



BIG SPRING

# HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

WEDNESDAY

January 5, 2005

### WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 27°-29° TOMORROW 44°-56°

### INSIDE



The celebration began early as USC ripped apart Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl at Pro Player Stadium, 55-19.

Page 1B



BAGHDAD, Iraq — Just two miles from the American Embassy ensconced within a walled-off downtown enclave, there is an area of Baghdad swarming with criminals, insurgents and terrorists.

Page 3A

COMING THIS WEEKEND



Cover Story: Martin Luther King III is carrying on the tradition of his father, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. He discusses his work at the King Center and his drive to complete his father's dream.

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## Hutchison visits with VA Secretary nominee

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

The fact that former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Jim Nicholson has yet to be confirmed to take over as head of the Department of Veterans Affairs isn't deterring defenders of the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who has been a staunch supporter of keeping the VA facility in

*"For years, I have known him to be a man of his word. He brings an open mind and the right attitude to the department."*

—U.S. Sen. Hutchison, speaking of Veterans Affairs Secretary nominee Jim Nicholson

Big Spring, met with Nicholson Tuesday in her

Capitol Hill office to discuss his nomination and role in keeping the local veteran's hospital open.

"Anthony Principi was an effective leader who was committed to the well-being of our veterans," said Hutchison. "After today's meeting, I am convinced Jim Nicholson is just as dedicated to the health of our veterans. For years, I have known him to be a

See VA, Page 3A



U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison met with Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson in Washington, D.C. Tuesday to discuss the future of Texas veterans and health care facilities.

## 2005's FIRST PROUD PARENTS



Jamia Dickens and her husband, Cpl. Alfred Dickens, welcomes their new son, Thomas Boyd Dickens, the first baby born in Howard County in 2005. The infant was born at 2:34 p.m. Monday in Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

## First baby of new year welcomed in Big Spring

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Features Editor

For Cpl. Alfred Dickens and his wife Jamia, 2005 became a much blessed year with the birth of their son, Thomas Boyd Dickens at 2:34 p.m. Monday.

The newborn weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces and was 18.5

inches long.

"It is wonderful being a parent and I think this may be more exhausting for a father who really cares than for the mother," said 25-year-old Jamia (pronounced Ja-mee-a).

As the first baby born at Scenic Mountain Medical Center in 2005, the Dickens family received several baby

gifts from local merchants.

Beall's Department Store gave young Thomas a piggy bank, duck bath toys, Lucky baby lotion and a pink Lucky bath pouf.

Dakota's Flowers presented the family with a half-dozen roses and a baby towel featur-

See BABY, Page 3A

## Relay!

Overflow crowd attends kickoff for fund-raiser

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN

Special to the Herald

True to form, an overflow crowd gathered Tuesday evening to kickoff another year of the Howard-Glasscock American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"This is an awesome turnout," said chairperson Phyllis Turney as extra chairs and tables were set up to accommodate attendees.

Relay for Life 2005 is set for May 13-14 at Blankenship Field. Just about everything to do with Relay in Big Spring is done in a big way, from the net total raised last year — \$194,756, to the goal for 2005 — \$205,000.

The overnight fund-raiser, in which teams of citizens walk around the track for donations, brought in \$5.52 for every person living in both Howard and Glasscock counties last year. That gave it the No. 1 per-capita ranking in the state, and No. 6 in the nation among Relays.

So the devoted gathered to begin again, pledging their support for underwriting, sponsorships and teams, the backbone of Relay. Team captains and those who might want to be team captains picked up packets of information to help them get organized.

Survivors and family members of those who have been struck by cancer revealed their "reasons to Relay."

"I think we all have our reasons," Turney said. "There is almost no one

See RELAY, Page 5A

## Numerous opportunities exist for donations to tsunami victims

Herald Staff Report

Local residents wishing to contribute aid to victims of the recent Asian earthquake/tsunami may find that doing so is as easy as going to the bank or logging onto the Internet.

Two banks with local connections announced this week that they are pledging thousands of dollars toward relief efforts.

Wells Fargo national headquarters announced this week that the company's donation to disaster relief would exceed \$300,000.

Wells Fargo has already donated \$100,000 to the relief efforts (via the Red Cross) and this week pledged another \$250,000.

The bank is waiving all transfer fees (\$8 per transac-

tion) for U.S.-based customers to send money to friends and families impacted by the recent natural disaster in India and South Asia.

**Locally, donations may be made through American State Bank and Wells Fargo.**

This offer is effective retroactive starting Dec. 26, and will run through Jan. 31. Wells Fargo will also waive the foreign currency fee for all transactions through Jan. 31.

American State Bank, which also has a branch in Big Spring, has established a relief fund, as well.

On Dec. 30, ASB donated \$5,000 to the Breedlove Dehydration Plant in Lubbock to help send dehydrated food to the South Asia area.

Individuals and businesses can donate to the victim assistance fund at any ASB branch. All donations will be given to the Breedlove facility to send food to the disaster victims.

Individuals can also donate to established disaster-relief organizations, and if those people have a credit card and Internet connection, the process can take mere minutes.

Persons wishing to donate online can go to numerous sites. Two of the most popular search engines on the Internet, Yahoo and Google,

See TSUNAMI, Page 3A



KRT photo/Nuccio DiMuzio, Chicago Tribune  
Sadeeka Kalpani, left, and Jayangani Peiris, both pregnant, have taken refuge at St. John's College in Panadura, Sri Lanka.

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# U.S. soldiers dig in at palace to root out rebel lairs

By GRETTEL C. KOVACH

The Dallas Morning News

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Just two miles from the American Embassy ensconced within a walled-off downtown enclave, there is an area of Baghdad swarming with criminals, insurgents and terrorists.

Three Iraqi election workers were pulled from a car there last month, executed during morning rush-hour traffic at a busy intersection. The attackers didn't even bother to wear masks.

The slums and high-rises nearby are scrawled with anti-American graffiti. And some parts are too dangerous for coalition soldiers to enter in armored Humvees — only Bradley armored personnel carriers are used.

This is Haifa Street. A few days ago, American soldiers started calling it home.

In a long-awaited move intended to beat back the insurgents who use the area to plan and stage attacks, the 1st Cavalry Division's Task Force 1/9 out of Fort Hood, Texas, moved a quick reaction force into a palace on Haifa Street.

"Now, with the coalition right there in their face, knowing we can strike that quick, they'll think twice before they threaten other Iraqis or us," said Capt. Barry Horsey, 22nd Hebron, Md., commander of the Alpha Company, 8th Engineers Battalion that helped fortify the palace.



U.S. combat engineers constructed this concrete blast wall on Haifa Street in Baghdad, Iraq, to provide protection for a palace occupied by U.S. forces.

"They think they own Haifa Street, but they don't."

