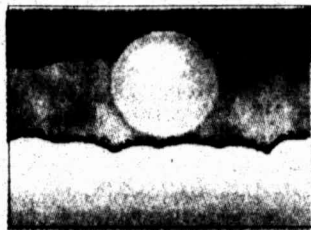


MONDAY

January 3, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 49°-51° TOMORROW 69°-71°

INSIDE

Group eyes saving Sul Ross cottages

A group of students, faculty members and alumni at Sul Ross State University have obtained 1,000 signatures in a last-ditch effort to stop the planned demolition of more than 40 historic cottages used as campus housing.

Demolition is scheduled to begin this week.

See Page 6A

BRIEFLY

Glasscock Co. livestock show slated this week

The Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show is slated this week in Garden City.

The rabbit showmanship gets activities started at 6 p.m. Thursday, immediately followed by the rabbit show.

The goat show begins at 8 a.m. Friday, followed with the steer show about 10 a.m., the sheep show at 11 a.m. and the swine show at 2 p.m. The shows follow each other immediately, so times may vary slightly.

Saturday's fare begins with the pig scramble at 11 a.m.

The annual barbecue begins at noon, followed by the premium sale at 1 p.m. and the awards presentations at 2:30 p.m.

Judges are Marvin Ensor of San Angelo for the swine, lambs and steers and Vance Christie of Big Spring for the goats.

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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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

Tax-Aide volunteers being sought

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) is preparing for its annual Tax-Aide program and is in need of volunteers to help prepare tax forms.

Local AARP spokesperson Gloria Hopkins said the program is designed to help people who might not otherwise be able to file a tax return.

"The AARP program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those who

"Being a volunteer is very easy. You don't have to be a number whiz or have any experience in accounting."

—Gloria Hopkins



don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," said Hopkins, who serves as the local site coordinator for the effort.

Hopkins said the program is a necessity for many area residents who can't afford to have

their taxes prepared by a professional, and the heart and soul of the operation is its volunteers.

"AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns," she said. "These volunteers help people complete their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them."

"Being a volunteer is very easy. You don't have to be a number whiz or have any experience in accounting. You just need to have a basic understanding of the tax forms and

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 3A



Debbye Valverde, left, executive director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, and Liz Adamson, executive assistant, display some of the new Big Spring area maps that will soon be available through the chamber for \$1.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Texas Guard members head to Iraq

By ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press Writer

WACO — More than 25,000 friends and family members of Texas National Guard troops turned out Saturday for a sendoff ceremony for the 3,000 soldiers headed to Iraq this week — the largest Texas Guard deployment since World War II.

Gov. Rick Perry and U.S. Sen. John Cornyn were among those in Baylor University's football stadium to support the 56th Brigade Combat Team, 36th Infantry Division.

Area troops include Big Spring's Detachment 1, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry; Midland's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry; Odessa's Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery; Snyder's Detachment 1, Company A, 111th Engineer Battalion; and San Angelo's Company A, 3rd Battalion, 112th Armor.

They are to spend a year in Iraq.

The crowd waived flags, cheered and gave standing ovations as the soldiers ran onto the field to start the ceremony.

"When history is written, let it show that the

See GUARD, Page 3A

City maps get a new look

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The Chamber of Commerce's trusty old city maps are getting an upgrade — or is makeover a better word?

The maps have long been one of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's most popular exports, but the old blue-ink-on-white-paper design was more utilitarian than eye-catching.

That's about to change.

Finishing touches are being made on a new map that looks more like a travel brochure than a street map.

Printed on high-gloss paper, the new map — which will cost \$1 — features a panoramic, full-color photo of Big Spring by Lane Bond on its cover, and several references to Howard County points of interest inside.

Oh, and there's also a fairly good street map, too.

Even that is upgraded in the new

maps, said Debbye Valverde, chamber executive director. Detailed street markings are included, not only for Big Spring, but for Forsan, Coahoma, and outlying county roads.

"We're hoping the new maps will be available in the next week or so," Valverde said.

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

Relay for Life meeting set for Tuesday

By DEBBIE JENSEN

Special to the Herald

Rally the Relay troops: Big Spring's wildly successful fundraiser for the American Cancer Society is off and running again.

Supporters, sponsors and team captains for Relay for Life 2005 will gather Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Garrett Hall at First United Methodist Church. "It's time to fire up for 2005," said Phyllis Turney, who with her husband, Jeff, will once again chair the event.

At the Relay 2005 Rally, organizers will recognize underwriters, or businesses that donate money directly to the event to make it possible, along with sponsors, who support the teams that raise much of Relay's money. Those teams, from local businesses, churches and schools, will camp out at Blankenship Field on May 13-14, walking

around the track for pledges to go toward cancer research, treatment and education.

"This rally is for our supporters, our team captains and anybody who is interested in joining us this year, even for the first time," Turney said.

Guest speaker Paula Farquhar will tell both of her own survival story and the experience of others with the disease. Refreshments will be available, and organizers will provide updates on new additions for the coming year.

New this year for the Big Spring event is Relay On-Line, which brings the event to the Internet.

"Big Spring was chosen as a site for this new service," Turney said. "It means people can go online and donate money to your team and to the Big Spring Relay overall. See RELAY, Page 3A

HAVING FUN AT THE PARK



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Bethany Machiavello, right, gives her sister Rebecca, left, and Price Tarbet a push on the tire swing at Comanche Trail Park Friday afternoon.

Obituaries

J.L. Sundy



J. L. "Jimmy Lee" Sundy, 71, of Big Spring, died on Friday, Dec. 31, 2004, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2005 at the East Fourth Street Baptist Church with the Rev. Dean Thomas officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

He was born on June 25, 1933, in Howard County, Texas and married Beverly Nichols on Sept. 21, 1956 in Big Spring.

J. L. had worked for the Texas Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads for 35 years, working his way up to engineer. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1953-1956. He loved hunting, fishing, playing shuffle board and most of all his family.

He was a member of East Fourth Street Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Beverly Sundy of Big Spring; one daughter, Teresa Marie Sundy of Lubbock; one sister, Ida Belle Sundy Bankston of Big Spring; two brothers, Clark Sundy of Midland and Allen Sundy of Big Spring and one sister-in-law, Norma Sundy of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mack and Susie Ola Sundy; his son, Daniel Sundy and two brothers, Monroe and Albert Sundy.

The family suggests memorials to the American Diabetes Association, Inc., Texas Affiliate, Inc., Western Regional Office, 8008 Slide Rd., Lubbock, Texas 79424 or the American Cancer Society Memorial Program, c/o Lucy Bonner, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2121

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*

Wanda Forbis



Wanda Johnson Forbis, 74, of Garden City, died on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2005 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with the Revs. Bob Grimes and Trey Johnson officiating. Interment services will follow at 4:30 p.m. at Gooch Cemetery in Mason, Texas. The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Monday, at the funeral home.

She was born on April 7, 1930, in Arnett, Texas. Wanda moved to Garden City in 1981 and had worked as a deputy clerk for Glasscock County in the Clerk's office. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Garden City and had served as church treasure.

Mrs. Forbis was involved in the Hi-Sky Emmaus Community, Alzheimer's Fund Raising and the Cancer Walk. Wanda was also involved in many community activities. She had been the Election Judge for Glasscock County for many years and volunteered at the Veterans

Administration Hospital, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and was a member of the swat team with RSVP, Baptist Crisis Closet Center and at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Survivors include two sons and daughter-in-laws, Berry and Shirley Johnson of Andrews, and Billy and Bambi Johnson of Bedias, Texas; one brother and sister-in-law, Charlie and Mary Wise of Gatesville; one brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Don and Gail Johnson of Llano; two sisters-in-law, Vera Johnson and Zula Johnson, both of Mason; grandchildren Trey and Amber Johnson of Edwards, Colo.,

Danny and Shawna Smart of Andrews, Billy C. and Shelly Johnson of Bedias, Paisley Johnson and Jeremiah Johnson, both of Bedias; seven great-grandchildren, Shawn, Thomas and David Smart of Andrews; Kadon, Brent, Robert Johnson of Bedias; Maci Johnson of Edwards, Colo.; and three nieces, and six nephews.

Wanda was preceded in death by her husband Berry T. Johnson and husband Don Forbis; her parents, Esteen and Ruth Williams; and one sister, Bess Ernst.

The family suggests memorials be made in memory of Wanda Johnson Forbis to the Circle Six Baptist Encampment, Stanton, Texas or to the First Baptist Church of Garden City.

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*

David Newton



David L. Newton, 72, of Big Spring, died on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2005 at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring, with the Rev. Pat Ray, pastor of Praire View Baptist Church, officiating, with interment at Trinity Memorial Park Big Spring.

The family will receive friends from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

He was born on Aug. 30, 1932, in Dawson County, Texas to B. M. & Bernice Newton. He married Jean Newton on Dec. 20, 1951 at Praire View Baptist Church in Howard County.

He farmed and ranched in Howard County all his life. He was awarded the Conservation Rancher of the Year in 1988. He served on the Board of Directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau for many years and on the Texas State Farm Bureau Committee Beef Advisory Board. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and was a Baptist.

Survivors include wife, Jean Newton of Big Spring; one daughter & son-in-law, Carol & David Callaway of Big Spring; two sons & daughters-in-law, D. L. & Marcia Newton and Tim & Debbie Newton both of Big Spring; six grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and numerous nieces & nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Bill and Norman Newton.

The family suggests memorials to donor's favorite charity.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home

& Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com.

Ronald York

Ronald York, 64, of Big Spring, died on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005, in a local hospital. A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2005 at the Christ's Community Church, in Big Spring with Mike Johnston officiating.

Ronald was born on Jan. 15, 1940, in Wolf Lake, Ill. and married Geraldine Sanders on Aug. 10, 1963 in Granite City, Ill. He retired from Cornell Corrections, Air Park Unit, as a Lieutenant.

