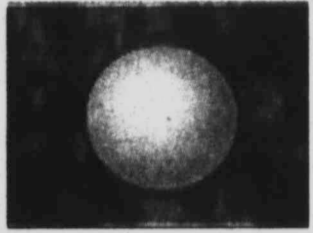


FRIDAY

December 31, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW
47°-49° 68°-70°

INSIDE

Jay Cumbie threw for 520 yards and three touchdowns as Texas Tech rocked No. 4 California, 45-31. Cumbie, who hails from Snyder, was the game's MVP.

Page 1B

BRIEFLY

Relay for Life meeting slated

The community startup meeting for Relay for Life which was postponed earlier this year has been set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4 at the First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall. The meeting is open to anyone interested in Relay for Life, the annual American Cancer Society fundraiser. Underwriters, sponsors and team captains are especially urged to attend.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



Donating an organ is the equivalent of giving life, or at least greatly improving the life of someone in need of a healthy kidney, liver, lung, heart and pancreas. While 85,000 Americans await life-saving transplants, at least 400,000 people have received a donated organ over the last 50 years. Here are the stories of a few selfless donors and grateful recipients.

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Vol. 101, No. 29

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

Postal branch office at Higginbotham-Bartlett closes

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

U.S. Postal Service customers accustomed to doing their business at the branch office located in Higginbotham-Bartlett Hardware Store won't have that convenience available to them in the new year.

Big Spring Post Office Postmaster Michael Cox said the branch office was closed Thursday because a contract between the government and the hardware retail company couldn't be reached — a result of not enough use of the facility.

"The closure was a mutual agreement

"There just wasn't enough business being done to keep the contract we had so a new contract was offered and refused."



Cox

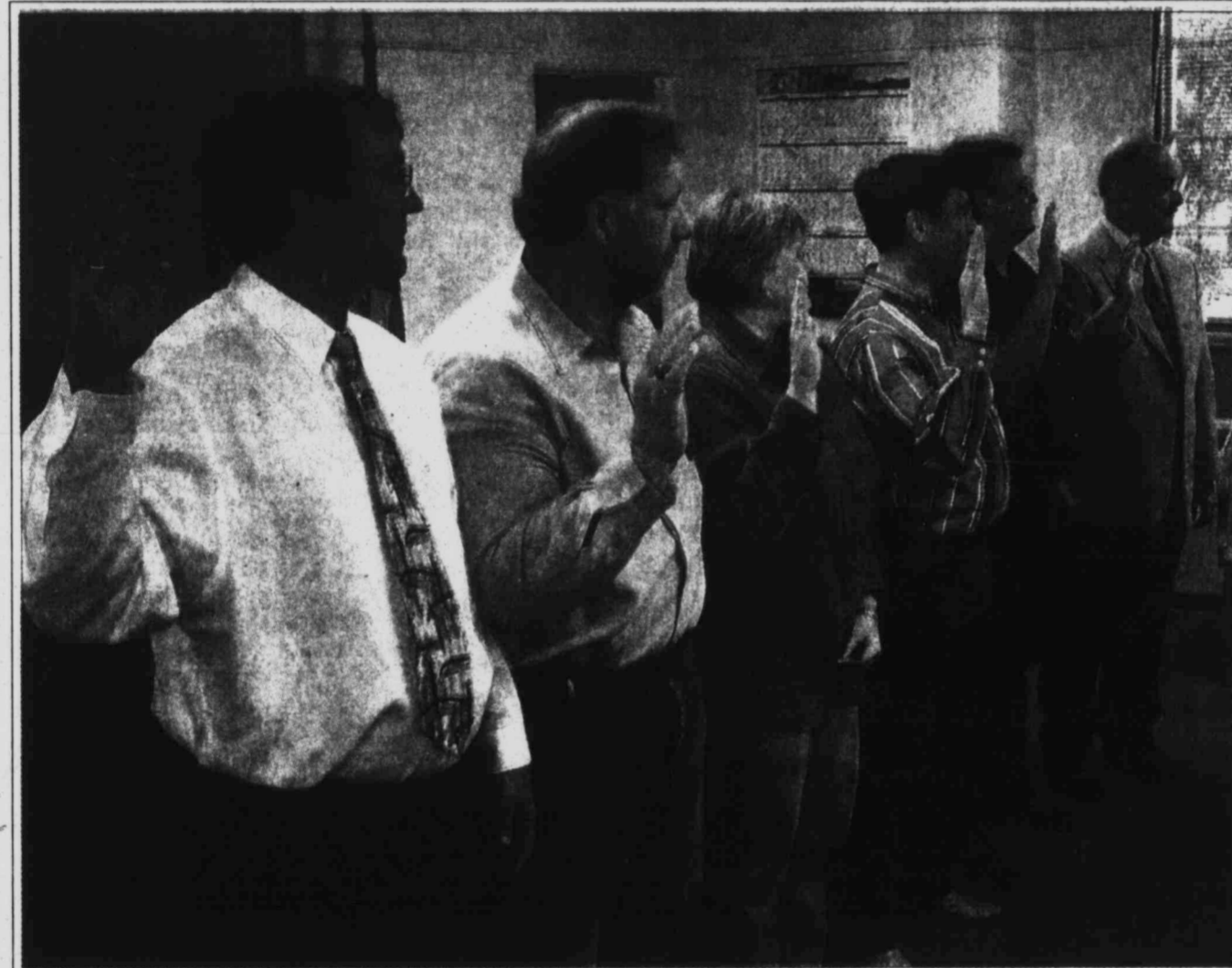
between the U.S. Postal Service and Higginbotham-Bartlett," said Cox. "The contract, which paid Higginbotham-Bartlett to have the office in their store, was different

this year because of the low usage of the facility," said Cox. "They decided not to renew the contract."

"The branch office was staffed by two employees, and both were provided by Higginbotham-Bartlett. I believe they were both retired postal workers. There just wasn't enough business being done to keep the contract we had, so a new contract was offered and refused."

Cox said the partnership was beneficial for both entities — Higginbotham-Bartlett had more customers moving in and out of their

See BRANCH, Page 3A



County Attorney Mike Thomas, left, Mark Winn, constable for county Precinct 2, Tax Collector Kathy Sayles, Bennie Green, justice of the peace for Precinct 1, Place 2, Sheriff Dale Walker and County Commissioner Bill Crooker all take their oath of office Wednesday at the county courthouse.

County leaders take oath of office prior to new year

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

As many of the returning Howard County officials took their oath of office at the county courthouse Wednesday, there was no denying 2005 will be a busy year for the men and women at the helm of the local entity.

One of those returning to service is Bill Crooker, who is by no means a stranger to being sworn in.

"This is the tenth time I've been sworn in as a county commissioner," said Crooker with a laugh. "It's pretty much

"We have a humungous task ahead of us and it's very important."



Crooker

the same each time. Of course, it's always pleasing to be sworn in with your fellow Howard Countians, so to speak."

Crooker took his oath alongside fellow county officials Kathy Sayles, tax collector;

Sheriff Dale Walker; County Attorney Mike Thomas; Bennie Green, justice of the peace for Precinct 1, Place 1; and Mark Winn, constable for Precinct 2.

For Green, Walker and Crooker, who all faced opposition in November's election, the ceremony was the end of campaigning and a time to look toward 2005 and the challenges facing the county.

"It's a good feeling. It feels really good to be re-elected and be able to continue my job

See OATH, Page 3A

Warning: Don't drink and drive

□ Mitchem & Sons will provide a free Topsy Wrecker Service for those in the city limits who need a ride home.

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Those who might be tempted to celebrate a bit too much tonight are urged to reconsider, area law enforcement officials say.

Area police, sheriff deputies and state troopers will be out in force tonight, and they will not be looking kindly on those who are drinking and driving.

The Department of Public Safety has adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward drunk drivers as part of their Operation Holiday, which has been in effect since the Christmas holiday season began earlier this month.

DPS troopers will be looking for unsafe drivers in general, and three offenses in particular: speeding, driving without seat belts and driving while intoxicated.

"(Troopers) are going to looking really close at drivers to make sure they are following the law," DPS Sgt. Jason Hester said earlier this month.

Hester emphasized that the agency's zero-tolerance stance extends toward both DWIs and driving without seat belts. "Absolutely no warnings will be written for either. We anticipate traffic will be very heavy this season, so there's no room for these type of mistakes."

Lt. Terry Chamness of the Big Spring Police Department said the agency will not have additional officers patrolling the streets tonight, but will be on the lookout for apparent drunk drivers.

For those who do imbibe too much, and need a safe way to get home, Mitchem & Sons Wrecker Service will provide free Topsy Wrecker service within city limits — with a few provisos.

See DWI, Page 3A

Artie Shaw, bandleader in swing era, dies at 94

By JEFF WILSON
Associated Press Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — At his peak in the 1930s and '40s, Artie Shaw, the brilliant clarinetist and bandleader, ranked with Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller as musicians whose swinging tunes kept a generation jumping and jittering.

The jazz legend who epitomized the Big Band era with hits such as "Begin the Beguine" and "Stardust" before abandoning the music world for writing and other pursuits, died Thursday. He was 94.

Shaw had long suffered from adult onset diabetes and likely died of complications of the disease, said Larry Rose, his personal assistant since 1993.

"He just reached a point where he was tired of fighting. He wasn't able to really enjoy life anymore," Rose said.

Shaw's attorney and longtime friend Eddie Ezor said he had been in declining health for some time and died at his home.

His band's recording of Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine" topped the charts for six weeks in 1938 and made Shaw famous at age 28.

Among his other hits, some with his big band and some with his quartet, the Gramercy Five: "Frenesi," "Dancing in the Dark," "Nightmare," "Back Bay Shuffle," "Accent-tchu-ate the Positive," "Traffic Jam," "They Say," "Moonglow,"

See SHAW, Page 3A

TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORT



A C-130 prepares to airlift the 18th Logistics Readiness Sq., Combat Mobility Element which performs the tactical portion of the mission to deliver rations to Thailand following the tsunami which killed more than 120,000 people in 12 countries and left hundreds of thousands without food, water and medicine.

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Obituaries

Ola Lee McMullan



Ola Lee McMullan, 93, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 30, 2004, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Jan. 9, 1911, in Albany and married W.H. McMullan in 1934 in Portales, N.M. He preceded her in death in 1987.

Ola Lee was the daughter of Buster and Rosa Lee Cauble, a pioneer ranching family. Her grandfather was Mr. Hazelwood, a pioneer rancher in Tom Green County, coming there in the 1850s. She grew up on ranches in Albany and Snyder. Mrs. McMullan and her late husband owned and operated Southwestern Billiard Supply Company from 1937 to 1990.

She was a Methodist.

Mrs. McMullan volunteered in her community at the VA Medical Center and the rape crisis center for many years.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, W.L. and Sammie McMullan of San Angelo; two sisters, Helen Cauble Murphy of Melrose, N.M., and Hazel Cauble Bingham of Spur; four grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by one son, Charles McMullan.

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

Paid obituary

Chris Rivera



Chris Rivera, 26, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2004.

Funeral Services are 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005, at Cornerstone Church with the Rev. Clint Collins officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born May 12, 1978, in Big Spring to David and Lorina Rivera. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1997. Chris married Natasha Dancer on April 18, 1998, in Big Spring. At the time of his death he had been employed by Fiberglass Systems for two years. He was a member of Life Church.

He is survived by his wife, Natasha Rivera of Big Spring; one daughter and three sons, Isabella Rivera, Marcus Rivera, Adrian Rivera and Jeremiah Rivera, all of Big Spring; parents, Lorina Ontiveros and her husband, Lupe of Big Spring and David Rivera and his wife, Mary of Big Spring; two brothers, David Rivera and John Ontiveros, both of Big Spring; one sister, Blanca Rivera of Big Spring; maternal grandmother, Delia Lopez and her husband, Alfonso; great-grandmother, Virginia Garcia of Big Spring; paternal grandparents, Jose and Rosa Rivera of Big Spring; step-grandparents, Lupe and Rosa Ontiveros of Big Spring; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to the Chris Rivera Memorial Account No. 760221 at Cosden Federal Credit Union, attention Cindy Langston, P.O. Box 2139, Big Spring 79721.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Beverly Marshall



Beverly Marshall, 70, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 30, 2004, in Home Hospice House of Odessa. Graveside funeral services are 3 p.m. today, Dec. 31, 2004, at the Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with Paula Brooks officiating.

She was born Aug. 18, 1934, in Big Spring.

Mrs. Marshall was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She provided home child care for several years. She was a member of First Christian Church.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Diana Marshall of Midland; one sister, Sandra Head of Big Spring; and two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rodney and Edith Trapnell and a daughter, Tammy Sue Marshall.

The family requests memorials be made to the Buffalo Trails Council Boys Scouts of America, 1101 W. Texas, Midland 79701 or the West Texas Girl Scouts Council, P.O. Box 5586, Abilene 79605.

Memorials also can be made to the Troy Hogue Scholarship Fund, in care of Jan Foresyth at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring 79720.

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

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy. Lows near 50. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
New years day - Partly cloudy. Highs near 70. South winds 10 to 20 mph.
Saturday night - Partly cloudy. Lows near 40. Southwest winds near 10 mph.
Sunday - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the mid 60s. Light and variable winds in the morning becoming east near 10 mph in the afternoon.
Sunday night - Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Lows near 40.
Monday - Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s.
Monday night - Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s.
Tuesday - Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Highs near 60.
Tuesday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.
Wednesday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Delfina Castillo

Delfina Castillo, 72, of Colorado City, died Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2004, in a local hospital. Services are 2 p.m. today, Dec. 31, 2004, in the Kiker-Seale Chapel with the Rev. Felix Silva officiating. Burial will follow in the Colorado City Cemetery.

She was born Oct. 7, 1932, in Bastrop to Enriquez and Adela Galvan Castillo and had been a resident of Colorado City since 1947. She was a member of the Primera Iglesia Bautista El Calvario Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Herminia Selvera in 1963 and Luz Gomez in 1992.

She is survived by three sisters, Esperanza Davala of Odessa, Connie Garcia of Devine and Sennida Pineda of Newton, Kan.; four brothers, Tom Castillo, Henry Castillo and Ernest Castillo, all of Colorado City and Tony Castillo of Big Spring.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Robert J. Smeltzer

Robert J. Smeltzer of Unity Township, Westmoreland County, Pa., a former Big Spring resident, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2004.

Bob was a Vietnam War army veteran and a retired federal prison correctional officer, having served in West Virginia and Texas. Most recently, Bob was employed with the LaFourche Parish Sheriff's Office in Louisiana.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Agnes (Sullivan) Smeltzer of Turtle Creek; and his brothers Gilbert B. and wife, Nancy of Maryland and William and wife, Lori of Hempfield.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gilbert B. Smeltzer.

Friends are invited to meet with the family from noon until 4 p.m. today at Patrick T. Lanigan Funeral Home, Turtle Creek/Monroeville Chapel at 111 Monroeville Ave. in Turtle Creek, Pa. A blessing service is 4 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Hillman Cancer Center, 5115 Centre Ave., Pgh. 15232.

Mary McCullough

Mary McCullough, 75, of Big Spring died Friday, Dec. 31, 2004. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

• **CHRISTY LYNN RAINS**, 27, of 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for a parole violation.

• **MELISSA GAY YOUNG**, 35, of 2705 Ann Street, was arrested Thursday and held for the HCSO.

Sheriff's report

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

• **DOMESTIC PROBLEM** was reported at Big Mike's Liquor Store.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 100 block of Chapman Road.

□ **AN ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF CHRIS RIVERA**, 26, A FORMER COSDEN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION MEMBER, who died Dec. 28, 2004. The fund is to assist his wife, Natasha Rivera and his four children, all younger than 6, with funeral expenses. The account no. is 760221. To donate contact the credit union at 264-2600.

□ **SENIOR CITIZEN'S NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE** today at the Spring City Senior Citizens. Monroe Casey's "Prowlers" will be playing from 8:30 p.m. until midnight. There will be free party favors and black-eyed peas and cornbread will be served. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$15 for two people. All senior citizens are invited. There will be no alcohol and no smoking.

□ **REGION 18 SERVICE CENTER** has video and audio-visual material used in the schools available for viewing Jan. 27. The session is 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the center, which is located at 2811 LaForce Blvd., Midland International Airport. Persons wishing to request preview of the films may call Pam Winn, media supervisor of the education service center, at telephone number 432-567-3260.

□ **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.

Cordially Invite You to Attend our Services

TRINITY BAPTIST
810 11TH PLACE 267-6344

What the New Year brings us will depend a great deal on what we bring to the New Year.

Randy Cotton
Pastor

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Service broadcast Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
over KBYG 1400 AM Evangelistic Service....6:00 p.m.
on your dial Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

• New Year's Eve.

SATURDAY

• New Year's Day.

MONDAY

• District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.

• Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

• Big Spring Chapter and Council RAM meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic building at 221 1/2 Main St.

• Howard County ARC meets at 8:06 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.

TUESDAY

• Intermediate Line Dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.

• Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• A Stitches' 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.

• VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.

• Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.

• Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-7-22-25. Bonus Ball: 31. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Monday night drawing: \$475,000.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-10-22-26-30. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize per winner: \$20,022. Winning tickets sold in: Pasadena, Weslaco. Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-5-4

Take note

□ **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.

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

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

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WORLD BRIEFS

First U.S. cargo plane arrives in Sumatra; toll rises to 120,000

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — As the first U.S. military cargo plane arrived with supplies for this devastated town on Friday, the country's health minister warned that Indonesia's death toll alone could reach 100,000, as the scope of the devastation around Banda Aceh became apparent.

Planes dropped food into isolated towns, and boxes of aid piled up at the airports as global donations poured into the region. But other villagers complained of hunger, and hospitals ran low on medicine, highlighting the difficulties workers had in delivering supplies.

The death toll from the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and the tsunamis it spawned rose to more than 120,000 on Friday, including about 80,000 deaths in Indonesia, though Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supadi said the toll there could hit 100,000.

Secretary of State Powell plans visit to region hit by tsunami

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration broadened its response to the earthquake and tsunami disaster in South Asia and Africa with plans for Secretary of State Colin Powell to visit the region and assess what more the United States needs to do.

"All Americans are shocked and saddened by the tragic loss of life and the destruction around the Indian Ocean," President Bush said in a statement read by White House deputy press secretary Trent Duffy in Crawford, Texas, on Thursday. Bush is on vacation there.

"To coordinate this massive relief effort, first-hand assessments are needed by individuals on the ground."

The president's brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who has experience with extensive hurricane damage in

Florida, will travel with Powell. A congressional delegation headed by Rep. Jim Leach, R-Iowa, a former U.S. foreign service officer, is scheduled to visit Thailand and Sri Lanka next week.

Fire in Buenos Aires nightclub kills at least 174, injures hundreds more

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A fire that raced through a packed Buenos Aires nightclub during a rock concert killed at least 174 concertgoers and injured about 410, and investigators were looking into survivor accounts that the building's emergency exits were locked.

Grieving parents crowded the city's morgues to identify the dead — many of them teenagers — after the blaze swept through the club in the Argentine capital late Thursday, setting off a stampede for the emergency exits, witnesses said.

The fire unleashed thick clouds of black smoke, choking many inside and blocking out emergency lighting, survivors said. After the blaze was brought under control Friday morning, rescue workers turned a nearby parking lot into a temporary morgue, lining up dozens of bodies with faces were covered by T-shirts.

Rewritten Justice Department memo says torture violates U.S., international law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department released a rewritten legal memo on what constitutes torture, backing away from its own assertions prior to the Iraqi prison abuse scandal that torture had to involve "excruciating and agonizing pain."

The 17-page memo omitted two of the most controversial assertions made in now-disavowed 2002 Justice Department documents: that President Bush, as commander in chief in wartime, had authority superseding U.S. anti-torture laws and that U.S. personnel had several legal defenses against criminal liability in such cases.

The new document said torture violates U.S. and international law.

"Consideration of the bounds of any such authority would be inconsistent with the president's unequivocal directive that United States personnel not engage in torture," said the memo from Daniel Levin, acting chief of the Office of Legal Counsel, to Deputy Attorney General James Comey.

Pilots wonder whether they're target of lasers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pilots from time to time encounter laser beams that stray into the cockpit on approach to an airport, but a recent rash of such incidents — at least seven since Christmas — has them worried about an organized effort to take down airliners.

Though there have been no reports of accidents caused by lasers, they can temporarily blind and disorient a pilot and could lead to a plane crash.

The FBI is investigating whether the incidents are pranks, accidents or something more sinister.

Federal agents are looking into two incidents in Colorado Springs, Colo., and one each in Cleveland, Washington, Houston, Teterboro, N.J., and Medford, Ore., according to law enforcement and transportation officials, some of whom spoke Thursday only on condition of anonymity.

Palestinian candidate embraces gunmen

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Mahmoud Abbas rode on the shoulders of the West Bank's most famous gunman in a campaign stop in a refugee camp, raising questions about the true beliefs of the leading candidate in next month's Palestinian presidential elections.

In southern Gaza, two Palestinians were killed in an Israeli missile strike Friday, the second day of an army raid aimed at stopping Palestinian rocket fire from the Khan Younis refugee camp at nearby Jewish settlements.

During a visit to Jenin refugee camp on Thursday, Abbas rode on the shoulders of Zakaria Zubeidi, the local leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a violent group with ties to Abbas' ruling Fatah party.

OATH

Continued from Page 3A

without the stress of campaigning. That's the big relief," said Walker with a laugh. "We have a lot of things to do with the sheriff's office and we'll move forward, just as we have been."

"Looks like we're going to be busy this year for sure, working on this new jail project — working with the commissioners and the city. We're also going to be getting some new vehicles, which will take some work."

Crooker said the prospect of building a new jail, a subject commissioners approached during their last meeting, doesn't intimidate him, but he certainly respects the amount of work that's going to be needed to make the project a success.

"It's not intimidating to me," said Crooker. "We have a humungous task ahead of us and it's very important. You only get to build a jail once in a lifetime and there are just so many factors involved. We have several people who need to be at the table and it's going to take some time. It's going to be a real challenge to bring together."

Walker said 2005 will be a time to "get busy" for the sheriff's office.

"I've always heard from

other sheriffs in the past that your first four years you're learning how to do your job," said Walker. "So we've learned how to do the job, now we need to get busy with it."

Winn said he's viewing the coming year in much the same way as Walker.

"I'm looking at 2005 and the coming years much like the sheriff is," said Winn. "It's a continuation. I've been serving as constable for Precinct 4 and it's a continuation of that. Assisting with calls, wrecks and things that go on in this county and need more man power."

"I have a very good working relationship with Sheriff Walker and every chance I get I'm going to be there to assist the sheriff's office. That's how I see the coming term."

Constable Boyce Hale, who was also re-elected, was sworn in Wednesday due to a scheduling conflict, while commissioner Emma Bogard was unable to attend Thursday's ceremony due to illness.

According to County Clerk Donna Wright, District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, who was also re-elected in November, was sworn in separately by officials in Austin.

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

DWI

Continued from Page 1A

"If they call me before they get in an accident, and before they stopped by the police — and they're not going to

another party — we'll tow them and their vehicle home," Rick Mitchem said.

The service is free to those living within the city limits. Persons living outside of the city will be assessed mileage charges, Mitchem said.

BRANCH

Continued from Page 1A

stores while the local post office could offer a location closer to some residents — but in the end, it became a burden because the branch office was under-utilized.

While the closure may spell less convenience for some area postal customers, Cox said his office is currently in negotiations to offer a new branch office.

"We're trying to work something out to get a branch office at Woodforest National Bank, located in Wal-Mart," said Cox.

SHAW

Continued from Page 1A

"Stardust," "Thanks for Ev'rything," "Summit Ridge Drive" and "My Little Nest of Heavenly Blue."

Another famous roster: his wives. They included actresses Lana Turner (wife No. 3, 1940), Ava Gardner (No. 5, 1945), and Evelyn Keyes (No. 8, 1957) and novelist Kathleen Winsor, author of the 1944 best-seller "Forever Amber" (No. 6, 1946).

Entertainment mogul Merv Griffin, a former big band crooner, praised Shaw's musical accomplishments Thursday and said his romantic exploits made him the "Howard Hughes of the clarinet."

After his first burst of stardom, his good looks made Hollywood come calling. It was while filming "Dancing Coed" in 1939 that he met Turner. In 1940, he appeared in another musical, "Second Chorus," and got two Academy Award nominations for his musical contributions — for best score and best song ("Love of My Life").

Shaw, however, eventually chafed at his stardom and loss of privacy. A volatile and superbly intelligent man, he had little use for signing autographs and once caused an uproar by called jitterbugging fans "morons." He later said he was just referring to the rowdy ones.

"I was about as utterly miserable as a fellow can possibly be and still stay on this side of suicide," he once said.

Shaw had a love-hate

relationship with the song that brought him fame, tiring of "Begin the Beguine" and wishing audiences were more willing to accept new material. ("I mean, it's a good tune if you are going to be associated with one tune, but I didn't want that.")

After finally putting down his clarinet for good in the mid-'50s, he lived in Spain for a time, operated a farm, and turned to literature full-time; he was a voracious reader from childhood, and had produced a well-received autobiography, "The Trouble with Cinderella," in 1952.

"I did all you can do with a clarinet," he said. "Any more would have been less."

Shaw put out two collections of short fiction, "I Love You, I Hate You, Drop Dead!" and "The Best of Intentions." He spent years working on a voluminous autobiographical novel tracing the rise of a young jazz musician, whom he called Albie Snow.

Shaw, who had gone blind in the past two years, "wasn't just a musician, he was a master storyteller. He could tell a fabulous story either with his clarinet or with the pen. He was highly skilled at crafting a story," Rose said.

Shaw left a planned box set of his work incomplete after his health began deteriorating when he broke his left leg in 1995, Rose said.

It was to have been titled "Good Enough Ain't Good Enough." That means "you strive for perfection. He was a perfectionist," Ezor said.

There will also be an

Artie Shaw Foundation.

Shaw was born Arthur Arshawsky on May 23, 1910, in New York City; his immigrant parents struggled to earn a living in the clothing business.

He began his professional career while still in his teens, first playing saxophone, then switching to clarinet to take advantage of a job opportunity.

By the time he was in his early 20s, he was a highly paid member of a CBS radio orchestra. After the first of his many retirements from the music business, he returned to New York and began assembling his first orchestra. "Begin the

Beguine" and fame followed not long afterward.

He enlisted in the Navy during World War II and wound up spending most of his time leading a band, giving shows for the troops.

His only musical activity in recent years was conducting a revival band he organized in the early 1980s, featuring arrangements Shaw's bands had used in the past.

He did not play his clarinet.

Funeral arrangements were pending, but public services were expected to be held in early January in Westlake Village, Rose said.

JP rules death a suicide

HERALD staff report

The death of a 26-year-old Big Spring man has been ruled a suicide by local law enforcement officials.

Chris Rivera was found dead Tuesday at approximately noon at a home in the 2200 block of Morrison.

According to Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman, Rivera's body was found by a family member.

"Based on the preliminary autopsy results, I can't find any reason to rule it anything except a suicide," said Wiseman. "He was found by a family member. He used a television cable cord to hang himself."

Wiseman said Rivera was pronounced dead at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room shortly after emergency medical services was dispatched at 12:03 p.m.

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Chris Rivera, 26, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at Cornerstone Church with burial at Mt. Olive. Mary McCullough, 75, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Spring Tabernacle, which provided toys for 275 children this Christmas.
- The Salvation Army and volunteers for the annual Christmas dinner and for all of the other programs they offer, not just during the holidays, but throughout the year.
- City council members and county commissioners for their willingness to work together for the benefit of the citizens they represent.
- 2004 as we put it behind us and 2005 as we eagerly enter a new 12 months. 2004 was a year of turmoil in many respects but there were some positive moments as well.

• Christmas. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

• The Festival of Lights Committee, for another wonderful lighting display. If you haven't made it out to Comanche Trail Park yet, be aware this is the last night of the festival. It starts at 6 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, thank You for always being with us during the construction of our lives.

Amen

Change the messenger, not the message

If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything, as the Democratic Party may soon find out.

It seems that some Democratic leaders, devastated by losing the presidency once again, now believe their party must change its message.

Specifically, they say, the party must soften its message on abortion if it is to attract more conservative, "red state" voters.

In an important article that some may have missed because it appeared on Christmas Eve and was inexplicably buried on page A13, The New York Times' Adam Nagourney quotes several Democratic officials saying "their party needs to de-emphasize the issue of abortion rights, concerned that Republicans have hurt the Democratic Party by portraying it as an uncompromising champion of abortion."

I would argue, however, that the Democrats lose presidential elections not because of their message, but because of their messengers.

Of the last three Democratic losers — Michael Dukakis, Al Gore and John Kerry — all have suffered from the same flaw: a certain coldness, a certain inability to connect with people, a certain inability to persuade people of their sincerity and concern.

When Bill Clinton told hunters he didn't want to take their guns away, they believed him. When Al Gore and John Kerry told hunters exactly the same thing, they did not.

But abortion is different, more emotional and more complicated, some Democrats say. While they don't want to abandon their belief in choice, some now say that Democrats must sacrifice the issue of late-term, or "partial birth," abortion to show their new open-

ness. "I personally don't think that we should have late-term abortions or partial-birth abortions," says Tim Roemer, a former Democratic congressman from Indiana who now wants to become chairman of the Democratic Party.

But Roemer is wrong if he thinks a switch on late-term abortions will gain Democrats votes. It won't. Once again, it is not the message that has failed, but the messenger.

Let me quote a short passage from my book "Show Time," in which I described how a master messenger, Bill Clinton, dealt with this issue while walking along a rope line after a speech:

"Mary Ellen Savoie, a teenager from Sulphur, La., waited patiently for Clinton and then told him she was 'very pro-life.' She asked him how he could take the life of innocent babies with the terrible procedure she called partial birth abortion. It was one of Bob Dole's key issues: While polls showed most of the country approved of choice when it came to abortion, something like 70 percent of the population opposed third-trimester abortions, in which the skull of the fetus had to be crushed to remove it from the birth canal. Congress had banned it, but Clinton had vetoed the ban. This was exactly the kind of issue, Dole and his campaign believed, that would expose Clinton as the left-liberal he was and open up a gulf between him and the voters.