The expanded footprint in one of the country's toughest areas comes barely a month before Iraqis go to the polls to elect a national assembly. The threat of widespread violence is high.

The palace on Haifa Street became a top priority because the Sadr City section of Baghdad, controlled by militant cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, has been quiet since an October weapons buyback program and truce.

Military planners dubbed the three-day Christmas week mission to secure the palace Operation Field of Dreams, because if you build it, they will come. First came a newly arrived company from the 82nd Airborne Division that had been crammed onto nearby Camp

Istiqlaal (Independence) until their Haifa Street home was ready.

Then came the insurgents.

Saddam Hussein lived in this area as a boy, and an old neighborhood that he rebuilt was named "Saddamiya" in his honor.

Today die-hard Baathists, Islamic terrorists and criminal gangs use the area to fire mortars on the Green Zone

and on Camp Independence, the base a mile away that houses Task Force 1/9.

Along these streets they've renamed Grenade Alley and Purple Heart Lane, soldiers have ripped down black banners belonging to followers of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Iraq's most-wanted terrorist, and uniforms for the Iraqi security forces left twisting in the wind like scarecrows.

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In the weeks before Operation Field of Dreams, insurgents threw as many as 34 grenades a week at patrolling soldiers. More than 140 from the battalion have been wounded since they arrived in April, and five have died.

On the first night of the operation, Apache helicopter gunships buzzed the rooftops, Bradleys patrolled barricaded streets with cannons aimed, and about half the battalion's soldiers descended on the palace.

While infantrymen defended the perimeter, engineers worked through the night placing tall concrete blast walls around the already walled-off palace. They set "Texas barriers," named because of their large size, into the gap left from an earlier car bomb and used massive portable bridges to block traffic to the area.

In the morning, the 82nd Airborne Division soldiers went to work on the inside of the palace. They stacked sandbags in the windows, and someone slapped a Bush-Cheney campaign sticker over the entryway.

First Lt. Ross Kinkead, 24, of San Antonio, stood on a balcony and directed his men to place their machine guns to deter enemy artillery.

The insurgents did attack during the all-day, all-night three-day mission, though with far less ferocity than Task Force 1/9 had faced in recent weeks.

## VA

Continued from Page 1A

man of his word. He brings an open mind and the right attitude to the department."

Nicholson was nominated for the position by President George W. Bush shortly after Principi's resignation, which was dated Nov. 16 and announced by the White House Dec. 8.

A veteran himself, Principi met with state and local officials in Big Spring on Aug. 23 to discuss the fate of the Big Spring VA Medical Center, which is one of many VA facilities currently being examined by the CARES (Capitol Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services) Commission, the group responsible for providing an independent review of the draft national plan to realign the Department of Veteran Affairs health care system.

The CARES Commission suggested a feasibility study concern-

ing the Big Spring facility be conducted, and while several deadlines have been set for the study to be completed since that time, it appears an answer may be as far off as December of this year.

Hutchison described the meeting as favorable, saying she hopes Nicholson will take the views of those involved in the study process to heart.

"As the VA continues to study the health care needs of West Texas, I am hopeful Jim Nicholson will pay close attention to the views of community leaders," said Hutchison. "As I told Ambassador Nicholson today, the Big Spring hospital is ideally located near other important military facilities. The upcoming study should make that as clear to VA officials as it is to Texans. Veterans should not be forced to travel long distances to receive health care."

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

## BABY

Continued from Page 1A

ing a duck decal. Merle Norman gave the family a body care kit and Hunan's Chinese Restaurant gave the couple a coupon for two buffet dinners.

Subway sweetened the gift basket with four cookie coupons. Movie Gallery presented the family with a \$10 coupon and Kwik Kar Wash gave the couple a coupon for a free oil change. Jazzy's presented the baby with six red sack suits and a teddy bear.

SMMC volunteers also donated a gift basket

filled with several items from the Volunteer Gift Shop, including bottles, outfits, blankets and rattles.

"It was a big gift basket; I saw it as they carried it upstairs," said Anita Cline, director of volunteer services for SMMC. "In December, the volunteers gave all the babies born a Christmas bunting cap."

Thomas nearly wasn't a Texan, as his 20-year-old father, an Army recruiter, relocated to Big Spring from Fort Rucker, Ala., in November.

"I travel all around the area, Big Spring, Midland, Foran, Stanton,

Coahoma, to high schools and other places to talk with people about joining the Army," he said.

Jamia intends to remain home with young Thomas, at least for now.

"I've not really had time to think about it yet," she said.

The couple met and married at Fort Rucker. Although Thomas was three weeks earlier than his expected delivery date, Jamia said he is perfectly healthy.

"We knew he was a boy, but his daddy said he would believe it when he could see him," she said.

Just five hours of labor passed before Thomas

was delivered by Dr. Ledford. Jamia said a close friend of the family, Ruth Privett, assisted as breathing coach during the birth.

"I know now we'll be up late nights, changing diapers and feeding him instead of out partying," she said.

Thomas is the grandson of Gary and Rita Wilkerson of Corsicana and Ruth and Tony West of Daleville, Ala. He is the great-grandson of Wynell Wilkerson of Big Spring.

Named Boyd after Alfred and his grandfather, Thomas, the couple have nicknamed their son Bubba.

## TSUNAMI

Continued from Page 1A

both have links established to organizations such as the American Red Cross, CARE, UNICEF, Network for Good, and Save the Children.

For those who want to take a more traditional route toward giving, below are addresses for several relief agencies:

- Action Against Hunger, 247 37th St., New York, N.Y. 10018, 212-967-7800.
- American Refugee Committee, Tsunami Relief, 430 Oak Grove Street, Suite 204, Minneapolis, Minn. 55403, 612-872-7060.
- AmeriCares, 88 Hamilton Ave., Stamford, Conn. 06902, 800-486-4357.
- Baptist World Aid, Asia Tidal Waves, 405 North Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046, 703-790-8980.
- CARE, 151 Ellis Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303, 800-521-CARE
- Catholic Relief Services, 209 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, 800-736-3467.
- American Red Cross, International Response Fund, P.O. BOX 37243, Washington, DC 20013, 800-HELP-NOW.

• Salvation Army World Service Office, South Asia Relief Fund, 615 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA, 22313, 800-SAL-ARMY.

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
24th & Johnson 267-8288  
Polly Casbeer, 79, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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**Henry Backes**

**Howard County Awarded Federal Funds Through FEMA**

HOWARD COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM. Howard County has been chosen to receive \$11,594 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christian the USA; and, United Way of America. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local Board, made up of the County, City, United Way and other local charitable organizations will determine how the funds awarded to Howard County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local organizations chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government 2) have an accounting system, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and / or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply.