Ronald served in the U.S. Navy for six years and the Texas National Guard for eight years. He was a Mason for 32 years. He was an active member of the Vietnam Memorial Committee in Big Spring and a member of the Howard County Muzzle Loaders. He loved his family and enjoyed time with them.

Survivors include: his wife, Geraldine York of Big Spring; a son, Robert York of Madison, Ill.; three daughters, Renee York-Sanders and Robin Ferguson of Alvin, and Rhonda Bronaugh of Big Spring; and his mother, Pauline York of South Bend, Ind. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, a sister, a brother and a grandson.

The family suggest memorials to Christ's Community Church, 1002 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720 or The Vietnam Memorial Committee of Big Spring.

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*

Jacky Romine

Jacky Romine, 68, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Jan. 2, 2005, in a Pittsburgh, Penn. hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Ruby Turner

Ruby Helen Turner, 75, died on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005 at her home.

Funeral services are tentatively scheduled for 10 AM Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2005 at the 14th & Main Church of Christ.

The family suggests memorials to the C.D. & Ruby Helen Turner Memorial Scholarship at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory, Big Spring, Texas.

**REMEMBER!** Find It In Big Spring First!

Police blotter

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

- David Wilkenson, 25, 2410 Carlton St., was arrested on a charge of Burglary of a Building.
- Johnny Lee Williams Jr., 24, 900 S. Scurry St., was arrested on a charge of Burglary of a Building.
- Kevin Berryhill, 21, 1001 S. Birdwell Ln., was arrested on a charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance.
- Shawna Turner, 33, 3809 Old Colorado City Hwy., was arrested on a Howard County warrant.
- Jimmy Massingill, 37, 631 Caylor Dr., was arrested on a charge of Assault.
- Mark Alan Lorenzo, 17, 626 Caylor Dr., was arrested on charges of Evading Arrest and Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon.
- Daniel Torres, 22, 611 N.E. 10th, was arrested on a charge of Possession of Marijuana.
- Robert Allen Rios, 27, 1401 S. Nolan St., was arrested on a charge of Driving While Intoxicated.
- Burglary of a Habitation was reported on the 1100 block of Sixth Street and the 1500 block of Tucson Drive.
- Aggravated Assault With a Deadly Weapon was reported on the 1400 block of Austin Street and the 500 block of Aylsford Street.
- Assault/Family Violence was reported on the 1100 block of Lloyd Drive.
- Assault was reported on the 2400 block of Main Street.
- Criminal Mischief was reported on the 500 block of East 17th Street.
- Criminal Trespass was reported on the 3300 block of Highway 80 and the 3300 block of Parkway Drive.
- Theft was reported on the 1700 block of FM 700 (twice), and the 1100 block of Lamesa Highway (twice).
- Driving While Intoxicated was reported on the 2500 block of East 16th Street and the 3300 block of Highway 80.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. today:

- Richard Lee Olivas, 17, was arrested on a charge of Burglary of a Habitation.
- Tonya Carpenter, 41, was arrested on a charge of Driving While Intoxicated.
- Robert Allen Rios, 27, was transferred from the Big Spring Police Department after his arrest on a charge of Driving While Intoxicated.
- Daniel Lorenzo Torres, 22, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on a charge of Possession of Marijuana.
- Kevin Dale Hurley, 35, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on a charge of Driving While License Invalid.
- Mark Alan Lorenzo, 17, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on charges of Evading Arrest and Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon.
- Jimmy Franklin Massingill, 37, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on a charge of Assault.

Weather

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows near 50. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs near 70. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tuesday night — Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 40s. West winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Wednesday night — Mostly cloudy. Lows near 30.

Thursday — Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs near 50.

Thursday night — Mostly cloudy with isolated showers or snow showers. Lows near 30.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-8-11-12-40. Bonus Ball: 1. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$42 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 20-21-23-28-29. Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 2-9-0

Texas

School finance

DALLAS (AP) — A victory for better judge ruled the system is "inefficient."

State District Judge ruled a six-week 300 school district education funding.

The ruling also session called by issue. No legisla

Under the so-called percent of the 1 required to share enue with the sta

On Tuesday, filed a notice of Abbott urged the sible. Dietz said education by Oct are not corrected

George Brambl tricts that sued th inal ruling in Te

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HOUSTON (AP) the first day of Houston's conges

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A special tour for a special event

**BirthPlace Tour: Monday, January 3 at 7:00pm**

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

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

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

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# Texas News Briefs

## School finance battle went to Capitol, court

DALLAS (AP) — Texas educators scored a decisive victory for better school funding in 2004, when a judge ruled the state's share-the-wealth finance system is "inefficient, inadequate and unsuitable."

State District Judge John Dietz's September ruling capped a six-week trial in a lawsuit filed by more than 300 school districts that claimed Texas' \$30 billion education funding system violates the state constitution.

The ruling also followed a 30-day springtime special session called by Gov. Rick Perry to examine the issue. No legislation was passed during the session.

Under the so-called "Robin Hood" system, about 13 percent of the 1,087 school districts in Texas are required to share a portion of their property tax revenue with the state's less wealthy districts.

On Tuesday, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott filed a notice of appeal to the Texas Supreme Court. Abbott urged the court to hear the case as soon as possible. Dietz said the state must stop funding public education by October if the constitutional violations are not corrected.

George Bramblett, one of the attorneys for the districts that sued the state, called Dietz's decision a seminal ruling in Texas school finance history. He compared it with the 1989 Texas Supreme Court ruling that forced Texas to junk its old funding system in favor of Robin Hood.

## Houston towing policy begins

HOUSTON (AP) — More than 90 cars were towed on the first day of a new program aimed at clearing Houston's congested freeways.

Not everyone, however, praised Mayor Bill White's Safe Clear program, which calls for towing all wrecked, disabled or abandoned vehicles at owner's expense. Motorists who belong to auto clubs offering roadside assistance can seek reimbursement from their clubs.

"I think this mayor is like John Gotti. This is a rip-off," said Ahmed El-Helbawi, of Kingwood, who paid \$81.50 to have his son's 1987 Volvo station wagon towed off a highway.

Under the program started Saturday, 11 towing companies have contracts with the city to respond to all disabled vehicles within six minutes and promptly get them off the highway once authorized by a police officer at Houston TranStar, the region's traffic-control center.

Motorists no longer will be allowed to change flat tires on the freeway shoulder, leave vehicles to get fuel or call their own help.

## State agency chief's friends receive millions

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's unemployment commission reportedly provided more than \$4.1 million in state and federal jobs, grants and contracts for Mississippi friends of an agency officer.

Texas Workforce Commission Executive Director Larry Temple started facilitating the flow of government money to one friend's company only months after they worked together on a project in Mississippi, according to the Houston Chronicle's online edition

Monday.

The newspaper said Temple directed another Texas job-training grant to a Mississippi nonprofit corporation run by a friend of his mother's and that his agency hired the former wife of the Vicksburg, Miss., mayor following her divorce.

Temple contended that many other commission employees could have blocked him along the way.

"I don't believe there's a 'yes man' in the agency," he said. "The real good thing about my working relationship with my peers and now my subordinates is they tell me when something is a good idea and when it's not a bad idea."

## Court hears seminary accreditation argument

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court will hear oral arguments this week in a case that could help guide lawmakers as they consider a bill that would make it easier for churches to train leaders.

Three seminaries fined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board filed the lawsuit, claiming the state violates the First Amendment by regulating religious training of future clergy members.

One of the schools, Tyndale Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, was cited in 1998 for violating a law that requires seminaries to be accredited and prevents unaccredited institutions from awarding degrees.

"The state has no business in the area of how to train pastors or deciding who is adept at handling the Bible," said attorney Kelly Shackelford of the Liberty Legal Institute, the Plano-based religious liberties law firm that represents the seminaries.

The state attorney general's office has said the law aims not to regulate religion but only the quality of post-secondary education in Texas.

## State school employee critically wounded

RICHMOND (AP) — An employee at a state school for the mentally retarded remained hospitalized Monday after she was shot multiple times by a co-worker, who later died of what authorities called a self-inflicted wound.

Richmond State School officials and authorities were investigating the attack Friday in the dining hall of the facility that houses about 500 people on the banks of the Brazos River.

Dorian Randle, a food service employee, was shot in the arm, leg and back at the facility's dining hall, said her mother.

A co-worker identified by investigators as Bedah Amwoka entered the dining hall about 6 p.m. Friday and told Randle he would "give her what people like you should get" before opening fire, said Doris Bonner, Randle's mother.

No residents were in the hall when the attack occurred.

## Burial sites located with dowsing rods

PILGRIM (AP) — Using the same technique that helps locate water wells, a South Texas woman has been helping find old family graves where headstones were lost.

But Marjorie Lee Burnett says she's not sure how the metal rods allow her to find unmarked graves.

Most of the time, the only clues the 68-year-old woman has are family tales passed on through gener-

ations of an ancestor being buried near a large rock, under a tall tree or on top of a rolling hill.

Using two L-shaped rods, one in each hand, Burnett walks around a suspected graveyard until the metal starts to wiggle. If the rods pull apart from each other, she's stumbled upon something.

"They just move. You don't hold them. You don't grasp them," Burnett said. "You just let them rest in your hands until they move."

Burnett learned how to use the rods from a funeral director in Gonzales County about 10 years ago. She said Jim Connally taught her after she expressed an interest in learning the technique.

He still uses the dowsing rods.

## South Texans hope to cash in on rare snow

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Some South Texans are hoping to turn a rare snowfall into some cold cash.

A 23-year-old Brownsville man has put a three-pound snowball he collected during an unprecedented Rio Grande Valley Christmas snowfall on the eBay auction block.

Brownsville received 1.5 inches of snow Christmas Eve night and Christmas morning, its first measurable since Feb. 14, 1895, according to the National Weather Service.