"Clinton was not unused to hecklers. And he knew it was sometimes best to simply keep walking when confronted by one. But he also knew he had the magic. He turned away from the rest of the crowd and settled his gaze upon Mary Ellen Savoie. He put his large hands on her slender shoulders. And for the next five minutes, she and Bill Clinton were the only two people in the world.

"He wanted to sign that bill banning those abortions, Clinton told Savoie. He had signed a similar bill in Arkansas, when he was

governor. But then he found out that a few hundred women every year were faced with the agonizing situation of giving birth to a horribly deformed child who would die before, during or after childbirth. Before vetoing the ban, he had met with six such women and learned that they could not have further babies 'unless the enormous size of the baby's head' was reduced before it was extracted from their bodies. Clinton told her. And how could he tell these women that they could never have another baby? 'I know there are just a few hundred of them, and I know that all the votes were on the other side,' Clinton would say later. 'And I'm just telling you — Hillary and I, we only had one child. And I just cannot look at a woman who's in a situation where the baby she is bearing against all her wishes and prayers is going to die anyway, and tell her that I am signing a law which will prevent her from ever having another child. I'm not going to do it.'

"Mary Ellen Savoie looked up at the president of the United States. Tears streamed down her young face. She threw her arms around him. She hugged him to her. And Bill Clinton, tears welling up in his eyes, hugged her back. She still strongly opposed abortion, Savoie said, but now she could go home and tell her mom it was OK to vote for Bill Clinton.

"He's a nice man," Mary Ellen Savoie said later.

See what I mean? The Democrats don't need a different message; they need better messengers.

And if they start selling out their principles in a fruitless search for conservative votes, they will enter a political wilderness from which they will not soon exit.

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

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The difference between good and evil

Coming as they did within hours of each other, two news stories defined the differences between

America and its enemies. In the wake of the devastation in South Asia from a tsunami that has taken at least 44,000 lives, the United States is mobilizing to send food, water, medical supplies and teams of doctors, nurses, rescue workers and others to help the victims, many of whom are Muslim. Meanwhile, half-way 'round the world, a man who defines himself as a Muslim leader, Osama bin Laden, calls on his followers to kill not only Americans but fellow Muslims who dare to participate in elections in Iraq to choose their own leaders. No starker contrast could be made between good and evil. And yet so many people — not just among our enemies but our friends and even our own countrymen — fail to understand this struggle in its proper context.

The war we are fighting in Iraq is not a war of conquest. It is not about acquiring territory or, as so many of our critics contend, Iraqi oil. We are not in Iraq to create an American empire but to allow the Iraqi people — for the first time in their history — to create their own destiny. We are also there to rid ourselves and the world of the threat of men like Osama bin



LINDA CHAVEZ

Laden and his imitators, including the vicious Abu Musab al Zarqawi, who has killed so many in Iraq.

This week, bin Laden made clear that Zarqawi is his deputy. The man who masterminded and ordered the killing of 3,000 innocent men, women and children on Sept. 11, 2001, embraces the man who, with his own hands, has beheaded dozens of Westerners and other foreign workers in Iraq. Bin Laden claims that he and Zarqawi are fighting "for God's sake." But what kind of god would ask his followers to slit the throats of those who have come to a country to build roads and sanitation systems.

Islamofascism is the personification of evil. It cannot be appeased; it cannot be reasoned with; it cannot be contained. The only possible way to deal with it is to defeat it, just as we defeated Nazism some 60 years ago. The battle will not be won easily or without the sacrifice of many good people. Defeating the Nazis and the Japanese cost America nearly a half-million lives and took nearly four years, and an even greater contribution in lives and years from our allies. To expect that we will be out of Iraq quickly or that we may not have to fight elsewhere to defeat this enemy is shortsighted.

We will wage this fight not only with soldiers, guns and bombs, though they are vital to winning the war, but with humanitarian assistance. The struggle to defeat

Islamofascism will also come by building schools and sewage systems, which is why Zarqawi and his killers target those involved in helping to rebuild Iraq. And, as we see this week, we will not allow the bin Ladens and Zarqawis to define the Muslim people. When Muslims are dying and need our help, we heed the call, as we did when thousands of Muslims from Indonesia to Somalia suffered from the deadly tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

The United States will send millions of dollars in aid, not just from our government but from ordinary Americans who want to help. We don't ask whether those suffering share our values or politics or religion, whether they like us or wish us ill. No doubt, among those families who will receive American help in some of these nations will be those who are sympathetic to our enemies. We will help them, not because we hope to change their minds, but because it is the right thing to do. It is the difference between those who are fighting for good and those who are fighting for evil.

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

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By BRANDI

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Thousands order bracelets for fallen soldiers

By BRANDI GRISSOM
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — A message from a stranger hundreds of miles away nearly brought Kristi Mann to tears.

On a Web site memorializing Mann's brother-in-law who died in Iraq in 2003, someone in Florida wrote: "Today I received a bracelet with James Powell's name engraved on it. I will wear it with pride, remembering always that he died for me. HE IS NOT FORGOTTEN."

Powell, an Army specialist, is one of thousands of fallen U.S. service members memorialized on Hero Bracelets. The black aluminum bands are among the latest "cause bracelets" like the yellow "Live Strong" bands popularized by Lance Armstrong to raise money for cancer programs.

"My heart just melted when I read that," said Mann, of Mineral Wells, whose husband, a Navy cook, is expected to leave for Iraq within a year. After reading the account, she ordered seven of the bracelets for her family.

Others around the country have rushed to buy the bracelets as well — so much so that 1,000 requests a day were coming in just before Christmas and the Austin man who sells them had to quit taking orders on his Web site.

"We are way, way, way out of our league," said Chris Greta, 46, who sells the bracelets from his small advertising agency. For now he only fills orders that arrive in the mail, though he's hoping to get Web sales going again in January.

Each bracelet is engraved with a service member's name,

hometown and date of death. Greta said \$2 from each \$8.50 sale benefits soldiers' families. The remaining \$6.50 covers

the POW/MIA bracelets popular during the Vietnam War.

Greta said he has sold nearly 4,000 bracelets and sends \$2 from each sale to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, which gives financial assistance to families of service members killed in action.

"This is a wonderful way to bring appreciation, recognition and gratitude to soldiers who lost their lives and to those soldiers' families," said Bill White, president of the Intrepid Foundation.

Greta is happy about the success but overwhelmed by the task. He said he wants a veterans group or other organization that can handle such an operation to eventually take over.

Until he finds that group, Greta keeps plugging away, filling orders with the help of his family and neighbors.

Keeping up with the thousands of orders has been difficult, Greta said. But reading and responding to e-mails from soldiers and their families has been emotionally devastating. Many have brought him to tears.

One woman with a 19-month-old son asked whether her husband's name could go on a bracelet after he returned safely from Iraq then committed suicide. A commander who lost six men ordered bracelets for the rest of the soldiers in his unit. A mother ordered a bracelet the day she learned of her son's death.

"How do you deal with that?" Greta asked.

Knowing he is in some way helping soldiers and their families helps.

"We've pulled off a miracle in a real short time," he said.

"This is a wonderful way to bring appreciation, recognition and gratitude to soldiers who lost their lives and to those soldiers' families."

manufacturing and administrative costs, he said.

Greta created the Web site herobracelets.org last month. He said he had been searching for a way to support troops in Iraq when he said he recalled

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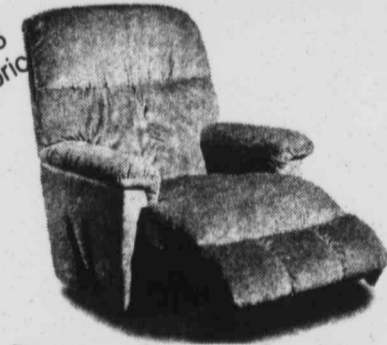
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A toast to 2004's best religion books and a lament for the worst

By RICHARD N. OSTLING

AP Religion Writer

The year past was an unusual one in religious publishing because some fine books stemmed from Islam and Judaism while Christians bore the blame for the very worst ones.

Hallelujahs for the top four of 2004:

1. "The Quran" (Oxford University Press) by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem of the University of London, which fills the huge need for a scholarly yet readable translation. (Its only competitor is 2002's stiffer "An Interpretation of the Quran" by Majid Fakhry.)

2. "On the Reliability of the Old Testament" (Eerdmans) by K.A. Kitchen of the University of Liverpool. He provides bold conservative responses to Jewish and Christian scholars who've whittled away at Scripture's historical credibility, making the complex combat understandable.

3. "The Five Books of Moses" (Norton) by Robert Alter of the University of California, Berkeley. Without extremes,

his new English translation of the Pentateuch conveys Hebrew's distinctiveness. The elaborate footnotes stress literature over religious tradition.

4. "Life After Death" (Doubleday) by Alan Segal of New York's Barnard College. Another Jewish blockbuster, it explores the history of Judaism, Islam and Christianity on this central belief (with analysis that invites some Christian dissent).

Also notable: —The Southern Baptist Convention's "Holman Christian Standard Bible" translation. The case for yet another English version seems questionable, and ultimate assessment of this work's worth will require years.

—"The Twilight of Atheism" (Doubleday) by Alister McGrath of Oxford University. Quirkily fascinating. He sees

plummeting credibility for atheism, which he formerly embraced.

—"Who Are We?" (Simon & Schuster) by Samuel Huntington of Harvard University. Equally idiosyncratic. He celebrates multi-ethnicity but contends that America's cultural glue remains the founders' "Anglo-Protestant" outlook.

—"A Man of Faith: The Spiritual Journey of George W. Bush" (W Publishing) by David Aikman, former senior correspondent for Time

magazine. Well-informed, and remains timely for obvious reasons. Aikman scored only months before with the more important "Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity Is Transforming China and Changing the Global Balance of Power" (Regnery).

—"A Stone of Hope"

(University of North Carolina), another late 2003 book of significance. Historian David Chappell tells how the faith of Southern Christians, black and white, made America's civil rights revolution possible.

The year's most embarrassing books all emanated from Christian auspices:

—"Sanctity and Male Desire" by lay Catholic Donald Boisvert, published by the United Church of Christ book house, leered with "homoerotic longing" at the body of Jesus Christ and various saints.

—"Same-Sex Marriage?" by Presbyterian Marvin Ellison, also from the United Church's press, was a lamentably superficial liberal argument on the year's hottest topic. Notable mostly because Ellison mused about accepting threesomes and abolishing marriage altogether.

—"Why Bush Must Go" by Episcopal Church Bishop Bennett Sims, an apocalyptic left-wing ideologist attacking "apocalyptic right-wing ideology." Sims spread rumors that the Bush administration's "cal-

culated" neglect produced the Sept. 11 attacks.

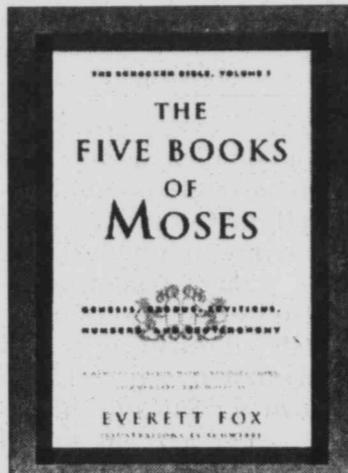
—"The American Prophecies" by evangelical Zionist Michael Evans preached an unsavory biblical scenario in which Sept. 11 was God's retribution upon America for supporting Islamic terror against Israel while forging an "unholy covenant" with "barbaric" Arabs.

—"The Shadow of the Apocalypse" by TV evangelist Paul Crouch combined belief that the End Times will occur "any moment" with silly "Bible code" games.

—"Good As New" by British lefty John Henson was a loose, loopy paraphrase of the New Testament that deleted books the writer disdained. At Jesus' baptism a voice from above exclaimed "That's my boy!"

—"The Word on the Street," by British evangelical Rob Lacey, similarly reprocessed chunks of the Old and New Testaments. At the start of the Ten Commandments, Lacey's Lord announced, "No other god's worth squat."

As Red Sox rooters said until 2004, better luck next year.



Denver auxiliary bishop named San Antonio archbishop

By BOBBY ROSS JR.

AP Religion Writer

For the Most Rev. Jose Horacio Gomez, becoming Roman Catholic archbishop of San Antonio will be a homecoming of sorts.

Pope John Paul II on Wednesday named Gomez — an auxiliary bishop in Denver — to succeed retiring Archbishop Patrick Flores, Texas' top Catholic clergyman for 25 years.

A native of Monterrey, Mexico, Gomez worked at San Antonio's Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church from 1987 to 1999. And his grandparents were married at San Fernando Cathedral, the historic downtown church that dates to the 1730s.

"The person who has been chosen to replace me is actually an old friend," Flores said at a news conference where he intro-

duced Gomez.

Gomez praised Flores, the nation's longest-serving archbishop, as "a man of uncommon goodness and grace" and said there was no way he could truly replace him.

"But I do promise to honor his example by serving the church and God's people with all the strength that I have," said Gomez, a former president and executive director of the National Association of Hispanic Priests. "And today forward, this archdiocese is my family. Nothing can be a greater blessing in my life."

Gomez's appointment coincided with a separate announcement that the Diocese of Galveston-Houston will be elevated to an archdiocese, making Texas the second state in the country with two archdioceses. Galveston-

Houston will join San Antonio, which has carried the title since 1926, and essentially splits some bureaucratic responsibilities in Texas. There are about 6 1/2 million Roman Catholics in the state.

Some observers predict the new San Antonio archbishop could bring a theological shift to the archdiocese.

Gomez is a member of the conservative Catholic organization Opus Dei, which is admired by the pontiff.

Some conservatives have accused Flores of a liberal theology that fails to strictly adhere to official liturgy and church doctrine.

One critic, Charles Wilson, has characterized Flores' tenure as a "disaster." Wilson directs the San Antonio-based Saint Joseph Foundation,

which works to protect the rights of the laity.

"Certainly, I think that's a positive indication," Wilson said of Gomez's affiliation with Opus Dei, "because I think the Archdiocese of San Antonio needs a little bit of cleaning up here and there."

But the Rev. Miguel Solorzano of Houston, a spokesman for the National Association of Hispanic Bishops, said Gomez "doesn't go to the extremes" despite his ties to Opus Dei.

"He's going to bring a new vitality to the diocese and new ideas. One of the main things is he's well-connected with Mexico," Solorzano said, suggesting Gomez could help deal with a shortage of Hispanic priests.

Gomez helped establish the Seminary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico

City in 2000. The seminary educates Hispanic seminarians who will serve in the United States.

Flores turned 75 — the retirement age for Catholic bishops — in July. Citing health problems, he asked the Vatican months ago to appoint a successor to lead San Antonio's 640,000 Catholics.

Flores became the nation's first Mexican-

American bishop when he was named San Antonio's auxiliary bishop in 1970. In 1978, he was installed as bishop in El Paso. He returned to San Antonio in 1979 as archbishop.

From standing up for migrant farm workers to founding the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Flores is known for his work with social causes important to Hispanic Catholics.

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Church News

First United Methodist Church

The youth will celebrate New Year's Eve with games, music, fellowship, and food tonight from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. There is a \$2 charge for guests. FUMC youth get in free. The new youth minister will be at the celebration.

The Senior Adult Ministry will celebrate the New Year with their annual brunch Jan. 1, at 9 a.m. in Garrett Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Sunday the Rev. Dr. Dave Ring's communion meditation is titled "Covenants: Older, Old, and New." The scripture text is Hebrews 9:11-15. Worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sunday school classes meet at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday evening at 5 p.m. is the monthly prayer meeting. Everyone is invited to join in this special prayer service.

The church offices will be closed Monday and will reopen Tuesday.

A special video seminar titled "Conquering Debt, God's Way" by the Bruce Ammons Ministries is Jan. 15 and Jan. 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The seminar is free; however workbooks cost \$12.

To register, contact Sheila Jones at 267-7936.

First United Methodist Church is located at 400 Scurry. For more information on any of these programs, call the church office at 267-6394.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour

Jesus Christ. We encourage you, if you do not have a church home, to visit us at 1512 Birdwell Lane. What happens to you in 2005 matters to us.

Tonight we are having a watch night service from 8 p.m. until midnight. We will sing out the old year and pray in the new. There will also be a black-eyed peas, cabbage and cornbread fel-

lowship along with games. Come and bring the new year in with fun, food and fellowship.

Sunday worship services are at 10:55 a.m. and at 5 p.m.

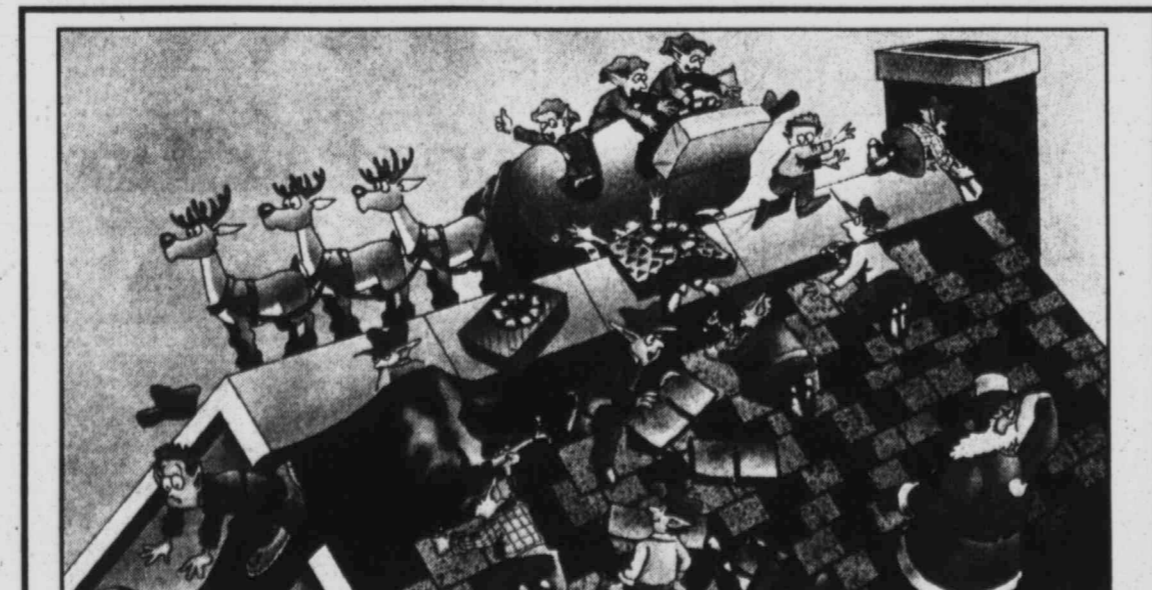
Midweek services are at 7 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

See CHURCH, Page 7A

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CHURCH

Continued from P

Friends of U

Members are invited to a Burning Ceremony Sunday, Dec. 27, 10 a.m. at the church. The ceremony allows members to burn old items that no longer serve them down on the paper on which they are written.

This symbol makes room for thoughts and prayers.

The 19th annual Healing Day is today. During the day, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., millions of people will be on the planet.

St. Paul Lutheran Ch

The Wednesday Bible study will begin a new year on Jan. 12. If you are interested in getting Jesus more in your life, please join the group's reading and discussion of "The Never Knew" by Yancey. For more information or to register for the class, call the office at 267-7157.

Big Spring

home town, S

great home cl

Calvary Bapti

Calvary Baptist Church welcomes all who are looking for worship. Calvary Church is located at W. Fourth St. Preaching sessions 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Sunday school 9 a.m. and Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Cornerston

A 10-year anniversary celebration begins today with a fellowship in Life building a special service planned that with midnight. All members are invited to attend.

Church members are invited to a coupon book sale worth of offers. Local merchandise is available for \$5, with proceeds going to church building. Contact 816-3 information.

Cornerston Morning Star International invites children to kindergarten, fourth grade fall program, At the Pieces a.m. Sunday, different stories Old Testament Sunday school preschoolers with the stor Ark.

Cornerston the corner of Owens street family atmosphere and worship is a Childcare is newborns to preschool. C. Craig or Che 263-3072 with tions.

East Fourth Baptist Ch

Opportunity for Christian growth service including Sunday school morning worship evening service Wednesday study, prayer and youth. 1 located at 4 St. Call 267-5 information.

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Those with appreciation for our community and desires to see it improved in beautification, educational, cultural, and other worthwhile areas and activities may join in this effort by supporting the Community Foundation with any amount or by including this important effort in your estate plan.

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CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 6A

Friends of Unity

Members and guests are invited to participate in a Burning Bowl Ceremony Sunday. This ceremony allows individuals to contemplate the release of thoughts and behaviors which no longer serve by writing them down and burning the paper on which they are written.

This symbolic gesture makes room for new thoughts and purposes.

The 19th annual World Healing Day is observed today. During the hours of noon Greenwich time, 6 a.m. central standard time, millions pray in concert for peace for the planet.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Wednesday noon ladies Bible study group will begin a new study Jan. 12. If you are interested in getting to know Jesus more intimately, please join the study group's reading and discussion of "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancey. For more information or to enroll in the class, call the church office at 267-7163.

Big Spring ... a great home town, St. Paul ... a great home church!

Calvary Baptist Church

Calvary Baptist Church welcomes all those who are looking for a place to worship. Calvary Baptist Church is located at 1200 W. Fourth Street. Preaching services are at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday Bible Study is at 5 p.m.

Cornerstone Church

A 10-year anniversary and New Year's Eve celebration begins at 8 p.m. today with games and fellowship in the Young Life building. At 10 p.m. a special service is planned that concludes with midnight communion. All members and the public are invited to attend.

Church members have coupon books with \$125 worth of offers from local merchants available for \$5, with all proceeds going to the church building fund. Contact 816-3082 for more information.

Cornerstone Church, a Morning Star International Church, invites children entering kindergarten through fourth grade to a new fall program, "Looking At the Pieces," at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, featuring different stories of the Old Testament. A new Sunday school class for preschoolers continues with the story of Noah's Ark.

Cornerstone, located at the corner of 12th and Owens streets, offers a family atmosphere of praise and worship. Morning worship begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday worship is at 7 p.m. Childcare is available for newborns through preschool. Call Pastor Craig or Cherise Felty at 263-3072 with any questions.

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

Opportunities for Christian growth and service include 9:45 a.m. Sunday school; 11 a.m. morning worship; and no evening services. Wednesday 7 p.m. Bible study, prayer meeting and youth. The church is located at 401 E. Fourth St. Call 267-2291 for more information.

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- Choir Practice.....4:30 PM
- Adult Prayer Group.....5:30 PM
- Evening Service.....6:00 PM

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- Junior Choir Practice.....7:00 PM
- Youth Service.....7:00 PM

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Psalm 23: 1

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Texas Tech q Stadium in Sa

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By KEN PET

AP Sports W

PASADEN Michigan football in fielded a te later.

It's taken a storied sch around to other.

You have greatest pro game, with coaches a Michigan Carr said. incredible t with the ye up and thi meeting.

"And to Rose Bowl to the me game."

Not only matchup th the school: Rose Bowl

Longhorn Brown like

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The Mi most wins plished w Polanco rushing to terback Washing Navy bo ground fo game and caught a to set up reception er.

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Red Raiders roll to win over Cal



Texas Tech quarterback Sonny Cumbie throws against California in the first quarter of the Holiday Bowl at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego. Cumbie led the No. 21-ranked Red Raiders to a win over No. 4 Cal.

Cumbie named MVP, throws for 520 yards in Tech's 45-31 upset

By BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — Mack Brown and the BCS have been exonerated by the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

Stunned at getting knocked out of the Rose Bowl by the Texas Longhorns, the No. 4 California Golden Bears couldn't even hang with No. 23 Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl, losing 45-31 on Thursday night.

Cal coach Jeff Tedford said there was no connection between the snub and the drubbing.

"We didn't lose the game because we didn't go to the Rose Bowl," Tedford said. "It had nothing to do with focus and preparation because we didn't go to the Rose Bowl."

"Once and for all, please, it has nothing to do with it. It is not going to set our program back."

In that case, it looks as if Brown isn't such a villain, after all.

Cal had been in position to go to the Rose Bowl for the first time in 46 seasons, but was leapfrogged in the final Bowl Championship Series standings by Brown's Texas Longhorns, who ended up in Pasadena to face Michigan on Saturday.

The day the BCS pairings were released, Cal quarterback Aaron Rodgers said Brown "was a little classless" for begging for poll votes to help his Longhorns, and that the system was "faulty." Tedford said votes in the coaches' poll should be made public.

The Longhorns, by the way, beat Texas Tech 51-21 at Lubbock on Oct. 23.

Texas Tech fans mocked Cal with chants of "Overrated!" in the closing minutes.

The Golden Bears (10-2), who were 11 1/2-point favorites, simply had no answer against the Red Raiders (8-4) and their efficient spread offense, which uses four wide

receivers most of the time.

Tech senior Sonny Cumbie threw for a career-high 520 yards and three touchdowns, including a 60-yarder to Joel Filani. Safety Vincent Meeks set up a score with a 48-yard interception return.

Cumbie was 39-of-60 and broke the Holiday Bowl attempts record of 59 set by BYU's Ty Detmer in 1989. He was short of Detmer's Holiday Bowl record of 576 yards, also set in 1989.

"We have a great band of players around me," Cumbie said. "And so throwing the ball to them makes things happen. I knew we could have a big night if we executed real well."

Cumbie said opponents can practice all they want. "But our receivers are too fast, our offensive linemen are too good. You can't simulate how good our offense is in three weeks of practice."

Cal's J.J. Arrington became just the third running back in Pac-10 history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season. The senior from Nashville, N.C., carried 25 times for 173 yards, for 2,018 yards.

Arrington scored on a 2-yard run in the first quarter, his 15th rushing TD of the season, a school record. He had been tied with Lindsey Chapman and Russell White.

The Golden Bears were undisciplined on defense — they had two personal fouls on one Tech drive — and Rodgers looked confused at times. California was without career receptions leader Geoff McArthur, who broke his left leg in the fourth quarter of a 26-16 win at Southern Mississippi on Dec. 4.

"We thought we had a good game plan for them," Arrington said. "We didn't underestimate them at all. We worked hard like we did every other week for anybody else."

Wolverines, 'Horns to finally meet

By KEN PETERS

AP Sports Writer

PASADENA, Calif. — Michigan first played football in 1879. Texas fielded a team 14 years later.

It's taken a while for the storied schools to get around to playing each other.

"You have two of the greatest programs in the game, with a lot of great coaches and players," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said. "It's kind of incredible that we're here with the year 2005 coming up and this is the first meeting."

"And to have it in the Rose Bowl certainly adds to the meaning of the game."

Not only is Saturday's matchup the first between the schools, it is Texas' Rose Bowl debut. Longhorns coach Mack Brown likes both "firsts."

"You'll never have a group that's more excited to come to Pasadena than the Texas Longhorns," he said.

Michigan has been a frequent visitor, first playing in the Rose Bowl in 1902 — a 49-0 victory over Stanford. The 91st Rose Bowl will be the Wolverines' 19th, including a 28-14 loss to Southern California last New Year's Day.

Michigan is the winningest team in college football history with 842 victories, and Texas ranks third with 786.

Former Wolverines coach Bo Schembechler, who will attend the game along with longtime friend and former Texas coach Darrell Royal, is pleased the traditional powers finally will meet.

"This is wonderful. We have an opportunity to play Texas and they have an opportunity to play us," the 75-year-old Schembechler said. "And where else are you going to play such a game but in Pasadena."

Why did it take so long? Schembechler said that since Michigan's non-conference schedule usually

included Notre Dame, and Texas' included Oklahoma, that was plenty challenging enough for both schools without having to face each other.

Royal, 80, grinned and nodded in agreement, saying, "We had a loaded boat. We weren't looking to put any more weight on it."

It took the BCS for Texas to finally make it to the Rose Bowl.

Brown drew criticism because of his public plea to the poll voters after Texas' final regular-season game.

Michigan (9-2) was guaranteed a Rose Bowl spot by virtue of its shared Big Ten title with Iowa.

Although Schembechler prefers the traditional Big Ten-Pac-10 matchup in Pasadena, he didn't mind the way the BCS rankings led to this pairing.

"The thing that makes this more palatable is the fact that how else could we match up Texas and Michigan?" he said. "That makes for a great Rose

Bowl game."

The game does shape up as a good one, featuring Michigan's two outstanding freshmen — quarterback Chad Henne and tailback Mike Hart — and wide receiver Braylon Edwards against a Texas offense led by tailback Cedric Benson and quarterback Vince Young.

Henne, the first freshman to open a season at quarterback for Michigan since 1975, passed for 2,516 yards and 21 touchdowns. Hart rushed for 1,396 yards to become the first Wolverines' freshman to top 1,000 yards. Edwards had 87 receptions for 1,221 yards.

Benson ran for 1,764 yards and 19 touchdowns. Young threw for 1,669 yards and 11 touchdowns and rushed for 887 yards and 10 more scores.

"We know we have a lot of history at stake in this game," Texas' Rod Wright said. "The Rose Bowl is a special thing, but we still have a football game that needs to be won."

Navy makes it 10 wins, topping N. Mexico in Emerald Bowl

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Aaron Polanco ran for three touchdowns and passed for another, and Navy capped the academy's best season in 99 years with a 34-19 win over New Mexico in the Emerald Bowl.

Polanco scored on runs of 14, 1 and 27 yards and completed a 61-yard touchdown pass to Corey Dryden, the longest of the season by Polanco and the first career score by Dryden. The Midshipmen's defense was impressive, too, despite the rain-soaked field at SBC Park.