Howard County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with The Salvation Army, Isaiah 58, Northside Community Center and St. Vincent DePaul Society participating. These agencies were responsible for providing over 8,000 meals, 8,000 pounds of food and over 300 nights of lodging.

Public or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Cynthia Scott at the United Way of Big Spring at (432) 267-5201 or come by 808 Scurry for an application. The deadline for the submission of application is **January 14, 2005.**

EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We all really can make a difference in disaster relief

Doing the right thing. Americans are doing just that in opening their hearts and pocket-books to the 1.8 million tsunami survivors in need of food or other assistance. And there is no question that Howard Countians are among those heeding the call.

Characteristic of Americans' generosity, hundreds of millions of dollars in private donations for tsunami relief are pouring in to charities, taxing their Web sites. The donations, Reuters reported, range from children's pocket money to \$1 million checks from Hollywood stars and major foundations.

On Monday, President Bush made it clear that the devastation in Southeast Asia "defies comprehension."

Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters that he's "seen war" but that he's never seen anything like the total devastation created by the Dec. 26 earthquake and resulting tsunami.

President Bush has now enlisted the aid of our nation's two previous presidents — his father, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton — to spearhead a coordinated nationwide fundraising effort.

We support that effort and encourage Herald readers to take part in the relief effort by making contributions to organizations providing relief for the tsunami victims.

It has been made clear that donations of food, water, clothing and the like are not what are needed. What relief organizations need is money and lots of it.

While millions have been pledged by governments around the globe, and millions more has already been given by the public, the enormity of the disaster has made it clear that in the long run, billions will be needed.

Dozens of organizations are providing relief, but there is an easy way to find ways to make donations. The federal government has placed a link on its www.usafreedomcorps.gov Website that lists the various groups actively involved in relief efforts.

And remember, every dollar makes a difference. So, please make what ever donation you can afford. It will, indeed, make a difference a world away.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With Your help, Lord, we can forgive others for wrong doings.  
Amen

How my favorite shirt got bloody

I wore my favorite shirt to my Rotary club meeting last week. There was a sign on the door indicating this was the day for Rotarians to donate blood. I went to the blood donor room and rolled up the sleeves of my favorite shirt.

I have never seen a bigger needle. I have given blood many times and don't remember the needle being that big. When the guy poked that big needle in my arm, it hurt. And I let him know it hurt. He said he probably hit some type of nerve when he stuck the needle in my arm.

I filled up that sack with blood in about five minutes. That's because the needle poked a hole in my arm the size of a chinaberry.

After the blood letting, I rolled the sleeve of my favorite shirt down over the bandage they put



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

over the big hole in my arm. It was just 12:30 and I decided to return to the Rotary meeting. For some reason the door leading into the Rotary room was stuck and I was rattling it trying to get in.

Finally someone came across the room and let me in. I grabbed a plate and was going to eat lunch.

At the salad bowl I noticed the right sleeve of my favorite shirt was covered with blood. It was dark maroon. Blood was gushing out of my arm. I looked down at the side of my shirt and there was blood there, too, where I had rubbed my arm against it. Seeing my bloody shirt certainly got the attention of some people sitting in the rear of the room.

I put the plate down and walked out the door with the intention of driving home but decided to let the blood people take a look at the situation. The guy who had stuck the big needle in me said apparently when I rolled down my sleeve I dislodged the bandage they had put on my arm.

He put about a pint of peroxide on the sleeve and side of the shirt. It bubbled up and felt warm. It took out some of the blood. I drove home and my wife wasn't home. I am not the handiest man with a washing machine, so I put some water and dial soap in the bathroom sink and put my shirt in there. My pants waistband also had blood on it so I stuck the top of the pants in the sink, too.

I had a dental appointment at 1:30 and it was by now 1:05. I was hungry and weak. I went to my favorite burrito place and ordered two bean burritos. When I got the dentist I had flour tortilla stuck to my teeth, but he didn't seem to mind. I called my wife from the dental chair and she hadn't got home yet. I told her not to be shocked when she saw the bloody mess in the bathroom.

The peroxide and my wife's diligence with stain removers and a washing machine got my favorite shirt looking good as new. Now it has some character.



Fear and fear mongering in quake's wake

When asked Monday if climate change — global warming — was behind the deadly Asian tsunami, the United Nations' Jan Egeland — he of "stingy" aid fame — said no, the tsunami was a "geologically caused" disaster.

"A tsunami like this is caused by an earthquake that has nothing to do with climate change," he explained.

Minutes later, however, Egeland did suggest a possible connection between global warming and the disaster. He had heard that one-third of the Maldives islands disappeared momentarily underwater, he said, adding that "actually climate change means oceans (are) growing, (so) certainly tsunamis will have an ever greater effect."

Most environmentalists, to their credit, are not trying to capitalize on the Asian catastrophe. But a few cannot resist.

As a letter writer in The New York Times scolded, "But the next time there is a severe offshore earthquake and resulting tsunami, the sea level will be just a little bit higher, and the water and destruction will go a bit further inland and kill even more people. And for that, (President Bush) will bear some culpability for not even wanting to consider global warming, much less do anything about it as the leader of the country most responsible for man-made warming and ice-cap melting."

(Forget that Bill Clinton never worked to ratify the Kyoto Protocol global-warming treaty — just blame Bush.)

In an unhappy slice of synergy, the tsunami hit just after Michael Crichton's new novel, "State of Fear," was released. The plot



DEBRA SAUNDERS

involves eco-terrorists who try to create four "natural disasters" (including a tsunami) in order to alert the world to the dangers of global warming. Crichton penned the book to warn the public not to believe everything it hears about global warming.

In his mind, "environmentalism" has become a religion. As he said in a 2003 speech to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, "There's an initial Eden, a paradise, a state of grace and unity with nature: there's a fall from grace into a state of pollution as a result of eating from the tree of knowledge and, as a result of our actions, there is a judgment day coming for us all."

Crichton takes on the gospel according to the enviros, that is: that all scientists believe global warming is human induced, that climate projections are accurate, and that the planet is undergoing unusual change, when change is the norm in nature.

I saved the September 2004 National Geographic issue on global warming to read after the election — to see if there is reason to reconsider my skepticism. The part on the dwindling Adelie penguins that inhabit the Antarctic Peninsula, with actual statistics, gave me pause. Otherwise, on every page, Crichton's complaints came to life.

In the article, true believers warned that the end was near. The magazine cited climate models as if they were peer-reviewed fact. "I don't think anybody down here looks at the sea-level-rise problem and puts their heads in the sand," it quoted Windell Cuore, the manager of a Louisiana levee district. To back up the sea-level argument, a chart shows the sea level rising 4 inches over 100 years. The problem is, the earliest data is from 2000, so the chart doesn't show actual increases; it plots "projections." A best-case scenario shows the 4-inch rise by 2100; a worst-

case scenario shows a rise closer to 3 feet. Guesstimates aren't hard science.