"It's an amazing historical event," seller Oscar J. Garza told The Brownsville Herald. "They've been selling so much stuff on eBay I thought I'd get a good laugh and if I make a little money out of it, oh well. That's why I put a 'buy it now' price of \$5,000."

Garza isn't the only one trying to cash in on the wintry wonderland.

Another seller was asking \$250,000 for a bowl of Christmas snow from Corpus Christi, sold "as is" without warranty. After six days, there were still no takers.

Garza's ball of snow, meanwhile, was going for \$5.50 — plus a \$20 shipping charge — with five days of bidding remaining. Six people had placed bids so far.

"It's a basketball-size chunk and I have to send it in dry ice so it doesn't melt," Garza said. "Something like this is not going to happen again in our lifetime, the climate and the condition are not proper for snowfall so chances are we won't see this again."

## Two killed at holiday celebrations

HOUSTON — A stabbing and a shooting left two men dead at New Year's parties, according to sheriff's deputies.

Suspects in both cases were held Monday on murder charges.

Harris County detectives were investigating the stabbing of Dustin Turner during a fight early Saturday at one of the parties. Turner, 22, of Humble was taken to Ben Taub General Hospital, where he died shortly before 9:15 a.m.

The body of Edgar Pope was discovered the same morning after a separate party. Pope, 26, was shot in the head, stomach and shoulder, authorities said.

Miles McCord was later taken into custody and was held on \$30,000 bond.

Deputies said McCord, 27, and his brother followed Pope's vehicle down a dirt road and confronted the victim.

David Yerg, 22, was held in lieu of a \$30,000 bond in connection with Turner's slaying.

## GUARD

Continued from Page 1A

Texas National Guard helped ensure that the children present today and the children of Iraq will have the opportunity to grow up as free men and women," said Cornyn, a Republican and member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Among the family members at Saturday's ceremony was Jamie

Melendrez. She recently married Sgt. Augustine Melendrez of Amarillo, and the two are expecting a baby in April.

"It makes me nervous," she said. "I don't like to watch the news now, so I don't know if I'll watch it when he's gone."

Augustine Melendrez, a corrections officer for Texas Department of Criminal Justice, was in the Army for 16 years and has been in the National Guard for five years. He said he's not looking for-

ward to being overseas when his child is born.

"It's going to be hard," he said.

The brigade has been officially mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom since mid-August, and soldiers have been in training since then.

While some have criticized exactly how well soldiers in Iraq are armed, Col. James K. Brown, commander of the 56th Brigade, reassured families that the soldiers will have the "latest and

greatest equipment available in the world."

He also said the troops are ready for the task.

"These are tough times, but we are Texans and we are tough people," Brown said.

Douglas Mueller, 25, who recently completed boot camp, hugged his curly haired, 2-year-old daughter Beth and chatted with his wife Samantha after the ceremony.

Mueller left the Dallas-area construction compa-

ny he started and joined the Texas National Guard earlier this year. He said he felt "violated" after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and wanted to help fight the war on terror.

"I figured that I was still young and I could do something," Mueller said. "A lot of my family didn't want me to do it because of what was happening with the war. I sat down and thought about it, and what it comes down to is I'm willing to sacrifice my life to give other peo-

ple the privileges that I have."

All 3,000 soldiers received a 140-minute phone card to call home from Iraq. Residents in Waco and nearby cities contributed nearly \$123,000 for "Operation Phone Card," which was organized by Baylor and Waco community leaders.

About 21,000 people serve in the Texas Air and Army National Guard, including about 1,000 already in Iraq, officials said.

## RELAY

Continued from Page 1A

We will have our own website with up-to-date information."

Turney said research from other areas has shown the on-line capability increases giving.

"It's so easy for people to donate who might not make it to another type of

fund-raiser," she said. "All kinds of information will be available on the Web as well, so we're really pleased to have this tool to add to our Relay this year."

Also at Tuesday's event will be lots of little-known cancer facts and figures, and participants will see a video about a remarkable survivor who has battled three different

types of the disease. Organizers will also have the DVD from last year's Relay for another look at the pictures of that record-setting community campout, which raised \$205,000 before expenses.

Last year's Relay ranked first in state and sixth in the nation in per-capita fundraising. The goal for 2005's event has been set at \$205,000.

After Tuesday's kickoff, the clock starts for organizers, captains and team members as they prepare for another Relay. The planning committee will meet regularly from February until the day of the event, and team captains will meet beginning in March to hammer out

details and distribute vital information.

"We are ready to go," Turney said. "There's no stopping from here until May."

Call Phyllis or Jeff Turney at 267-2004 for more information about Relay or the Rally.

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Mary McCullough, 75, died Friday. Graveside Services will be at 2:00 PM Monday at Trinity Memorial Park.

## VOLUNTEERS

Continued from Page 1A

how to fill them out. Everything else is going to be covered in a training class."

Hopkins said there are a few special skills she is hoping to find among the volunteers during the 2005 tax effort.

"We especially need volunteers who have computer skills and are bilingual," said Hopkins. "We're going to be offering the e-filing option from the beginning this year, and an understanding of computers will really help."

The classes for volunteers will be held Jan. 18-24 at the Spring City Senior Citizen Center,

located on Simler Drive, with computer training scheduled Jan. 25-28, according to Hopkins. All classes are slated for 8 a.m. until 12 p.m.

"We'll begin doing taxes at the Senior Center beginning Feb. 7, and continuing each Monday through April 11," said Hopkins. "For those that are homebound and can't get to the center with

their tax information, if they will call us, we'll be happy to pick up the information and get the taxes ready."

For more information on the program and volunteering, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

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

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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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## OUR VIEWS

## Cornyn taking right track on federal FOI law

Providing the public with information about the government is not a high priority with the Bush administration. In fact, public disclosure is generally discouraged.

After the 2001 terror attacks, Attorney General John Ashcroft changed the presumption that the public has a right to information to an insistence that the government must consider national security and privacy before even thinking about releasing anything.

That, said Cox Newspapers Washington Bureau Chief Andy Alexander, "turned the basic concept of open government on its head." Alexander is also chairman of the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Freedom of Information Committee.

The American press and public have been frustrated by Washington's inertia on public information issues for so long that they have all but given up trying to improve the federal Freedom of Information Act. Congress, which exempted itself from the FOIA, has shown no interest in putting teeth in the law.

In fact, the Senate committees responsible for FOIA oversight haven't had a hearing on the law in 12 years. And as American-Statesman staff writer Chuck Lindell noted in an article earlier this month, some federal agencies routinely take up to three years to answer a request.

But U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, the Texas Republican who used to be this state's attorney general and before that a state supreme court justice, wants to change Washington's culture. He said he will introduce a bill in early 2005 to make the federal law more like the Texas FOI laws.

Cornyn said he wants the federal law to have stricter deadlines for answering requests for information, a third-party review of request denials and penalties for improperly denying government records.

None of that exists now. On paper, there is a 30-day deadline for turning over government information, but it is widely ignored without penalty.

The Texas Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act are strong laws that grant the people of Texas the right to information they pay for and that is maintained in their name. Cornyn is acutely aware of this.

As strong as they are, the Texas open government laws are continually under assault by the Legislature, which tries to add new exceptions to them every session.

Many elected officials and government employees oppose doing the public's business in the sunshine or giving people access to their records.

Cornyn's effort to bring open government to Washington is laudable. It won't be easy.

There are entrenched interests opposed to improving public access and bringing Congress under the law. But Cornyn isn't deterred so far, and his reason for changing the law is simple, correct and elegant.

"My interest in it really goes back to basics my philosophy of government," he said. "All legitimate government authority flows from the consent of the governed, and the governed can't consent if they don't know what's going on."

Cornyn generally had that philosophy when he was attorney general and it's pleasing to see him bring his knowledge and understanding of the law and his commitment to the cause to Washington.

He'll be challenging an administration that has embraced secrecy and challenged Cornyn's premise that government and its records belong to the people.

But he's doing the right thing, and in the end that might be what matters most.

THE AMERICAN-STATESMAN  
AUSTIN

## The stingy giant: Perception vs reality

United Nations Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland quickly backpedaled from his assertion

Monday that wealthy nations — which pay his salary and fund his work — are "stingy" when it comes to aiding the relief effort following Asia's deadly tsunami. The next day, Egeland claimed he was "misinterpreted." Later, he said that he wished he hadn't said what he said. No lie. In one press conference, Egeland, former state secretary in Norway's foreign ministry, managed to confirm the popular American belief that the more the U.S. government spends on foreign aid, the more international ingrates it creates.

As President Bush noted Wednesday, the United States contributed 40 percent of aid relief for the world's emergencies in 2004. That 40 percent makes Americans stingy?

It's called: You can't win. To be fair, Egeland didn't single out the United States as "stingy." What he said was: "(I)t is remarkable that we have no country up to the 1 percent line of foreign assistance in general and we have, I think, three Scandinavians that have exceeded and Holland, the 0.7 line of gross national income for assistance."

The United Nations, you see, has decreed that developed countries should give 1 percent of their gross national income to foreign humanitarian aid.

Egeland added: "And if actually the foreign assistance of many countries now is 0.1 or 0.2 percent of their gross national income, I think that is stingy really. I don't think that is very generous." To make his point, Egeland explained

that Americans and Europeans want to pay higher taxes:

"Politicians do not understand their own populations because all the populations in the United States, in the European Union, in Norway, which is No. 1 (in foreign aid) in the world, want to give more as voters, as taxpayers. People say we should give what we give now or more. Politicians and pundits believe that they are really burdening the taxpayers too much, and the taxpayers want to give less. It's not true. They want to give more."

A few facts apply here. The United States spends about 0.14 percent of gross domestic product on foreign aid, according to the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. That figure, however, excludes generous private donations — \$33 billion in 2000 — far more than the \$10 billion in government aid.