The unit forced two first-half turnovers that led to TDs and staged a goal-line stand late in the third quarter. Then Navy kept the ball for the next 14 minutes, 26 seconds, and held New Mexico to only seven plays in the fourth quarter.

The Midshipmen (10-2) tied for the most wins in school history, last accomplished when Navy went 10-1-1 in 1905.

Polanco finished the season with 16 rushing touchdowns, a record by a quarterback this year. Temple's Walter Washington ran for 15. Polanco gained a Navy bowl record 136 yards on the ground for his fourth 100-yard rushing game and threw for 101 yards. He even caught a 17-yard pass from Frank Divis to set up his second TD — and his two receptions were most by any Navy player.

New Mexico quarterback Kole McKamey had nearly as big a day after

the Lobos (7-5) lost star tailback Don'Trell Moore to a left knee injury late in the first quarter.

McKamey threw for 207 yards and rushed for 138, the first Lobos player to accomplish the feat since Graham Leigh in 1997.

Continental Tire Bowl

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Kicker Ryan Ohliger ran 21 yards for a touchdown on a fake field goal one play after quarterback Paul Peterson was taken off the field on a stretcher with a broken leg to lead 25th-ranked Boston College.

Before leaving, Peterson went 24-of-33 for 236 yards and two touchdowns, helping Boston College win a bowl game for the fifth straight season.

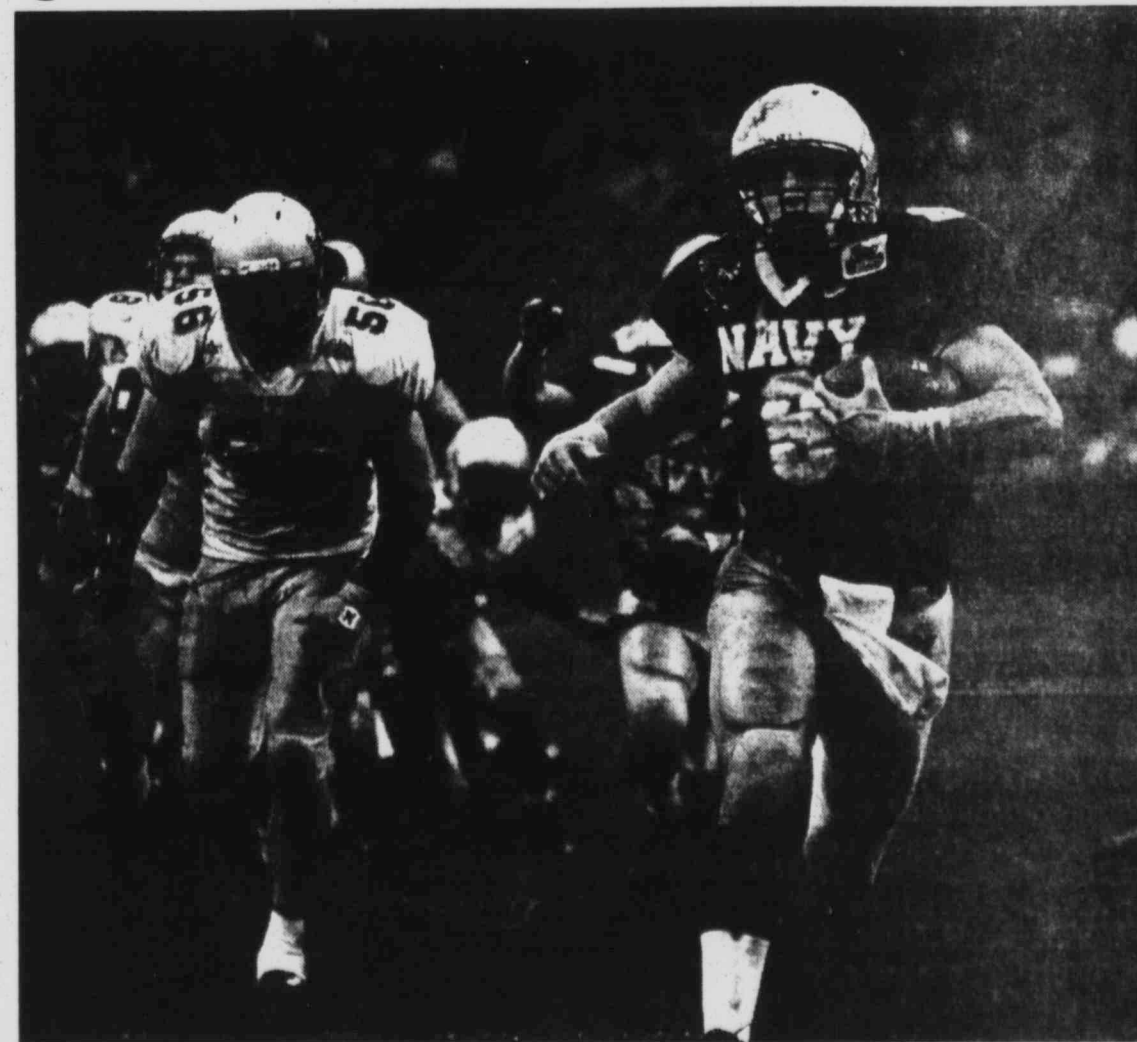
The Eagles (9-3) gave the Big East its first win in the 3-year-old bowl game. It was BC's final game in the league — it joins the Atlantic Coast Conference next season.

Darian Durant threw three scoring passes for North Carolina.

Silicon Valley Football Classic

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Josh Haldi passed for 146 yards and rushed for two touchdowns to lead Northern Illinois to its first bowl victory in 21 years, 34-21 over Troy in the Silicon Valley Football Classic.

The Huskies (9-3) overcame a steady downpour, lighting problems and a delayed kickoff by scoring 34 straight points.



Navy quarterback Aaron Polanco runs for a touchdown against New Mexico in the third quarter of the Emerald Bowl at SBC Park in San Francisco Thursday. Polanco led the Midshipmen to a victory, giving Navy its first 10-win season in 99 years.

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Golf Insider

By T.J. TOMASI

BIRDIES AND BOGEYS

The good guys

Late last fall when the United States defeated an international team to retain the UBS Cup (a Ryder Cup-style match-play event for players over 40 years old), respective captains Arnold Palmer and Gary Player remarked that players of other sports should use golf as a standard of professional behavior.

Well, apparently the public agrees. In a recent survey of 1,600 adults conducted by California-based MarketTools Inc., 64 percent said the PGA Tour had a "positive" or "very positive" image, placing it well ahead of the four major sports (baseball, football, basketball and hockey). The PGA Tour also received a 67 percent positive response when participants were asked if PGA players are "good" or "very good" role models. This was well ahead of baseball (37 percent), football (36 percent), hockey (18 percent) and basketball (12 percent).

Anything for family

You may not play like Tiger, but you can rent like he does at The Lodge at Ocean Hammock Resort on the east coast of Florida. The Ultimate Family Reunion package gives you (and no one else, unless you say so) use of The Lodge (20 rooms), its restaurant and golf course.

And this is no ho-hum joint. Each of your guests gets the full monty, including turndown service and anything they want, within reason. This is far different from the hotels I stay in where "turndown service" means you ask for something and get turned down.

The course is a very nice Jack Nicklaus Signature Design with several ocean holes; there's a full-service, three-meal-a-day restaurant and a beach club.

Total cost per day is only \$49,000. Additional information about the resort or its Ultimate Family Reunion package can be obtained by calling (800) 654-6538, but you have to ask for this deal by name, so be specific.

GOLF BY THE NUMBERS

7-0

The perfect record of Arnold Palmer as a captain in international team golf — one Presidents Cup win, two Ryder Cups and four UBS Cups. You dare not play badly in front of the king.



PALMER

48

The percent of time that Annika Sorenstam has won, placed or showed in an LPGA tournament during her entire career. Amazing.

70.67

The amount of cash in millions made by Tiger Woods in 2004. According to Sports Illustrated, he earned more money in 2004 than any other athlete, nearly double the amount earned by basketball's Shaquille O'Neal, who was second.

0

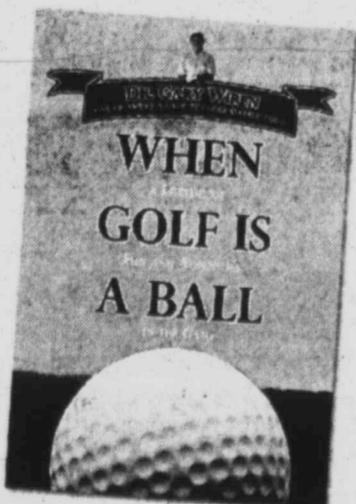
The number of USGA championships won in 2004 by 14-year-old Michelle Wie. She reached the finals in the 2004 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship, but lost to Yani Tseng from Chinese Taipei 2 and 1. We know how to play, now the question is, can she learn how to win?

DON'T MISS IT

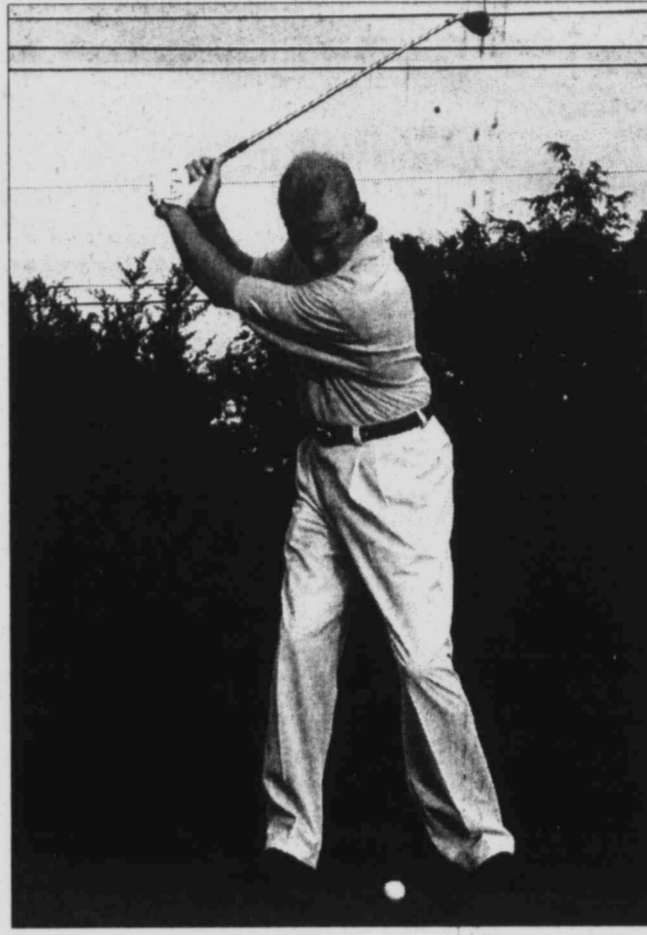
A good read

If you like to read about golf, Don't Miss "When Golf Is a Ball." My friend Dr. Gary Wren's myriad encounters across the globe, from teaching golf to beauty pageant contestants to walking the Great Wall of China, provide stories, quotes and anecdotes that comprise the content of his new book. A member of Golf Magazine's Top 100 Teachers, Gary doesn't just play golf (and he's very good); he lives it.

Log on to www.cloctowerpress.com/display-book/000118/instruction to order a copy for just over \$20.



IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME



With the back foot flared as I have it in the first photo (left), you have a greater ability to load into your back hip socket at the top of the backswing (right).

A swing with some flare

Addressing the ball with the back foot square can lead to reduction in power

It's not unusual to see a golfer with his or her back foot square to the target, i.e., at right angles to the target line. It was Ben Hogan's "Five Lessons," a widely read instruction book, that popularized this idea.

In his book, Hogan said: "There is one correct basic stance: The right foot is at a right angle and the left foot is turned out a quarter of a turn to the left."

Hogan was one of the best ball strikers who ever lived, and he did indeed stand with his right foot perpendicular to the target line, a position he could abide because he was extremely flexible. But what is magic for some is tragic for others.

For most golfers, especially as they age and become less flexible, address-

ABOUT THE WRITER



Dr. T.J. Tomasi is director of instruction at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, Conn. To ask him a question about golf, e-mail him at: TJInsider@aol.com.

ing the ball with the back foot square restricts the hip turn too much. It's a sure way to lose power.

If you are standard issue in the physique category, take a stance with both feet flared, as I am demonstrating in the first photo (above, left). I have both feet flared a quarter of a turn

(about 20 degrees).

With the right foot flared in this manner, you have a greater ability to load into your back hip socket at the top of the backswing. There are only a few non-negotiable swing fundamentals, but this is one of them.

When done properly, you should look as I do in the second photo at the top of the backswing. During your backswing your hips rotate so that the right hip is over the right heel at the top, forming a direct line from the top of the spine to the ankle. I call this the "long spine."

Get yourself a mirror, mimic the position by posing, and remind yourself as you view this perfect position that the "long spine" is not possible without a quarter turn of foot flare.

THE GOLF DOCTOR

Keep a happy thought

The images you make of your world shape your behavior. Think of your new kitten, and you smile; recall a shank, and your body tenses; hear a song from your high school days, and you rocket back in time. What you see, feel, smell, taste and hear in your mind's eye lays the groundwork for your physical responses. Since you behave based on your images, it is best to be careful what you put on that mental screen, especially when you play golf.

In golf, you need to focus on the target. If you don't, you'll be stuck playing

"golf swing" instead of golf. When you play golf, your visual system tracks the target's location, your brain creates the plan and the orders go out to your muscles to get the job done.

Because the chain of events that leads to a successful golf shot starts with the image, your golf game will be no better than your power of imagery. Good players put the target on their mental screen; poor players put the trouble there. And the curious thing about this is that it's the player's option — it's your choice what goes on your screen.

Here's a way to practice screen con-

trol. Stare at a round object for a few seconds — a doorknob, for instance. Close your eyes and you should find the object's after-image still on your mental screen. At first you may be able to see its shape for only a brief instant, but as you improve your image-retention skills, you'll be able to hold a clear image of your target on your screen for several seconds or more. Your goal is to hold the target image long enough for it to cue your golf swing.

For more on how to develop the power of image retention, see my book "The 30-Second Golf Swing."

TEERING OFF

A matter of venue

Golf 20/20 is a collaborative effort among various members of the golf industry — the associations (such as the PGA, LPGA and USGA), manufacturers, course owner/operators and the media — whose goal is to focus on the future of the game and foster its growth.

After studying the stats, Golf 20/20 has come up with this conclusion: Golf participation nationwide has been essentially flat for years.

From my perspective, the main reason growth is stagnant is obvious: Golf courses, especially the newer ones, are just too hard for golfers to have fun.

Let me give you an example. A 9-handicapper who was visiting me in Florida went to a local course designed by one of the big-name architects for a "fun" round. He came away exhausted and frustrated.

He hit the ball pretty well, but forced carries over bunkers, water lining both sides of the fairway, and greens running 10 on the stimp meter made his day miserable. And he played the white tees, a yardage that was perfect for his game. The trouble was that the course was just too tough.

The next day he went fishing. You could have offered him free green fees, cart, lunch and cocktails and he would still have opted for the charter boat.

Here's the problem: Much of the Golf 20/20 program is based on ask-and-tell surveys, a dangerous proposition because there is no known connection between the tongue and the truth. If Golf 20/20 surveyed my fed-up friend, he would probably say he is playing less golf to spend more quality time with his family, but he's really cutting back because the courses are too hard.

Basically, golf has a venue problem and it's the architects' fault.

Other games don't have this problem: A tennis court is a tennis court, and the net is the same height wherever you go; a baseball diamond has a pitching mound that's always 60 feet from home; every football field is 100 yards long; and a basketball hoop is 12 feet high whether it's in L.A. or Newark, N.J.

But golf courses are built in any way the designer chooses — and "designer" is the perfect word for these "Guccis" of green grass. There are many whims, but no rules.

Courses should not be about architects' legacies but about playability for the less-than-expert golfer. If you're an Aeorsmith fan, you'll remember the lyric, "There's not even breathing room between pleasure and pain." That has become the anthem of golf course designers. The fairways are roads to perdition and the greens are more convoluted than "The Da Vinci Code."

Right now the elitist view held by the majority of golf's power brokers is that if the courses are too hard for golfers, too bad. It's the golfers who need to get better so they can enjoy the game. My take is that the courses need to be easier, and that automatically makes the golfer better — the painless way.

Golfers "play" golf, and the only way to keep them playing is to remember Webster's definition of "play": "the absence of serious or harmful intent."

LPGA EVENTS THROUGH APRIL

Date, event, purse, site

- Feb 11-13: Women's World Cup of Golf, \$1,000,000, The Links, Fancourt Hotel and Country Club Estate, George, South Africa
- Feb 24-26: SBS Open at Turtle Bay, \$1,000,000, Turtle Bay Resort (Palmer Course) Oahu, Hawaii
- March 4-6: MasterCard Classic, \$1,200,000, Bosque Real Country Club, Mexico City, Mexico
- March 17-20: Safeway International Presented by Coca-Cola, \$1,400,000, Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club, Superstition Mountain, Ariz.
- March 24-27: Kraft Nabisco Championship, \$1,800,000, Mission Hills Country Club (Dinah Shore Tournament Course), Rancho Mirage, Calif.
- April 14-16: LPGA Takefujii Classic, \$1,100,000, The Las Vegas Country Club, Las Vegas, Nevada
- April 21-24: Corona Morelia Championship, \$1,000,000, Tres Marias Residential Golf Club, Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico

ASK THE PRO

Q: Surfing the Internet, I came across a golf tip that I think (I could not find my way back) was as follows: "In the downswing, the right elbow goes back and then down." What do you say about that bit of advice? — Dick J., Stockholm, Sweden

A: A good golf instructor needs a lot of different ways to communicate the proper fundamentals to his students, and monitoring the right elbow (for a right-handed player), is one way to improve your swing. The right elbow should go back (away from the target) only slightly but mostly down at the start of the downswing.

I usually describe the proper start of the downswing with a lead arm refer-

ence: "There are two moves, inseparable companions from the start, that occur: (1) the lead arm falls back down your chest as (2) your weight shifts from your back leg to your front one."

I'll use any way I can to communicate the non-negotiable fundamental that the "down" portion of the downswing should occur before the "around" portion because it is so common for golfers to reverse the sequence. They turn their chest (the around portion) before they move the club down, so the club moves out toward the target line while it is still very high. Then, as it drops to the ball, it's on a cut-across path, causing a pull or a slice.

If you let the elbow drop down, your downswing should prosper.

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1503 SCURRY. Large one bedroom, one bath. All bills paid. \$350. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

1505 OWENS. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

1505 TUSCON. Four bedroom, two bath. CH/A. Call (432)270-3848.

1507 AUSTIN. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Water paid. \$295.00 month, \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1605 KENTUCKY Way. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. Garage, CH/A, fenced backyard, washer & dryer connections \$430/month, \$350/deposit. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

1606 11TH Place. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath with big den. Good neighborhood. \$350.00 month. Call (432)263-6922, afternoons & evenings.

1903 GREGG St. for rent. Great office or retail space. \$375/month plus deposit. Call (432)213-2681.

2 BEDROOM Mobile Home. Refrigerator and stove furnished. Fenced yard. No Pets. Call (432)466-3335.

2/2/3 near Elbow School. Country home, good water, quiet and shady, large grounds. Forsan ISD. \$650 month, \$650.00 deposit. 1 yr lease. Call (512)755-1697.

2604 ENT. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, New paint/ carpet. References. \$400. month, \$250. deposit. HUD accepted. Call (432)267-7449.

3/2 WITH garage. Gourmet kitchen with built-ins. Forsan ISD. 2406 Cheyenne. \$650. month, \$400. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

4221 HAMILTON. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

612 GREGG, 800 square feet. Strip/Center Location. \$450.00 month plus deposit required. Call (432)267-7449.

624 RIDGELEA. Clean 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, CH/A. Stove & refrigerator furnished. Fenced yard, garage. \$450. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

Real Estate for Rent

811 JOHNSON. 2 Bedroom. Water, gas & utilities paid. \$600. month, \$50. deposit. 303 East 9th, 1 bedroom, bills paid. \$400. month, \$50. deposit. (432)264-1570.

900 SCURRY. 3/1 Apartment. CH/A, washer, dryer hookups. Appliances furnished. \$385.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. No HUD. Call (432)213-2681

CLEANEST 1 Bedroom in town. \$300. Month, \$150. deposit. No pets. References required. Carport. Call (432)213-2319.

COUNTRY HOME, 511 Centerpoint Rd. 3/2, C/H/A, 1 acre lot. \$550.00 month \$300 deposit. Lease and references. Call 432-267-2015 or 432-816-6595

FOR LEASE - Extra nice Parkhill home. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath with garage. No Pets. References required. Call (432)263-1054.

FOR RENT: 800 1/2 Nolan. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Utilities included. \$400.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

LEASE OR Sale, 1413 Sycamore, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$300 month, or \$14,500.00. Call (325)695-6100 after 6:00 p.m.

SUNSET RIDGE APPTS. 2911 W. Hwy 80
Big Spring
New Management
Family Friendly
Central A/C
Cable TV
Large Rooms
Move In Special
(432)263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost. On 1306 Marjio. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. Reasonably good credit required, lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

1612 BLUEBIRD. Owner Financing. Buy for \$277.00 month or Rent \$375.00 month. Call (432)264-9907.

20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set up for Doublewide. 45K, \$6,500.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 30 years. No Credit Check. Call (817)312-6922.

C-CITY LAKE Home, 4 Bedroom, 3 bath. Deeded land on large lot; fenced, newly remodeled. Call (432)263-7373 or 263-6824 after 5:00 pm.

ELEGANT SPACE! Kentwood home, Rebecca. 2000 sq. ft. on large lot. 3/2 or 4/2. Deck, ceramic tile. New A/C. Ample storage. \$86,000. Viewing appointments: (432)267-2462.

NO DOWN Payment on 2 thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. We can adjust your monthly payments to fit your Budget. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

PERFECT for Single or couple- 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, Central H/A, single garage, large backyard with deck, new carpet. Possible Owner Finance. Call (432)263-6887, 270-1743.

RENT to OWN. 4 Bedroom, 1 bath. Washer and Dryer Connection with fenced yard. Call (432)264-6611.

SPACIOUS TWO-STORY home. 2150 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2 baths, office, 2 living areas, ash cabinets, fireplace. Gazebo, 2 storage bldgs., 3/4 acre, secluded. Lovely yard. \$105.00. Call (432)263-4080.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS
Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options
Such As ALL BILLS PAID
\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
538 Westover OPEN SATURDAY 263-1252

FOR SALE
No Down Payment
OWNER FINANCING
Bad Credit O.K.
2-3-4-5 & 6 Bedroom Brick Homes
Call Beverly 263-3461

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Virgo moon along with other planetary influences has us in an industrious mood. Squeezing as much production into the day as possible is a prerequisite for getting into the party mood tonight. The drinking is tempered, as health is a big New Year focus.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A woman in your life pokes and prods at your psyche, inspiring you to re-think your plan for New Year's Eve. What? You still don't have a plan for the evening? At least resolve to take on an enthusiastic attitude.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're feeling energized and can blow through an entire day's worth of duties in half the time. Why not cut out of a boring situation and spend some time primping for your New Year's celebration? You're gorgeous in green.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your plucky wit doesn't make sense to everyone — just the most important people! You'll meet someone over food or drinks. Plant yourself by the snack table, and get chatting. By midnight, you've found someone to kiss.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The most romantic nights are in, not out! Forgo the parties — and drunk drivers — in favor of snuggling in front of the TV with your sweetie. Single? Host friends or family at your place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Any socializing you do tonight is likely to have a strong work component.

Real Estate for Sale

OWNER WILL FINANCE! 3 bedroom home. Just remodeled! Great condition! 1214 Ridgeroad. LOW DOWN, LOW MONTHLY! Tadlock Realtors (432)580-4883.

Vehicles

'04 Freestar Vans
\$6000 Available
Rebates
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7424

2000 FORD Excursion Limited 4x4, V10. Heated leather seats, CD with Disc. changer. New tires, running boards and trailer hitch. \$18,500.00. Call (432)264-9507.

2002 DURANGO - Loaded. Very Clean. 33K miles, all power. Asking \$14,500.00. Call (432)816-3684.

2003 NISSAN Frontier, 4-WD, automatic w/OD, low mileage. Very clean! \$13,700. Call (432)263-7518 or 264-2954.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on January 21, 2005 for Paper and Office Supplies. Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main, Room 203, Big Spring, TX or by calling (432)264-2210. Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on January 24, 2005 for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Drew Lopez, Asst. Auditor #4420 December 23 & 31, 2004 & January 7, 2005.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

If you're not actually going to a job-related event, you may meet someone in your field or exchange business cards with an interesting stranger.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). New Year's bash at your house? The cosmos is working in your favor — expect to pull it off without a hitch. The place is immaculate, the food divine. Just remember to stop running around long enough to have fun!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Go ahead and indulge your senses. A smorgasbord of gastronomical delights awaits you. You can start your diet tomorrow. Better yet, for your best chance for success, wait until after the new moon on Jan. 11.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Clashing with a loved one can be enlightening. Don't fear conflict — it's important to clear the air so you can get on with your new year. Stick to your guns if you must, but making up is more fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Let them just try to stop you from painting the town red tonight! You've worked your tail off this year, and nobody knows it better than you. Go ahead — let loose. A night of unrepentant celebration is certainly well deserved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Life is looking pretty darned good from where you're standing. Your social life rocks, and you've got folks at the office wrapped

around your little finger. Now, if only you could find the perfect outfit for tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Let someone else be the designated driver. If there's a checkpoint within a 10-mile radius of you, you're likely to be pulled over. And indicators suggest a butting of heads with authority figures —yikes! Better safe than sorry.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You feel as if you're working at cross-purposes with an important woman in your life. In fact, you're not, but it's challenging to see the forest for the trees. This lesson is one you'll be happy you learned before the new year rings in!

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: The Virgo moon adds a practical element to romance. Love is as love does. So don't declare our undying devotion as you pass into the new year — pick a way to show you mean it. ARIES: You'll go into the new year with a new love either in your heart or on your arm. TAURUS: Know in your heart that you are without a doubt worthy of emotional fulfillment. GEMINI: Many clamor for your attention, and you'll feel flattered. CANCER: Your heart is big enough to give love to anyone in your life who needs it. LEO: You'll find someone who thinks like you, but don't rush — take it one move at a time. VIRGO: A romantic situation falls right into your lap. LIBRA: Love is met while you develop

your talent. SCORPIO: Let your love be the star, and you'll get all the attention when you need it the most. SAGITTARIUS: People skills make you a most desirable partner — someone has a crush on you. CAPRICORN: Affectionate feelings are tied to shared goals. AQUARIUS: The presence of a certain person might be making you oblivious to everything else. PISCES: True wealth is in relationships, not in anything that can be punctuated with a decimal point.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Sexy Scorpio doesn't seem interested in love, and that's part of Pisces' intense attraction to this aloof sign. Scorpio's love-'em-and-leave-'em attitude provides just the challenge Pisces wants this weekend. Scorpio starts the game by backing off. Then, Pisces makes a move. This chase game never gets old, if these two can meet in the middle once in a while. This weekend is one of those times.

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

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Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: After numerous e-mails and phone calls with my sister-in-law, we could hardly wait for a week's visit from my brother's family. After the first night, however, my relatives were in total shock after witnessing the behavior of my brother's 2-year-old daughter, "Misty."



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Misty walked all over our furniture, constantly screaming, hitting, pinching and pushing everyone she encountered. She even hit her parents and her 8-year-old brother. She is the most unhappy child I have ever seen.

We have a 3-year-old who plays beautifully with other children. Misty was abusive to her cousin, and at no time did her parents discipline her. When Misty was awake, there was a lot of tension. When she was asleep, we all had a great time.

I couldn't sit and watch Misty abuse my daughter, so I finally confronted my brother and his wife. They swore up and down that they had never seen Misty act this way before and she has never had a problem playing with other children. Yet every time Misty screamed, hit or walked on my furniture, I was told repeatedly by her parents that "Misty just needs her space."

I'm just so hurt and frustrated that a 2-year-old could ruin a visit. I realize the child is not to blame if her parents have not done their job properly. I do not care to be around Misty or subject my child to her. But I had such a great time with my brother, his wife and their son that I'd love to see them again. They want us to visit next summer. What should I do? — Misty's Hostage

Dear Hostage: Toddlers, fortunately, change a great deal over a short time, and by next year, Misty may be much better

behaved. Try not to pass judgment so soon.

By all means, plan to see your brother next summer, but make reservations at a nearby motel, so you can control how much time you spend with Misty.

Dear Annie: I work as a labor and delivery nurse. I am frequently put into the middle of family arguments because this or that person insists on attending the birth against the parents' wishes. This creates a hostile environment, and it is difficult for the mother to relax and cope with her labor.

Here are my suggestions for expecting parents and their families:

1. Don't assume you are invited to the birth. If the parents want you to be in the birthing room, they will ask you.
2. Don't camp out in the hall outside the room and listen. It may make the mother self-conscious, and it also is dangerous to the nurses if they come dashing out of the room to fetch something.
3. Be supportive. Offer to get ice chips or take over for the coach so he or she can use the bathroom or get a snack.
4. Limit your visitation time after the birth. Most new mothers are exhausted.
5. Once the new parents arrive home, offer to cook a meal, clean the house, fold the laundry or sit with the baby so the new

mom can take a nap or shower.

Thank you for letting me get this off my chest. — Baby Nurse in Kansas

Dear Nurse: New parents everywhere will appreciate your thoughtful suggestions. Thanks for writing.

Dear Annie: I read a letter from "Worried Grandma Out West," whose 16-year-old granddaughter is writing two young men, age 18, who are incarcerated in prison.