The libertarian-leaning Cato Institute's Pat Michaels, who wrote his book on global warming, "Meltdown," took on the National Geographic piece in an op-ed published in the Washington Times. Michaels chided the magazine for showing a flooded rice field in Bangladesh, cautioning that rising global temperatures and sea levels threaten rice farming. "In the last 50 years," he wrote, the sea level at Bangladesh has risen "an infinitesimal seven-tenths of an inch, far too little for anyone to notice."

National Geographic editor William L. Allen responded just as Crichton's characters would — by attacking Michaels personally for writing a report funded by "the Western Fuels Association, an association of coal-burning utility companies." The letter didn't take on Michaels' facts.

On Dec. 29, National Geographic's Web site reported that while media accounts "frequently assert that climate change is uncertain," a University of California at San Diego professor read 928 scientific papers and found, "Not one of the papers refuted the claim that human activities are affecting the Earth's climate." (Funny, Crichton's 20-page bibliography found contrary opinions.)

But as Crichton and Michaels both argue, some global-warming true believers argue things that they know aren't true. And that makes them dangerous.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsauanders@sfchronicle.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.  
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NEWS

Police shoot GRAND PRAIRIE law off long standoff home and firing  
The episode at the home of Rents near Joe F  
"I understand and being suicidal himself unless Detective Jol spokesman.  
"In talking to the scene, I un- been kicked out and they've b with him," he  
Johnson retu with a handgu about an hour police said. Off and told officer to shoot him o  
Finally, he s walking down When he final officer return once in the ch  
No officers w The officer wh on routine adn investigation.

New Act

By WAYNE PAR Associated Press  
NEWARK, N. charged with t blinding the pi pilot of an airp laser beam cla simply using th look at stars v year-old daugh  
Federal Tuesday used Act to char Banach, 38, wi ing with the op mass transport cle and mal statements to t is the first per ed after a rec reports around of laser beams planes.  
The FBI ac the incident h nection to ter called Banach "foolhardy a gent."  
Banach, of admitted to fec that he pointe beam at a jet copter over his Teterboro Ai week, author Initially, he c daughter ai device at the they said.  
The jet, a Cessna Citatio ing in for a la 29 with six pe when a green struck the ai three times at feet, accordin documents. Tl co-pilot were blinded but w ally able to lar safely.  
Two days la Authority hel ing to pinpoint of the origina also hit by a li  
Banach wa down a few the helicopter FBI agents car neighborhood



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Police shoot man after standoff, fire

GRAND PRAIRIE (AP) — A 32-year-old man died from a police bullet after Grand Prairie law officers said he ended an hour-long standoff by setting fire to his parents' home and firing a gun at authorities.

The episode began about 7 p.m. Tuesday at the home of Richard Jason Johnson's parents near Joe Pool Lake.

"I understand that he was making threats and being suicidal, that he would do harm to himself unless his parents helped him," said Detective John Brimmer, the police spokesman.

"In talking to some of the officers here at the scene, I understand that he had actually been kicked out of the home some time back and they've been having some problems with him," he said.

Johnson returned to his parents' home with a handgun and held police at bay for about an hour, threatening to kill himself, police said. Officers said he stabbed himself and told officers that either they would have to shoot him or he would shoot himself.

Finally, he set fire to the house and left, walking down the street flanked by officers. When he finally fired once at officers, an officer returned fire, wounding Johnson once in the chest, fatally.

No officers were wounded in the exchange. The officer who shot Johnson has been put on routine administrative duties pending an investigation, Brimmer said.

## House Speaker Craddick predicts more harmonious session

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick vowed Tuesday that the upcoming legislative session would be more harmonious than the one he presided over two years ago, and predicted he would not be indicted in an ongoing grand jury investigation into election spending.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Craddick laid out his goals for the session, which begins Tuesday. He also said the criminal investigation into the 2002 elections that resulted in the Republican takeover of the Legislature won't cast a shadow over legislators' work.

"I don't expect to be indicted," Craddick said, adding that he's had no indication that he would be charged with any wrongdoing. "I feel very comfortable."

Craddick said that he's handed over all records requested by the Travis County grand jury. Craddick has acknowledged accepting a \$100,000 check from a corporation that has been indicted in the case for allegedly making illegal corporate campaign contributions.

## Soldiers deny trying to harm Iraqis forced into riv

FORT HOOD (AP) — U.S. soldiers say they thought the Iraqi pair seemed suspicious driving around past the 11 p.m. curfew in a truck filled with plumbing equipment — supplies that could be used to make bombs. The two Iraqi civilians ended up in the

murky Tigris River — and, authorities say, only one got out alive. But platoon members insist that they never meant to cause harm and dispute that anyone drowned.

"We were showing them a lesson not to pass curfew," former Sgt. Alexis Rincon told a jury of six Army officers Tuesday.

Several soldiers testified on the first day of the military trial of Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, charged with involuntary manslaughter, conspiracy, aggravated assault, obstruction of justice and lying to investigators.

Perkins, 33, and Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville, 24, are accused of ordering two Iraqis into the river near Samarra in January 2004. The family of Zaidoun Fadel Hassoun, 19, said they found his body 12 days later in the river. Defense attorneys contend he safely reached shore.

## Appeals court delay puts smuggling deaths trial on hold

HOUSTON (AP) — The trial of a New York man accused of driving and abandoning a tractor-trailer in a deadly human smuggling attempt remains in limbo as lawyers argue over a side issue: whether the driver faces the death penalty because he is black.

Jury selection in the trial of Tyrone Williams, 33, was to begin Wednesday. But the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals put a halt to proceedings, giving prosecutors a chance to argue against a trial judge's request that they explain why Williams is the only one of 14 indicted defendants facing death.

## RELAY

Continued from Page 1A

whose life has not been touched by cancer in some way."

Paula Farquhar, a survivor of breast cancer and long-time team captain for Relay, told about how a friend's death from the disease spurred her to be involved in the event for another year.

While Garrett Hall at First United Methodist Church was decorated in Mardi Gras style to match the national Relay theme "Unmasking the Cure," a local slogan was also rolled out for the crowd.

"Thank you Joanne Forrest for 'getting it,' so that everyone knows that 'Big Spring Gets It,'" Turney said, revealing the slogan crafted by a committee volunteer.

The local slogan will be used to demonstrate that, after so many record-breaking events, the community understands the why and how of the American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser.

Another big announcement Tuesday was that during the last 10 years, Relay for Life in Big Spring has raised a total of \$1,073,225.

To organize your own team, make a donation to the event or become involved in some way, call Phyllis or Jeff Turney at 267-2004.