U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Andrew Natsios told the Associated Press that U.S. emergency relief rose to \$24 billion in 2003. And Secretary of State Colin Powell expects U.S. aid for tsunami relief to eventually exceed \$1 billion.

(Now, you'd think that \$1 billion figure would be a big story. But in a show of unabashed solipsism — in a world where what you say always trumps what you actually do — Beltway pundits are more interested in the fact that Bush didn't hold a press conference on the tsunami until Wednesday than in the fact that the United States is talking about spending \$1 billion to help tsunami victims.)

This year, the United States gave more than \$826 million to the United Nations' World Food Programme — that was some \$100 million more than the European Union and its countries combined — despite the European Union's larger population and marginally bigger gross domestic product.

Meanwhile, American taxpayers

have bankrolled a defense apparatus that protects people around the globe. Our Betters in Europe should think twice before criticizing U.S. levels of humanitarian aid when Americans are carrying their water when it comes to defense. (Who was it that had to send troops into the Balkans because Europe couldn't manage a problem in its own backyard? The United States.)

As for Americans wanting to pay higher taxes to provide more foreign aid, I think it is Egeland who doesn't understand voters. I won't speak for Europeans, but most Americans I know would rather keep the tax rate where it is and write personal checks to the humanitarian organization of their choice.

Many Americans simply don't trust the United Nations. There was the U.N. oil-for-food program that scandalously funneled money to Saddam Hussein — and that money was used against the U.S.-led coalition sent to overthrow him.

There's the United Nations' reputation for fecklessness and, really, an alarming lack of seriousness. On the one hand, the United Nations and Egeland are engaging in heroic work as they try to save lives and restore order after natural disasters. But Egeland's rhetoric exhibits a lack of understanding as to who the real enemy is. The United Nations shows little backbone when it comes to confronting evil — Hussein, Arab militias in Darfur — but lots of cheek when it has to deal with its largest (not to mention well-intentioned) donor.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfnchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfnchronicle.com). To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## 'Tincture of time,' raw fish and other cures

As usual, I am presenting my list of holiday hangover cures. I do not know why. When you need

this, you probably won't even be able to read it. Your eyes will be two pink dots, your teeth will itch, and your mouth will feel as if an army has marched through it.

Actually, I have no sympathy for people who awake with crushing hangovers. A hangover is God's way of telling you that you are still alive. But I know you expect aid and comfort from me, and so I will once again share with you my collection of expert cures for this hangover season:

1. **DR. PHILIP THOREK**, a surgeon with an interest in nutrition and drinking: "Boy, alcohol really knocks the hell out of your liver. And the liver is a marvelous organ. But what do we do to it? We go out and kill off a fifth, and turn into bibulous slob."

"The only real cure for a hangover is what I call the Tincture of Time. You have to wait hours and hours for your body to metabolize and destroy the alcohol. And it is not just the alcohol, but the impurities. The fusel oils! The congeners! The aldehydes!

"A hangover is a form of poisoning. There is no doubt about this. Now, eating fatty foods, bread or cheese will help absorb some of the alcohol. But this doesn't mean you can go and drink more. That's crazy. Moderation, moderation. This is what we must learn."

"A glass of wine is a good tranquilizer. But you must remember temperance. Not abstinence, but

temperance. But what do we do? We go out and drink triple martini, wake up with a terrible hangover and blame the olives!"

2. **ROBERTO SURO**, famous journalist: "Here is what they do in South America. One takes the rawest of fish. The fish is placed in lemon juice and raw onions. Hot sauce is added. The fish is then soaked for two days. No less. This is eaten with popcorn and beer. Yes, they have popcorn in South America."

"This cure is known as tratamiento de choque. In North America, you would know it as the 'shock treatment.'"

"I also hear that among unsavory elements at some American places of higher education, a certain type of cigarette is smoked immediately upon awakening to remove all sense of pain. It is my understanding that this is not strictly legal, and therefore, I have never tried this myself. Also, I hear Valium is good."

"There is also a ritual to be followed. We do this every New Year's at my mother's. As the clock gongs midnight, a grape must be eaten upon each gong. Of course, with clocks with no gongs, this becomes difficult. In that case, just eat 12 grapes quickly."

"Then, a raw egg is cracked into a glass of water. One carefully watches the shape of the egg white. From this, the future may be predicted."

3. **THE GUILT CURE**: Look in the mirror and read this in the voice of your spouse: "You slob. You absolute pig. Look at yourself. I can't stand the sight of you. You do this every year. I hope you're pleased with yourself. You look awful. If you ever do this again, I'm throwing you out of this house. You make me sick. You ought to be ashamed."

4. **THE TRADITIONAL CURE**: Chicken soup cures anything. You can drink it. You can soak your head in it. You can wash your face in it. You can take the spots out of your tie with it. You can even mix it with white wine and soda, and make a chicken soup spritzer. Even if it doesn't help your hangover, it will remind you of your mother.

5. **LORD BYRON'S CURE**: "Let us have wine and women, mirth and laughter/Sermons and soda water the day after."

6. **ANOTHER MEDICAL CURE**: Drinking causes dehydration and the contraction of the blood vessels. To cure this, drink water or fruit juices and take aspirin. Unfortunately, another shot of booze might also swell the blood vessels and relieve the pain. But this just starts the whole thing over again.

7. **ZAY SMITH**, newsman and former bartender: "People would come into the tavern in very bad shape and ask me for something to stop the pain. The only thing I knew about was Worcestershire sauce on a lemon wedge."

"You just close your eyes and bite the lemon wedge. It helps if you are standing up while doing this. Actually, this is not a cure for hangovers. It is a cure for hiccups. But these guys were so drunk, they didn't know the difference."

"I'd ask them if they felt better, and they'd say: 'Huh? Where am I?'"

"So I guess it works." 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](http://www.creators.com).

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Guidelines  
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PHILADELPHIA (KRT) — The Department of Health has issued its medical guidelines for treating sexual violence victims — with mention of emergency contraception, and dard precaution pregnancy after.

The omission of so-called morning pill has frustrated and angered victims' advocates and medical professionals who long worked to victims' care.

Gail Burns-Schiff, director of several dozen who vetted the during its development. The Department of Health's Office on Women's Health Against Women's Emergency Contraception was included in an early draft, and not know of an opposed it.

"But in the process, which we are operating, police a hot potato. Burns-Smith, director of the Sexual Assault Services.

For two weeks officials were able to talk new 141-page published in September. But in an e-mail comment spokes Holland's points made in

ment. "The goals of the protocol are to ensure all victims, regardless of differences ground or level service, receive same high quality and forensic while being treated with respect and care and to improve the provision of sexual cases through appropriate collection."

"It is very important to set forth national standards not giving the best care. Schollet said. The risk of an after rape is less than 5 percent, but the group is 333,000 sexual and rapes in 1998, about 25 percent in 22,000 which 22,000 been prevented by Princeton population. James Trussardi.

Emergency contraception is controversial because it has been tangled in the abortion. This usually working an egg is released or fertilized. However sometimes fertilized egg fringing in the equated with some groups and the Church.

Lynn Schollet, a lawyer with the Coalition for Sexual Assaults without emergency contraception, the rape could be unplanned pregnancy.

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### Guidelines for treating rape victims omit emergency contraception

PHILADELPHIA (KRT) — The U.S. Department of Justice has issued its first-ever medical guidelines for treating sexual assault victims — without any mention of emergency contraception, the standard precaution against pregnancy after rape.

The omission of the so-called morning-after pill has frustrated and angered victims' advocates and medical professionals who have long worked to improve victims' care.

Gail Burns-Smith, one of several dozen experts who vetted the protocol during its three-year development by Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, said emergency contraception was included in an early draft, and she does not know of anyone who opposed it.

"But in the climate in which we are currently operating, politically it's a hot potato," said Burns-Smith, retired director of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services.

For two weeks, Justice officials were unavailable to talk about the new 141-page protocol, published in September. But in an e-mail, department spokesman Eric Holland reiterated points made in the document.

"The goals of the protocol are to ensure that all victims, regardless of differences in background or location of service, receive the same high quality medical and forensic exam, while being treated with respect and compassion, and to improve prosecution of sexual assault cases through the appropriate collection of evidence," he wrote. "The protocol is not intended to supersede the many state, local, and tribal protocols that are currently in practice."

Lynn Schollet, a lawyer with the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, said without emergency contraception, the trauma of rape could be compounded by an unplanned pregnancy.

"It is very unfortunate to set forth a model national standard that is not giving women the best care available," Schollet said.

The risk of pregnancy after rape is small — less than 5 percent — but the vulnerable group is large. Of 333,000 sexual assaults and rapes reported in 1998, about 25,000 resulted in pregnancies — of which 22,000 could have been prevented, estimated Princeton University population researcher James Trussell.

Emergency contraception is controversial because it has become tangled in the politics of abortion. The method usually works by keeping an egg from being released or being fertilized. However, it may sometimes prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus — equated with murder by some conservative groups and the Catholic Church.

## Breast friends, throwing a mammogram party

By JAMIE GUMBRECHT

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Even if the technician's voice is soothing, even if it's quick, even if it turns out OK, there are few moments more lonely than a mammogram's cold, metal squeeze.

But who would you want at your mammogram? Not your husband. Definitely not your kids. And although you still call her when you're sick, probably not your mother, either.

Facing her first lonely squeeze, Sally Swenholt did what she does best — talked to her friends. Like Sally, they were nervous about yearly mammograms, anxious about aging and scary results. The six women were all around 40, the age to make it a yearly ritual, and it had been far too long since they'd had some girl time.

So, they decided to make it a party.

"I just didn't want to go by myself," says Sally, 45. "And I hadn't seen my friends. You don't mean to lose touch, but you do anyway."

"You can always go to your husband, but it's nice to have a good girlfriend."

Their yearly mammogram party started after years of camping trips and football games, facilitated by the friendship of their "ruggats." Their sons grew up together, facing acne and geometry together at Jesuit College Preparatory School.