I am a parole agent and have dealt with this issue numerous times. When her granddaughter gets a letter from either inmate, Grandma should write down his name and prison identification number (they have to write that on the envelope). She can then call the correctional facility and ask to speak with a parole agent or correctional counselor and let them know of the situation, and that her granddaughter is underage.

This type of complaint should stop the mail from occurring. Sad to say, men who are incarcerated for serious crimes often write young women in order to manipulate them. — Parole Agent in California

Dear Parole Agent: Many thanks for your valuable advice. We hope that grandmother will take the necessary steps.

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

FRIDAY

	WFAA	G
		Dallas
6	:30	News (CC) Wheel-Fort
7	:30	8 Simple Rules Complete S
8	:30	Hope & Faith Less-Perfec
9	:30	New Year's Rockin' Eve
10	:30	News (CC) Dick Clark's
11	:30	New Year's Rockin' Eve
12	:30	2005 (CC)

DENNIS



"MAYBE WHEN I UP PAST BEDTI"

BC



WIZARD



AGNES



HI AND



THE OTI



SNUFFY



BEEBLE



FRIDAY

DEC. 31

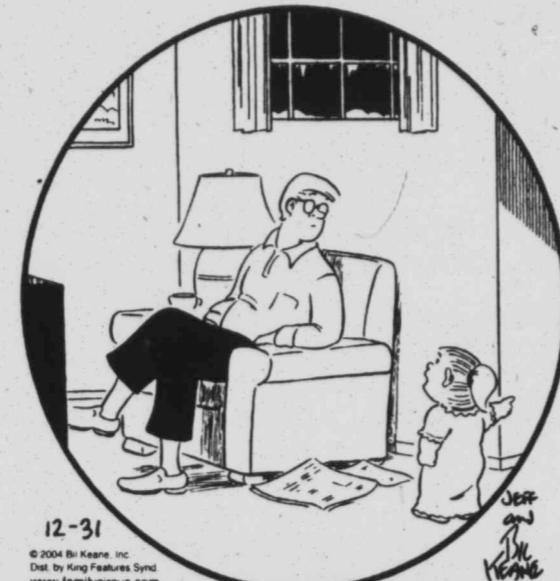
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	TMC (250) Premium
6	PM 30 News (CC) Wheel-Fortune	News Wheel-Fortune	Premios Juventud 2004	Malcolm-Mid-Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Los Premios Billboard D4	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond Raymond	How Can I John Hagee	News-Lehrer	American Casino (CC)	Three Stooges	(CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Notarized Top Video		NFL Live NFL Matchup	SportsCenter College	Lady Jayne-Killer (CC)
7	PM 30 8 Simple Rules Complete Sav.	8 Simple Rules Complete Sav.		Movie: Bat (CC)	Joan of Arcadia (CC)		Dataline NBC (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Michal Ratliff	Wash. Week Wall-Fortune	American Hot Rod (CC)	Three Stooges	Movie: Bloodsport	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Countdown		NBA Basketball: 76ers at Nuggets	Football: Chick-fil-A	Movie: Dirty Rotten
8	PM 30 Hope & Faith Less-Perfect	Hope & Faith Less-Perfect	Vicente Fernandez	JAG (CC) (DVS)			Seinfeld (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Washington National	American Hot Rod (CC)	Three Stooges	Movie: You've Got Mail	(CC)					Peach Bowl - Florida vs. Miami (CC)	Scoundrels (CC)
9	PM 30 New Year's Rockin' Eve	New Year's Rockin' Eve	Feliz Ano Nuevo!	Malcolm-Mid-70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Fiesta de Ano Nuevo	New Year's Eve-Daily	Seinfeld (CC)	Opera: Die Fledermaus	American Hot Rod (CC)	Three Stooges	Movie: Kickboxer	(CC)				Karate		Movie: Double Whammy
10	PM 30 News (CC) Dick Clark's	News Dick Clark's		New Year's Eve: Live From Times Square	News Late Show	Noticias El Pleasure	News The Tonight Show (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Wall-Fortune	American Hot Rod (CC)	Three Stooges	(CC)	Movie: Kate & Leopold	106 & Party		Karate	SportsCenter (CC)	35 Movie: Bare Witness (CC)
11	PM 30 New Year's Rockin' Eve	New Year's Rockin' Eve		Times Square Backer (CC)	The Late Late Show (CC)	Island	mercado-Year 45 Movie: Michael Decker	Seinfeld (CC)	CCM Ministries	Sign Off	American Hot Rod (CC)	Movie: Have Rocket, Will Travel	Blind Date	Blind Date	Leopard	Phil of Future To Be	Karate: ISKA	College Gameday Final	Bare Witness (CC)
12	AM 30 2005 (CC)	2005 (CC)	Idolos de Vina	Spin City Dharma-Greg	Show (CC) The Insider	Movie: Feliz	(CC)	Down to Earth (CC)	Dineh Christian Update/Israel	"	American Chopper	Travel 45 Movie:	Blind Date	Blind Date	Club Comic View	Announced	Karate: ISKA	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Spiderbabe

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MAYBE WHEN WE GET OLDER, WE CAN STAY UP PAST BEDTIME AN' ACT LIKE KIDS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Daddy, would you lie down on my bed and warm it up for me?"

HAGAR

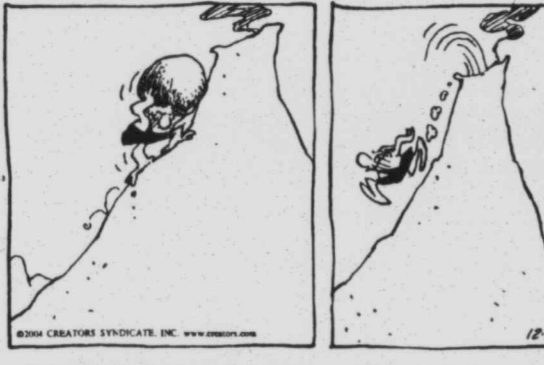


THIS YEAR I RESOLVE TO STOP DRINKING AND EATING RICH FOODS, STOP GAMBLING, AND I WILL ATTEND MY WIFE'S WEEKLY GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS WITH HER!



SO, WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE FOR BEING LATE TODAY? I HAD TO FINISH WRITING MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. WELL, LET'S HEAR 'EM. OKAY... NUMBER ONE, DON'T BE LATE FOR CARPOOL.

BC



WIZARD OF ID



I HATE IT WHEN THE BALL COMES DOWN.

This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 31, the 366th and final day of 2004.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 31, 1879, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, N.J.

On this date:

In 1775, the British repulsed an attack by Continental Army Gens. Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold at Quebec; Montgomery was killed.

In 1857, Britain's Queen Victoria decided to make Ottawa the capital of Canada.

In 1862, President Lincoln signed an act admitting West Virginia to the Union.

In 1877, President and Mrs. Hayes celebrated their silver anniversary (techni-

cally, a day late) by re-enacting their wedding ceremony in the White House.

In 1946, President Truman officially proclaimed the end of hostilities in World War II.

In 1961, the Marshall Plan expired after distributing more than \$12 billion in foreign aid.

In 1974, private U.S. citizens were allowed to buy and own gold for the first time in more than 40 years.

In 1978, Taiwanese diplomats struck their colors for the final time from the embassy flagpole in Washington, marking the end of diplomatic relations with the United States.

In 1985, singer Rick Nelson, 45, and six other people were killed when fire broke out aboard a DC-3 that was taking the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.

In 1986, 97 people were killed when fire broke out in the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Three hotel workers later pleaded guilty to charges in connection with the blaze.)

Answer to previous puzzle

STEM	MOSS	MARIS
WALE	ORCH	JAUNT
AXED	NGAR	AIMTO
GIVING	ABUZZ	BEN
CIR	GAZELLE	
JUBILEE	PURE	
ETA	ELLES	POSER
ANIE	SLEEP	SERE
NEGRI	AIRED	ATF
ALLY	NARRATES	
JEWELLED	OAT	
ATA	BAR	EXTRACT
WHYME	YETI	EQUI
ENACT	AROD	SUET
DOTS	SINE	TARO

AGNES



DID YOU KNOW I GREW UP WITH SEVEN BROTHERS?



WOW! WHAT WAS THAT LIKE? LIKE LIVING A FAIRY TALE. SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DORKS.

HI AND LOIS



YOU'RE NOT HIRING A TREE SERVICE TO TRIM YOUR BRANCHES?



NAH, I CAN DO IT MYSELF! ARE YOU SURE?

THE OTHER COAST



I HATE TO GOSSIP, BUT I HEAR BOBBY IS ADDICTED TO PAINKILLERS.



OH MY GOODNESS! SHOWS A LACK OF SELF CONTROL. SAD TO SEE SOMEONE BECOME A SLAVE TO ADDICTION. MARTINI, ANYONE? SURE, DONNA. I'LL TAKE TWO. SAME HERE AND BIGGIE MINE. CAN I HAVE MINE IN A BUCKET?

SNUFFY SMITH



I HEAR CLOVIS AN' LUELLIE SPLIT UP FER GOOD !! THEY DIVIDED THAR WORLDLY POSSESSIONS RIGHT DOWN TH' MIDDLE !!



LUELLIE GOT TH' ICE BOX. CLOVIS GOT TH' ICE !!

BEETLE BAILEY



WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THOSE ANTS ARE ALL IN THAT LONG LINE?



WELL, IT'S TIME FOR LUNCH.

Newsday Crossword

ENERGY BOOST by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Places for pigs
 - 6 Word on U.S. coins
 - 11 Roll of bills
 - 14 Cause to redden
 - 15 Sheltered spot
 - 16 Drugmaker Lilly
 - 17 Eagerly anticipated chops?
 - 19 Code-cracking org.
 - 20 Nationality suffix
 - 21 Chummy correspondent
 - 22 The whole shebang
 - 23 Backsliding
 - 25 LAPD broadcasts
 - 27 Fastidious monarch of rhyme?
 - 32 Showed curiosity
 - 35 Spanish 101 verb.
 - 36 Motown labor grp.
 - 37 Masticate, nonstandardly
 - 38 Aromatic ointments
 - 40 Novel ending
 - 41 Granola tidbit
 - 42 Knight's protection
 - 43 None of the above
 - 44 Farmer's admission?
 - 48 Relief pitcher's success
 - 49 Back in the day
 - 53 Catamount
 - 55 Guiding light
- DOWN**
- 1 Clumsy one
 - 2 Like Nero Wolfe
 - 3 Superman's birth name
 - 4 PC key
 - 5 Cruised the mall
 - 6 Surfer's milieu
 - 7 Evel Knievel prop
 - 8 Iris locale
 - 9 Varnisher's supply
 - 10 Big bang maker
 - 11 Took a turn for the worse
 - 12 In addition
 - 13 Charlie's Angels actress
 - 18 Desert bluff
 - 22 Leading letters
 - 24 Once more
 - 26 Org. for Els
 - 28 Shade of green
 - 29 School of thought
 - 30 Past the deadline
 - 31 Washstand pitcher
 - 32 "Don't have ___"
 - 33 Peacock Throne occupant
 - 34 "God Bless America" singer
 - 38 Ken Burns miniseries
 - 39 Use a sight
 - 40 Summers on the Seine
 - 42 Basic cable offering
 - 43 Mediator's goal
 - 45 Small battery size
 - 46 More frilly
 - 47 Borodin prince
 - 50 ___ for Adano
 - 51 Soda flavor
 - 52 Blue language
 - 53 Storybook bear
 - 54 OSCAR author
 - 56 Oscar winner
 - 57 Basilica section
 - 60 Flight formation
 - 61 "Later!"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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During 2004
we printed 5904
pages. It only
seems proper the
last one should say
THANK YOU.

Thank you for a
successful 2004
and all the best
to you and yours
in 2005!

Happy New Year!

**BIG
SPRING HERALD**

Ne

The new y
new hopes, r
new babies
Glenn Kin
Dylan Lane
on New Year

Sad news
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Western

BIRTHS

Kinard, Dyla
was born Jan.
Rodruez, Ju
was born Jan.
Nelson, Clin
boy, was born
Garcia, Felic
Jan. 7.
Patel, Esha
was born Jan.

DEATHS

Armstrong,
Spring died Ja
Kerley, Bar
Spring died Ja
Harding, Jo
County, died
Wood, Joh
Cibolo died Ja
Dunn, Hom
BCoahoma, d
Foster, Iren
died Jan. 2.

Daughtery,
80, of Wills P
Graves, C.C
died Jan. 2.

Watkins, B.
City, died Jan
Cagle, Gary
died Jan. 4.

Redding, J.
Big Spring die
Coleman, J.

Ackerly died.
Johnson, C
Big Spring die
Hale, Virg
Spring died J

Gallardo,
Lamesa died
Hamlin, M.
Plainview die

Goertz, Je
Spring, died.
Turney-Soli
11, of Big Sp

BIG SPA

New hopes for a new year

The new year began with new hopes, new dreams and new babies as Alisa and Glenn Kinard welcomed Dylan Lane Kinard at 2 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Sad news began the month for the family of John Harding, 22, of southern Borden County, killed in an early morning crash. The Texas Tech student was discovered on FM 1785 near Fairview School about 15 miles west of Lake Thomas.

On the same day, Ronald Allen filed with the Republican party and the County Clerk's Office to run for Howard County Sheriff against Dale Walker while fellow Democrat Willie Rangel also filed to run against Walker.

Seventeenth District Congressman Charlie Stenholm, D-Abilene, officially announced his candidacy for the 19th District which ultimately would force Howard County residents to choose between their former Congressman and freshman Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, whose support from Howard County voters had given him the votes to win the vacated seat in a runoff election.

Western National Bank



A West Texas snowman brightens the lawn at a residence in Big Spring.

was the victim of a robbery Jan. 7. No one was injured when the suspect entered the bank at 607 Scurry and displayed a note to the teller

indicating that a robbery was taking place. The suspect requested the teller give him all of the \$100 and \$50 bills and fled the on foot.

As mid-month approached, the Harley-Davidson Shop celebrated its 15th annual Chili Cook-Off which enticed 300 people for fun and fellowship. The All-American Cabinet Team of Dalton and Carol Lewis won.

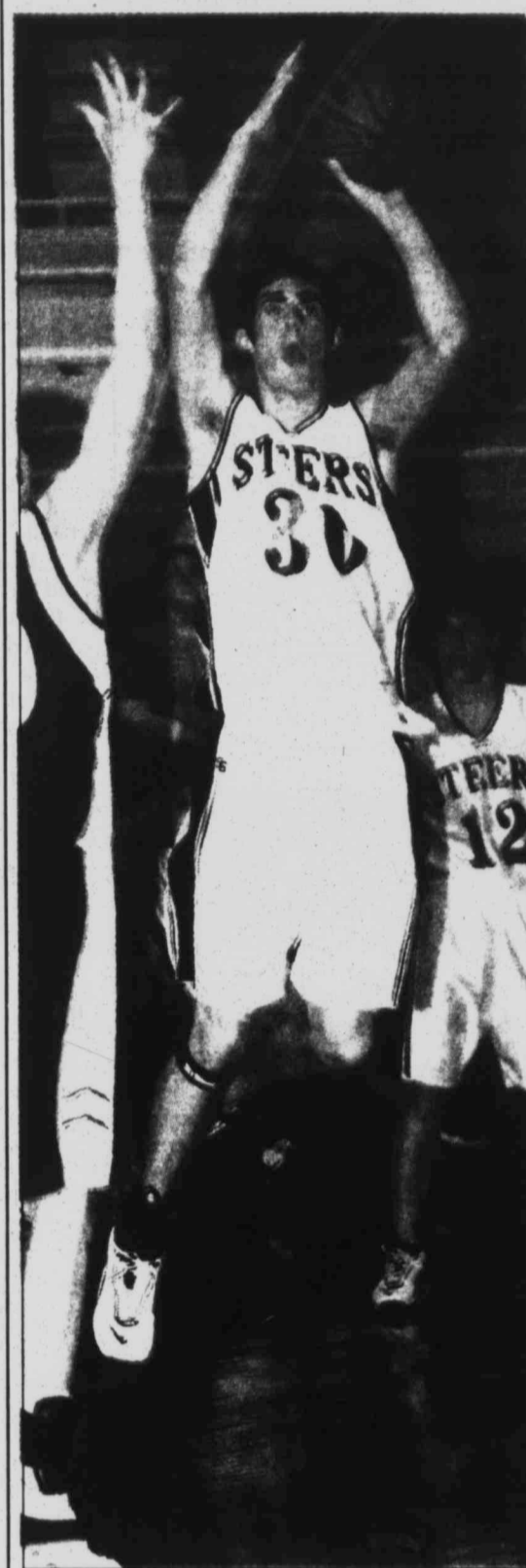
ALON USA made visits to local schools as part of a two-week curriculum about the petroleum industry written by a cross section of Big Spring teachers. This provided a way for the Big Spring Independent School District to take part in the Big Spring Refinery's 75th anniversary.

Big Spring Rotary officials presented the first Dr. Preston Harrison Scholarship of \$600 to Matthew Reyna, a Forsan High School graduate and Howard College student.

The Howard County Sheriff's Department faced controversy when 41-year-old Richard Dunn Allen used an article of jail-issued clothing to hang himself.

The month ended on a high note when Coahoma honored the memory of Robert W. "Rob" Ethridge for his service as role model, disciplinarian and mentor by renaming Coahoma Junior High Robert W. "Rob" Ethridge Junior High.

Sports



Big Spring's Brandon Hughes puts up a shot last January during the Steers' basketball season.

The Big Spring Lady Steers basketball team had almost everything going for them last Jan. 9 in their District 4-4A opener against the Lake View Maidens.

Unfortunately, the whistle wasn't one of them.

The Lady Steers committed 35 fouls and had four players foul out en route to suffering a tough 59-50 loss to Lake View in the Ben Norton Gymnasium. Big Spring's foul trouble enabled the Maidens to snap a 41-game district losing streak by hitting on 25 of 44 free throw opportunities.

With the loss, Big Spring slipped to 5-13 for the year and to 0-1 in league play.

Jeremy Cerda, Erin Partee, Jordan Cobb and Anthony Fuentes were named to the 2003 Texas High School Coaches Association academic all-state team for their excellence on the football field as well as in the classroom.

Big Spring linebacker Jared Phillips was nominated for the Old Spice Player of the Year award, which is presented annually to top high school players in the United States.

The Howard College men's basketball team moved into second place in the WJCAC Conference after recording back-to-back narrow victories over New Mexico Junior College and the New Mexico Military Institute.

Alvin Russell made his fast six month comeback to the Big Spring basketball team after suffering a torn ACL, which he sustained at a summer basketball league game.

BIRTHS

Kinard, Dylan Lane, a boy, was born Jan. 1.
Rodríguez, Juan Antonio, a boy, was born Jan. 2.
Nelson, Clinton Davd Jr., a boy, was born Jan. 6.
Garcia, Felicity, a girl, was born Jan. 7.
Patel, Eshan Bakul, a boy, was born Jan. 7.

Avina, Angel Emmanuel, a boy, was born Jan. 9.
Castanuela, Jason Anthony, a boy, was born Jan. 10.
Rodríguez, Chasity Hope, a girl, was born Jan. 12.
Chavera, Joseph Lee, a boy, was born Jan. 16.
Richards, Jordan Tyeler, a boy, was born Jan. 18.

Rodríguez, Anthony Joseph, a boy, and Mya Nicole Molina, his twin sister, were born Jan. 19.
Johnson, Kaitlyn Danae, a girl, was born Jan. 21.
Autry, Blake Cameron, a boy, was born Jan. 22.
Quintana, Celestina Briana Mier, a girl, was born Jan. 22.

Cantu, Jo Eva, a girl, was born Jan. 23.
Baeza, Gabriel Rey, a boy, was born Jan. 24.
Eisenbach, Cheeyenne Brane, a girl, was born Jan. 25.
Fizer, Sa'Quan Tre'veon, a girl, was born Jan. 27.
Rutledge, RaeAnn Kevi, a girl, was born Jan. 30.

DEATHS

Armstrong, Ann, 82, of Big Spring died Jan. 1.
Kerley, Barbara, 72, of Big Spring died Jan. 1.
Harding, John, 22, of Borden County, died Jan. 1.
Wood, John Michael, 55, of Cibolo died Jan. 1.
Dunn, Homer Chestine, 78, of BCoahoma, died Jan. 2.
Foster, Irene, 64, of Big Spring died Jan. 2.
Daughtery, Benjamin Franklin, 80, of Wills Point, died Jan. 2.
Graves, C.C., 87, of Hereford, died Jan. 2.
Watkins, B.J., 75, of Colorado City, died Jan. 3.
Cagle, Gary, 66, of Big Spring died Jan. 4.
Redding, John Louis, 74, of Big Spring died Jan. 6.
Coleman, Johnnie Sue, 83, of Ackerly died Jan. 6.
Johnson, Oliver Curly, 90, of Big Spring died Jan. 6.
Hale, Virginia, 72, of Big Spring died Jan. 6.
Gallardo, David, 36, of Lamesa died Jan. 6.
Hamlin, Mary Frances, 91, of Plainview died Jan. 7.
Goertz, Jean, 55, of Big Spring, died Jan. 7.
Turney-Solis, Destini Jamilyn, 11, of Big Spring died Jan. 7.

Whepler, Allen, 554, of Midland died Jan. 8.
Billington, Dink, 83, of Hobbs, N.M., died Jan. 9.
Weatherly, Becky, 49, of Colorado City died Jan. 10.
Noel, Anthony, 48, of Big Spring died Jan. 10.
Rodríguez, Emilio, 93, of Odessa died Jan. 11.
Johnson, Lerla, 80, of Big Spring died Jan. 11.
Bennett, Ingeborg H., 79, of Big Spring died Jan. 11.
Moralez, ERoberto O., 68, of Big Spring died Jan. 12.
Smith, Janie Yvonne Ivy, 79, of Stanton died Jan. 12.
Gibson, Billie Jean Rowe, 76, of Odessa died Jan. 12.
Willbanks, Maberry, 88, of New Braunfels died Jan. 13.
Keith, Kaia Felicity, infant, of Clyde, died Jan. 13.
Keeling, Betty, 70, of Big Spring died Jan. 14.
Oppegard, Moran, 86, of Big Spring died Jan. 14.
Applteon, John L. 85, of Big Spring died Jan. 15.
Marin, Jaycee Celess, infant, died Jan. 15.
McGuire, John, 81, of Palo Alto, Calif., died Jan. 15.
Murphy, the Rev. Monsignor Timothy J., 69, of Midland, died

Jan. 16. McReynolds, Loreta, 83, of Stanton died Jan. 17.
David, Francile, 87, of Waco died Jan. 17.
Northcutt, Roger Dale, 56, of Kerrville died Jan. 17.
Payne, Johnny, 45, of Big Spring died Jan. 18.
Niedermayer, Earline Dorothy, 77, of Big Spring, died Jan. 18.
Allgood, Troy, 86, of Big Spring died Jan. 19.
Wilson, William, 76, of Big Spring died Jan. 19.
Dean, Juanita, 90, of Big Spring died Jan. 19.
Glendenning, Virginia, of Midland died Jan. 19.
Wiseman, Richard Alan, 55, of Benton, Calif., died Jan. 19.
Webber, Imagene, 80, of Stanton, died Jan. 20.
Montgomery, Terry, 46, of Forsan died Jan. 20.
Phillips, Norma Jean, of Hachita, N.M., died Jan. 20.
Yater, J.M., 83, of Stanton died Jan. 21.
Crockett, David Don, 52, of Lubbock, died Jan. 22.
Aguilar, Sameul, 46, of Big Spring died Jan. 23.
Spivey, Leona Faye, 89, of Big Spring died Jan. 23.
Luna, Ysabel J., 86, of Big Spring died Jan. 24.

Stephenson, Viola Sizemore, 86, of Big Spring died Jan. 24.
Carpenter, Catherine, 54, of Big Spring died Jan. 24.
Gregg, Joseph Kyle, 20, of Big Spring died Jan. 24.
Wood, William O., 81, of Big Spring died Jan. 24.
Allen, Rich, 42, died Jan. 25.
Graham, William Douglas, 68, of Big Spring died Jan. 26.
Hamlin, Juanita, 84, of Big Spring died Jan. 26.
McKee, Fred, 90, of Jan. 26.
Madewell, Weldon Wallace, 78, died Jan. 26.
Zarate, William, 56, of Ackerly died Jan. 27.
Budke, Miriam Ruth, 80, of Sun City, died Jan. 29.
Rocha, Juan, 16, of Big Spring died Jan. 29.
Garcia, Clara, 70, of Big Spring died Jan. 30.
Wiggington, Ben H. Jr., 80, of Big Spring died Jan. 30.
Cluck, Clayton F. "Dude," 67, of Big Spring died Jan. 30.
Sandlin, Vera R., 99, of Big Spring died Jan. 31.
Whitt, John Q., 87, of Monahans, died Jan. 31.
Wylie, Charles, 66, of Big Spring died Jan. 31.

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2004 has been a yearlong 75th birthday celebration honoring our employees, retirees, and the entire city of Big Spring. We are celebrating 75 years of continuous successful operations. As part of this celebration, we participated in the following:

- Personal interviews were conducted by Tumbleweed Smith. From these interviews, individual radio spots were developed and a video narrated by Tumbleweed telling the story of the Big Spring Refinery in voices and images - both stirred the emotions of everyone affiliated with the Refinery.
- Unveiling of the 75th Logo
- Retirees, employees and their families participated in the Christmas Parade. Some of our retirees designed a replica of the Big Spring Refinery and entered it in the parade.
- The women of the Big Spring Refinery and retirees, were honored at the "Red Dress Tea." Lunch, a gold hard hat presentation and a vintage style show were enjoyed by all who attended.
- Our employees and retirees were recognized during half time activities at several sporting events, such as football, basketball and baseball games.
- The Big Spring Refinery employees partnered with the Big Spring Independent School District teachers and administrators for an Interdisciplinary Curriculum Project. Their projects focused on the past and present impact of the Refinery on the local and global economy. This successful project far exceeded our expectations.
- In late May, the employees, retirees and community were treated to lunches, dinners and a concert. We were honored to have Governor Perry and other distinguished guests such as our congressmen, senators, state representatives, representatives from the Railroad Commission, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Control, the mayor and, of course, our past leaders.

Thanks to our employees, retirees and citizens of Big Spring who helped and attended these events during this huge, successful yearlong celebration.

2004: The Year in Review

February

Petition fails, VAMC, election in the news

The city of Big Spring saw the rise and fall of a petition to force a vote to eliminate the economic development sales tax during February, while the uncertain future of the Big Spring VA Medical Center continued to loom over the Howard County area.

Less than nine days after it was filed on Feb. 10, 2004, the petition to put the half-cent economic sales tax to a city-wide vote fell flat — hard.

After more than a week of exhaustive validation, the 1,450 signatures collected by the Concerned Citizens Council and submitted to the city secretary's office on Feb. 10 fell short of the 975 required to force an election concerning the tax.

According to Mayor Russ McEwen, the group submitted 791 valid signatures, with 659 not meeting the necessary requirements.

The petition, if it had been successful, would have forced an election to decide whether or not to keep the half-cent economic development sales tax in Big Spring, the main source of funding for Moore Development of Big Spring Inc. "There were a lot of people who had signed the petition more than once," said McEwen shortly after the results were released. "We also found a lot of signatures that were from people who don't live within the city. There were signatures from citizens in Coahoma, Forsan and other outlying areas."

February also marked an uncertain point in the controversy concerning the future of the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

It was announced the Big Spring facility would undergo a feasibility study about the viability of its existence if the recommendation by an independent commission was approved the Department of Veteran's Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi, who later



Bobby McDonald and Linda Conway were named Man and Woman of the Year at the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce banquet.

gave that go ahead.

The recommendation was part of a report from the Veterans Administration's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission on a plan to realign the DAV's medical care services.

While the recommendation didn't surprise local officials involved in the matter, it did set the stage for many more months of waiting.

The commission's findings concurred with the original draft plan in relation to "studying the possibility of no longer providing health care services at Big Spring," but backed off on the idea of building a critical care access hospital (CAH) in the Midland/Odessa region.

The commission recommends that the VA establish a clear definition and clear policy on the CAH designation prior to making a decision on the use of

this designation," the report stated.

The Big Spring facility serves a veteran population of 62,300 and provides health care services for some 17,000 veterans annually in a rural area that encompasses roughly 74,000 square miles. This is an area larger than 35 of the 50 states.

Indecision might have made a good theme for February 2004, as the State Senate District 31 went up for grabs for the second time in a month thanks to a runoff election between Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, and Kirk Edwards, R-Odessa, to fill the seat vacated by Teel Bivins.

Seliger managed to garner 56.16 percent of the vote, carrying Martin County with 55.33 percent and Glasscock County with 66.43 percent.

Edwards collected victories in Howard, Ector and Midland counties. The Odessa businessman finished the night with 43.84 percent of the vote.