# New Jersey man is charged under Patriot Act with shining laser beam at an airplane

By WAYNE PARRY  
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. — A man charged with temporarily blinding the pilot and co-pilot of an airplane with a laser beam claims he was simply using the device to look at stars with his 7-year-old daughter.

Federal authorities Tuesday used the Patriot Act to charge David Banach, 38, with interfering with the operator of a mass transportation vehicle and making false statements to the FBI. He is the first person arrested after a recent rash of reports around the nation of laser beams hitting airplanes.

The FBI acknowledged the incident had no connection to terrorism but called Banach's actions "foolhardy and negligent."

Banach, of Parsippany admitted to federal agents that he pointed the light beam at a jet and a helicopter over his home near Teterboro Airport last week, authorities said. Initially, he claimed his daughter aimed the device at the helicopter, they said.

The jet, a chartered Cessna Citation, was coming in for a landing Dec. 29 with six people aboard when a green light beam struck the windshield three times at about 3,000 feet, according to court documents. The pilot and co-pilot were temporarily blinded but were eventually able to land the plane safely.

Two days later, a Port Authority helicopter trying to pinpoint the origin of the original beam was also hit by a laser.

Banach was tracked down a few hours after the helicopter incident by FBI agents canvassing the neighborhood for the

source of the beam. He told the agents it was his daughter who shined the laser at the helicopter, according to court papers.

Banach's lawyer, Gina Mendola-Longarzo, said her client was simply using the hand-held device to look at stars with his daughter on the family's deck. She said Banach bought the device on the Internet for \$100 for his job testing fiber-optic cable.

"He wasn't trying to harm any person, any aircraft or anything like that," she said.

Joseph Billy, agent in charge of the FBI's

Newark bureau, said Banach's actions endangered not only the jet's crew and passengers but also "countless innocent civilians on the ground in this densely populated area."

Banach is charged only in connection with the jet. According to the FBI, the Patriot Act does not describe helicopters as "mass transportation vehicles."

He was released on \$100,000 bail. He could get up to 25 years in prison and fines of up to \$500,000.

Similar incidents have been reported in Colorado Springs, Colo., Cleveland,

Washington, Houston and Medford, Ore., raising fears that the light beams could temporarily blind cockpit crews and lead to accidents.

Last month, the FBI and the Homeland Security Department sent a memo

to law enforcement agencies saying there is evidence that terrorists have explored using lasers as weapons. But federal officials have said there is no evidence any the current incidents represent a terrorist plot.

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# Library News

We are back to our regular hours at the library. I hope you had an excellent Christmas and are now ready to curl up with a book or watch a movie or listen to a book.

A couple of paperbacks have been donated to the library dealing with "The Perfect Wife: The Life and Choices of Laura Bush" (L.P.B. BUS L) by Ann Gerhart. Gerhart tries to paint the portrait of the "real" Laura Bush and perhaps she succeeds.

However, so much has been written about the Bush family that I feel that what was written as a supposition is now a fact. Laura has some very protective friends who do not let me not too much know about her privacy and her life. This is just a flash of what has been some great new fiction to come in.

Other New Fiction to come in the mystery section is "Lake of the Dead" (M.HAR E) by Anne Perry's but is it eye-opening? be thinking of "The Tale of the Pop Farm" (M.ALB) by Susan Wittig and "The Murder of Susan Todd" (M.TOD C) by Susan Todd. In fiction, gardener. It has lots of ideas and characters.

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taking care of your yard and/or garden quickly and easily. It does, however, seem more suited for a temperate climate than the realities of West Texas.

Interested in reducing or eliminating the use of chemicals in your garden and yard? Rodale has published "Chemical-Free Yard & Garden" (635.043 CAR A) edited by Anna Carr. It tells you how to be a successful organic gardener. An added bonus is the month-by-month garden care calendar.

Located in the large print area is "The Perfect Wife: The Life and Choices of Laura Bush" (L.P.B. BUS L) by Ann Gerhart. Gerhart tries to paint the portrait of the "real" Laura Bush and perhaps she succeeds.

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You Afraid of the Dark?" (F.SID S).

Nicholas A. Davis was ordained a Presbyterian minister in the late 1840s. He joined the Fourth Regiment of Texas Volunteers to serve as a chaplain in 1861.

Shortly thereafter, the Regiment was posted to Virginia, where it participated in battles at Manassas, Sharpsburg and Fredericksburg. Davis began writing his memoirs two years into battle.

With a keen eye, he details little known facts of Confederate army life — religion, duties of chaplains and the pitiful condition of the wounded. "Chaplain Davis and Hood's Texas Brigade," (973.746 EVE D) is edited by Donald E. Everett and paints an intriguing view of army life during the Civil War.

Charles Messier's catalog of nebulae and star clusters, published in 1784, marked the start of a new era of deep-sky astronomy. Today, this tradition of observing galaxies and clusters is kept alive by dedicated amateur astronomers.

Nearly all the objects are visible in a small telescope and many, such as the Crab Nebula and the Andromeda galaxy, are among the most fascinating objects in the universe.

Kenneth Glyn Jones has revised "Messier's Nebulae and Star Clusters," (523.112 JON K). His own observations and drawings, together

with maps and diagrams, make this a valuable introduction to deep-sky observing. This is a unique handbook, very complete in its scope and important to the telescope owner.

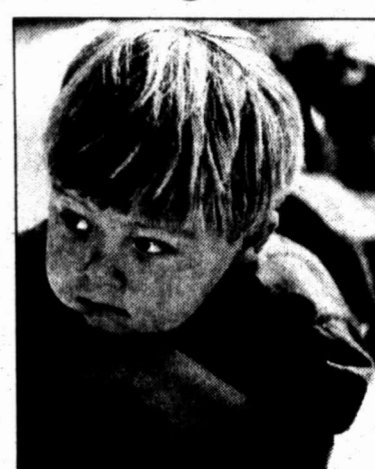
Some donated books that deal with subject of war are "Barons of the Sky," (338.476 BID W) by Wayne Biddle; "This Ain't Hell But You Can See It From Here," (956.704 MCW B) by Barry McWilliams (deals with the Gulf War); a biography of Jimmy Doolittle, "I Could Never Be So Lucky Again," (B.DOO J) by General Jimmy Doolittle; "Dien Bien Phu: The Epic Battle American Forgot," (959.704 SIM H) by Howard R. Simpson and "Tennozan: The Battle of Okinawa and the Atomic Bomb," (940.542 FEI G) by George Feifer.

The Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. The internet/video room closes one-half hour before the library and is closed Saturdays from noon until 1 p.m. The library is located at 500 S. Main St.; the phone number is 264-2260; the Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; the online catalog should be working; the e-mail address is howardcountylibrary@hotmail.com.

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.