"We hung around each other as much as our kids did," Sally says of her group of friends.

But they're busy women with jobs, hobbies and 19 kids among them. Getting their mammograms together was the first time in ages they could sit down to talk, with only the nurse's beckon to interrupt them.

It took some explaining. Sally collected full names, ages and basic insurance info. She asked for six consecutive appointments, surprising the staff at Presbyterian Hospital's Women's Diagnostic & Breast Center.

The friends called it Boobs 'N' Blazers day. Their appointments fell on the same day their sons first wore blazers to school as freshmen at Jesuit. They warned their sons not to forget their blazers and quietly used the school milestone as their own calendar marker: "Girls, don't forget our mammograms."

The party is a reminder as much as it is a tradition. With six friends looking forward to their day together, none will ever forget they need exams. Early on, the used their time in the waiting room to compare Christmas lists and their boys' classes. This year,



From left, Courtney Luttrell, Liz Goedecke, Sally Swenholt, Kerry Poer and Lyn Koch have a mammogram party at the Women's Diagnostic and Breast Center at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. For about six years, these friends have gotten their mammograms together.

with their sons away at college, the time is filled with old pictures and plans for lunch together.

Other women in the waiting room stare.

When they realize that the peals of laughter from the party corner are not going away, they start to smile and chat, too.

"I know who that is — you're the Jesuit ladies, right?" says Jacquelin Johnson-Sobers, a verification specialist at the center, rushing into the waiting room to see the group. "I look forward to this every year. It's Girls Day Out at the Doctor. It put the power back into this thing that's a drudge when you do it alone."

Sally's mother had breast cancer in the 1960s, but she told few people. She quietly received treatment, survived a mastectomy and wore a prosthetic.

"It was hush-hush," Sally says. "You couldn't talk about it. My mother was brave and my dad supported her all the way through."

"But I know I could call any one of my friends for any favor and they would know what I'm talking about."

A few times, the party's tests have turned up lumps or growths that need to be watched. Last year, one of the women had a lump removed, but it wasn't malignant.

Of course, everybody in the group heard about it.

Wendy Mason, helpline manager at the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, says she's heard of best friends and couples going together, but never a party.

"You're taking instant support with you," says Mason, adding that most breast centers can probably accommodate groups

### TIPS FOR THROWING A MAMMOGRAM PARTY

Keep the group to a reasonable size — too many people can mean too many scheduling conflicts, putting the mammograms off too long.

Find a center that can accommodate several consecutive appointments, and call far in advance.

Be prepared for a lot of questions the first time you schedule appointments — full names, ages, insurance.

Try to keep the appointments about the same time every year; it will keep everyone on track and you'll be less likely to end up in insurance snafus.

Prepare to be supportive — it's a light-hearted occasion, but the mood can change quickly if someone finds a problem.

with enough advance scheduling. "And I'm sure the staff enjoys it — a relaxed patient is much easier to interact with. For many women, getting a mammogram is very stressful."

The party changed the entire experience for Richardson resident Liz Conrad Goedecke. Now 53, she'd already started regular mammograms when Boobs 'N' Blazers day started.

"This is the ideal group medical experience — I wouldn't advise a group colonoscopy," says Liz,

who works in marketing. This is, after all, a party.

"Bye, Lyn — good luck!" they yell to 45-year-old Lyn Koch as she ducks into her exam, waving and laughing nervously.

"Cheryl, where ya been?" they chortle as 48-year-old Cheryl Wood reappears, trading in her pink cape for a green sweater.

Out in the waiting room, Kerry Poer remains dressed in her jean jacket, a pink ribbon pinned to her collar. She was within one year of her last check-up, so her insurance

wouldn't cover another mammogram just yet. She wouldn't miss the party, she says, but asks whether they can push back next year's gathering.

"We'll have to vote on that," 40-year-old Courtney Luttrell teases.

But quietly, everyone agrees: After six years together, somebody missing the party would be a disappointment.

Making one of your friends go through it alone would be unforgivable.

"I've had to come here by myself, and we just think we should do it together," says Kerry, 42.

The staff moves mechanically through the six appointments in just more than an hour. The women compare technicians, the material making up their pink capes, their anxiety levels.

"I love this hospital," Sally sighs. "All my babies were born here. I'd check in right now if I could."

They laugh, and talk. Talk about everything — that terrible lunch from the other day, that beautiful jacket, that one time when, that lump they're watching.

"I have to show you these pictures ..."

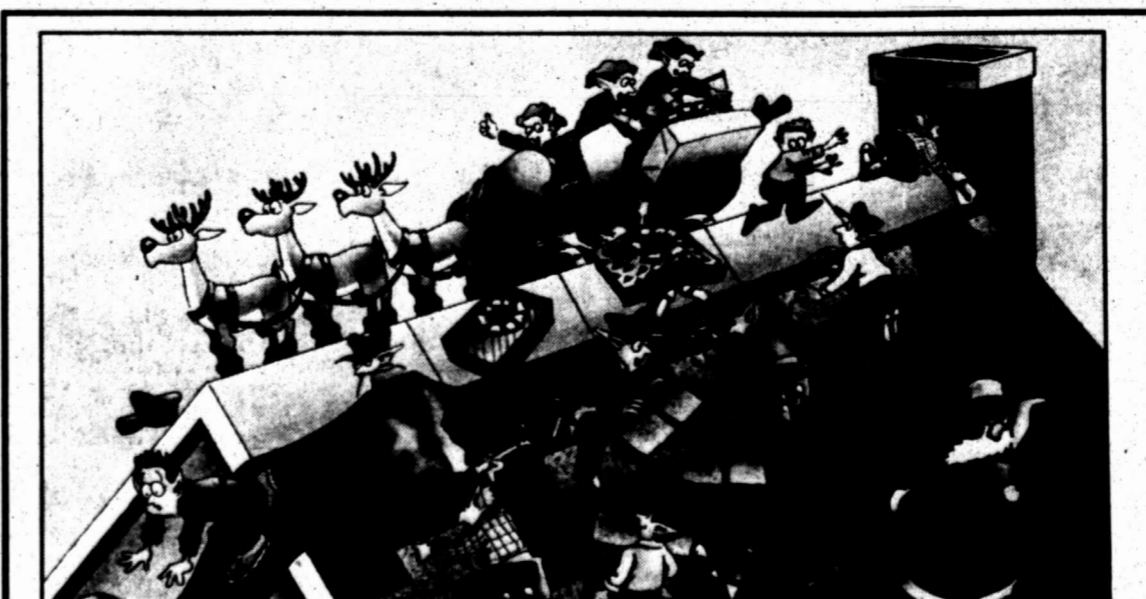
"When I'm old and have arthritis ..."

"A pink crusader? Now, I've been called a lot of things ..."

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Big Spring Area Foundation board president Charles Bell, left, and board members John Ferguson and Billye McLaughlin receive a \$1,000 grant check from Wal-Mart co-manager Roman Weathermon.

## Organizers at Sul Ross want historic cottage demolition plan halted

ALPINE (AP) — A group of students, faculty members and alumni at Sul Ross State University have obtained 1,000 signatures in a last-ditch effort to stop the planned demolition of more than 40 historic cottages used as campus housing.

Demolition is scheduled to begin this week to raze 41 of the 44 rock and brick cottages to make room for a housing complex of seven residence halls with a total of 600 beds.

The cottages were built as part of a Depression-era program in 1935. Three of them are being preserved and may be used as offices, officials said in a story in Sunday's Austin American-Statesman.

"It's not just Sul Ross history we're dealing with," said Elaine Peters, a junior who is leading the Save the Cottages Campaign. "We're dealing with Texas history. There's lots of land around here. It's not like they don't have other locations where they could put new facilities."

The Texas Historical Commission has said it would be "a tremendous cultural and architectural loss" to demolish the cottages. The commission said the buildings are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

School officials said the cottages are lacking insulation and have dated kitchens and bathrooms that would require pricey renovations. The necessary upgrades would more than double rent, from \$300 to \$800 a month.

"The cottages are not quality living, certainly," said R. Vic Morgan, Sul Ross president. "The people who are carping on me about them wouldn't live in them in a bet. Most of the students are not interested in us saving the rocks and the bricks. The only way I could make the rent affordable is if somebody gave me a huge chunk of money."

The demolition has already been approved by the Texas State University System's governing board and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

According to the Texas Antiquities Code, it is state policy to preserve all buildings of historical interest. However, the code provides exemptions for universities.

"It is not without a lot of thought that the board made the decision to go forward," said Chancellor Lamar Urbanovsky. "We're in the business of educating students and giving them an opportunity to grow. We're not into destroying historical structures. But you've got to weigh all of the ramifications."

The school of about 2,000 students was founded in 1917. It's named after Sul Ross, a Civil War veteran who later served two terms as Texas governor.

## Lawmakers look to school finance

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN - Texas legislators are marching toward the Capitol to the steady drumbeat of vows to revamp the state's school finance system.

After two years of failed attempts, lawmakers will enter the upcoming legislative session facing a court order to pump more money into the state's K-12 public schools. An appeal is pending.

"It's very important. The court has outlined a very serious case of funding inadequacies and has said that the Legislature has to fix it by October 1," said former state District Judge F. Scott McCown, who now heads the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a think tank that tracks issues affecting low- and moderate-income families. "So they are faced with a big challenge."

The session starts Jan. 11 and lasts until the end of May.

"I hope that the first bill we get to the governor's desk will be a school finance bill," said Republican Rep. Kent Grusendorf of Arlington, who chairs the House

Public Education Committee.

As it works now, schools are paid for in large part by local property tax money. Cash-strapped districts are forced to raise local property taxes to the legal limit, with little room for growth.

Property poor districts get money from more affluent districts, but both say they still don't have enough money. Many districts are laying off teachers and some fast-growing districts are using temporary buildings as classrooms.