Also in February:

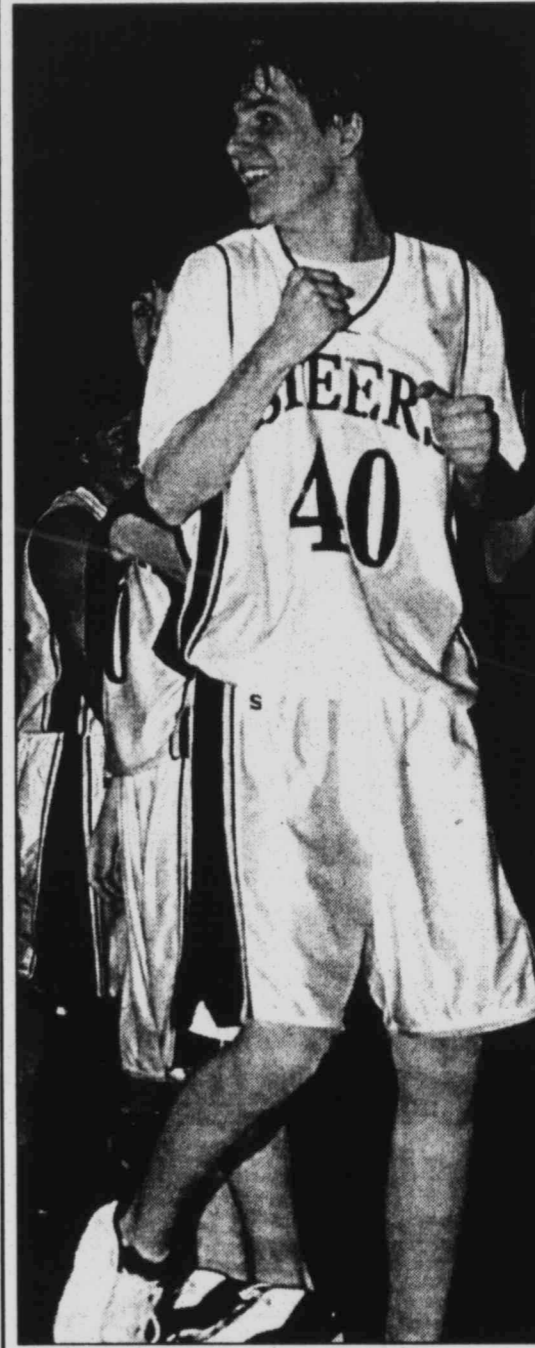
- Stanton Junior High School coaches Thomas Castro and Mike Mansfield were killed Feb. 6 in a two-vehicle accident a mile west of Stanton on Interstate 20. A one-vehicle accident along Highway 87 near the Brown community took the life of 28-year-old Luz Maria Soto of Arizona on Feb. 7. Icy roads are believed to have contributed to both accidents.

- In front of hundreds of people attending the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet, Bobby McDonald and Linda Conway were named the Man and Woman of the Year.

- Local Boy Scouts collected more than 6,000 pounds of canned goods during their annual food drive, which benefited the Salvation Army and West Texas Food Bank.

- Ten-year-old Miranda Duchock, a Washington Elementary School fourth grader, won the Big Spring Independent School District Spelling Bee championship by spelling unicorn. Sixth-grader Nick Sevey walked away with the Coahoma Independent School District Spelling Bee title, spelling banana correctly.

Sports



Big Spring senior Jordan Cobb celebrates the Steers' 86-71 win over the Levelland Lobos at the Steer Gym. The win snapped a two-year district losing streak for the squad.

The Big Spring Steers had plenty of reason to smile Tuesday, Feb. 17. After more than two years, the monkey finally found a new home.

Jordan Cobb scored 25 points and Wesley Smith and Michael Ornales-Doperto added 19 and 16 more as Big Spring closed out its 2003-2004 season by claiming a historic 86-71 victory over the Levelland Lobos in front of a large crowd at the Steer Gym.

Following the final buzzer, fans swarmed the court intent on helping the Steers celebrate the end of a two-year drought in District 4-4A play.

- Coahoma football standouts Kelby Kemper and Sam Tindol both signed letters of intent during this month. Kemper signed with Midwestern State University, while Tindol inked a scholarship from East Central Oklahoma.

- Four Lady Steers also inked scholarships to play athletics at the next level. Ka'Rissa Magers and LaKenya Wrightsil each signed to play volleyball at Arizona Western College and Texas Southern University, respectively, while Leina Braxton and Whitney Hufford signed with the Texarkana Junior College softball team. Hufford later decided to play softball at Howard College.

- The Coahoma softball team began the season as Class 2A No. 1 ranked team after finishing second in 2003.

- The Garden City girls basketball team clinched the District 8-A title with a win over McCamey Feb. 6. The Lady Kats were later upset in the Class A, Division I Regional Semifinal by Smyer, 46-28.

- The Big Spring softball team won the Fort Worth Brewer Invitational Tournament after winning six out of seven games in three days, including a 6-3 win in the championship game against Brewer.

BIRTHS

Lynch, Kylee Rae, a girl, was born Feb. 1.
DeHoyos, Pablito Daniel, a boy, was born Feb. 6.
Castillo, Ky'Lee Kay, a girl, was born Feb. 9.
Simpson, Myaliyah Anastashia, a girl was born Feb. 17.
Gonzales, Alisa, a girl, was

born Feb. 11.
Leos, Shelly Michelle, a girl, was born Feb. 11.
Waters, Stephen Tyler, a boy, was born Feb. 12.
Martinez, Joseph Jr. a boy, was born Feb. 12.
Beall, Hailey Lynn, a girl, was born Feb. 13.
Boyce, Trevor Lee, a boy, was

born Feb. 14.
Molina, Kaden Javier, a boy, was born Feb. 14.
Boyce, trevor Lee, a boy was born Feb. 14.
Ison, Tobyn Gray was born Feb. 16.
Vanderbilt, Se'Quoio O'Sarah, a girl, was born Feb. 20.
Herl, Austin Louis, a boy, was

born Feb. 24.
Saint, Elijah Cole, a boy, was born Feb. 24.
Alvarado, Serena Nicole, a girl, was born Feb. 25.
Castillo, Zoey Renee, a girl, was born Feb. 26.
Yanez, Arron Rene, a boy, was born Feb. 29.

DEATHS

Carter, Marcella Adams, 80, of Big Spring died Feb. 1.
Walton, Terry, 74, of San Angelo died Feb. 1.
Broughton, Harold R., 71, of Big Spring died Feb. 1.
Rivera, Deloras De Salvo, 75, of Big Spring died Feb. 2.
Farris, George Jr. 1948, of Midland died Feb. 2.
Eppler, Hazel, 71, of Austin died Feb. 2.
Williams, Velva Bebee, 59, of Big Spring died Feb. 3.
Boubek, Laura "LaFaye," 67, of Big Spring died Feb. 3.
McDiffit, LaVerne, 68, of Big Spring died Feb. 4.
Moore, Edna, 74, of Lenorah died Feb. 6.
Oliver, Travis, 57, of Big Spring died Feb. 8.
Merworth, Trudy Cleo, 89, of Comanche died Feb. 8.

Johnson, Sydney W., 77, died Feb. 9.
Romero, Natalie Puga, 97, of Big Spring died Feb. 10.
Clardy, Derwood, 84, of Stanton died Feb. 12.
Thomason, C.G., 82, of Big Spring died Feb. 13.
Earls, Floyd, of Big Spring died Feb. 13.
Mansfield, Michael, 25, of Stanton died Feb. 13.
Wilcher, Frances Katherine, 88, of Big Spring died Feb. 13.
Webb, Lois, 87, of Big Spring died Feb. 14.
Reid, Allis "Wib," 87, of Stanton died Feb. 14.
Webb, Lois, E., 87, of Big Spring died Feb. 14.
Chappell, Michael, 5 months old, of Big Spring died Feb. 15.
McCasland, June Prather, 73, of Little Rock, Ark., died Feb.

15.
Kelley, Altus, 77, of Big Spring died Feb. 16.
Knight, Dorothy, 96, died Feb. 17.
Flynt, Willa Nell, 85, of Carsbad, N.M., died Feb. 18.
Reagan, Richard W., 84, of Big Spring died Feb. 19.
Chapman, Ennis "Ray," 78 died Feb. 19.
Smith, Norvin M., 79, of Lubbock died Feb. 20.
Arencibia, Wanda Woods, 69, of Big Spring died Feb. 20.
Arnett, Juanita, 95, of Midland died Feb. 20.
James, Conn, 70, of Big Spring died Feb. 21.
Diaz, Rosa Ortega, 76, of Big Spring died Feb. 22.
Arnold, Wilson B., 85, of Big Spring died Feb. 22.
Vaughn, Lazell, 88, of Big

Spring died Feb. 22.
Fortson, Terry Eugene, 44, of Azle died Feb. 23.
McWilliams, The Rev. John Henry, 94, of Amarillo died Feb. 23.
Chrane, Maurine, 83, of Big Spring died Feb. 25.
Gonzales, Carmen, 81, of Big Spring died Feb. 26.
Stubblefield, Pauline Hammond, 92, of Abilene died Feb. 26.
Shurley, Dr. Jay Talmadge, 86, of Oklahoma City died Feb. 26.
Clark, Robert Jr., 60, of San Angelo died Feb. 28.
Axtens, Lewis Lee, 77, of Canton died Feb. 28.
Simpson, Michael Scott, 21, of Big Spring died Feb. 29.
Hodnett, Tony Ron, 43, of Gilbert, Ariz., died Feb. 29.

MOVIE

Scenic M announced Mike Pruitt see the busi the beginn his positio with a ch improve th facility.

On a m Spring and shocked w tified as C was found: in the ea March 9.

Her husb was found: in the bat emergency scene. He v Mountain l remained f He was a March 25.

The Big S Committee local volun from all o' ing cerem Moving W tation of th Washington

The wall 1987, and tion for w Spring Vie Zoning c March 24: be introdu ty, includi

plans for a ing jet ski Other n Spring an included:

- Michal Spring, w rollover o

BIRTH

Mireles, Jr., a boy, Granada, girl, was b Mora, M boy, was b Limones, born Marcl Juarez, R

DEATH

Miears, C Spring diec Sanchez, Spring diec Petty, Ad Henderson Cauble, f Angelo diec Nole, Ita Kennewick 1.

Halfman of St. Law Croft, Jol Proctor die LeFevre, died Marcl Estep, Jr Spring diec DeLeon, March 5.

Smith, D Spring diec Foster, C Conrad, M Haygood 88, of Vali 7.

Valencia Spring die

March

Moving Wall overshadows murder

Scenic Mountain Medical Center announced a new administrator, Mike Pruitt, was on board to oversee the business of the hospital near the beginning of March. He began his position as CEO of the hospital with a challenge to his staff to improve the overall quality of the facility.

On a more somber note, Big Spring and Howard County were shocked when a woman, later identified as Catherine Hunnicutt, 40, was found shot to death in her home in the early morning hours of March 9.

Her husband, Timothy Hunnicutt, was found unresponsive on the floor in the bathroom when police and emergency officials arrived on the scene. He was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where he remained for the next several days. He was arrested for her murder March 25.

The Big Spring Vietnam Memorial Committee, joined by numerous local volunteer groups and veterans from all over, celebrated the opening ceremony for the return of the Moving Wall, a half-scale representation of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

The wall first came to Big Spring in 1987, and provided the initial inspiration for what has since become the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial.

Zoning changes at Moss Creek Lake March 24 allowed for new activities to be introduced to the recreational facility, including several paintball courses, plans for a motocross track and allowing jet skis on the lake.

Other noteworthy events in Big Spring and Howard County in March included:

- Michael Scott Simpson, 21, of Big Spring, was killed in a one-vehicle rollover on FM 700.



HERALD file photo
The Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall came to Big Spring in 2004, drawing thousands of local and area residents who paid their respects.

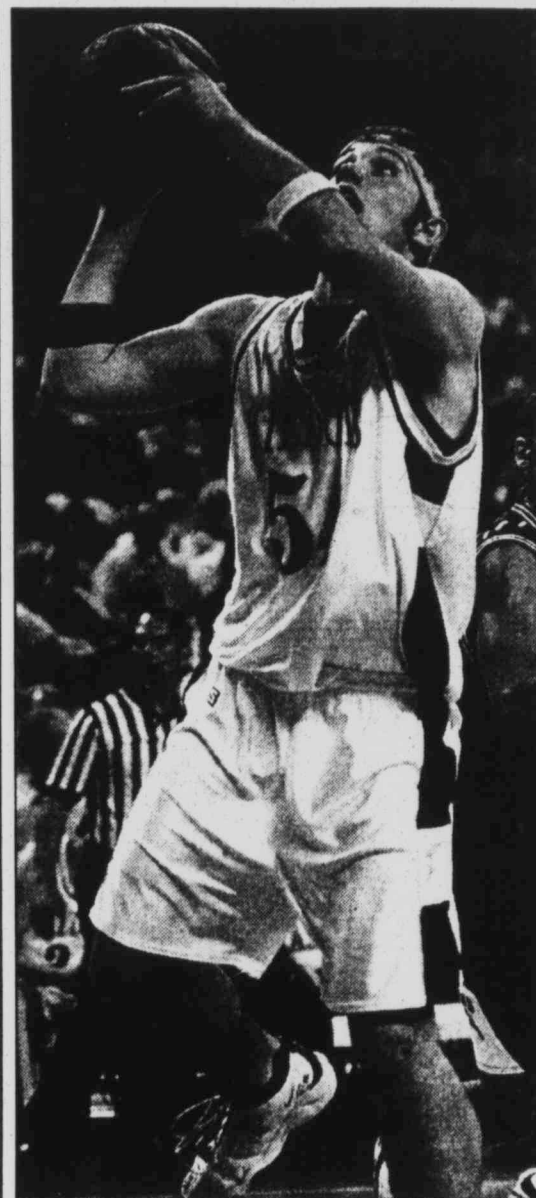
- Former Martin County Judge Bob Davenport died March 9. He was 75.
- Mel Prather, longtime community servant and entrepreneur, was found dead of an apparent heart attack in Abilene.
- John Kerry was declared the Democratic nomination for the presidential election. Locally, the March primary saw all incumbent officials win nominations by their parties, including Sheriff Dale Walker and Howard County commissioners Emma Brown and Bill Crooker. City councilwoman Joann Knox drew an opponent, Hebrew Jones, as did Mayor Russ McEwen, who was challenged by Pat Deanda. Howard College trustee disputed races

Business Person of the Year at the annual Ag Expo and Ag Appreciation Luncheon.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Health Fest March 20, the first ever at the facility, was a great success.

• A delegation comprised of State National Bank president Jim Purcell and his wife, Vicki; Wells Fargo Bank President Duane Thomas; Big Spring oil business woman Myra Robinson; Alon USA plant manager Joe Concienne and his wife, Brenda; and Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen and his wife, Laura, traveled to Hadera, Israel, sponsored by the refinery as a cultural exchange between Big Spring and the Israeli-based company.

Sports



HERALD file photo
Jason Pribyla drives in for a shot during Grady's win over Neches last March 11. The victory against Neches gave Grady the Class A Division II state title.

The smallest school at the 2004 University Interscholastic League State Basketball Tournament came away with the biggest prize — and ended a 35-year title drought in the Crossroads.

Trent May sank two free throws with one-tenth of a second remaining in regulation and handed the Grady Wildcats a 55-49 victory over the Neches Tigers in the Class A, Division II state finals at the Frank Erwin Center on the campus of the University of Texas.

"When I looked up and saw that tenth of a second left, it was an amazing feeling to know we had won," said May. "This is the best feeling in the world."

That feeling was made even better at the half of the Class A Division I championship game when UIL officials presented the team with its state championship trophy.

With the title, Grady also earned the right to play in the Texas Cup — the annual battle for Class A bragging rights between the division's large and small-school winners.

- The Howard College basketball teams failed to make the Region V Tournament, but landed five players — Kristen Valentine, Desire' Bostice, Ciara Tidwell, Steve Goff and Johnny Jones — on the all-conference team.

- Garden City boys basketball coach Cory Richardson agreed to coach the South All-Stars team at the third-annual All-Americas basketball classic. His South All-Stars team eventually fell to the North All-Stars.

- Big Spring's Heather Parnell signed a letter of intent March 5 to play tennis collegiately at Southern Nazarene University.

- The San Angelo Central Lady Cats scored on a wild pitch in the bottom of the sixth inning Monday, March 8, and claimed a stunning 2-1 victory over the Big Spring Lady Steers.

With the win, San Angelo dealt the Lady Steers only their second setback of the season.

BIRTHS

Mireles, Joshua Emmanuel Jr., a boy, was born March 6.
Granado, Kaitlyn Renee, a girl, was born March 10.
Mora, Martin Albares Jr., a boy, was born March 12.
Limones, Juan III, a boy, was born March 15.
Juarez, Ruben Ezekiel III, a

boy, was born March 16.
Paul, Mallory Shae, a girl, was born March 16.
Smith-Wennik, Kalell Marie, a girl, was born March 18.
Lawrence, Corey, a boy, was born March 19.
Escovedo, Diego Andres, a boy, was born March 19.

Stephens, Grace McAdam, a girl, was born March 23.
McElroy, Zoe Victoria McElroy, a girl, was born March 25.
Robertson, Trinity Lynn, a girl, was born March 25.
Parez, Soleda and Karicia, twin girls, were born March 26.
Richardson, Colby James, a

boy, was born March 26.
Thompson, Aiden LaJhuan, a boy, was born March 27.
Gafford, Haley Brianna, a girl, was born March 28.
Jenkins, Riley James, a boy, was born March 31.

DEATHS

Miears, O'Bera, 84, of Big Spring died at March 1.
Sanchez, Antonia, 89, of Big Spring died March 1.
Petty, Ada Lorene, 82, of Henderson, Nev. died March 1.
Cauble, Douglas, 89, of San Angelo died March 1.
Nole, Ita Eleanor, 91, of Kennewick, Wash., died March 1.
Halfmann, Mary Alberta, 77, of St. Lawrence died March 2.
Croft, John Ernest, 83, of Proctor died March 2.
LeFevre, Geoffrey Zay, 61, died March 3.
Estep, Joyce, 86, of Big Spring died March 5.
DeLeon, Rosa Spolz, 92, died March 5.
Smith, Douglas, 54, of Big Spring died March 6.
Foster, Gene T., 70, of Conrad, Mont. died March 6.
Haygood, Mary Merle Grace, 88, of Valrico, Fla., died March 7.
Valencia, Adam, 43, of Big Spring died March 8.

Reed, treva L., 78, of Sweetwater died March 8.
Covington, Christine Orvetta, 93, of Lamesa died March 8.
Hunnicutt, Catherine, 40, of Big Spring died March 9.
Smith, Vernon, 89, of Big Spring died March 9.
Davenport, Bob, 92, of Stanton died March 9.
Heffington, Denver, 92, of Big Spring died March 10.
Young, Brig. Gen. Charles M. Young Jr., 89, of Fayetteville Ark., died March 10.
Schwab, Carl, 85, of Big Spring died March 11.
Spurgin, Charles V., 71, of Big Lake died March 12.
Nanny, Arthur Dee, 75, of Big Spring, died March 13.
Phillips, Edgar, 95, of Big Spring died March 14.
Canter, Roger E. Canter, 73, died March 15.
Nietert, Barbara, 43, of Big Spring died March 15.
Torres, Angel II, infant, of Big Spring died March 15.
Shearin, Wilbur, 64, of Big

Spring died March 16.
Wilson, Elbert, 75, of Big Spring died March 16.
Hanson, Marvin, 89, of Big Spring March 16.
Ward, J. B. Ward, 82, of Big Spring died March 16.
Hanson, Marvin, 89, of Big Spring, died March 16.
Yarbrough, Thelma, 91, of Big Spring died March 17.
Roueche, Margaret A. Fisher, 92, of Stanton died March 18.
Mims, Annice, 98, of Stanton died March 19.
Looney, Jesse M., 78, of Big Spring died March 19.
Looney, Jesse Murray, 78, of Big Spring died March 19.
Click, R.G. Click, 77, died March 20.
Prather, Mel, 56, of Big Spring died March 20.
Rios, Faustino Rios, 71, died passed March 22.
Newsom, Floyd Dean, of Chandler died March 22.
Thomason, Jackie Dale, 71, of Big Spring died March 22.
Gillespie, Joe Edd, 77, of

Ackerly died March 22.
Canales, Clara Canales, 74, of Big Spring died March 25.
Bennett, Linda, 60, of Sand Springs died March 26.
Atwell, Geraldine, 93, of Big Spring died March 26.
Thigpen, Perry Lynn, 40, of Big Spring died March 27.
Lagourney, Maxie Lagourney, 10, of Amelia, Va., died March 27.
Gillihan, Faye Marie, 82, of Granbury died March 28.
Dunlap, James C. Sr., 82, of Big Spring, died March 30.
Leek, Mary E., 84, of Sherman died March 30.
Lewis, Sam E. Sr., 75, of Big Spring died March 30.
Lewis, Sam E. Sr., 75, of Big Spring died March 30, 2004.
Leek, Mary E. Leek, 84, of Sherman died March 30.
Dunlap, James C. Dunlap, 82, of Big Spring died March 30.
Plagens, Douglas Edward, 47, of St. Lawrence died March 31.
Banister, Jimmy, 62, died March 31.

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2004: The Year in Review

April

Sadly, war in Iraq comes home

The war in Iraq took center stage for the Crossroads area again in April when a 20-year-old Stanton soldier was killed while serving in Iraq.

Army Pvt. Clayton Welch Henson's family members learned April 18 that he'd been killed while serving in Baghdad.

Henson had been scheduled to leave Iraq on April 14, but his tour of duty had been extended.

Family members and former teachers admitted being shocked when learning of his death, but supported the cause he died for.

"He chose to be there and he believed he was there for a reason and he believed in that reason," his stepmother, Leta Henson, said. "I still believe in what he was doing and I also believe we need more people over there to get this job done."

Serving in the First Division of the Second Armored Cavalry based in Fort Polk, La., Henson had decided to become a physical therapist following his time in the service, partly because of what he'd experienced in Iraq.

"He said he had seen things in Baghdad that made him know he wanted to help people," Leta Henson said.



A young buckaroo takes a ride during the annual Kindergarten Stickhorse Rodeo at Coahoma.

Other events that took place in April included:

- Timothy Hunnicutt, 44, of Big Spring, was arrested by Lubbock police and transported to the Howard County Jail charged with murder in connection with the March 9 shooting death of his wife, Catherine.

- More than 50 youngsters took part in the 26th annual Kindergarten Stickhorse Rodeo at Coahoma Elementary School.

- Closing ceremonies for the Moving Wall's visit to the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial were held.

- U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer announced that the federal government had approved \$16 million in funding for a U.S. Highway 87 reliever route around Big Spring.

- The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual Health Fair at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

- CASA of West Texas and Victim Services held their joint candlelight vigil for adult and child victims at the First Baptist Church on April 22.

- A Community Sunrise Easter service for all denominations was held at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater.

- Binie White, a long-time resident of the Vincent community, was named Howard Soil and Water Conservation District Farmer of the Year.

- The Big Spring Kiwanis Club celebrated its 75th anniversary.

- Five women from Italy got a taste of West Texas life as they visited Big Spring during a Rotary International Group Exchange.

- Garden City High School student Garrett Weishuhn, 16, was killed in an automobile accident about eight miles south of Garden City on County Road 125. Authorities said dense fog in the area that morning contributed to the accident in which Weishuhn's pickup slammed into the back of a parked bus.

- Anthony Mendoza took home the 24K gold gilt miniature egg pendant prize in the Big Spring Herald's Treasure Hunt.

Sports



Howard College sophomore Angela Piper celebrates the Lady Hawks' first regional win in five years by picking up teammate Paula Sanders April 29 at Ulmer Park in Midland. The Lady Hawks defeated McLennan College by a score of 11-3.

It took five years, but the Howard College softball team finally did it.

They finally won a regional playoff game. And they did it with ease.

The Lady Hawks defeated McLennan College, 11-3, in the opening round of the Region Five softball tournament at Ulmer Park in Midland. It was Howard's first regional win in five years.

"We got the monkey off our back," said Coach Derek Clapp.

The Lady Hawks scored seven runs in the first two innings.

- Howard College hired Mark Adams as Jim Lewis' successor to the Hawk men's basketball team April 23. Adams eventually took over as the school's athletic director after Lewis stepped away from the job.

- The Howard College baseball team lost two games at the WJAC Conference Tournament April 22 and 23 and was surprisingly eliminated from Regional V play.

- Howard College's Bray Armes earned a spot in the College National Finals rodeo with a second place finish in the steer wrestling competition at the Tarleton State University.

- Coahoma's softball team won the district title after posting a 7-0 victory over Colorado City.

- Big Spring's Veronica Villarreal and Vishal Shroff's tennis seasons came to end after both players were ousted on the opening day of the regional tournament.

- The Big Spring girls track team claimed its 10th District 4-4A title in school history after edging out Lubbock Estacado and San Angelo Lakeview at the district meet in Andrews April 16.

Big Spring finished with 138 points, while Estacado and Lakeview finished with a 134 and 128 points, respectively.

The Lady Steers would send nine athletes to the regional meet, after claiming first and second place finishes at the district meet, but the team title wasn't decided until the very last event.

BIRTHS

Zarraga, Hailey Chanell, a girl, was born April 1.
 Suarez, Micco Ricardo, a boy, was born April 2.
 Galan, Trinity Rae, a girl, was born March 3.
 Faz, Gabriel Isaiah, a boy, was born April 4.
 Peckenpaugh, Hannah Nicole, a girl, was born April 4.
 Soto, Antonio Julian Ricardo, a boy, born April 5.
 Miramontes, Joshua Isaac, a

boy, was born April 5.
 Rivera, Noah Ryan, a boy, was born April 7.
 Martin, Jarrett Josiah, a boy, was born April 7.
 Gutierrez, Alejandra Ann, a girl, was born April 9.
 Martinez, Noah Johnathan, a boy, was born April 10.
 Gabehart, Thomas Lee, a boy, was born April 10.
 Carpenter, Brissa Raeleigh, a girl, was born April 11.

Torres, Abel Jr., a boy, was born April 12.
 Von Hassel, John Richard I, a boy, was born April 14.
 Quinones, Ty Freeman, a boy, was born April 16.
 Rios, Benjamin Jose, a boy, was born April 16.
 Colegrove, Isaaah Grayson, a boy, was born April 18.
 Kemper, Ky Eugene, a boy, was born April 19.
 Garcia, Elizabeth Hope, a girl,

was born April 20.
 Haliburton, Elrich Alvin, a boy, was born April 22.
 Lopez, Hope Juanita, a girl, was born April 22.
 Pearson, Joshua James, a boy, was born April 23.
 Arrellano, Isabella Marie, a girl, was born April 26.
 Rea, Tyler Dean, a boy, was born April 29.

DEATHS

Jones, Hood William, 68, of Snyder, died April 1.
 Juarez, Felipe, 75, of Big Spring died in April.
 Thomas, Oliver Henry, 91, of Seminole died April 3.
 Swofford, Clinton Alvin, 68, of Big Spring died April 3.
 Thompson, Harvey Thompson, 32, of Big Spring died April 3.
 Thompson, Harvey, 32, of Big Spring died April 3.
 Nations, Lemual Albert, 80, of Naperville, Ill., died April 3.
 Stuyvesant, Dorothy Mae, 83, of Greenville, Pa., died April 4.
 Richardson, Wallace, 81, of Big Spring, died April 4.
 Richardson, Wallace, 81, of Big Spring died April 4.
 Fortney, Jack Warren, 82, of Hazelhurst, Ga., died April 4.
 Bedford-Montgomery, Bertha, 92, of Midland, died April 5.
 Benson, Carl A., 87, of Midland, died April 5.
 Armendarez, Blaz, 77, of Big Spring died April 6.
 Ybarra, Romana, 77, of Greeley, Colo. died April 8.
 Miller, Maxine Zant, 75, of Big Spring, died April 8.

Mays, Dr. Floyd R. Mays Jr., 88, of Big Spring, died April 8.
 Alvarez, Ramon, 82, of Big Spring died April 9.
 Johnson, Mildred, 87, of Sand Springs died April 10.
 Mize, Thomas William, 89, of Colorado City, died April 10.
 Ferguson, Jonita Ferguson, 61, of Big Spring, died April 10.
 Cardenas, Albert Sr., 80, died April 10.
 Gates, W. Geraldine, 84, of San Angelo died April 12.
 Gray, Martha Lou Vincent, 77, died April 13.
 Aguirre, Sharon A., 50, of New Braunfels died April 13.
 Peters, Dr. Clarence E., 76, of Big Spring died April 13.
 Dunn, Malissa Dyanne, 14, died Tuesday, April 13.
 Johnson, M. T. Johnson, 87, of Big Spring died April 14.
 Small, Louis, 99, of Colorado City died April 14.
 Hopkins, Harry, 62, of Andrews died April 15.
 Aaron, Ronald Gene Sr. died April 15.
 Bustamante, Julian, 82, of Big Spring died April 16.

Mason, Callie Jo Mason, 91, died April 17.
 Glaspie, Hollis O. Glaspie, 85, of Midland died April 17.
 Moore, Marian Kay, 50, of Big Spring died April 17.
 Henson, Pfc. Clayton Welch Henson, 20, of Stanton April 17.
 Henderson, Ouida, 75, of Big Spring died April 19.
 Currie, Agnes Currie, 93, of Big Spring, died April 19.
 Payne, Dr. Ralph J. Payne Jr., 57, of Big Spring, died April 19.
 Carpenter, Eugene Gene, 69, of Shallowater died April 19.
 Barnes, Marie Louise Castille Barnes died April 20.
 Mitchel, Weston Blaine Sr., 72, of San Angelo died April 20.
 Kirkpatrick, Helen Yarbrough, 77, of Andrews died April 21.
 Weishuhn, Todd Garrett, 16, died April 21.
 Barber, Willie Opal, 91, of Coahoma, died April 22.
 Hammond, Carol Leifect., died April 22.
 Dodson, Lovetta Sandell, 84, of Taylor County died April 23.

Sosa, Grace Hernandez Sosa, 69, of Odessa, died April 23.
 Arispe, Julian A. Arispe, 80, of Waco died April 23.
 Fleming, Bonnie Fay Taliaferro Sosebee, 87, of Ropesville died April 23.
 Fowler, Dorothy, 92, of Big Spring died April 25.
 Fields, Onita, 93, of Big Spring died April 25.
 Rankin, La Rue Rankin, 74, of Big Spring died April 25.
 Rankin, La Rue, 74, of Big Spring, died April 25.
 Dobbs, Miklyn Wayne, 37, of Austin, died April 27.
 Christopher, Margaret, 77, of Big Spring died April 27.
 Carothers, Louis, 80, of West Columbia died April 28.
 Carlton, Mary Helen, age 81, of Brownwood died April 28.
 Fleming, Marvin Sr., 73, of Fort Worth died April 29.
 Cudd, Ellen Faye, 88, of Abilene died April 29.
 Collier, Richard E., 79, of Fort Worth died April 30.
 Clark, Glenda Rae Moore, 68, of Big Spring died April 30.