## Six tips to making mornings easier

Weekday mornings in a household with children and working adults may never be peaceful, but they can be easier, promises Barbara Anderson, Ed.D., vice president of education for KinderCare Learning Centers, which operates more than 1,250 early childhood education and child care centers nationwide.



Photo/ KinderCare Learning Centers

- Anderson offers these tips:
- Plan ahead. Schedule afterschool activities.
  - Lay out school clothes, pack lunches, plan breakfasts, be sure homework is done before bedtime.
  - Involve children in some decisions. Let them choose the red shirt or the blue, Cheerios or Chex.
  - Motivate them. Experienced moms swear by stickers or gold stars, even an occasional piece of candy as a reward for getting out the door on time.

- Be sure everyone gets enough sleep.
- Avoid anything that can wait. Monday morning is not the time to do a load of laundry or pick up toys.
- Treat children with respect. Like adults, some are morning people, some aren't. Anderson says you'll still have an occasional bad morning, but it really does get easier with a little planning.

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## Midland symphony's young artist competition set for Friday, Saturday

The Midland Symphony Association is pleased to announce the 2005 Young Artist Competition. The competition is open to young musicians aged 15 to 25. The competition will be held on Friday and Saturday, January 7 and 8, 2005, at the Midland College Fine Arts Building. The competition is free and open to the public. This is the third year of the National Young Artist Competition held in Midland. A winner of the competition is sponsored by the Midland Symphony Guild, the Medallion Foundation, the Basin Area Foundation, and the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Choral Society. The grand prize is a \$1,500 cash award and a recording contract. For more information, contact the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Choral Society at 432-563-0921 or visit the Web site, www.mso.org.

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**Lady Steele Club meet**  
The La Booster Club meeting is Thursday, the ATC.

**Boggs, Sa make hall**  
NEW YORK Wade Boggs whelmingly the Hall of first year and Ryne made it o try with ju to spare.

**Lynch fin against C**  
DENVER Broncos Lynch \$75,000 by his helr hit on Co Dallas Cla end.

**Utah's Sr enter NFL**  
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**Spurs ro with 3-p**  
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### IN BRIEF

#### Lady Steer Booster Club meeting set

The Lady Steer Booster Club will be meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, in the ATC. All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, cheerleading and track are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Janet Abner at 264-0023 or Kerry Rodriguez 263-6100.

#### Boggs, Sandberg make hall cut-off

NEW YORK (AP) — Wade Boggs was overwhelmingly elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, and Ryne Sandberg made it on his third try with just six votes to spare. A five-time American League batting champion for the Boston Red Sox, Boggs was selected by 474 of the record 516 voters who are 10-year members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. His percentage, 91.86, was the 19th-highest in Hall history. Sandberg, the 1984 National League MVP for the Chicago Cubs, was picked by 393 voters.

#### Lynch fined for hit against Colts' Clark

DENVER (AP) — Broncos safety John Lynch was fined \$75,000 by the NFL for his helmet-to-helmet hit on Colts fullback Dallas Clark last weekend. The hit came in the first quarter Sunday.

#### Utah's Smith will enter NFL draft

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Quarterback Alex Smith will skip his senior year to enter the NFL draft after leading Utah to a 12-0 record and a Fiesta Bowl victory this season. The 20-year-old Smith, yet to hire an agent, has had a remarkable 21-1 run since taking over the Utes' starting job early in the 2003 season.

He was the first Utah player to be a Heisman Trophy finalist and was a second-team AP All-America selection.

#### Spurs rout Lakers with 3-point shot

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Bruce Bowen scored a career-high 24 points, including five 3-pointers, and helped limit Kobe Bryant to 17 points in San Antonio's 100-83 win. San Antonio matched a franchise record by making 15 3-pointers. The defense-oriented Spurs held the Lakers to just 32 points in the first half.

Brent Barry made four 3-pointers and finished with 14 points for San Antonio, which led by as much as 29. Manu Ginobili had 13 and Tim Duncan scored 12 points and grabbed 15 rebounds.

Bryant scored at least 40 points in the Lakers' three previous games, but Bowen held him to 12 below his average.

## Lady Steers start slow, can't recover at Snyder

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
SNYDER — Slow starts have been one of the Lady Steers' achilles heels this season and things weren't much different Tuesday as the Big Spring girl's basketball team played a good second half, but trailed at halftime 32-12. The Lady Steers, who nearly played even with Snyder in the final three quarters, lost on the road,

54-33. "We had a nice second half," said Big Spring head coach Tim Van Hecke. "However, we are the type of team that needs to get slapped in the face first before we decide to play. We just are not very good



RITCHEY

starters." The Lady Tigers jumped out to an 18-6 lead after the first quarter and then outscored Big Spring 14-6 in the second frame. Big Spring (4-12) played even with Snyder in the third quarter at 8-8 before getting outscored by just one in the fourth period. Van Hecke said the second half was good, but added that his team is still struggling to make shots.

The Lady Steers went 13-for-40 from the field and much of those misses were from in close, said Van Hecke. Juniors Carmen Lewis and Raegan Ritchey led the Lady Steers with 12 points and five rebounds

apiece and Lewis added two steals. Senior Alex Watkins pulled down five rebounds and scored three points, sophomore Mallory Dunn delivered three assists, while sophomore Katy Abner pitched in with two points and two steals. Big Spring returns home Friday to take on rival Lake View in the District 4-4A opener at 7:30 p.m.

## Steers play even for half, lose at Merkel

• Hot third quarter shooting helps Merkel in victory

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
MERKEL — If a basketball game ended after two quarters the Big Spring boys basketball team would have been fine Tuesday night at Merkel, but unfortunately, it doesn't. The Steers were tied at halftime with Merkel 15-15, but got outscored 32-20 in the second half and lost 47-35.



"We played a balanced game, controlled the tempo and played great defense," said Big Spring head coach Jim Kinnear. Each team started slow with five points apiece after the first period and then the teams doubled their output in the second quarter. Big Spring (5-15) was plagued by a 22-point third quarter effort from Merkel and then got outscored 10-7 in the final eight minutes.

"(Merkel) began to hit shots in the third quarter and that allowed them to build a small lead on us," said Kinnear. "It was a moral victory for us because they had beaten us by 33 points earlier this season and we thought we gave them all they could handle." Junior Kyle Piercefield led the Steers with 11 points, four steals and four rebounds, while freshman Jordan Kinnear contributed eight points, two blocks and seven rebounds. Freshman Scott Fankhauser, who is new to the varsity in the second semester, played well with eight points and five rebounds. The Steers were also plagued by 20 turnovers. Big Spring shot 14-for-34 from the field and went five-for-10 from the foul line.

"It was a total team effort tonight," said Coach Kinnear. Big Spring's leading scorer, sophomore Ryan Tannehill, missed the game for an unknown reason. The Steers continue non-district action Friday as they host Lubbock Cooper at 7:30 p.m.