Homeowners are frustrated with high property tax rates and legislators have campaigned on promises to reduce the state's dependence on the expanding taxes, but so far haven't been able to agree on a suitable replacement.

Both poor and wealthy school districts sued the state and won after a six-week trial this summer. A judge ruled the current system unsuitable.

Many districts contend they don't have the money necessary to educate students. They also argued — and the court agreed — that the state has fallen

short of its responsibility to fund a fair share of the \$30 billion public education budget.

Lawmakers want to reduce property taxes, which are now capped at \$1.50 per \$100 of appraised value. But, for every dime the tax is dropped, legislators must look elsewhere for about \$1 billion in revenue.

"There's going to have to be some significant new state tax to replace those property tax dollars," McCown said.

Whether it's businesses, shoppers, smokers, gamblers or homeowners, some segment of the population has to make up the difference. And with 181 legislators trying to agree on who will bare the burden, finding a consensus has thus far proven to be a daunting task.

"My job and the Legislature's job is to restructure the system and that's what we plan to do starting in January," said Republican Sen. Florence Shapiro, who chairs the Senate Education Committee. "We have a responsibility and we are up to the task of fulfilling it."

Shapiro, who said she's

been working to develop a plan since a special session failed last spring, has endorsed a restructured low-rate, broad-based business tax to replace the current franchise tax.

An estimated five in six Texas businesses avoid paying the franchise tax because of a loophole in the law.

"We all know that it's necessary," Shapiro said. "I think 181 legislators today are saying it's a priority."

### Howard County Junior College District STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended August 31,

REVENUES	2004	2003
Operating revenues		
State appropriations	\$11,568,591	\$11,788,420
Tuition and fees (net of discounts of \$1,736,189 and \$1,692,639)	2,416,650	2,036,709
Federal grants and contracts	4,903,797	4,968,606
State grants and contracts	990,923	885,326
Nongovernmental grants and contracts	552,545	439,720
Sales and services of educational activities	240,273	232,545
Auxiliary enterprises	574,602	691,897
Other operating revenues	105,496	144,352
Total operating revenues (Schedule A)	21,352,877	21,187,575
EXPENSES		
Operating expenses		
Instruction	10,261,498	10,586,980
Research	-	8,892
Academic support	1,120,582	1,117,399
Student services	2,017,548	2,189,038
Institutional support	3,853,213	3,487,804
Operation and maintenance of plant	2,286,511	2,205,456
Scholarships and fellowships	2,121,719	2,095,088
Auxiliary enterprises	1,405,154	1,613,346
Depreciation	706,897	664,252
Total operating expenses (Schedule B)	23,773,122	23,968,255
Operating loss	(2,420,245)	(2,780,680)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)		
Property taxes for operations	3,093,019	3,126,907
Investment income (net of investment expenses)	149,960	279,263
Interest on capital related debt	(85,477)	(110,648)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(16,161)	(22,453)
Other non-operating revenues	233,946	153,707
Net non-operating revenues (Schedule C)	3,375,287	3,426,776
Income before other revenue	955,042	646,096
Other revenue		
Capital contributions	325,000	63,127
Increase in net assets	1,280,042	709,223
Net assets - beginning of year	23,290,215	22,580,992
Net assets - end of year	\$24,570,257	\$23,290,215

## Lawmakers prepare to write state budget

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN - Texas' economic forecast looks brighter than it did two years ago, when lawmakers found themselves short \$10 billion as they started to build the state's budget.

But the question remains: Will Texans' improving fortunes be enough to plug holes left in the current budget cycle, replace deep cuts lawmakers made to state programs two years ago, and maintain services for the state's growing population?

Texas legislators will return to the Capitol this month for a 140-day law-making session. The only bill they're legally obligated to pass is the two-year state budget, expected to reach close to \$130 billion.

They'll know exactly how much revenue they have to work with in early January. That's

when state Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn will release her official revenue estimate.

"Revenue is probably going to be more than we have right now ... but there are a lot more things that we have to pay for," said Eva DeLuna Castro, a budget analyst for the Center for Public Policy Priorities, which advocates for low-income Texans.

The two-year budget probably will be driven

by public education and human services spending.

Last year, state agencies were asked to submit budget requests that were 5 percent lower than previous budgets, despite the costs of a growing population.

Traditionally, the largest chunk of the state's spending plan goes to funding K-12 education.

That task will be made more complex this year,

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

### IN BRIEF

#### Mavericks roll to 123-104 win over Milwaukee

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki scored 39 points and Josh Howard scored 11 of his 25 in the fourth quarter in the Dallas Mavericks' 123-104 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Sunday night.

Nowitzki, who scored 21 points in the first half, hit 14 of 25 shots from the floor for his 11th 30-point game of the season.

The Mavericks shot 53 percent from the floor (47-of-89) and equaled their season-high point total.

Despite its stellar shooting, Dallas didn't pull away until the fourth quarter. The Mavericks led by 22 points early in the third quarter, but the Bucks sliced the lead to 88-80 after three.

Milwaukee trailed 97-88 before Dallas took control with a 9-2 run, which was capped by Howard's three-point play that put the Mavericks ahead 106-90 with five minutes left.

The Bucks got no closer than 12 points after that, and Nowitzki finished his big night off with consecutive 3-pointers.

Mike James scored 20 points for Milwaukee. Michael Redd added 18 points, Maurice Williams had 13, and Dan Gadzuric had 12 points and 14 rebounds.

Dallas' Jerry Stackhouse had 16 points off the bench and Erick Dampier had 15 points before fouling out with 2:30 left.

In the first half, the Bucks crept within 45-38 midway through the second quarter after a 12-0 run. But the Mavericks answered with a 10-0 spurt of their own, which was capped by Nowitzki's dunk with 5:13 left.

#### Peterson fueling Oklahoma going into Orange Bowl

MIAMI (AP) — Adrian Peterson was 7 years old when he started pumping iron and preparing his game.

"My dad used to go to the YMCA all the time and lift weights and I used to lift weights with him," Oklahoma's freshman sensation said.

"When I first started we used to go out and work on plays, just try to get myself better. I guess that's how I developed a love for the sport."

Nelson Peterson started his son on the road to stardom, but wasn't around to see him make it this far.

In 1999, the elder Peterson was sent to federal prison in Texarkana for laundering money for the sale of drugs.

Adrian was in seventh grade when the sentence was imposed.

"It was tough," he said Sunday. "I just try to use it in a positive way. Instead holding my head down, I lifted my head up, just used that to motivate me to keep going and have the will and the drive to do the stuff that I want to do for him."

## Auburn holding out hope of split national title

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — In college football, it's never too late to get in some last-minute campaigning.

No. 3 Auburn did just that, pitching its Sugar Bowl matchup with ninth-ranked Virginia Tech as a co-national championship game.

"You always have hope," Auburn athletic director David Houel said. "Winston Churchill was right. Never, never, never, never, never give up."

So, on the eve of Monday night's Sugar Bowl, Tigers coach Tommy Tuberville made his pitch: Auburn (12-0) deserves at least a share of the national title if it beats the Hokies.

"There are two national championship games," Tuberville insisted. "There's one here at the Sugar Bowl, and there's another one at the Orange Bowl."

Never mind that it's No. 1 Southern Cal vs. No. 2 Oklahoma in the Orange — and the winner of Tuesday night's game is assured of being voted BCS national champion in the coaches' poll.

Auburn's hopes are based on an unlikely scenario: The Tigers rout Virginia Tech, Oklahoma beats USC in an ugly game and enough writers in The Associated Press media poll opt to put Auburn ahead of the Sooners on their final ballots.

"I think one of the reasons it's so important that Auburn win this game is that the BCS will

continue to be tweaked in the manner that it should be tweaked," Houel said. "If Virginia Tech wins, all the people who are criticizing the BCS now will say, 'Oh well, the BCS works.'"

This being college football — where champions are decided by human opinion and computer-generated rankings, not one of those wacky playoff systems that every other sport uses — the Tigers sounded like a candidate in the waning days of a political campaign.

Said Tuberville: "Obviously, we feel like there's one more vote. We'll be auditioning."

Overlooked in this whole process is Virginia Tech (10-2), which must feel like a Ford Pinto on display at a classic car show.

"Nobody's really giving us a chance," defensive end Noland Burchette said. "Every commentator, every news reporter I see, they think it's going to be a blowout."

Not that anyone on the Auburn side has done anything to denigrate the Hokies. If anything, the Tigers have gone out of their way to portray Virginia Tech as being just as good as those teams that made it to Miami.

All part of the political process. "They probably should have beaten USC," Auburn center Jeremy Ingle said. "If not for some phantom interference call — a disputed penalty against the Hokies — they'd probably be undefeated right now. Then, we'd all be talking about us, Virginia Tech and Oklahoma."



KRT photo/Tom Pennington/Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
Dallas Cowboys linebacker Bradie James (56) tries to corral New York Giants running back Tiki Barber (21) during first quarter action at Giants Stadium.

## Giants beat Cowboys on Barber's record run

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Tiki Barber ended a nightmare season for Eli Manning and the New York Giants with a record-setting performance that had a storybook ending.

Barber capped a night in which he set single-season and career franchise rushing records by scoring on a 3-yard run with 11 seconds to play Sunday, leading the Giants to a 28-24 victory over the Dallas Cowboys in a wild finale to the NFL regular season.

"To have everything go the way it did today, is amazing," said Barber, who also wound up leading the league in all-purpose yards this season. "(Center) Shaun O'Hara came up to me before the game and said: 'Are you ready for a storybook ending tonight?' I looked at him, but it did-actually happen."

Eli Manning, who was 18-of-27 for 144 yards, also threw three touchdown passes as the Giants (6-10) snapped an eight-game losing streak and

gave new coach Tom Coughlin something to savor heading into the offseason.