VAM

The commu month of May awaited anno the Big Sprin Center would sibility study its viability. given by I Veterans Aff Anthony Pirr

Local res assured the did not mea has been pred community l ed that the unexpected. complete the end of 2004 v September, h plan extende to the end of would resig December, a that might h sion was not

More big Spring came the annual A Society Re announced it the top" a \$201,172 to fi fund-raising again be ran state for per- ALON USA 75th annivers to the commu 23, honoring Refinery's lo ly. Hundreds ities from cheons, ce speeches, jo taries as G and well-kno

BIRTHS

Hale, Reece boy, was born Juarez, Rubi was born May Murrell, Spe was born May Walker, Aida was born May Morales, Gi was born May Garrett, Cor boy, was born Smith, Dani was born May

DEATHS

Dean, GERAL Register, of S May 1.
 Reeves, Fra Spring died M Schultz, the Arthur of Ken Gibbs, Judy, died May 2.
 Williams, J. I died May 4.
 McNew, Wa Grandbury, di Jenkins, Lol Odessa died I Stanley, Joy 5.
 Barber, Zoe 5, of Big Sprin Meek, Lois Spring, died M Gray, Charle died May 7.
 Cavazos, Es Big Spring die

2004: The Year in Review

May

VAMC, refinery top month's news

The community began the month of May with the long-awaited announcement that the Big Spring VA Medical Center would undergo a feasibility study to determine its viability. The news was given by Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi on May 7.

Local residents were assured the announcement did not mean the outcome has been predetermined, and community leaders responded that the news was not unexpected. A deadline to complete the study by the end of 2004 was changed in September, however, as the plan extended any decision to the end of 2005. Principi would resign his post in December, and any effect that might have on the decision was not known.

More big news for Big Spring came May 8, when the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life announced it had gone "over the top" again, raising \$201,172 to fight cancer. The fund-raising event would again be ranked first in the state for per-capita giving.

ALON USA brought a huge 75th anniversary celebration to the community on May 21-23, honoring the Big Spring Refinery's long history locally. Hundreds attended festivities from music to luncheons, ceremonies and speeches, joining such dignitaries as Gov. Rick Perry, and well-known entertainers



ALON USA employees grill up some burgers during the Big Spring Refinery's 75th anniversary, celebrated with food, music, tours and more during May.

Alseep at the Wheel.

A community-wide National Day of Prayer event began what would be a busy month, with leaders expressing their thanksgiving and intercessions for the community.

Shattered Dreams showed the harsh realities of drinking and driving to students at Forsan High School on May 3. School leaders hoped the event would bring an understanding of the consequences of irresponsible action as teenagers watched their classmates act out a horrific scenario.

Kentwood Elementary students conducted a flag ceremony May 4 to welcome a hero, Chief Warrant Officer James Williamson, a U.S. Army helicopter pilot who returned from Iraq. Kids cheered and waved flags for the soldier.

A 12-year-old Big Spring student was arrested at Big Spring Junior High School on May 11 after he threatened to shoot fellow classmates. The matter was turned over to juvenile probation.

Jurors on May 12 found Marcus McVea guilty on two

counts of aggravated robbery. The home invasion would earn McVea 11 years in prison.

Local riders participated on May 14 in a recreation of the Pony Express ride, taking mail west. Organizers said the goal of the event was keeping history alive.

At mid-May, Howard College handed out diplomas to almost 250 graduates, while 28 SWCID students completed their educations at the institution as well.

Local elections were decided as the second half of May arrived, with incumbents sweeping many local and area ballot boxes. Mayor Russ McEwen, along with District 5 City Council member Joann Knox secured new terms. Among other races, Stanton voters approved two propositions to pay for improvements and projects with sales taxes.

Area high schools capped the month with graduation ceremonies, followed in short order by Memorial Day observances that brought a busy month to a solemn close. U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm delivered the keynote address at the annual observance at Trinity Memorial Park.

Sports



Big Spring's Erica Stewart throws out an El Paso Irvin runner May 7 during the Lady Steers' 10-0 area championship win in Alpine. Big Spring run-ruled Irvin in six innings.

Howard College's first-ever NJCAA National Tournament appearance got off to a rocky start in Clermont, Fla., May 20. The Lady Hawks committed three errors against eighth-seeded Wabash Valley in the opening round which led to three unearned runs and a 4-1 loss.

But, a 3-0 win against North Central Missouri in an elimination game kept the Lady Hawks' season alive in the double elimination tournament.

The team then lost to Neosho in its first and only game May 21. The loss eliminated Howard from the tournament.

An unfortunate struggle at the plate May 14 ended the Coahoma softball team's season short of a state berth as the Bulldogettes fell to Alpine, 2-1, at the Region 1-AA Quarterfinal in Midland at the Freddy Ezell Softball Complex.

The Bulldogettes received a first-round bye at regionals after claiming the district championship. They defeated San Angelo Grape Creek for the Area Championship before losing to Alpine.

Representatives from Big Spring, Garden City, Ackerly Sands and Grady traveled to Austin May 14-15 for the boys and girls state track meet at Myers Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas.

The best area finisher was Steven Barraza of Ackerly Sands, who ran his way to the gold medal in the boys Class 1A 3200 meters. He also finished second in the 1,600 meters.

The Big Spring softball team's season came to an end May 22 in Abilene as the Lady Steers softball team fell to defending 4A state champ Crowley, 5-0. The Lady Steers won three playoff games before the loss.

The Coahoma baseball team lost its best two-out-of-three regional semifinal playoff series with Holliday and ended its season with a record of 17-14. The Bulldogs advanced to the regional semifinal series after series wins in the bi-district, area and quarterfinal rounds.

Big Spring's Ryan Rodriguez, Cierra Butler, Jeff Stanley, Lauren Chesworth and Lindsay Phillips as well as Garden City's Jessica Hoch and Forsan's Lacy Eggleston and Josh Helmstetter all signed letters of intent in May to further their athletic careers at the college level.

BIRTHS

Hale, Reece Everette Larue, a boy, was born May 3.
Juarez, Ruben Ryan, a boy, was born May 4.
Murrell, Spencer Dillon, a boy, was born May 5.
Walker, Aiden Zane, a boy, was born May 6.
Morales, Gilbert Jr., a boy, was born May 6.
Garrett, Connor Alexander, a boy, was born May 7.
Smith, Daniel Lane, a boy, was born May 8.

Arguello, Anissa Brianne, a girl, was born May 8.
Arguello, Anissa Brianne, a girl, was born May 8.
Phillips, Reagan DeAnn, a girl, was born May 12.
Coffman, Krista Shae, a girl, was born May 14.
Eddington, Rahlei Jamal, a boy, was born May 14.
Rubio, Fredrick Nickolas III, a boy, was born May 14.
Cerde, Lana, a girl, was born May 16.

Alexis, Kaitlyn, a girl, was born May 16.
Mata, Kameron Ross, a boy, and his twin sister, Kylee Reese Mata, were born May 18.
Smith, Tristin Lee, a boy, was born May 19.
Aguilar, Melanie Georgia, a girl, was born May 21.
Ferguson, James Michael, a boy, was born May 21.
Gonzales, Natalia Alexis, a girl, was born May 22.

Blanco, Mya Jenea, a girl, was born May 27.
Everett, Libby Jewel, a girl, was born May 28.
Everett, Libby Jewel, a girl, was born May 28.
Lozano, Mercedes Yvonne, a girl, was born May 31.
Galvan, Daniel, a boy, was born May 31.
Lozano, Mercedes Yvonne, a girl, was born May 31.
Galvan, Daniel, a boy, was born May 31.

DEATHS

Dean, Geraldine Hancock Register, of Sebring, Fla., died May 1.
Reeves, Frances Irene, of Big Spring died May 2.
Schultz, the Rev. Russell Arthur of Kenedy died May 2.
Gibbs, Judy, 65, of Big Spring died May 2.
Williams, J.T., 89, of Odessa died May 4.
McNew, Wanda, 72, of Grandbury, died May 5.
Jenkins, Lola M., 92, of Odessa died May 5.
Stanley, Joyce Terry, died May 5.
Barber, Zoe Katherine Rose, 5, of Big Spring died May 5.
Meek, Lois Hall, 82, of Big Spring, died May 7.
Gray, Charles, 58, of Midland died May 7.
Cavazos, Esavel Sr., 66, of Big Spring died May 8.

Cavazos, Emma, 60, of Big Spring died May 8.
Simmons, Rollie Roy, 78, of Big Spring died May 8.
Reed, Frankie Judy, 76, of Stanton died May 8.
Cagle, Oscar, 94, of Woodward, Okla. died May 10.
Morton, Elsie Geneva, 73, of Colorado City died May 10.
Wilkerson, Opal, 88, of Big Spring died May 11.
Reidy, Mary Teresa, of Midland died May 14.
Douglass, John Calvin Jr., 86, died May 14.
Mutters, Callie A., 87, of Big Spring died May 16.
Brown, Priscilla, 86, of Big Spring died May 16.
Ramirez, Mike G., 72, of Big Spring, died May 19.
Quigley, Gene, 77, died May 20, 2004.
Strother, Patricia L.

Robertson, 68, died in Georgetown.
Eubanks, Ruth, 87, of Big Spring died May 12.
Jeffcoat, Harold L., 73, of Medford, Ore., died May 12.
Craig, Willard Alvin, 88, died May 12.
Wasson, Emily Augusta (Marshall), 90, of Big Spring died May 14.
Foster, Stephen Daniel, 49, of Springfield, Mo., died May 14.
Brown, Priscilla, 86, of Big Spring, died May 16.
Nichols, Polly, 85, of Stanton died May 17.
Blanchard, Evelyn Grunden, 89, of Big Spring died May 21.
Chavez, Benigna, 88, of Big Spring died May 21.
Tindol, DeLois, 76, of Coahoma died May 22.
Crawford, Gregory Neil, 48, of

Big Spring died May 23.
Perdue, Doyle, 52, of Big Spring died May 23.
Highley, Pat, 77, of Big Spring died May 24.
McGregor, Marie, 81, of Big Spring died May 24.
Stricklin, Mary Dean, 76, of Lamesa died 24.
Lancaster, Mary Ann Hallford, 71, of Big Spring died May 25.
Velasco, Eunice Coronado, 59, of Big Spring died May 26.
Cano, Paul, 55, of Coahoma died May 26.
Hatch, Annie Ruth, 84, of Big Spring died May 29.
Owens, Esther L., 66, of Stephenville died May 29.
Hanson, Leonard Lon, 74, of Midland, died May 30.
Armstrong, Garland, 82, of Big Spring died May 31.

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Deaths make June a dismal time

June was a busy month for both state and local law enforcement officials, as a Big Spring man was indicted for the murder of his wife and several tragic traffic accidents claimed the lives of current and former local residents.

Timothy Mark Hunnicutt, 44, was indicted by a Howard County grand jury for the March 9 shooting death of his wife, Catherine Hunnicutt, on June 17, 2004.

According to police, a family friend found Catherine Hunnicutt's body in the master bedroom of the couple's Indian Ridge residence on the morning of March 9. She had been shot in the back of the head one or more times.

District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson recused himself from the case prior to the indictment because of personal ties to the defendant, handing the case over to Adrienne M. McFarland and Laura Bayouth Popp of the Texas Attorney General Prosecution Assistance Division.

Brandon Sumner, 20, a jailer with the Howard County Jail, was pronounced dead upon arrival June 10 after what witnesses described as a horrific motorcycle crash in the 200 block of Circle Drive.

Former Big Spring resident and Stanton business owner Julian Hudgins, 43, of Midland, was killed the evening of June 12 in a one-car rollover accident in Martin County.

Hudgins, who was born in Snyder, was the owner of Basin Detox of Stanton and was once awarded the Texas



HERALD file photo
Big Spring Firefighter James Phelps, right, and Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker use the jaws of life to free a man trapped in the cab of a truck involved in a roll over accident. Two of the four passengers were thrown from the truck.

Department of Public Safety Award when he stopped and gave aid to the victim of a traffic accident.

The Big Spring City Council had its hands full in June, as hearings concerning a ban on the chaining and tethering of dogs in the city limits heated up, with lines between community members both supporting and opposing the ordinance clearly drawn.

After struggling with the issue for nearly two months, the Big Spring City Council decided to move forward with the ban following a second hearing.

Also in June:

- As the nation paused to honor the passing of American President Ronald Reagan, one of the men leading the procession into the National Cathedral made Big Spring proud. Staff Sgt. Robert Hull, a graduate of Big Spring High School stationed at Fort Meyer, Va., with the Army's 3rd Infantry "Old Guard," led the eight-man casket team to Washington National Cathedral June 11, part of the 93-year-old president's funeral procession.
- Cox Communications employee Terry Strickland,

38, was found dead in the cab of his pickup June 15 while installing cable ports at a local residence. Strickland was pronounced dead at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room shortly after his body was discovered at 2:35 p.m. at a home in the 5100 block of S. Wasson Road.

- Mexican national Jose Javier Flores Uvalde, 26, found himself cooling his heels in the Martin County Jail after area law enforcement discovered approximately 100 pounds of marijuana hidden in the tires of the truck he was driving.

- Two Odessa men were arrested in connection with the Jan. 7 robbery of Western National Bank, helping to close the books on eight West Texas bank robberies. Oscar Ibarra, 33, and his brother, Irad Ibarra, 26, were arrested just outside of Abilene on June 2 following yet another bank heist — making away with an estimated \$2,500 in cash from American State Bank in Abilene.

- An employee of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice was arrested June 29 on charges of possessing and possibly promoting child pornography. Jerry Glenn Dickey, 45, of 1904 E. 25th Street, was taken into custody by the Big Spring Police Department as part of an investigation.

- Big Spring VA Medical Center Director Lou Ann Atkins received official approval to take over direction of the local facility by the Office of Personnel Management in Washington, D.C. in June.

BIRTHS

Valez, Lexie Nicole, a girl, was born June 1.
Chandler, Delaney Jo, a girl, was born June 3.
Dauphin, Diego Martin, a boy, was born June 3.
Joslyn, Ryan Scott, a boy, was born June 4.
Martinez, Bryan Andrew, a boy, was born June 10.
Zapata, Xavier Jr., a boy, was born June 11.
Hernandez, Jason Cru, a boy, was born June 11.

Hillger, Madysyn Valeigh, a girl, was born June 11.
Valle, Makenna Reese, a girl, was born June 11.
Lewis, Quetavian Vachaun, a boy, was born June 13.
Sarmiento, Ashley Renae, a girl, was born June 14.
Williams, Larissa Kayline, a girl, was born June 15.
Bronaugh, Elizabeth Ryleigh, a girl, was born June 15.
Byars, Latonya Kaylee, a girl, was born June 18.

Perryman, Heaven-Lee Meadoe, a girl, was born June 18.
Martin, McKenna Reece, a girl, was born June 19.
Rushin, Jordan Anthony, a boy, was born June 19.
Rodriguez, Marisol Mia, a girl, was born June 20.
Starr, Billy Wayne Jr., a boy was born June 23.
Smith, Cheyanne Nicole, a girl, was born June 24.
Guerra, Daniel Eduardo

Estrada, a boy, was born June 25.
Gonzalez, Gabriella Leigh, a girl, was born June 26.
Doll, Matthew Cory, a boy, was born June 29.
Hoffpaur, Nicole Presley, a girl, was born June 29.
Saldana, Mya Renee, a girl, was born June 30.
Nichols, Peyton Allen, a boy, was born June 30.
Paredes, Carlos Nathaniel, a boy, was born June 30, 2004.

DEATHS

Rodriguez, Dianne, 33, of Big Spring died June 1.
Pendleton, Joyce Lynn Frederick, 59, of Big Spring died June 2.
Scott, Mary Elizabeth, 65, of Big Spring died June 2.
McChristian, Bennie, 75, of Big Spring died June 3.
Coyle, J.R., 84, of Big Spring died June 3.
Brummett, Senior Airman John W., 25, of Vealmoor died June 6.
Butler, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Weldon, 84, of Lubbock died June 8.
McNealey, Louise, 83, of Midland died June 8.

Shults, John, 54, of Loraine died June 8.
Sumner, Brandon, 20, of Big Spring died June 10.
Mendoza, Joel, 84, of Big Spring died June 10.
Mendoza, Jose Maria L., 84, of Big Spring died June 10.
Hudgins, Julian Lee, died June 12.
Hubbard, H.M., 79, of Temple died June 12.
Juarez, Concepcion, 80, of Big Spring died June 13.
Hubbard, Thelma Irene Duty, 86, died June 14.
Nixon, Lewis M., 74, of Big Spring died June 14.
Stephens, Geneva, 86, of Big

Spring died June 15.
Francis, Jessie Ruth, 96, of Big Spring died June 15.
Strickland, Terry, 38, of Big Spring died June 15.
Faz, Edna, 43, of Big Spring died June 16.
Duncan, Lidora Merrill Dickey, 81, of Big Spring died June 17.
Morales, Adan, 86, of Big Spring died June 18.
Washington, Connie S., 99, of Big Spring died June 19.
Tippie, Nellie, 105, died June 20.
Henderson, Orena, 98, of Big Spring died June 22.
Mathews, Joe, 90, of Cross Plains died June 22.

Harrison, Garland, 68, of Coahoma died June 22.
McRae, Elouise White, 92, of Big Spring died June 22.
Martin, Mildred Annalee, 84, of Odessa died June 22.
Hodges, Harlan, of Midland died June 23.
Gregg, Caroline C., 86, of San Angelo died June 25.
Mcfee, Tim, 45, of Haltom City died June 25.
Belario, Nieves, 79, of Midland died June 27.
Rodriguez, Gregorio, 91, of Big Spring died June 27.
Del Bosque, Anthony, 34, of Big Spring died June 28.

Sports



HERALD file photo
Chip Dees of Philadelphia, Miss. rides his horse for eight seconds in the bareback competition at the 71st annual Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo June 17. Dees scored a 78 for his ride, but was bettered by William Pittman's (Florence, Miss.) high-score of 89.

The 71st annual Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo kicked off June 16.

From Maranda Henson's wonderful mutton bustin' performance to charro Jerry Diaz's horsemanship, opening night of the rodeo was a success.

Every competitive category except for bull riding saw better times and scores June 17.

Two more events changed leaders June 18. Lisa Ogden of Gail and Brady Brock of Springtown both recorded times worthy of first place in their respective events.

Hillsboro's Jarrod Craig gave a valiant effort in bull riding June 19, but it wasn't enough to upend Gary Burt of Weatherford from the top of the leaderboard. Craig turned in a score of 88, but Burt's 90, which was scored during opening night, hung on throughout the final three nights to give Burt the bull riding title.

Howard College's Danny McDowell finished tied for fourth in the bull riding competition after turning in a score of 82 during the rodeo's opening night.

Three out of Howard College's four rodeo representatives advanced to June 18's short round finals at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo., after qualifying in the top 12 of their respective events.

Ryan O'Donnell and Ty Glover participated with their partners in team roping and Bray Armes, who has been to nationals three straight years, advanced in steer wrestling.

The best finisher was Armes in the steer wrestling event as he finished second in the nation. O'Donnell finished fifth and Glover ended up in 12th.

Local team roper Matt Hillman stepped down from his horse into the seat of a new Dodge 3500 Quad Cab June 5 after winning high points in the Straight Up Productions Team Roping in Wichita Falls. Hillman competed against nearly 400 other teams.

"I don't know who is happier, me or my parents," the 17-year-old said.

How

Perhaps not Texas is quite as the way in brate our Four days. That is in Big Spring in the Park works display Comanche Amphitheater from across t area to celebra independence.

Crowds amphitheater into the park Highway 87, 10,000 and 15 the concert program.

The sym chorale's pa program incl to the Comm the Colors," "Allegiance," Spangled Bar Forces Sal Cavalry Ove Side Story Su Portrait," "A "Colonel Bog Broadway "Battle Hy Republic," Beautiful" an

But the ho was marred by a report can Spring Polic that a womar in Moss Cree Josephine Mi victim of a jet the lake.

More trage county, as l Public Safety their hands f sudden rash rollovers on I Interstate 20.

BIRTHS

Harrell, GP Q born July 1.
Williams, Dai girl, was born.
Ramsey, Gat girl, was born.
Avalos, Arace girl, was born.

DEATHS

Owens, Van Spring, died Ju Cox, Jeffery ! Sand Springs, Powell, Zilph Sweetwater, di Pearson, Cec Couter, D'Alene 2.

Alvarez, Dolc Big Spring, Kunkle, Wan Sprinf, died Ju Jackson, Kei Andrus, died Josephine M Spring, died Ju Kendrick, Mi Sprinf, died Ju Hughes, V.R Knott, died Jul Cooper, Ann Sprinf, died Ju Gonzales, Jc Spring, died Ju Crow, Williar



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July

Howard County celebrates July 4

Perhaps nothing in West Texas is quite as traditional as the way in which we celebrate our Fourth of July holidays. That is especially true in Big Spring when the *Pops in the Park* concert and fireworks display July 3 at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater brought folks from across the Crossroads area to celebrate the nation's independence.

Crowds packed the amphitheater and spilled into the park and along U.S. Highway 87, with between 10,000 and 15,000 attending the concert and fireworks program.

The symphony and chorale's patriotic music program included "Fanfare to the Common Man," "To the Colors," "The Pledge of Allegiance," "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Armed Forces Salute," "Light Cavalry Overture," "West Side Story Suite," "A Choral Portrait," "A Cohan Salute," "Colonel Bogey March," "A Broadway Celebration," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "America the Beautiful" and "Hoe Down."

But the holiday weekend was marred by tragedy when a report came to the Big Spring Police Department that a woman had drowned in Moss Creek Lake July 4. Josephine Mitchell, 42, was a victim of a jet ski accident at the lake.

More tragedy struck the county, as Department Public Safety troopers had their hands full July 2 with a sudden rash of one-vehicle rollovers on Highway 87 and Interstate 20.



HERALD file photo
Fireworks burst above the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater during Pops in the Park, the city's annual Independence Day celebration.

Big Spring Fire Department firefighters and emergency medical personnel worked for nearly an hour to free Russell Scott, driver of one of the vehicles, and his wife, Olga, both of Big Spring, from their Dodge Dakota pickup on U.S. Highway 87.

Scott and the two passengers, Olga and their 14-year-old son, sustained their injuries.

Another accident on U.S. Highway 87, DPS Trooper Weldon Jones was called to yet another rollover accident, this time on Interstate 20 approximately a mile east of Coahoma.

The July 2 accidents came less than 24 hours after a pair of similar rollovers that took place on U.S. Highway 87 July 1.

Eighty-year-old William Peace of Austin died when he was ejected from his Chevrolet Tahoe in a one-vehicle rollover in Glasscock County. The driver, Barbara Peace, 76, the victim's wife, suffered non life-threatening injuries.

About an hour later on July 1, DPS troopers were called to the scene of another one-vehicle fatality accident on Highway 87 near Ackery.

According to DPS Sgt. Jason Hester, the vehicle,

driven by 82-year-old Alyne Powell of Sweetwater, veered off the side of the road. Powell was pronounced dead at the scene by Howard County Justice of the Peace Bennie Green.

A Nov. 15 trial date in 118th District Court was set for 44-year-old Timothy Mark Hunnicutt, accused of the March shooting death of his wife.

Howard County also opened a farmer's market in July, allowing customers to purchase locally-grown fruit and vegetables.

Other newsworthy events in July included:

- Johnny Darden, 48, of Luther, was killed by a swarm of bees July 27.

- A Big Spring woman, Crystal Ann Burchett, 23, was arrested in Odessa and charged with Class B prostitution as part of an investigation into a prostitution ring.

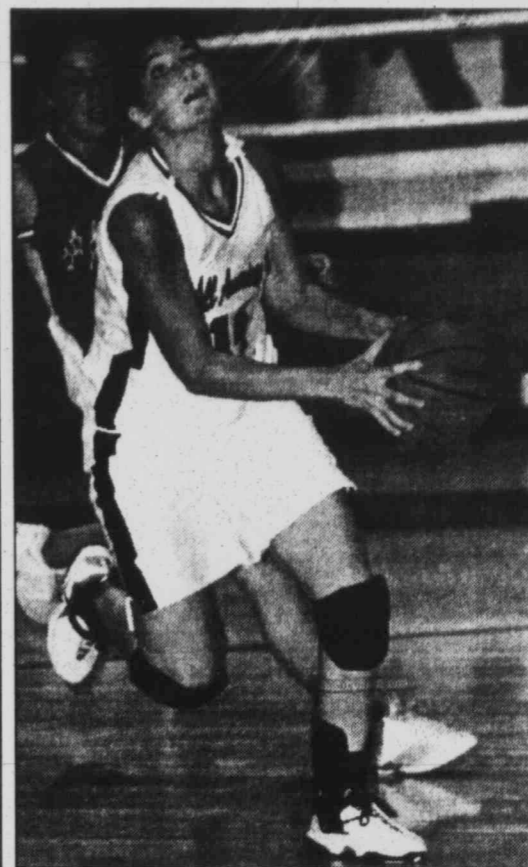
- The Fantastic Fourth Festival in downtown Big Spring proved to be biggest and best yet.

- The VA Medical Center perimeter received a face lift, through the cooperative efforts of the city of Big Spring, the VA and TxDOT.

- A 26-year-old Big Spring man, Billy Joe Chavera, was charged with driving while intoxicated and three counts of child endangerment when he was stopped by Big Spring Police Department officers for letting a 6-year-old drive.

- A federal judge threw out a former dispatcher's wrongful termination lawsuit against the Howard County Sheriff's Department.

Sports



HERALD file photo
Garden City's Leslie Jansa gets fouled on the fast break attempt during the second half of the girls All-Americans basketball game in Garden City July 2. Jansa's South team won the game 63-62. Jansa finished with six points and Grady's Whitney Opegard scored a game-high 16 points.

Trailing for much of the game, the South all-star team dug down deep in the fourth quarter and found a way to pull out a win against the North all-stars at the annual All-Americans girls basketball game, which was held in Garden City July 2. The South team won the game, 63-62.

The Garden City South team came out on the short end of the stick as the North all-star team, which had two players from Big Spring, defeated the South all-stars, 77-72.

Grady's Jason Pribylas scored a team-high 16 points for the South, while Garden City's Blake Chudej pitched in with six points and several rebounds.

- Eighty-one teams — including four from Big Spring and three from Coahoma — competed at the West Texas all-star softball tournament July 17 at UTPB in Odessa. Big Spring's four teams consisted of an eight-and-under, 10-and-under, 12-and-under and 14-and-under team, while Coahoma had an eight-and-under, 10-and-under and 14-and-under team.

- Howard College hired Cory Pack to take over for Jerry Dudley, who recently retired, as the school's new Harold Davis Fitness Center Director. And he made it known that changes are in store. And those changes began Aug. 2.

"The first thing we are going to do is bring back the old hours," said Pack. "That was a big complaint by several of our current members."

- Big Spring's Veronica Villarreal worked her way through the entire tournament field at the Bud Walthall-Alamo City Junior Open and Super Championship Major Zoni.

Villarreal competed in the girls' 18 singles open division category and won the tournament in late July in San Antonio. She breezed through the first two rounds before expending a hard fought, straight set semifinal victory over San Antonio's Becky Rawlins.

- Mike Tyson returned to boxing July 30 broke, aging and in desperate need of a win to help repay creditors and rebuild the \$300 million fortune he somehow managed to squander. He lost the match and has not won a match since that night either.

BIRTHS

Harrell, GP Quint, a boy, was born July 1.
Williams, Dai-liyah Je-kia, a girl, was born July 2.
Ramsey, Gabriella Leigh, a girl, was born July 3.
Avalos, Araceli Suzanna, a girl, was born July 5.

Arredondo, Elaina Marie, a girl, was born July 5.
Estrada, Julian Ernesto, a boy, was born July 8.
Arenivaz, Gabriel Mendez, a boy, was born July 9.
Savell, Jordan Wayne, a boy, was born July 9.

Rios, Ariana Mariah, a girl, was born July 9.
Slaton, Jaron Todd, a boy, was born July 12.
Butts, Jonathan Tyler, a boy, was born July 20.
Terrazas, Rylen Kyler, a girl, was born July 27.

Gusman, Kirstyn Nicolle, a girl, was born July 28.
Leos, Tony Lynn Jr., a boy, was born July 30.
Ford, Jamarion Jamar, a boy, was born July 30.
Horton, Jordan LeighAnne, a girl, was born July 30.

DEATHS

Owens, Van E., 90, of Big Spring, died July 1.
Cox, Jeffery Scott, 23, of Sand Springs, died July 1.
Powell, Zilpha Alyne, 82, of Sweetwater, died July 1.
Pearson, Cecil Melvin, 57, Couer, D'Alene, Idaho, died July 2.
Alvarez, Dolores Rocha, 57, of Big Spring, died July 3.
Kunkle, Wanda, 74 of Big Spring, died July 3.
Jackson, Kevin Blain, 44, of Andrus, died July 4.
Josephine Mitchell, 42, of Big Spring, died July 4.
Kendrick, Marvin, 65, of Big Spring, died July 5.
Hughes, V.R. Vennie, 97, of Knott, died July 6.
Cooper, Anne, 73, of Big Spring, died July 6.
Gonzales, Josie, 74, of Big Spring, died July 6.
Crow, William J. "Bill," 65, of

Cypress, died July 9.
Chavarria, Edward "Lalo," 51, of San Antonio, died July 9.
Russell, Diane Denise, 45, of Fort Worth, died July 10.
Swindle, Maud Garrett, 80, of Stanton, died July 10.
Fields, Wanda Wilemon, 81, of Alamogordo, N.M., died July 10.
King, Elizabeth Pickle, 91, of Fulton, Ky., died July 10.
Ross, Richard, 57, of Belton, died July 11.
Wheeler, Jewell, 82, of Sugar Land, died July 12.
Mundell, Jack, 77, of Temple, died July 12.
O'Donnell, Mary "Jack," 67, of Alvarado, died July 13.
Shelton, Clyde M., 80, of Big Spring, died July 14.
Adams, Billy "Bill" deadn, 76, of Knott, died July 14.
Galloway, James C., 66, of Big Spring, died July 14.