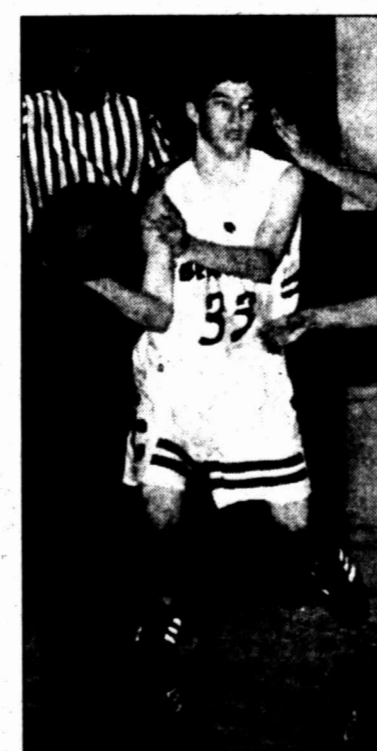
## Lady Kats continue to dominate competition

• Garden City boys lose tight one at home against Iraan

By TROY HYDE

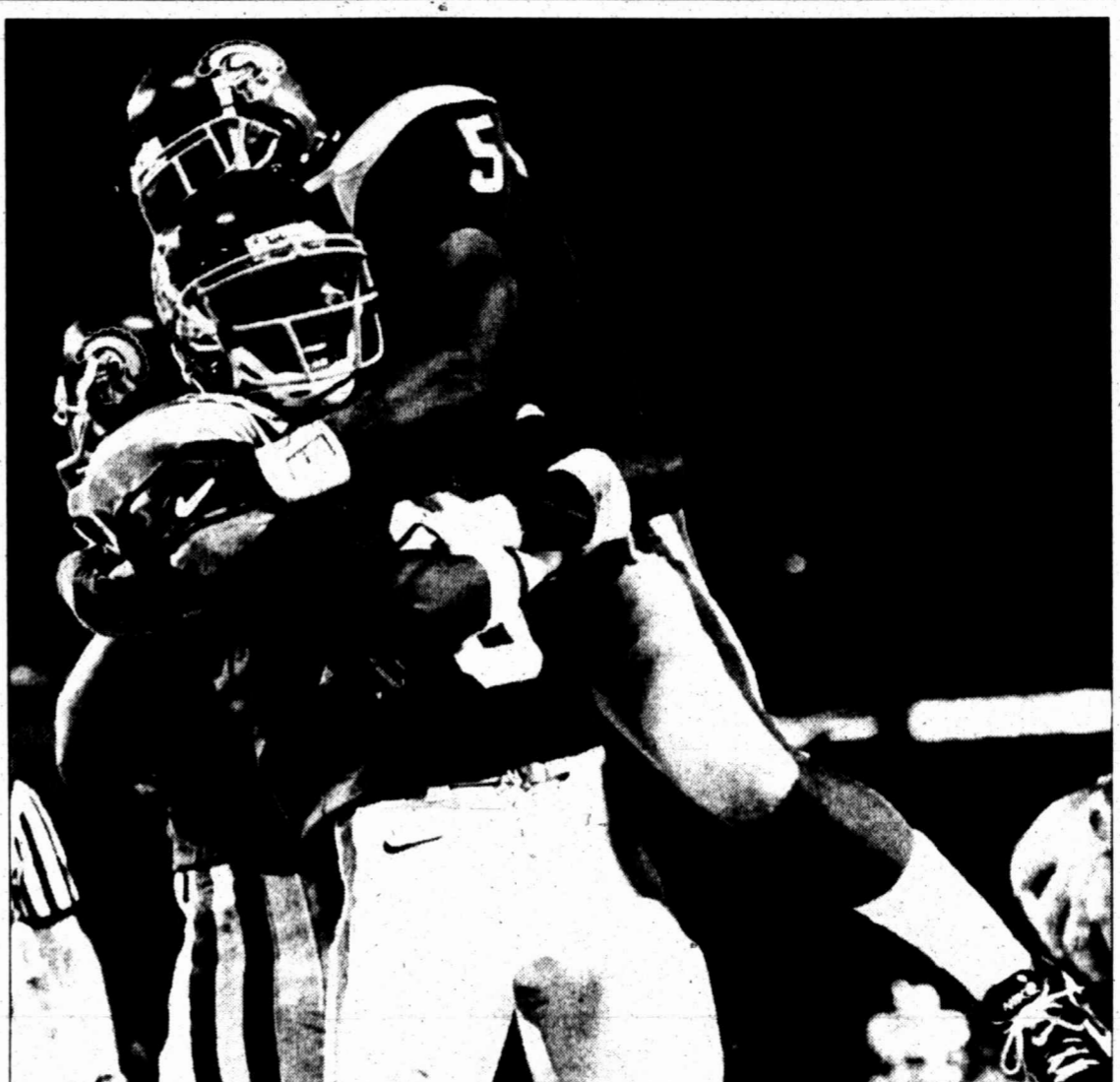
Sports Editor  
GARDEN CITY — The Lady Kats of Garden City improved to 19-2 on the season as they knocked off Iraan, 53-33, at home Tuesday on the hardwood. The Garden City boys struggled to score points and lost by one point, 38-37.

The Lady Kats jumped out to a 14-5 lead after one quarter before closing out the first half with a 28-14 lead. The second half proved to be much of the same as Garden City's triple threat scoring attack combined for 40 of the team's 53 points. Garden City was led by Erin Hirt's 15 points, but Megan Niehues and Lauren Plagens weren't far behind with 14 and 11 points, respectively. The Bearkats (6-12) led 19-17 at halftime, but a 15-12 Iraan edge in the third frame was enough to capture the road win over Garden City. It was Iraan's third win this sea-



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler  
Garden City's Taylor Niehues gets rid of the ball in a previous game. The Bearkats lost to Iraan Tuesday by one point.

son. Colton Schwartz and Chais Goodwin led the Bearkats with nine points apiece, while Cory Multer added seven. Garden City will host Dawson Friday in the district opener. The girls game starts at 6:30 p.m. and the boys game follows around 8 p.m.



KRT photo/Joe Rimkus Jr., Miami Herald  
USC's Dwayne Jarrett (8) celebrates in the end zone after scoring a touchdown against Oklahoma in the second quarter of the Orange Bowl at Pro Player Stadium in Miami, Fla., Tuesday.

## No need for debate

• USC routs Big 12 power, wins 11th national title

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer  
MIAMI — By the fourth quarter, the big stadium was half-empty and the college football season ended with a dud. That hardly mattered to Matt Leinart and the Southern California Trojans.

USC versus Oklahoma was touted as a potential classic, but Leinart turned it into a rout instead. The Heisman Trophy winner threw a record five touchdown passes to help the Trojans claim the national championship with a 55-19 victory in the Orange Bowl.

