the center).7. Bake in a preheated 325-degree oven for 1 hour 15 minutes.

8. Let cool for 30 minutes, flip onto a plate, and pour on glaze. Serves 12.

**Meet Hayley Westenra** 

lessons. This is when her love of music began.

She also likes reading and listening to music.

Tony Blair and even Queen Elizabeth.

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FUNNY'S All the following jokes have something in common. Can you

guess the common theme or category? Sheldon: What do you call a group of

flying rabbits? Tracy: The hare force!

5€3™ MIGHTY

Kobe: What do you get if you cross a hippo with a bunny? Frank: A hop-opotamus!

The News Hound's Night Before Christmas TRY 'N

Names and words that remind us of the poem "The Night Before

Christmas" are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used more than once.

See if you can find: MERRY, CHRISTMAS, SAINT, NICHOLAS, SNUG, CLEMENT, MOORE, SLEIGH, REINDEER, ELF, STOCKINGS, TOYS, CHIMNEY, TWINKLE, WINK, DIMPLE, PRANCING, SUGARPLUMS,

Mini Spy and her friends are glad to see Santa coming down

their chimney! See if you can find: • word MINI • mushroom

Pierre: How do rabbits fix their hair? Ginger: With hare brushes!

Mini Spy ...

Basset Brown

CHILDREN, DASH, AWAY.

READ THE POEM ALQUD WITH YOUR



And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof, The prancing and pawing of each little

As I drew in my head, and was turning Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.



He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with

ashes and soot: A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler just opening

his pack. His eyes, how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a

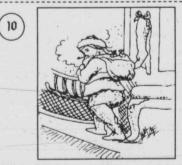


His droll little mouth was drawn up like a And the beard on his chin was as white as

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his

And the smoke, it encircled his head like a

He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.



He was chubby and plump - a right jolly old

And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with

a jerk,



And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose. He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a

And away they all flew like the down of a But I heard him exclaim 'ere he drove out of

"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"

This art is based on a Christmas booklet first published in 1864. The artist was not identified.



PRAGUSHRTNP

bucket

key • fish

comb • lips

QKAWAYENMIHCSBE



Make this Mini Page poem into a book:

1. rold six 8-by-11-inch white pieces of paper in half.

paste each one in order.

3. Staple or punch holes in the fold and tie with red ribbon.

The Mini Page is created and edited by **Betty Debnam** 



2. Cut out each page in the issue along the dotted lines and

Associate Editors
Tali Denton **Lucy Lien** 

Staff Artist **Wendy Daley** 

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#### DENNIS THE MENACE

12 :30 Oprah Winfrey Paid Program

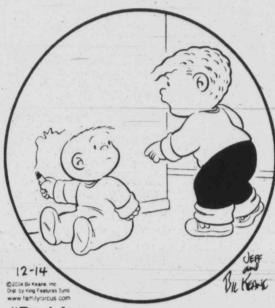


'SO, WHATCHA BEEN DOIN' SINCE LAST CHRISTMASE"

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

Corte-Familia Frasier (CC)

Dharma-Greg The Insider



"Boy! Are you ever gonna get coal in your stocking!"

OVER

RIVER?

TO GRANDMOTHE ..

#### **HAGAR**



A Big Hand for Shipmates

(CC)

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE SPOILING

Lizzie McGuire X-Games

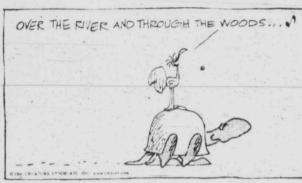
BLONDIE







BC



WIZARD OF ID





**AGNES** 



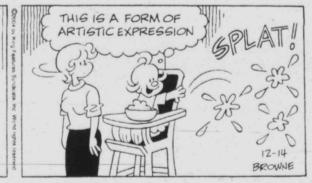
UM .. SORRY ... BY ALL INDICATIONS, YOUR BEAUTY IS STILL SLUMBERING LIKE A CATATONIC BEAR ... IT WILL BE A WHILE BEFORE YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOUR LIFE CHOICE. LIFE CHOICE?