Morris, Velma Mae, 84, of Kingwood, died July 14.
Reger, Clodell Leon, 78, of Fort Worth, died July 15.
Resendiz, Solomon, 83, of El Paso, died July 15.
Conway, Aubrey D., 75, of Big Spring, died July 15.
Rosenfeldt, Frederick HJohn, 53, of Big Spring, died July 15.
Aragon, Jimmy, 64, of San Angelo, died July 15.
Lawrence, Alma-Liner, 83, of Colorado City, died July 16.
Plummer, Augusta, 84, of Iowa Park, died July 16.
Ferrell, Roy Andrew, 70, of Big Spring, died June 17.
Bain Sr., William Howard, 84, of Big Spring, died July 17.
Hendrix, Sandra, 62, of Colorado City, died July 18.
Null, Josephine, 95, of Big Spring, died July 19.
Fryar, Jack Delane, 69, of Midland, died July 19.

McBrayer, James W., 89, died July 19.
Villa, Guadalupe O., 54, of Big Spring, died July 23.
Loya, Octavio, 74, of Big Spring died July 23.
Valsequez-Mowery, Cindy, 42, of Fort Stockton, died July 24.
Yanez, Ascencion, 58, of Big Spring, died July 25.
Edwards, Leola M., 88, of Big Spring, died July 25.
Gibson, Marlin H., 86, of Ruidoso, N.M. died July 27.
Darden, Johnny, 48, of Big Spring, died July 27.
Railsback, Chester C., 93, of Big Spring, died July 29.
Marquez, Eduvijos, 51, of Big Spring, died July 27.
Whitley, Carl, 54, of Stanton, died July 29.
Garveer, Robert Earl, 65, of Big Spring, died July 29.
Olguin, Maria Jesus, 84, of Big Spring died July 31.

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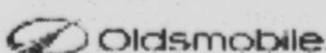
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2004: The Year in Review

August

Big Spring gets a new slogan

"Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring."

That was the slogan chosen for Big Spring following the contest sponsored by the Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI) committee in August.

The slogan was picked from more than 840 suggested during the contest. The committee narrowed the 844 original contestants to 17 finalists and submitted them to three marketing professionals for their evaluation.

Later in the month, thousands of Big Spring and Howard County residents were joined by other concerned West Texans in packing Dorothy Garrett Coliseum to display their support for the Big Spring VA Medical Center before Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi.

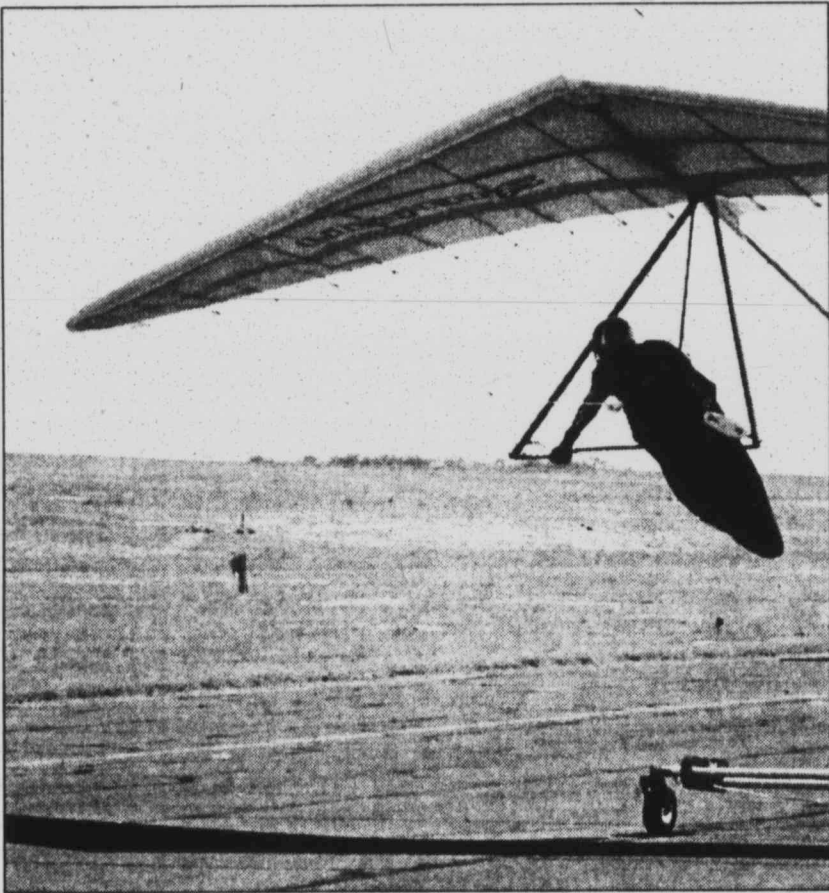
While Principi noted that the CARES Commission study concerning changes at the Big Spring facility will be done, he and Congressman Randy Neugebauer stressed that no decision to close the Big Spring facility have been planned.

"I want to assure there is no plan to close this hospital," Principi told the crowd.

Following the forum, most of the local residents who'd attended the event said they were leaving with a positive outlook.

Also in August, Howard County commissioners approved and put into place a new economic development tool by forming the Howard County Industrial Development Corporation.

The new corporation, which commissioners said was spawned out of a request



HERALD file photo
The United States Hang Gliding Association National Championships were held in Big Spring in August. The USHGA plans on returning in 2005.

from the Dallas-based wind energy company Wind Plus, will be able to help prospective companies with the financing necessary to move their operations to Howard County.

Other events which took place in August included: Garden City High School senior Meagan Kothmann was named 2004 Fair Queen and presided over festivities during the Howard County Fair.

All the taxing entities in Howard County, save one, learned that higher values would translate to additional income during the 2004-2005 fiscal year following a report

by Howard County Chief Appraiser Keith Toomire. The only entity which didn't see an increase in taxes was Howard County.

The United States Hang Gliding Association returned to Big Spring in a big way, staging the USHGA National Championships at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark for the second straight year. It was the first time ever that the national championships had been held at the same site in consecutive years. It was the third straight year for a major USHGA event to be held in Big Spring, and organizers said they plan to return for another event in

2005.

The spring at Comanche Trail Park, which gave the city its name, was flowing again, thanks to the volunteer efforts of local insurance agent Tommy Churchwell and his father-in-law, Carroll Choate, the owner of Choate Well Service.

An increase in tax income allowed Howard College trustees to approve giving employees raises totaling \$91,000.

Trustees had earlier voted to freeze the raises, but better than expected tax roll values allowed them to give employees the raises in their 2004-2005 budget.

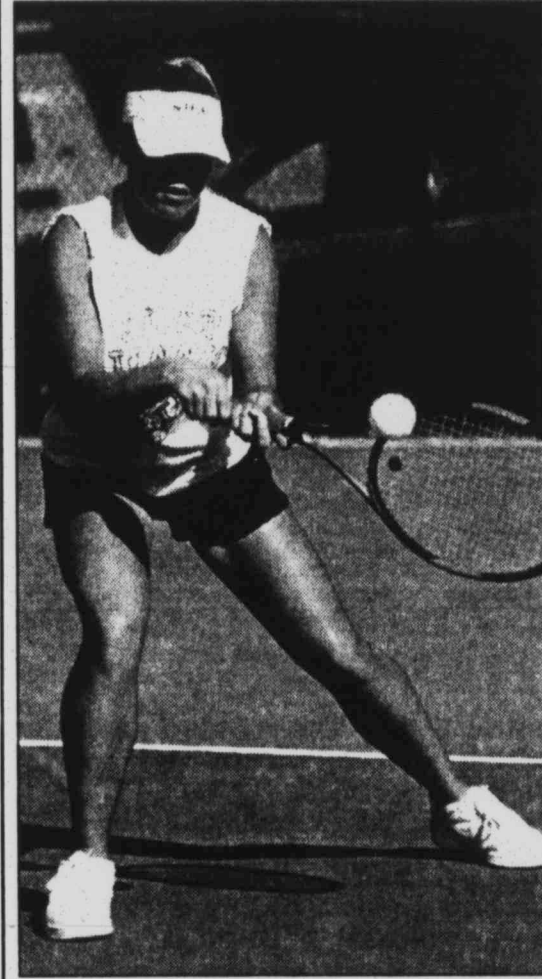
The Salvation Army distributed school supplies to more than 400 children from needy families prior to the start of the school year.

Local National Guardsmen, attached to Detachment 1, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry began their first step toward participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom when they reported for training at Fort Hood.

Dunlap's Store officials announced they would be closing the Big Spring location in October due to a rent hike that they felt was impossible for them to pay for the FM 700 location. Dunlap's District Manager Jimmy Vaughn said the company was looking for a new location in hopes of keeping a presence in the community.

After shutting down operations for eight days, the Fiberflex facility in Big Spring resumed operations on a re-organized basis.

Sports



HERALD file photo
Junior Natasha Neighbors returns a backhand during her singles win August 25 against an opponent from Snyder. She won the match in straight sets.

It seemed Garden City had successfully made the switch from 11-man to six-man this past year. The proof came Aug. 26 as the points came early and often at Bearkat Stadium against Grandfalls-Royalty.

Garden City, the only team that played like kings on that night, went ahead 23-0 after the first quarter before ending the game in the third quarter via the 45-point mercy rule. The Bearkats defeated the Cowboys, 55-6 on a night when the Garden City seniors were honored.

The only thing guaranteed in life is nothing ever remains the same forever. Even football games. Change hit the six-man football ranks in early August when All Americas Bowl founder Tommy Wells announced he was stepping down as the director of the annual international six-man all-star football game following the July 3 game in Garden City.

Steve Ward and Susie Hernandez won the men's and women's city golf championships, respectively, at the Big Spring Herald City Golf Championships at Comanche Trail Golf Course. The two claimed victory on Sunday, August 1, which was the final day of the two-day tournament.

Howard College and Sports Information Director Stan Feaster announced in early August that Brian Michaelz, who works for KBST in Big Spring, will take over as the "voice of the Hawks and Lady Hawks."

After knocking off Kermit in round one of the Monahans Tournament Aug. 20, the Big Spring volleyball team continued to work its way through pool play by beating district rival Frenship in straight sets.

Big Spring turned in a good effort at Ratliff Stadium in Odessa, but in the end, turnovers and Odessa High's depth were too much for the Steers to overcome as the Bronchos scored 13 points in the final quarter to win, 27-18.

The only sweat the Big Spring tennis team broke Aug. 24 was from the scorching triple digit degree weather on the courts at the Figure Seven Tennis Center inside Comanche Trail Park.

The play on the courts, however, was more than easy for the Steers as Big Spring dominated Snyder, 17-2.

BIRTHS

Tito, Marcus Hayden, a boy, was born Aug. 3.
Herrera, Daisy Michelle Partlow, a girl, was born Aug. 6.
Poitevint, Neely Grace, a girl, was born Aug. 18.

Lopez, Natalia, a girl, was born Aug. 19.
Vogel, Joel Justen Case, a boy, born Aug. 19.
Smith, Branham Clark, a boy, born Aug. 19.

Rodriguez, Mercedes Josephine, a girl, was born Aug. 21.
Madrid, Juan Angel, a boy, was born Aug. 22.
Collins, Mia Jordan, a girl,

was born Aug. 29.
Anglin, Christopher Roland, a boy, was born Aug. 30.
Ledesma, Sonny Ray, a boy, was born Aug. 31.

DEATHS

Fuglaar, Lorraine Horton, of Midland died Aug. 1.
Henderson, Wilma, 63, of Big Spring died Aug. 1.
Philly, George David, 56, of Duncan, Okla., died Aug. 1.
Martin, Richard Clay, 68, of Spade, died Aug. 2.
Kirkland, Cleve Jr., 49, of San Angelo died Aug. 3.
Murrill, Joel Tyrell, 21, of Big Spring died Aug. 6.
Castle, Margie, 100, of Big Spring, died Aug. 7.
Perkins, Jesse James, 23, of Big Spring died Aug. 7.
Perkins, Jesse James, 23, of Big Spring, died Aug. 7.
Starnes, Joel Dow Jr., died Aug. 7.
Holt, Jack Wendell, 80, of Aledo, died Aug. 7.
Lasater, Geri Sue, 41, of Big Spring died Aug. 8.
Hodges, Shirley, 69, of Big Spring died Aug. 8.

Grant, Willie Lee New, 80, of Coahoma died Aug. 8.
Lasater, Geri Sue, 41, of Big Spring died Aug. 8.
Rains, James, 69, of Big Spring died Aug. 9.
Mize, Steve Herman, 80, of Big Spring, died Aug. 10.
Mays, Romy, 89, of Abilene died Aug. 10.
Carr, Jackie, 70, of Big Spring died Aug. 12.
Boswell, Gayla Lowry, 47, died Aug. 13.
Carby, Lida Florene, 72, of Stantton died Aug. 15.
Palomino, Maria Zamora, 91, of Big Spring died Aug. 15.
Brown, Louise, 98, of Big Spring died Aug. 17.
Welch, L.V. II, 30, of Tarzan died Aug. 17.
Williams, June, 68, of Big Spring died Aug. 18.
Reese, James B., 50, of Big Spring died Aug. 18.

Dyer, Dona J., 73, of Midland died Aug. 18.
Sneed, Alta Jean, 64, of Midland died Aug. 19.
Clanton, Ruby, 84, of Elbow died Aug. 19.
Spier, Bobbie, 78, of Cameron died Aug. 19.
Sneed, Alta Jean, 64, of Midland died Aug. 19.
Reagan, Hazel, 97, of Waco died Aug. 20.
Corrales, Johnny B., 70, of Austin died Aug. 20.
Titsworth, Mary L., 81, died Aug. 20.
Reagan, Hazel, 97, of Big Spring, died Aug. 20.
Geis, Kathryn, 85, of Archer City died Aug. 20.
Garrett, Cortez B., 96, died Aug. 21.
Corrales, Johnnie B., 70, died Aug. 21.
Newsom, Ila Mae, 92, of Lubbock died Aug. 22.

Thomas, Marion E., 82, of Big Spring died Aug. 23.
Tnomas, Marion E. died Aug. 23.
Gonzales, Jesse Eugene Travis, 21, of Big Spring died Aug. 24.
Brand, Deborah Joyce, 46, of Monahans died Aug. 24.
Gonzales, Jesse Travis, 21, of Big Spring died Aug. 24.
Immel, Herbert, 76, of Universal City died Aug. 26.
Dyer, M.E. Jr., 84, of Ackerly died Aug. 27.
Gibson, Doris, 74, of Big Spring died Aug. 27.
Fierro, Agustin, 81, of Big Spring died Aug. 27.
Sherman, Ruth Frances, 64, of Dallas died Aug. 27.
Smith, Vaurine, 83, of Big Spring died Aug. 28.

Ups

September was more waiting, albeit a good one for the future of the Veterans Center.

A large group of residents reported for keeping Big Spring. The group began at the Veterans Memorial and parking lot of the Hope Nazarene Center.

But by month's end, the wait continued as the Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi announced an advisory committee for the local facility. The committee is to do its work by the end of the month. Principi announced far beyond a deadline that the secretary's ment.

At least some local bankers as September 4 to report for keeping Big Spring. The group began at the Veterans Memorial and parking lot of the Hope Nazarene Center.

But by month's end, the wait continued as the Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi announced far beyond a deadline that the secretary's ment.

Local residents again in September their efforts. Dystrophy Association Sept. 6. Fire answered phone of the telethon Patsy and H

BIRTHS

Rodriguez, Iza girl, was born Sept. 3.
Guzman, Krys was born Sept. 3.
Horton, Cheyenne girl, was born Sept. 3.
Clare, Hunter was born Sept. 3.
Allen, Austin boy, was born Sept. 3.
White, Madis was born Sept. 3.
Rivas, Rafael was born Sept. 3.

DEATHS

Manning, Paul Brownfield died Sept. 3.
Woodard, Beate Angelo died Sept. 3.
Ballou, Stanle Dayton, Ohio, died Sept. 3.
Weaver, J.C., N.M., died Sept. 3.
Huddins, Hat Carbon died Sept. 3.
William R. "B" of Big Spring died Sept. 3.
Percy, Bonnie 83, of Midland Lee, Emma L. Luling, La., died Sept. 3.
Haddock, Allie Knott died Sept. 3.
Lee, Helen, died Sept. 6.
Merrick, Alan Spring died Sept. 3.
Barber, Fred Lindale died Sept. 3.
Simmons, Cl Rose Bud, Ark. Arview, Betty

2004: The Year in Review

September

Ups and downs mark ninth month

September was marked by more waiting and uncertainty, albeit a good measure of support for the future of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

A large group of veterans gathered Sept. 4 to show their support for keeping the facility in Big Spring. Their motorcade began at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and ended in the parking lot of the Community of Hope Nazarene Church.

But by month's end, residents learned the waiting game would continue as Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi announced creation of an advisory committee to study the local facility and others like it. The committee was expected to do its work throughout at least the end of December 2005, Principi announced, stretching far beyond a December 2004 deadline that had been set by the secretary's May announcement.

At least some closure came for local bank employees and customers as September began, with the guilty plea of an Odessa man accused on a string of bank robberies. Oscar Ibarra, 33, admitted to six counts of bank holdups, including at the Western National Bank in Big Spring Jan. 7.

Local residents were fund-raising again in September, this time putting their efforts toward the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Labor Day Sept. 6. Firefighters and others answered phone calls for the local arm of the telethon at Big Spring Mall.

Patsy and Henry Sanchez and their



HERALD file photo
Children enjoy the playground equipment during recess at Moss Elementary School.

children, Amanda and Henry, were chosen Family of the Year for Big Spring by the Samaritan Counseling Center.

Texas Rangers were called out to investigate the death of a Stanton man that occurred while the man was in police custody. Robert Charles Wiltsie was being booked into the Big Spring City Jail on a charge relating to illegal fuel use when he collapsed; he later died at the hospital.

The Big Spring Independent School District collected \$67,500 in computers

and equipment from ALON USA on Sept. 9. It was called a continuation of the refinery's anniversary celebration.

Forsan voters approved a school bond issue on Sept. 11, giving the go-ahead to many improvements and new items for their schools.

At mid-month, commissioners gave their stamp of approval to a plan by Austin-based company PFM to issue industrial revenue bonds that could result in another "wind farm" in Howard County.

As the second half of September got under way, a Big Spring woman was charged in the hit-and-run death of a pedestrian. Isbell Ward, 36, was arrested on a charge of failure to stop and render aid to the victim, Daniel Guzman, 41.

Another crime this month involved 30-year-old Leanne Simpson, who apparently tried to hold up a 7-Eleven store, claiming she was armed with a knife.

An officer responding to an alarm saw her running from the store and she was arrested.

Harvest Saturday at Big Spring State Park brought out families and nature-lovers to appreciate the autumn season.

Big Spring State Hospital became the first state hospital to implement a paperless record system.

Forsan High School senior Levi Johnson became a National Merit semi-finalist.

A luncheon at month's end marked the kickoff of the 2004 United Way campaign. The organization set its fund-raising goal at \$275,000 that would support organizations to aid the community's children, low-income families and others in need.

Sports



HERALD file photo
Big Spring sophomore Michael Rodriguez tries to close in on a runner from Midland Lee during the Big Spring Invitational Sept. 17. Rodriguez took second overall.

Howard College officials announced Sept. 6 that head men's basketball coach Mark Adams would take over the reigns of athletics director in addition to his men's basketball coaching duties.

Adams replaced Jim Lewis, who resigned the position to pursue other interests.

Adams, a Brownfield native, began his coaching career as an assistant at Howard under former head coach Harold Wilder in 1979.

It was a risky call, but going for the win Sept. 10 on the road in overtime proved to be the right decision for Big Spring head coach Dwight Butler as the Steers upended Hereford, 15-14.

"I never really thought about whether I would go for the tie or the win because I knew we had to try to win it," said Butler. After his team scored the deciding two-point conversion in overtime to earn its first win of the year. "When you are on the road you have to go for the win."

Behind a dominating defense and a potent passing attack, the Big Spring football team recorded its second straight win of the season, shutting out Class 5A Lubbock High, 19-0, at Lowrey Field in Lubbock Sept. 17. Junior quarterback Andy Lasater threw three touchdown passes to three different receivers and the defense did the rest for the Steers, who evened their record at 2-2.

The Garden City Bearkats improved to 3-1 on the season and came out on the positive end of a 45-point mercy rule after routing El Paso Jesus Chapel in six-man action Sept. 24 at Bearkat Stadium, 77-32.

The first quarter produced 61 total points before the Bearkat defense settled in for the final one and a half quarters. The game ended with 3:50 to go in the third quarter after the mercy rule went into effect.

The Lady Steers volleyball team kept its winning streak alive and moved into a second place tie in District 4-4A Sept. 28 after blasting district rival Frenship in Wolforth. Big Spring took the match in four games by scores of 25-22/25-12/23-25/26-24.

A dominating performance against rival Lake View at the Figure 7 Tennis Center inside Comanche Trail Park Sept. 18 got the Big Spring tennis team off to a good start in district play as the Steers whipped San Angelo Lake View, 15-4.

BIRTHS

Rodriguez, Isabelle Mae, a girl, was born Sept. 1.
Guzman, Krystal Marie, a girl, was born Sept. 3.
Horton, Cheyanne Nicole, a girl, was born Sept. 5.
Clare, Hunter Zane, a boy, was born Sept. 6.
Allen, Austin Kristopher, a boy, was born Sept. 7.
White, Madison Rae, a girl, was born Sept. 8.
Rivas, Rafael Aaron, a boy, was born Sept. 9.

Butler, Dalilah Marie, a girl, was born Sept. 10.
Ogle, Zane Ray, a boy, was born Sept. 11.
Canales, Faustino Cruz, a boy, was born Sept. 11.
Yanez, Autumn Marie, a girl, was born Sept. 14.
De Los Santos, Esperanza Ilianna, a girl, was born Sept. 14.
Chavez, MaKayla Diane, a girl, was born Sept. 16.
Hernandez, Rayna Nashe, a

girl, was born Sept. 17.
Hildebrand, Ryan Thomas, a boy, was born Sept. 17.
Guzman, Dallas Renae, a boy, was born Sept. 18.
Muniz, Alexia Mercedes, a girl, was born Sept. 23.
Garcia, Nicholas Sean, a boy, was born Sept. 23.
Olivarez, Kelby Ryan, a boy, was born Sept. 23.
Escovedo, Ricky H. Jr., a boy, was born Sept. 23.
Edmondson, Jordan Amber

Dawn, a girl, was born Sept. 24.
Hurrington, Adonis Quinn "Snake," a boy, was born Sept. 25.
Lasater, Austin Michael Dean, a boy, was born Sept. 5.
Sandate, Isela Yvonne, a girl, was born Sept. 26.
Terry, Braden Matthew, a boy, was born Sept. 26.
Prater, Allyson Paige, a girl, was born Sept. 28.

DEATHS

Manning, Pauline, 88, of Brownfield died Sept. 1.
Woodard, Bessie, 81, of San Angelo died Sept. 2.
Ballou, Stanley Porter, 82 of Dayton, Ohio, died Sept. 3.
Weaver, J.C., 79, of Carlsbad, N.M., died Sept. 3.
Hudgins, Hattie Gladys, 78, of Carbon died Sept. 4.
William R. "Bill" Jewett, 66, of Big Spring died Sept. 4.
Percy, Bonnie Fern Brigance, 83, of Midland died Sept. 4.
Lee, Emma Lamar, 95, of Luling, La., died Sept. 5.
Haddock, Aline Esther, 87, of Knott died Sept. 6.
Lee, Helen, 91, of Big Spring died Sept. 6.
Merrick, Alan, 56, of Big Spring died Sept. 6.
Barber, Fredonia, 67, of Lindale died Sept. 6.
Simmons, Clara Joyce, 72, of Rose Bud, Ark., died Sept. 7.
Arview, Betty, 71, of Big

Spring died Sept. 8.
Rhodes, Morris Cecil, 68, of Big Spring died Sept. 8.
Reid, Juil, 87, of Stanton died Sept. 9.
Graves, Robbie Jean Yates, 64, of Stanton died Sept. 11.
Morton, Randall, 73, of Midland died Sept. 11.
Wise, Rauli Tabor, 12, of Midland died Sept. 11.
Wallace, Elizabeth M., 78, of Midland died Sept. 11.
Bryant, Virginia of Midland died Sept. 12, in Midland.
Myrick, Bobby L., 65, of Sterling City died Sept. 12.
Weeks, James George Drury, 85, died Sept. 13.
Pitts, Roddy Max, 70, of Spring Branch died Sept. 14.
Hoggard, Norvelle, 88, of Mesa, Ariz., died Sept. 14.
Guzman, Daniel, 41, of Big Spring died Sept. 14.
Ashford, the Rev. John Henry, 68, of Big Spring died Sept. 15.

Lambright, Nadine, 62, of Big Spring died Sept. 16.
Zack, Clara, 92, of Big Spring died Sept. 16.
Clements, Velma Fay Nichols, 90, of Irving died Sept. 17.
Queen, Wylie, 77, of Big Spring died Sept. 17.
Smith, Christina L. Bristow, 46, of Coahoma died Sept. 17.
Woody, Houston, 81, of Stanton died Sept. 20.
Rita Janette Cofer, 64, of Marlin died Sept. 21.
Steadham, Michael, 41, of Big Spring died Sept. 23.
Lynch, Mike, 49, of Stanton died Sept. 23.
Barnes, Vess Jr. died Sept. 23.
Hernandez, Sylvia Ann, 37, of Fort Worth died Sept. 25.
Heard, Jimmy Dale, 55, of Joshua died Sept. 26.
Saucedo, Aaron Michael, infant, died Sept. 26.
Sinclair, Art, 67, of Big Spring

died Sept. 27.
Poisall, Mary, 80, of Big Spring died Sept. 28.
Wrinkle, Jean, 69, of Midland died Sept. 28.
Stevens, Earl Jr., 83, of Oklahoma City died Sept. 28.
Wrinkle, Jean, 69, of Midland died Sept. 28.
Hartmann, Irene L., 74, of Big Spring died Sept. 29.
Emerson, Lucille Myers, 82, of Big Spring died Sept. 29.
Reid, Clay, 84, of Coahoma died Sept. 30.
Petty, James, 74, of Big Spring died Sept. 30.
Reid, Hiram Clay Jr., 84, of Coahoma died Sept. 30.
Robertson, Claud, 76, of Big Spring died Sept. 30.
Eiland, Paige, 68, of Stanton died Sept. 30.
Paige Eiland, 68, of Stanton died Sept. 30.

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2004: The Year in Review

October

Flu shot shortage hits nation

October saw the announcement of a nationwide shortage of flu vaccine after British-based Chiron Corp., one of two companies that provides the U.S. with the vaccine, was shut down by the English government.

According to information released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, the loss amounted to 46 million doses, which translated into approximately 50 million flu shots that would be a no-show in America.

In preparation for the shortage, the CDC released new guidelines concerning who should or should not receive a flu shot, trying to keep the shortage from affecting the nation's more-vulnerable people.

Big Spring police confirmed in October that a TASER was used during an Oct. 11 altercation involving a pregnant woman in the 1400 block of Wood Street.

Family members confirmed that Lea Terrell, 34, was released from Scenic Mountain Medical Center Tuesday follow an altercation with a Big Spring Police Officer. According to Melini Turner, 51, the mother of Terrell, the Big Spring woman, who was more than eight months pregnant at the time, was treated and released after it was determined by physicians her unborn child was unharmed.

However, Terrell's child



A truck wreck on Interstate 20 looked far worse than it was, despite closing a portion of the roadway. The driver received minor injuries.

was stillborn in November. An autopsy was ordered by Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman, with the cause of death still undetermined at this time.

According to Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith, Terrell was shot with a TASER after she attacked a police officer who was responding to an alleged attack on a city of Big Spring garbage truck driver.

A 15-month-old girl spent several days in critical condition in the Lubbock Covenant Pediatric Unit, fighting for her life after an accidental shooting that took place in the child's home on Oct. 14.

The child, Mia Burch, was reportedly shot at point-blank range with a 12-gauge shotgun. Sheriff Dale Walker said one shot was fired, hitting the girl in both of her lower legs. The gun was wielded by her 4-year-old sibling.

The Big Spring State Hospital joined the VA Medical Center in fearing the threat of a governmental chopping block, thanks to state legislation. Officials from several different local agencies, including the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Moore Development for Big Spring Inc., met in October to discuss the process by which

the Texas Health and Human Services Commission would make its recommendations.