The late heroics providing Manning his first career victory and spoiled a great effort by Cowboys quarterback Vinny Testaverde in what he hopes wasn't the final game of his 18-year career.

"Obviously things haven't gone the way we wanted them to," said Manning. "We went through some rough times. To end the season on a win, especially the way we did it with a 2-minute drive at the end of the game, will hopefully give us some motivation going into the offseason."

Testaverde threw for a touchdown and engineered a late 80-yard march that set up Julius Jones' go-ahead 1-yard run with 1:49 to play. But the Cowboys (6-10) couldn't hold on.

"It's disappointing to play well for 59 minutes and lose it in the last minute," said Testaverde. "After we scored, I felt confident that we could get the

win. It was a great effort by some players, like Witten and Jones, but we didn't get it done."

The Giants recovered their own fumble on the ensuing kickoff and drove 66 yards in six plays for the winning touchdown, aided by a 15-yard roughing-the-passer penalty on the first play, a 23-yard pass to Barber.

Barber set Giants single-season and career rushing records in the game, surpassing marks held by Rodney Hampton and Joe Morris.

Manning threw touchdown passes of 2 yards to Visanthe Shiancoe, 15 yards to David Tyree and 3 to Barber, the last one giving New York a 21-16 lead with 11:51 to play.

Testaverde, who threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to Jason Witten in the third quarter, then seemed to give the Cowboys the game by leading an 80-yard march featuring three passes to Witten and a 23-yard run by Jones, who rushed 29 times for 149 yards.

On fourth-and-goal at the 1, Testaverde handed the ball to Jones and he surged into the end zone.

## Rams, Vikings, Jets, Broncos make playoffs

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

The Rams, Vikings, Jets and Broncos squeezed into the NFL playoffs and found familiar opponents waiting for them.

St. Louis got in Sunday by beating the New York Jets 32-29 in overtime and will face NFC West rival Seattle in the wild-card round next Saturday. The Seahawks edged Atlanta 28-26 to win the division.

The Jets advanced despite their loss when Buffalo fell at home to Pittsburgh, 29-24 — even though the Steelers played mostly backups. A trip to San Diego on Saturday night is in store for the Jets, who beat the Chargers in Week 2.

Minnesota lost at Washington 21-18, then got lucky when the Rams won on Jeff Wilkins' 31-yard field goal. That qualified the Vikings and knocked out New Orleans, even though the Saints won their fourth straight, 21-18 at Carolina.

Next up for the Vikings is NFC North neighbor Green Bay. The division-champion Packers beat Chicago 31-14 and host Minnesota in the late game next Sunday.

Denver will be at Indianapolis in the other Sunday game, one week after the Broncos beat the Colts — again mostly using subs. When Denver won 33-14, it eliminated Jacksonville and Baltimore, both of whom were winners in their season finales. The Jaguars defeated Oakland 13-6, and the Ravens took Miami 30-23.

New England, which like Pittsburgh has an AFC bye next weekend, beat San Francisco 21-7. Philadelphia, owning NFC home-field advantage for the playoffs, again used backups and was beaten 38-10 by Cincinnati. San Diego beat Kansas City 24-17.

Also, it was Tennessee 24, Detroit 19; Cleveland

22, Houston 14; Arizona 12, Tampa Bay 7; and the New York Giants 28, Dallas 24.

#### Rams 32, Jets 29

At St. Louis, Marc Bulger threw for 450 yards and three touchdowns. The Rams (8-8) won their last two games to qualify.

"We've just had a million things go wrong, and goofy things happen all year," offensive guard Adam Timmerman said. "We kept fighting and fighting, and to get in the playoffs is one of those really sweet things."

New York made the playoffs for the third time in four seasons under coach Herman Edwards. They have gone 5-6 in their final 11 games following a 5-0 start, and lost three of their last four.

"I hate to lose getting in," coach Herman Edwards said. "But we'll take it. Now, all we have to do is get in the playoffs and win."

Curtis Martin had 153 yards on 28 carries and moved into fourth place on the NFL career rushing list. He also won the NFL rushing title.

#### Seahawks 28, Falcons 26

At Seattle, Matt Hasselbeck threw two touchdown passes and got another TD on a sneak, then the Seahawks (9-7) barely avoided another late meltdown. Warrick Dunn was stopped on a 2-point conversion attempt that would have forced overtime after reserve quarterback Matt Schaub threw a 3-yard TD pass to Brian Finneran as time expired.

"We had some major adversity through the season and we kept our eyes focused on that goal and accomplished it," Hasselbeck said. "We didn't do it the easy way."

Seattle's Shaun Alexander ran for 80 yards, finishing a yard behind Martin (1,697).

## Young breaks out in Brown's biggest win

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

PASADENA, Calif. — Texas coach Mack Brown said before the Rose Bowl the Longhorns have a program on a steady march toward a national championship.

He'll get his chance to lead them there with a new 10-year contract worth more than \$25 million and a quarterback who in one game of sheer athletic brilliance thrust himself into the Heisman Trophy race for 2005.

Vince Young's dynamic performance of four touchdowns rushing and another passing boosted No. 6 Texas to a thrilling 38-37 Rose Bowl win over No. 13 Michigan on New Year's Day.

The win gave Brown his biggest victory. Young's breakout performance should answer a lot of questions about how the Longhorns, who finished 11-1, will fare next season after tailback Cedric Benson and linebacker Derrick Johnson are gone.

"I've never seen an athletic per-

formance from a quarterback — running, throwing and competing and making plays — like Vince Young did tonight," Brown said after the game.

"He really grew up tonight as a quarterback," said tight end David Thomas, who caught Young's TD pass.

Young said there will be more to come.

"For the people that didn't know anything about me, you've just got to keep watching me," Young said. "I'm going to keep playing hard."

College football certainly will be watching Young and Texas next season.

After wrapping up the 2004 season with one of the most exciting Rose Bowls ever, the Longhorns play another Big Ten team, Ohio State, in September.

The Longhorns lose some serious firepower in Benson and Johnson, two of the greatest players at their position at Texas.

Benson finished as the fifth-leading rusher in Division I history with 5,540 yards and won the Doak Walker Award.

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**

Venus and Pluto join forces to produce the kind of dynamic that makes young single men run screaming. Questions like "Where is this relationship headed?" and "Do you really love me?" suddenly seem like a good idea. At least the Libra moon is shedding a favorable light on relationships. Anything worth doing is worth doing with one you like.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You experience a lightning flash of insight pertaining to a creative dilemma or a stress-related health problem. Consult your intuition and inner wisdom to plan your strategy. Envision victory, and then, fight the battle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Give serious thought to what you really and truly need in the way of a deeply committed relationship, which can be quite different from what you want. The stars help you reject that which limits or diminishes your personal power.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Focus on those people or things to which you are most devoted and committed. Doing so makes you feel safe and confident in your abilities. You'll cleverly discover a creative solution to an old problem.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). An unexpected snafu arises, calling for you to draw upon your inner

well of strength. Insist on being treated as an equal. You may need to let go of your stranglehold on an untenable situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Be ready to seize an advantage no matter what circumstance life throws at you. When your mind is an opportunity-seeking mechanism, you can transform a potentially displeasing scenario into something useful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Pummel a health issue before it gets the better of you. Survey your home and office for dust and mold. You may want to purchase a water purifier or air filter. You have to feel physically in the pink before you can feel romantic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A business venture that's been delayed finally gets the green light — but it is best to learn the motivations of others before entering into an alliance. Research will show you how willing to compromise you should really be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Indulge your desire to lie low and mull things over. You can make that critical decision later. Avoid people or situations that cause you to go against your femininity (if you're female) or masculinity (if you're male).

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Social awkwardness happens to everyone from time to time. The true cause of this disturbance is buried in your subconscious. Once you know the trigger, you can choose to react differently.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even a no-nonsense, analytical goat like you can benefit from

exploring the outer limits of your warm and fuzzy side. Lead with your intuition and spirituality. Your thoughts affect your future and the people around you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're the unifying element in an otherwise disjointed group. Using inclusive language with others such as "we" and "our" fosters feelings of team spirit and universal compassion — much needed right now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Try to avoid charging uphill to fight, or you'll be too exhausted by the time you get to the top. Instead, stand your ground, and aim to break your adversary's resistance without fighting. Vary your methods, and be unpredictable.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Diane Keaton has a kind of buttoned-down glamour that's so Capricorn. She's not one to give away too much in her dress but will often go above and beyond when playing dramatic and comic roles on screen. She has consistently maintained her public persona, from her "Annie Hall" days to the recent "Something's Gotta Give." This year, she'll look to off-screen jobs producing or directing.

*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. © 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.*

**Annie's Mailbox**

Dear Annie: My kids, ages 11 and 9, live with my ex-wife over 1,000 miles away from me. Each time I want to visit them, I have to pay for very expensive plane tickets and hotel rooms. If they come to my house, it means I have to fly there to pick them up and fly back to return them.

I know that airlines have services to make sure your kids travel safely. I want my children to spend their next vacation with me, but my ex-wife thinks they are too young to travel without a parent. She worries about turbulence or the chance of a plane crash. I agree with her, but flying is



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

safer than driving, and she has no problem putting them in a car. Besides, it was HER decision to move so far away.

My attorney informs me that if I choose to have the children fly here, my ex-wife is required to put them on a plane. I have discussed this with my kids, and my oldest has no problem with it. The younger one is a little unsure. What are your thoughts on the subject? Is my ex justified not to let them see me unless I pick them up? — Concerned Parent

Dear Parent: There are no guarantees when it comes to air travel. While your presence on the plane may be comforting, airlines are wonderful about children traveling alone, and heaven knows, there are plenty of them shuttling between divorced parents these days.

Yes, the kids are old enough to fly by themselves, although they may be nervous the first time they do so. It will help if their mother reassures them, so please discuss this with her. If she is unwilling to put them on a plane, the two of you should alternate which one of you gets to travel with them. She should not be using this as an excuse for them to avoid seeing their father.