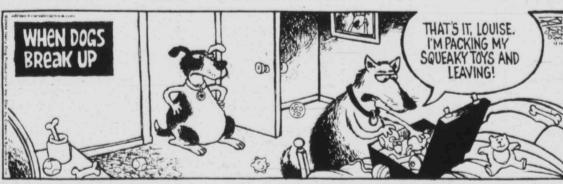


HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST





SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





## This Date In History

#### By the Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 14, the 349th day of 2004. There are 17 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 14, 1799, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his Mount Vernon home at age 67.

On this date:

In 1819, Alabama joined the Union as the 22nd state. In 1861, Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, died in London.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first man to reach the South Pole, beating out an expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

In 1939, the Soviet Union was dropped from the League of Nations.

In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly

voted to establish U.N. headquarters in New York. In 1962, the U.S. space probe Mariner approached Venus, trans-

the planet.

In 1975, six South Moluccan extremists surrendered after holding 23 hostages for 12 days on a train near the Dutch town of Beilen.

mitting information about

In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which it had seized from Syria in 1967.

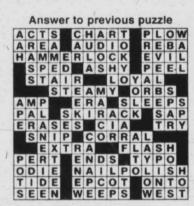
In 1986, the experimental aircraft Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first nonstop, non-refueled flight around the world.

In 2000, the Federal Trade Commission unanimously approved the \$111 billion merger of America Online and Time Warner.

Ten years ago: A federal judge granted a preliminary injunction blocking almost all of Proposition 187's bans affecting illegal immigrants in California. Former

Arkansas Gov. Orval E. Faubus, whose refusal to let nine black students into Little Rock's Central High School in 1957 forced President Eisenhower to send in federal troops, died at age 84.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Clark Terry is 84. "60 Minutes" executive producer Don Hewitt is 82. Actor-playwright George Furth is 72. Actor Hal Williams is 66. Actress Patty Duke is 58. Pop singer Vincent-Wilson Joyce (Tony Orlando and Dawn) is 58. Entertainment executive Michael Ovitz is 58. Actress Dee Wallace Stone is 56.



38 Professor's

Money in

42 Mrs. Archie

Bunker

47 Go by

49 Occur

one

55 Opinion

piece

extra

51 Tries out

53 Slow-moving

54 Reddish dye

56 Orange-juice

Spain

degree, often

## **Newsday Crossword**

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Amount of
- medicine
- 5 Recipe amts. 9 Groups of
- delinquents
- 14 Ancient Andes
- dweller 15 Fencing
- blade
- 16 Like a lot 17 Sky twinkler
- 18 Blue Jay or
- Oriole 19 Arrested
- 20 Placing in a
- tough spot
- 22 Alter, as legislation
- 23 Secret agent 24 It may be under a
- dinner plate 25 Henhouse
- product
- 27 Devoured 29 Combines
- chemically
- 34 Suspect's story
- 37 Junction point 39 Infield cover
- roughly
- 43 Nobelist Wiesel
- 44 "Semper Fidelis" grp.
- 45 Two-bit
- 46 Not as
- 48 Standard of conduct
- 50 Home site
- ingredient
- 56 Rigatoni

- 60 Sound-system accessory
- 63 Seize, as power
- 64 Duel precursor
- 65 Skillets
- 66 Prom vehicles
- 67 Carryall bag
- 68 Singer Turner
- 69 Glue relative 70 Noticed
- **71** Do in

#### DOWN

- 1 Phonograph
- films

- 2 In the lead
- 5 Try to rip open
- 7 Ball-
- 6 Hair problems
- records

- 4 Deserve

- 3 Like horror

- hammer

- 40 Assembled
- cheerful
- 52 Cereal
- 53 That lady or ravioli

- AW, SHUCKS by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
  - 8 Suit material
- 9 Carport kin
- 10 Abel's dad 11 Zilch
- 12 Smile a little
- 13 Ship off
- 21 Paperless note
- 26 Diver Louganis
- 27 Receded
- 28 Phrase of
- denial
- 30 Storage room
- 31 Song lyricist
- Sammy 32 Star The Next
- Generation
- 33 Agile 34 High cards 35 Entertainer

Falana

- Where Nepal is 58 Finds a total
- 59 Leisurely run 61 Spiny
- houseplant 62 Makes a 36 Footnote abbr. selection 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 22 23 25 26 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 53 54 55 51 56 57 58 59 60 62 64 65 68 66 67

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