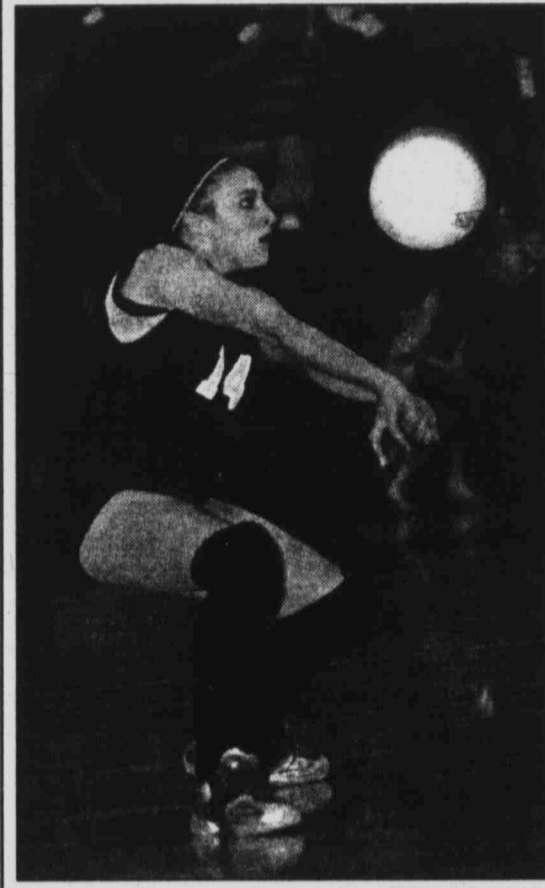
Also in October:

- Coahoma Independent School District trustees reviewed a long list of facility needs at their regular meeting on Sept. 16. According to Superintendent Bill Kingston, many of the items discussed reflected the need for electrical, plumbing and heating and air conditioning upgrades in the high school and junior high buildings.

- The Emergency Service Chaplains program became a full fledged agency in Big Spring, serving personnel from the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Big Spring Police Department (BSPD), the Big Spring Fire Department, the Howard County Sheriff's Office, Big Spring Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff and the public.

- October saw the filing of a lawsuit against the Howard County Sheriff's Office by the family of a 41-year-old man who died while in the custody of the county jail on Jan. 25, 2004. The lawsuit alleged the defendants, which included Howard County, Howard County Sheriff's Office, Chief Jailer Mike Smith, Deputy Sheriff Adam Dunlap, Sheriff Dale Walker and DPS Trooper Weldon Jones contributed to the death of Richard Allen Dunn.

Sports



Big Spring sophomore Katy Abner gets under the ball for a dig against rival Lake View Oct. 5 in San Angelo during the Lady Steers' five-set loss to the Maidens.

The Bearkats needed only 19 plays on offense to defeat district rival Veribest Oct. 22 as Garden City's football team qualified for the playoffs with a 67-14 mercy rule victory.

Garden City got 412 yards out of those 19 plays as the game was called at halftime due to the 45-point mercy rule.

The Garden City football team then won the district championship for the first time since 1990 a week later in Paint Rock as the Bearkats crushed their district rival 61-0 in a game that was called at halftime due to the 45-point mercy rule.

- The seniors went out on top Nov. 12 as the Big Spring volleyball team swept through district rival Frenship at the Steer Gym 25-21/25-13/25-23. The victory also secured the Lady Steers a berth in the postseason and season sweeps over the Tigers and rival Andrews.

- Seniors Jessica Hughey and Kendra Weeks, as well as freshman Lauren Sage, led the Big Spring girls swim team to a dominating victory against rival Andrews Oct. 14 at the Big Spring YMCA.

The girls team rolled its way to a 103-61 win, while the boys team also defeated the Mustangs, 89-80.

Hughey then broke her second swimming school record Oct. 23 at the Big Spring Invitational as both the boys and girls teams captured fourth place out of 13 teams.

The boys team scored 172 points and trailed co-winners Pecos and El Paso Burgess by 28, while the girls team, which also lost to district rival Pecos, scored 144.5 points, 130 points behind first place El Paso Hanks.

- The Big Spring tennis team said hello to the regional tournament Oct. 16 after the Steers edged arch rival Andrews, 10-9. The win gave Big Spring a second place district finish and an automatic bid into the regional tournament, which began Oct. 29 in Wichita Falls.

They then won their first two matches at the regional tournament before losing in the semifinals to a team from Wichita Falls.

- Big Spring's junior varsity football team earned its first victory Oct. 7 in San Angelo against Lake View as the Steers knocked off the Chiefs, 22-13. Big Spring's first touchdown of the game came on a 70-yard run by Demar Byrd. Byrd also scored later from 50 yards out.

BIRTHS

Ontiveros, Timothy Blake, a boy, was born Oct. 1.
Walton, Chloe Renee, a girl, was born Oct. 4.
Martinez, Phillip Jr., a boy, was born Oct. 6.
Bryans, Cayde Devry, a boy, was born Oct. 6.
Wingo, Kross Jack, a boy, was born Oct. 10.

Fierro, Emma N., a girl, was born Oct. 11.
Roberts, Addison Claire, a girl, was born Oct. 13.
Young, Miranda LeaAnn, a girl, was born Oct. 13.
Guzman, Daliana Lenae, a girl, was born Oct. 14.
Spears, Terrirene, a girl, was born Oct. 15.

Martinez, Elysa Annelise, a girl, was born Oct. 15.
Taylor, Lawson Mark, a boy, was born Oct. 15.
Mendoza, Ava Michelle, a girl, was born Oct. 18.
Guerra, Blake Andrew, a boy, was born Oct. 18.
Salgado, Hailey Madison, a girl, was born Oct. 18.

Ortiz, Jasmine Love, a girl, was born Oct. 19.
Sanchez, Octavio Eliseo, a boy, was born Oct. 20.
Wanner, Elysia Rayne, a girl, was born Oct. 22.
Robert, Jaysena Cyrel, a girl, was born Oct. 24.
Allen, Isabel Gail, a girl, was born Oct. 25.

DEATHS

Newton, Vonceil, 80, of Big Spring died Oct. 2.
Victor Lee Chandler, 81, of Big Spring died Oct. 4.
Hayworth, Donald Edward, 55, of Odessa died Oct. 4.
Willard, Ruby, 94, of Colorado City died Oct. 4.
Sligh, Alvin Preston, 86, of Monahans, died Oct. 5.
Zackary Ray Alvarado, infant, of Big Spring died Oct. 5.
Kilpatrick, Joseph, 74, of Big Spring died Oct. 5.
Laminack, Joyce, 82, of Colorado City died Oct. 6.
Williams, Hubert, 54, of El Paso died Oct. 7.
Kizer, Pauline, 83, of Big Spring died Oct. 8.
Posey, Gary, 50, of Midland died Oct. 9.
Fortson, Marilyn, 71, of Big Spring died Oct. 10.
Mallory, Robert K., 78, of Big Spring died Oct. 10.
Lopez, Delia, 60, of Sparenburg died Oct. 10.
Bullock, Mildred M., 84, of

New Braunfels died Oct. 10.
Johnston, Lois, 84, of Big Spring died Oct. 11.
Semmes, Linda, 56, of Big Spring died Oct. 11.
Wilder, William Harold, 68, died Oct. 11.
Smith, Thomas Glenn, 44, of Midland died Oct. 12.
Montgomery, Clemmie, 94, of Big Spring died Oct. 13.
Spinks, Guy, 81, of Stanton died Oct. 13.
Anderson, Bailey, 89, of Big Spring died Oct. 13.
Ezell, Jack, 88, of Coahoma died Oct. 14.
Duncan, Royal Tucker, 93, of Big Spring died Oct. 14.
Dickson, Pearl, 83, of Lufkin died Oct. 14.
Fischer, Betty Louise (Giller), 83, of Abilene died Oct. 15.
Womack, Glenda, 61, of Big Spring died Oct. 16.
Gill, Esperanza Hope died Oct. 16.
Moore, Opal A., 84, of Killeen died Oct. 16.

Davidson, Robert, 66, of Big Spring died Oct. 17.
Cook, Jack, 76, of Stanton, died Oct. 17.
Moser, Juanita Odessa, 83, of Pottsboro died Oct. 17.
Garrett, Vernon Bryce, 84, of Lamesa died Oct. 19.
Garrett, Vernon Bryce, 84, of Lamesa died Oct. 19.
Wall, Erin, 57, of Midland died Oct. 19.
Dugan, Wayne, 67, of Abbott died Oct. 19.
Crow, Randy Dale, 54, of Odessa died Oct. 19.
Cranfill, Minnye, 92, of Big Spring died Oct. 20.
Conard, Ivan L., 74, of Big Spring died Oct. 20.
Piper, James R., 88, of Big Spring died Oct. 20.
Anderson, Oma, 93, died Oct. 21.
Covington, Marilyn, 57, died Oct. 21.
Battle, Margaret Jackson, 80, died Oct. 22.
Herrera, Jesse, 59, of Big

Spring died Oct. 22.
Boatler, Pat, 89, of Big Spring died Oct. 23.
Hopper, Cory, 34, of Stanton, died Oct. 24.
Marshall, Rachel Virginia Ford, 89, of Big Spring died Oct. 25.
Dolloff, Betty, 74, of Big Spring died Oct. 25.
Alley, Jean, 76, of Mineola died Oct. 26.
Brooks, Gerald Lloyd, 63, of Irving died Oct. 27.
Cobb, Thomas Sidney, 66, of Ridgcrest, Calif., died Oct. 27.
Hoag, Maria, 79, of Big Spring died Oct. 29.
Cox, Beverly, 58, of Big Spring died Oct. 29.
Sigmon, David Wayne, 46, of Antioch, Tenn., died Oct. 29.
Sanders, Nell W., M.D., 95, of Big Spring died Oct. 30.
Garcia, Miracle Marie Hernandez, infant died Oct. 30.
Arista, Estanislada, 72, of Big Spring died Oct. 31.
Brito, Guadalupe Chavarria, 82, of Big Spring died Oct. 31.

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2004: The Year in Review

November

Rainfall eclipses 1932 record

Breaking a 104-year record for average rainfall in November had all of Big Spring discussing the weather and an abundance of rain received this year.

Total rainfall for Howard County reached 34.58 inches at 8 a.m. Nov. 22, according to Charles Yates, an engineering technician for the USDA, eclipsing the 34.34 record set in 1932.

And a chapter of tragedy that shook the roots of the Big Spring community closed Nov. 5 when Timothy Hunnicutt, 44, pleaded guilty to the murder of his wife, Catherine Hunnicutt. He received 25 years in prison as part of deal with the Texas Attorney general.

Hunnicutt, 40, was found shot to death in her home March 9. Her husband, Timothy, was also in the home that morning. Big Spring police found him in a bathroom, incoherent and unresponsive, a 20-gauge shotgun nearby.

District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson recused himself from the proceedings due to personal ties to the defendant, turning prosecution over to Adrienne McFarland and Laura Pops of the Texas Attorney General Prosecution Assistance Division.

Catherine Hunnicutt had been a life-long resident of Big Spring and was an employee at Leonard's Pharmacy at the time of her death.

An autopsy was ordered Nov. 22 on a stillborn infant after the mother was stunned by a Big Spring Police Department TASER during an altercation that took place in October.

Kathryn Wiseman, justice of the peace for Precinct 1, Place 2, said she ordered the autopsy as part of a deal between the mother, 34-year-



HERALD file photo
Rain fell abundantly, not only in November, but for all of 2004. In November, however, total rainfall for the year reached 34.58 inches, eclipsing the record set in 1932 of 34.34 inches

old Lea Terrell, and the Big Spring Police Department.

Terrell was stunned by a TASER during an incident that took place Oct. 11 in which her mother, 51-year-old Melini Turner, was arrested on a charge of hindering and resisting arrest.

According to police reports, an officer was investigating an attack by several children on a sanitation truck driver who had suffered a wound to the head from a rock that had been thrown at his truck. While detaining three children near the scene of the attack, police say the officer was attacked by Terrell, Turner and a 16-year-old juvenile.

During the attack, the officer reportedly used a TASER to stun Terrell, who was then more than eight months

pregnant. Renovations at the Big Spring Senior Center took center stage with an open house that allowed the public a chance to see all the work volunteers accomplished in the facility throughout the summer and fall.

At least eight people were arrested Nov. 18 when a task force drug bust executed arrest warrants for conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine. Arrested and charged were Ruben Gamboa, 48; Ruben Valencia Gamboa, 30; Emanuel Cervantes, 32; Roberto Franco, 44; Michael Zubieta, 22; David Gamboa, 52; Arturo Yanez, 52; and Eric Delbosquez, 19.

Other newsworthy items included:

- Election results included the re-election of Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker; Howard County commissioners Emma Brown and Bill Crooker; Justice of the peace Bennie Green; Randy Neugerbauer won the election for U.S. Congressional District 19, defeating Charles Stenholm, who had held the position for 13 terms; State Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center defeated Big Spring's Kent Sharp; State Sen. Kel Seliger defeated Elaine King Miller for the District 31 race; and Pres. George Bush was re-elected to the White House.

- More than 100 Big Spring residents traveled to San Angelo and Lubbock to meet with members of the Texas health and Human Services Commission in support of the Big Spring State Hospital.

- The Salvation Army's annual Thanksgiving Dinner served more than 500 people.

- StarTek laid off more than 40 workers Nov. 2 due to a downturn in the business of one of its clients.

- Veteran's Day observances included gatherings at local schools, the VA Medical Center and the Vietnam Memorial, among many others.

- Marj Carpenter, former moderator of the Presbyterian Church USA, learned she will be featured in U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson's book, "American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country."

- Andrew David Read pleaded guilty to intoxicated manslaughter in San Angelo for his role in the death of a former Big Spring resident, 47-year-old Cynthia "Cindy" Sue Ogden Clanton and a 51-year-old art teacher, Willie Zuniga.

Sports



HERALD file photo
Stanton's Matthew Ruiz has the ball knocked away from him by a Coleman defensive back during the Buffaloes' 21-7 loss to the Bluecats at San Angelo Stadium in the first-round of the playoffs Nov. 13. It was Stanton's first playoff berth since 2000.

Howard College's Lorin Miller, who served as the women's basketball coach for one and a half years, officially signed a letter of resignation Nov. 29.

Miller said several reasons led him to the rather abrupt decision and a lot of them were within the 2004-05 team.

- Grady seniors Andrew Villa and Ben Hirth each scored three touchdowns on the ground Nov. 4 as Grady defeated rival Sands in Lenorah to earn the final playoff spot in District 5 six-man. The Wildcats lost to Dell City in the opening round of the playoffs the following week.

- The 10th-ranked Ira Bulldogs got the best of the 13th-ranked Bearkats football team and ended Garden City's season in Gail Nov. 12, 32-12, during the first-round of the six-man playoffs.

- Five turnovers and big plays from Coleman's offense proved that records can be thrown out the window when the playoffs start as the 3-8 Bluecats upended Stanton (5-5), 21-7, at San Angelo Stadium Nov. 13 in the bi-district round of the Class 2A Division II playoffs.

- Sophomore Michael Rodriguez turned in a 16:11 Nov. 6 at the regional cross country meet in Lubbock and advanced to the state meet in Round Rock after crossing the line in ninth place. He then saved his best race of the season for last and finished 11th overall at state after running a time of 15:54.

- Forsan's Cynthia Becerra became the first cross country runner in school history to advance to the state meet after she placed fourth Nov. 6 at the regional meet in Arlington.

- Six members of the Big Spring volleyball team were given all-district honors Nov. 11 at the District 4-4A coaches meeting, including three — Shannon Higgins, Carmen Lewis and Kendal Adams — on the superlative team. Brenn Swinney, Stefani Scott and Raegan Ritchey were all named to the district's first-team.

- Senior Veronica Villarreal was voted as District 4-4A's most valuable girl's tennis player Nov. 11 at the all-district selection meeting, while three other players were served up to the first team.

Besides Villarreal, the district coaches also awarded senior Nick Paredes, senior Jason Vela and the team of sophomore Roshan Shroff and Vela to the District 4-4A first team.

BIRTHS

Juarez, Rodolfo, a boy, was born Nov. 1.
Cox, Robert Ray, a boy, was born Nov. 9.
Rios, David Jr., a boy, was born Nov. 22.

Valenzuela, Sydney Lee, a girl, was born Nov. 22.
Ramirez, Heloria Anastasia, a girl, was born Nov. 23.
Munoz, Orion Michael, a boy, was born Nov. 26.

Logsdon, Rylee Nicole, a girl, was born Nov. 27.
Salazar, Christopher Aaron Jr. and Matthew Lee Salazar, twin boys, were born Nov. 29.
Dedmon, Jamie Renea, a girl,

was born Oct. 29.
Rodriguez, Angela Jacobeth, a girl, was born Nov. 29.
Gonzales, Briana Renee, a girl, was born Nov. 30.

DEATHS

Wilkinson, Gladys, 86, formerly of Big Spring died Nov. 3.
Read, Samuel Richard, 74, of Big Spring died Nov. 3.
Wilkinson, Gladys Jones, 86, of Austin died Nov. 3.
Priest, Danny, 46, of Big Spring died Nov. 3.
Roman, Jerry, 70, of Knott died Nov. 4.
Bryant, Sarah, 72, of Big Spring died Nov. 5.
Brito, Rodolfo, 80, of Big Spring died Nov. 5.
Murdock, Jack Hayden, 80, of Raleigh, N.C., died Nov. 8.
Prado, Socorro M., 72, of Big Spring died Nov. 9.
Billingsley, James L., 74, of Big Spring died Nov. 12.
Payne, Sammy John, 81, of

Big Spring died Nov. 12.
Thomas, William Walter, 76, of New Mexico died Nov. 13.
Bustamante, Vicente S. Jr., 68, of Artesia, N.M., died Nov. 14.
Salmon, Dorothy Lee, 87, of Big Spring died Nov. 16.
Burcham, Phillip, 80, of Big Spring died Nov. 16.
Stubblefield, Margaret, 80, of Lubbock died Nov. 16.
Shortes, C.C., 90, of Andrews died Nov. 16.
Combs, Lillie, 88, of Big Spring died Nov. 19.
Campbell, Billie Vernell, 72, of Big Spring died Nov. 20.
McCray, Donald, 75, of Big Spring died Nov. 20.
McIlvain, Leona, 82, of

Midland died Nov. 20.
Owens, Edith M., 87, of Big Spring died Nov. 20.
McCray, Donald J., 75, of Big Spring died Nov. 20.
Walker, Marjorie Nell Stubblefield, 85, of Colorado City died Nov. 20.
Potter, Mary Jo, 67, of Ashland, Ky., died Nov. 20.
Shaw, Bertie Faye, 74, of Knott died Nov. 22.
Priest, Lee, 80, of Big Spring died Nov. 22.
Stovall, Lola Ruth Vaughn, 86, formerly of Big Spring, died Nov. 22.
Louder, Audrey, 85, of Stanton died Nov. 22.
Capps, Luealla Bea, 83, of Seminole died Nov. 23.

Ray, Daron, 32, of Midland died Nov. 27.
Spivey, Everette Ray, infant, died Nov. 27.
Noyes, Jan, 71, of Big Spring died Nov. 28.
Powell, W.R., 93, of Colorado City died Nov. 28.
Seago, Robert, 48, of Big Spring died Nov. 28.
Holland, Oratia, 73, of Temple died Nov. 29.
Kelsey, Pamela, 40, of Big Spring died Nov. 29.
Sneed, Louise Elizabeth, 93, of Big Spring died Nov. 30.
Jones, Bernie Ray, 76, of Odessa died Nov. 29, 2004.

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Holiday spirit fills the Crossroads

Big Spring and Howard County residents began the final month of 2004 on some positive notes, not the least of which was word from the Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) that lake levels were higher than they had been in years.

In fact, CRMWD General Manager John Grant reported on Dec. 1 that for the first time since the mid-1990s, barge-mounted pumps weren't necessary to keep pump station intakes submerged at Lakes J.B. Thomas or E.V. Spence.

Unusual November rains, which made 2004 the wettest year on record, had resulted in inflows to Lake Thomas, Lake Spence and substantial level gains at both lakes.

Grant was just as happy to announce to recreational users that for the first time in five years, the CRMWD was able to open the permanent boat ramps at both Lake Thomas and Lake Spence.

Such news seemed fitting, as the community prepared for the official start to the holiday season in Big Spring — the 19th annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade, the opening of a new holiday exhibit at the Heritage Museum and the opening performances of the annual Living Christmas Tree at the First United Methodist Church, all three taking place on the same day.

As always, the Heritage Museum enjoyed a successful exhibit opening and the Living Christmas Tree cast would wind up performing before three packed crowds.

The Community Christmas Parade proved to be as successful as organizers had hoped, too.

And with more than 60



HERALD file photo
Children sing during the Living Christmas Tree, sponsored by the First United Methodist Church.

entries winding past them, the three judges for the parade said they had a difficult time determining just which of them had best interpretations of the "100 Years of West Texas Christmases" theme.

In the end, the city of Big Spring's entry was judged the recipient of the *Herald's* Best of Show Award and \$100 for best interpretation of the theme.

The Mayor's Trophy and a \$75 prize went to Western Container's entry for best lighting and the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church's float won the Grand Marshall's Award and \$50 prize for best costuming.

Plaques were awarded to the top three finishers in each of the parade's competition divisions. They were:

Churches and schools: First place, College Park

Church of God; second place, First Baptist Mother's Day Out; and third place, Dance Gallery.

Civic: First place, Howard County 4-H Club; second place, Vietnam Memorial Committee; and third place, West Texas Motorcycle.

Commercial: First place, Cornell Corrections; second place, Atmos Energy; and third place, Wal-Mart.

Individual: First place, the Reg Cranford family; second place, Johnny Bedell; and third place, Clifford Hart Street Rods.

And the next weekend saw the 18th annual observance of the Drive-Through Nativity by the Community of Hope First Church of the Nazarene.

Three days later the annual Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park made its debut, boasting the largest number of displays

the show has ever featured. Other events which took place in December included:

- The Heritage Museum held its annual Red Dress Tea at the Potton House on Dec. 12. The event honors the tradition of a red dress tea — a turn-of-the-century event where ladies once donned their handmade red Christmas dresses and gathered in a local home to sip tea and share dessert.

- Residents of the Crossroads again displayed their giving spirit during the days leading up to Christmas, making the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, the Giving Tree project sponsored by Child Protective Services; and the Big Spring Herald/KBYG/Salvation Army Toy and Canned Food Drive all very successful efforts.

- Joshua Detro Francis, 22, of Big Spring was found guilty of aggravated robbery in 118th District Court in connection with the 2003 robbery of a laundromat on 11th Place. He was sentenced to five years in prison.

- The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra presented Handel's "Messiah" as its Christmas concert, teaming with the symphony chorus and members of the Midland-Odessa Symphony Chorale in the monumental work.

- Howard County commissioners and members of the Big Spring City Council agreed to terms on a \$5 per day gate fee to be charged to citizens using the city-operated landfill.

- The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County announced its belief that it will reach the \$275,000 goal of its 2004 fund-raising campaign by Jan. 1.

Sports



HERALD file photo
Howard College freshman Louis Rodgers slams down two of his 18 points during the Hawks' win over the UTPB JV Dec. 10 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Hawks won the game 97-36.

Mack Brown begged and pleaded for his team to get into the Bowl Championship Series.

Looks like it worked. Texas was headed to the Rose Bowl to play Michigan after squeaking past California in Dec. 5's final BCS standings to grab an at-large berth in the four big-money bowl games.

Although Cal was ranked ahead of Texas in both polls, the Longhorns were close enough that when combined with the computer rankings, it was enough to leapfrog the Golden Bears.

It will be the first BCS and Rose Bowl appearance for Texas (10-1). Michigan (9-2), which already knew it was in by virtue of its shared Big Ten title with Iowa, will be in Pasadena, Calif., for the second straight year.

- A great defensive effort and 13 turnovers outweighed a poor shooting night for the Big Spring girl's basketball team as the Lady Steers recorded their most impressive win of the season after defeating Lubbock High, 32-21, in the team's final game at the Monahans Tournament Dec. 11.

- Howard College officials announced the hiring of Earl Diddle to head up the Hawk women's basketball program. Coach Diddle replaced former head coach Lorin Miller, who resigned in late-November.

- Two records were rewritten in Coahoma's name Dec. 3 as the Bulldogettes scored the most points ever in the Coahoma Tournament and allowed the fewest, as well.

Led by a balanced scoring attack which saw seven players score at least six points, the Coahoma girl's basketball team routed Presidio, 88-13, and advanced to the championship game of its host tournament.

- Seniors Kendal Adams and Shannon Higgins added more awards to their postseason portfolio as both were honored as academic all-state volleyball players in December.

BIRTHS

Hernandez, Erica Nicole, a girl, was born Dec. 1.
Romo, Adrian Matthew, a boy, was born Dec. 3.

Anchondo, Ayannia Leticia, a girl, was born Dec. 10.
Roberts, Katie Ann and Kendra Lynn Roberts, twin girls,

were born Dec. 13.
Seckel, Cierra Ann, a girl, was born Dec. 20.

Edmondson, Trandon Cole, a boy, was born Dec. 24.
Chavarria, Paula LaRue, a girl, was born Dec. 25.

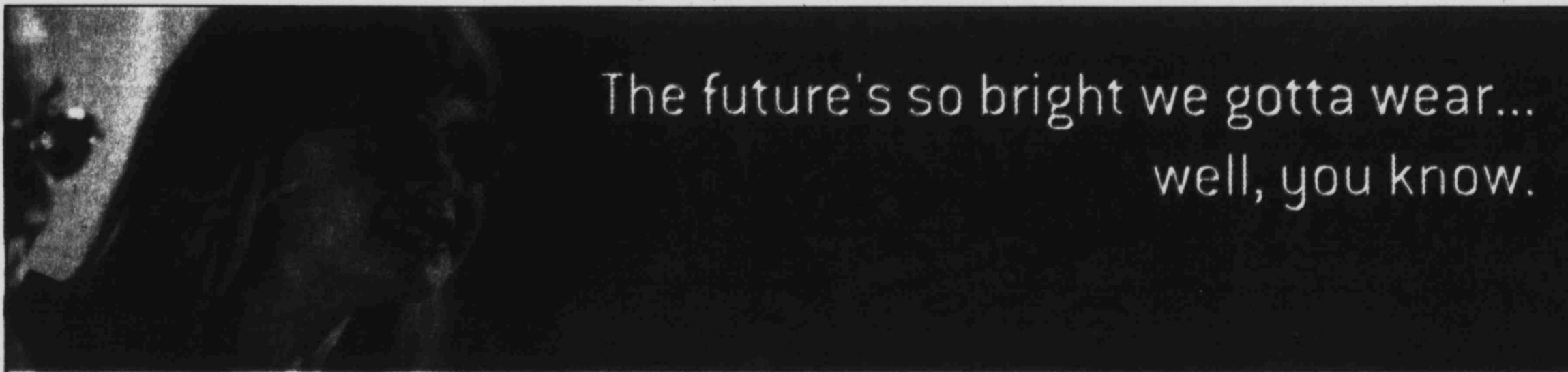
DEATHS

Rowe, Robert L., 73, of Big Spring died Dec. 1.
Herrera, Jesse, 91, of Big Spring died Dec. 2.
Bearden, Wanda Jeannine, 72, of Coahoma died Dec. 3.
Brito, Richard, 42, of Big Spring died Dec. 3.
Pickett, Jacquelyn, 81, of Big Spring died Dec. 3.
Boatler, Edith, 95, of Big Spring died Dec. 4.
Porras, Dolores Mendoza, 105, of Big Spring died Dec. 4.
Chavez, Petra, 76, of Midland died Dec. 4.
Maxwell, Ola Mae Haggard, 94, of Stanton died Dec. 4.
Meek, Rosebell Craven, 86, of Big Spring died Dec. 4.
Ybarra, Santana, 84, of Keene died Dec. 4.
Patton, Molly, 89, of Sterling City died Dec. 5.
Bednar, Edwin J., 82, of Big

Spring died Dec. 6.
Holder, William, 84, of Midland died Dec. 7.
Tubbs-Crawford, Susan, 41, of Big Spring died Dec. 7.
Woodruff, Jessie Sr., 40, of Big Spring died Dec. 7.
Teague, Nollie K., 80, of Big Spring died Dec. 7.
Martinez, Mary, 50, of Big Spring died Dec. 8.
Anderson, Melford, 81, of Big Spring died Dec. 9.
McNary, Arthur, 100, of Van died Dec. 9.
Tatum, Johnnie Ruth, 64, of Big Spring died Dec. 10.
Forgus, Ethel Marie, 90, of Big Spring died Dec. 11.
Dietz, Wayne E., 59, of Houston died Dec. 12.
Campbell, Elton, 80, of Snyder died Dec. 14.
Phillips, Dora Marie, 37, of Big Spring died Dec. 15.

Worthan, Gayle Drachenberg, 67, of Big Spring died Dec. 15.
Warner, William E., 64, of Big Spring died Dec. 15.
Holloway, Gleen, 83, of Lenorah died Dec. 16.
Snell, Faye, 91, of Ackerly died Dec. 16.
Phillips, the Rev. Bobby, 68, of Odessa died Dec. 16.
Stallcop Monty, 62, of Fort Worth died Dec. 16.
Churchwell, Derek Vaughn, 19, of Austin, formerly of Big Spring, died Dec. 17.
Brooks, Billy Ray, 71, of Big Spring died Dec. 17.
Cauley, Marion, 86, of Big Spring died Dec. 19.
Barber, Estella, 86, of Midland died Dec. 19.
Read, Ethel Tipton, 72, of Big Spring died Dec. 20.
Henson, Julie, 62, of Big Spring died Dec. 21.

Reed, Donna Marie Clinton, 58, of Denton died Dec. 20.
Hill, Harlan J., 84, of Big Spring died Dec. 20.
Wilkins, Norvin E., 63, of Big Spring died Dec. 20.
Mims, Frances, 78, of Cisco died Dec. 24.
Howard, Maxine, 81, of Stanton died Dec. 25.
Daw, Viola Hawthorne, 93, of Abilene died Dec. 25.
Dierschke, Clara, 88, of Garden City died Dec. 25.
Plew, Cleeta, 96, of Big Spring died Dec. 26.
Menser, Mildred, 83, of Coahoma died Dec. 26.
Turner, Milini, 51, of Big Spring died Dec. 27.
Wade, Conny, 81, of Big Spring died Dec. 27.



The future's so bright we gotta wear...
well, you know.

2004 was a great year for Big Spring and Atmos, and we think 2005 will be even better. And all through next year, and the years to come, you can count on Atmos to provide the service, comfort, and convenience you've come to count on. Happy New Year!

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