Dear Annie: You recently printed a letter from "You Know Who You Are," who said people took the roses from the flower arrangement at her sister's funeral. It reminded me of something that happened at my cousin's funeral.

At the cemetery, I noticed "Tammy" pulling flowers from the arrangement that was on the casket. I wanted to save some flowers, too, so I was interested in watching her, and a bit appalled because Tammy wasn't that close to my cousin. I wanted to see what she was doing.

When I approached her, Tammy said she planned to press and dry the flowers and frame them for the family. She did this at her own expense, and the results turned out beautifully. I received one of the framed pieces, and now I have a precious reminder of my cousin, and of Tammy's kindness and thoughtfulness. — A.T.

Dear A.T.: Several readers pointed out that there may be a perfectly acceptable reason for taking these flowers. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: I am Greek, and at every Greek funeral I've ever been to, we line up to take flowers from the arrangements and place them on the graves of our other loved ones buried in the same cemetery.

I still have a bunch of dried flowers from my grandfather's funeral eight years ago. It is a way to honor the recently departed, as well as remember those who passed before them. I think it's a lovely tradition. — Proud Purloiner of Flowers

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.*

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6:30 PM	News (CC) Wheel	News Wheel	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid. Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anita No Te Rajes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond Friends (CC)	Joseph Good John Hagee	News-Lehrer	American Chopper	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com	Sister, Sister That's-Raven	NFL Live (CC)	College Gameday	Stargate SG-1
7:30 PM	College Football	College Football	Rubi	Who's Your Daddy (CC)	Still Standing Listen Up	La Mujer en el	Fear Factor (CC)	Friends (CC) Scrivner	Update/Israel	Antiques Roadshow	American Chopper	Movie: Carillo's	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Motocrossed	Billiards	ESPN 100	Stargate SG-1	
8:30 PM	Nokia Sugar Bowl	Nokia Sugar Bowl	Amor Real	70s Show	Raymond Two-Half Men	Gitanas	Las Vegas (CC)	Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	American Chopper	WWE Raw (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Club Comic View	Lizzie McGuire	Billiards	Figure	Stargate SG-1	
9:30 PM	vs. Virginia Tech (CC)	vs. Virginia Tech (CC)	Cristina	70s Show	CSI: Miami (CC)	Te Voy a Enseñar a	Medium (CC)	Family Guy	News: Fast Times at the Ridgmont High	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	MXC	Without a Trace (CC)	Nightly News Grown Folks	Even Stevens	Billiards	Grand Prix Final (CC)	Stargate SG-1	
10:30 PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight Show	Family Guy	The Hour of Healing	Booker Scrivner	American Chopper	MXC	NYPD Blue (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	NBA Fastbreak	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Fortress	
11:30 PM	Nightline Ent. Tonight	Nightline Extra (CC)	Los Meliches	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo	Movie: The Jerk (CC)	How Can I Update/Israel	American Chopper	Movie: Shipmates	Blind Date	Shipmates	Club Comic View	Kim Possible	Lizzie	SportsCenter (CC)	The Twilight Zone (CC)	
12:30 AM	Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel	Alma Rebelde	Spin City Dharma-Greg	Show The Insider	Maria Celeste Cortes-Familia	Frasier (CC)	Movie: The Jerk (CC)	How Can I Update/Israel	American Chopper	Movie: Shipmates	Blind Date	Shipmates	Club Comic View	Kim Possible	Lizzie	SportsCenter (CC)	The Twilight Zone (CC)	

### DENNIS THE MENACE

"I THINK YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, DAD! ONE OF YOUR GOLF BALLS JUST BUSTED MR. WILSON'S WINDOW!"

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"Don't pack them too hard, 'cause we might be throwing some of them at Mommy."

### HAGAR

HELGA, I KNOW YOU LIKE TO KEEP BUSY WHILE I'M OUT OF TOWN...  
...BUT I THINK YOU NEED SOME OTHER HOBBY!

### BC

WHAT ARE YOUR CHANCES OF MAKING THE SUPER BOWL THIS YEAR?  
IF YOU'RE A SCALPER, THEY'RE LOOKING UP.

### BLONDIE

IT'S A NEW YEAR, STAFF! NEW CATERING JOBS, NEW CHALLENGES!  
SO LET'S LOOK ALIVE IN 2005!  
NOW LET'S ALL GET OUT THERE AND DO OUR BEST!

### This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2005. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:  
On Jan. 3, 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, N.J.

On this date:  
In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church.  
In 1868, the Meiji Restoration re-established the authority of Japan's emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as "shoguns."  
In 1938, the "March of Dimes" campaign to fight polio was organized.  
In 1947, congressional proceedings were televised for the first time as viewers in Washington, Philadelphia and New York got to see

### WIZARD OF ID

HOW MUCH TO CHANGE MY WIFE INTO A HOT YOUNG MAIDEN?  
\$500  
498... 499... 500!  
CLINK CLINK CLINK  
DINNER'S READY!  
PLEASE TELL ME THAT ISN'T YOUR WIFE

### AGNES

IT IS TIME FOR ME TO CLAIM MY RIGHT TO FAME AND FORTUNE HERE IN AMERICA!  
IT'S A RIGHT?  
YES! I HAVE LANGUISHED IN POVERTY HERE IN AMERICA FOR FAR TOO LONG... I'M NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER!  
HEH, HEH YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY SMARTER, EITHER.  
THAT'S NEVER BEEN A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK HERE IN AMERICA

### HI AND LOIS

I SAVED ONE OF YOUR PRESENTS UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS!  
WHY?  
I WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL IT SNOWED

### THE OTHER COAST

YOU LET A GUY WEARING A BLACK SKI MASK INTO YOUR STORE, WHEREUPON HE ROBS YOU. WEREN'T YOU EVEN SLIGHTLY SUSPICIOUS?  
NOT REALLY.

### 911 EMERGENCY

YOU LET A GUY WEARING A BLACK SKI MASK INTO YOUR STORE, WHEREUPON HE ROBS YOU. WEREN'T YOU EVEN SLIGHTLY SUSPICIOUS?  
NOT REALLY.

### SKI RENTAL

YOU LET A GUY WEARING A BLACK SKI MASK INTO YOUR STORE, WHEREUPON HE ROBS YOU. WEREN'T YOU EVEN SLIGHTLY SUSPICIOUS?  
NOT REALLY.

### SNUFFY SMITH

D'YOU SAY YORE PRAYERS EVER DAY, JUGHAID?  
YESSIR, PARSON !! 'CEPT FER SUNDAYS !!  
IT'S HIS ONE DAY OFF, I WANNA LET HIM ENJOY IT !!

### BEETLE BAILEY

I HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO SAY WHAT I THINK!  
OKAY, HERE'S WHAT I THINK...

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OKAY, HERE'S WHAT I THINK...

### Newsday Crossword

TIMELY SENTIMENT by S.N.  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 It supports a flower
- 5 Coin of Mexico
- 9 Envelope part
- 13 Chide
- 14 Neighbor of Turkey
- 15 Learning method
- 16 Start of a sentiment
- 19 *Karenina*
- 20 Change for a five
- 21 68 Across and legs
- 22 "Absolutely!"
- 23 *The Sopranos* network
- 24 Prayer ending
- 26 Prepares, as dinner
- 28 Baby bird of prey
- 32 Grade lower than B
- 35 Midwest airline
- 37 El *TX*
- 38 Middle of sentiment
- 41 Building block of matter
- 42 Sports channel
- 43 Rooney of *60 Minutes* et al.
- 44 Quit a job
- 46 Religious groups
- 48 Cape Canaveral agency
- 50 Leader of the Stooges
- 51 4 on a phone
- 54 Butte relatives
- 57 Regretful one
- 59 Desertlike
- 60 End of sentiment
- 63 Richard of Chicago

**DOWN**

- 64 Trucker with a transmitter
- 65 Joe, Jane and Jim
- 66 Founded: Abbr.
- 67 Scarlett O'Hara's home
- 68 Sleeve fillers
- 11 "Three men in *in*"
- 12 Green vegetables
- 13 Convince
- 17 Rail rider
- 18 Dog pest
- 23 Invitation sender
- 25 Pinochle card group
- 26 Reached a high point
- 27 Insults, so to speak
- 29 *Dragnet* force: Abbr.
- 5 Parts of a spinet
- 6 Author *Stanley Gardner*
- 7 Tortilla-chip dip
- 8 Yoko
- 9 Skillet
- 10 Weaving machine
- 36 Jerry Stiller's partner
- 39 Egg layers
- 40 Despise
- 45 Deep cut
- 47 Cereal ingredient
- 49 Caribbean resort island
- 51 German fairy-tale writer
- 52 Bees' homes
- 53 March 15th, for example
- 54 Home loan: Abbr.
- 55 Lambs' mothers
- 56 Alphabetize
- 58 Computer-store patron
- 59 Worship from
- 61 Sept. follower
- 62 Double-helix molecule

Answer to previous puzzle

S	A	L	I	E	N	T	R	E	C	L	I	N	E	R	E	C	L	I	N	E
A	R	A	L	S	E	A	L	E	A	L	E	A	L	E	A	L	E	A	L	E
K	E	N	O	L	I	N	D	I	S	T	E	R	S							
E	N	D	S	N	O	C	A	T	Z	O										
S	T	A	T	E	S	E	N	A	T	O	R									
G	I	V	E	S	C	R	E	D	I	T	T	O								
T	H	E	T	A	T	E	D	D	B	E	A	R								
W	O	N																		
O	P	T	I	M	I	S	T	S												
D	I	S	C	O	N	E	C	T	I	O	N									
J	A	R																		
O	N	A	T	E	A	R														
E	N	G	A	R	E															
L	A	S	S	O	E	D														
S	T	A	R	E	R	S														

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