Ranked No. 1 since preseason, the Trojans (13-0) won their second successive Associated Press title and claimed their first BCS championship. "I think we proved tonight that we are the No. 1 team in the country — without a doubt," Leinart said. Oklahoma (12-1), ranked No. 2 all season, lost in the BCS title game for the second year

in a row and slipped to third in the final poll behind Auburn, left out of the Orange Bowl despite a 13-0 record. The Tigers could hardly have done worse against USC than the Sooners, who endured the worst drubbing in their proud bowl history.

"We just got whipped," coach Bob Stoops said. "You really soul search as a coach how this could happen." It happened in part because the Sooners committed five turnovers, and also because they couldn't stop Leinart. He broke the Orange Bowl record of four touchdown passes, throwing three to Steve Smith and one each to Dwayne Jarrett and 260-pound Dominique Byrd. Leinart finished 18-for-35 for 332 yards.

"When he's on fire, there's nothing the defense can do but sit back and pray," teammate Reggie Bush said. LenDale White rushed for 118 yards and two scores for the Trojans, who rang up 28 points in barely 10 minutes en route to a 38-10 halftime lead.

USC totaled 525 yards against an Oklahoma defense that allowed no touchdowns in its final three regular-season games. And the Trojans' defense limited Heisman runner-up Adrian Peterson to 82 yards on 25 carries.

"I feel sorry for the crowd," Bush said. "People paid hundreds or thousands of dollars for tickets and didn't see much of a game." While No. 1 versus No. 2 produced little drama, it did stir speculation about next season — and the possibility of the Trojans becoming the first team to claim three consecutive AP titles. They've won 22 games in a row and are expected to return many Orange Bowl stars, including Bush, White and Smith — all sophomores — and freshman Jarrett. Only four seniors start on defense.

And Leinart? The junior must decide whether to go for the NFL or another Heisman. "I can't answer right now," he said. "But it's going to take a lot for me

See DOMINATION, Page 2B

## Coahoma falls at Midland Christian

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
MIDLAND — The Coahoma basketball teams ran into problems on the road against Midland Christian Tuesday night as the girls lost 81-40 and the boys were defeated 58-40. The Bulldogs played well in the first half and trailed by just two points

at halftime, but a 19-10 effort in the third and fourth quarters, respectively, allowed the Mustangs to come away with the victory. Coahoma was led in



SHIFFLETT

scoring by Darrick Shifflett and Adrian Abrego, who finished with 14 and seven points, respectively.

Midland Christian (14-4) was led by Jonathan Beal's 16 points and Reese Madrid added 11.

The Bulldogettes were overmatched from the start. Midland Christian

See COAHOMA, Page 2B

**NFL: first-round playoff matchups**

AFC  
New York Jets (10-6) @ San Diego Chargers (10-6)  
Denver Broncos (10-6) @ Indianapolis Colts (10-6)

NFC  
St. Louis Rams (9-6) @ Seattle Seahawks (9-7)  
Minnesota Vikings (9-6) @ Green Bay Packers (10-6)









Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS  
Oh, the Scorpio moon is a gypsy temptress. She shows us the very thing we desire and then plays a coy game, dangling it just out of reach. The question she poses is: What are you willing to do to get what you want? How far will you go? For now, it's enough to toy with the fantasy. It's best not to make a move in the heat of passion.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your driving ambition comes with a price. Heal yourself by valuing yourself. Acknowledge all that you've already accomplished. You are



HOLIDAY MATHIS

perfect as you are. You don't need to be anything but you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Examine your motivations with regard to a romantic relationship. You may feel yourself being drawn in by the allure of money or material things. Be careful not to build a relationship based on a false sense of security.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You need your wiggle room! Committed twins probably want more space in a relationship than a partner does. If single, you could meet someone rather eccentric. Keep an open mind, but proceed with caution.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Let out a rebel yell. A burst of energy has you feeling jazzed. You're ready to break out of your shell and do something wild. Focus on personal

freedom and your own unique mode of expression.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Put your creativity to practical purposes. Your talent is without limit, and so is the demand for your services. You can truly benefit the world on a grand scale. Use your ingenuity, and take advantage of new technology.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Is it possible that you're overloading your schedule with extracurricular activities in order to avoid something at home? Abandon these passive-aggressive tactics in favor of a more honest approach.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are able to put your emotions aside for the time being and examine your relationships with a bit more common sense. Are you really getting

what you need out of them? Don't be afraid to try a different tactic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Stuck in neutral? Maybe that's not such a bad thing. It is the wise Scorpion who strikes only when there is a real advantage to be gained. Scope out the situation a little while longer, and then, act decisively.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You find yourself cast in the role of the old guard, defending your position against some young whippersnapper who's eager to take

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Lay down the law if you must, but first, try to see the situation from the other person's point of view. Is he or she really being disruptive or merely unconventional? Perhaps your own methods could benefit from a fresh approach.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your humanitarian efforts gain a new level of emotional depth. Harness this blast of renewed enthusiasm, and run with it. Sign up new recruits. Think up new slogans. You are hereby nominated chief visionary officer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your creativity has been unleashed, and now, your mind is like a geyser, spewing imaginative ideas all over. Some are realistic, and some are wildly fantastical. Jot them down as they come to you. Then, tackle the easiest first.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Nicolas Cage's Capricorn dedication to his roles caused him to pursue method acting early on. Now, he's known for his on-set improvisation -- anything

to get the performance right. The desire for perfection can sometimes leave this sign looking for more in love and in life. After his share of marriages, this year, Cage falls deeply into a kind of love so new to him, it helps him leave perfectionism to his film work.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).

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## Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My 24-year-old daughter, "Diana," and I are very close. This summer she will be marrying "Dave," a wonderful young man. I am happy for them. Dave has accepted a job 12 hours away from here, so they are planning to move. It is a terrific opportunity for both of them. Diana will be able to continue working toward her doctorate, and Dave can advance in his career.

I am a single parent, and Diana is my only child. I have a disability, and although I can make it on my own, there will be things I will have to get help with. I don't have any other family around. Knowing this, Dave and Diana have asked me to



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

move with them. I respect that they will be a married couple, and I don't want to be the mother-in-law who is always in the way, so I said "no." I love Diana

enough to let her go. Unfortunately, the more this becomes a reality, the harder it is getting for me. I am seriously rethinking making the move, but I want to do what will be best for them. Any words of wisdom for me? -- Brenda in California

Dear Brenda: We commend you for putting your daughter's happiness before your own. However, that doesn't mean you can't have your cake and eat it, too.

Look for a place within a short distance of Dave and Diana's new home. As soon as you are settled, check out local social organizations, or support groups for the disabled, so you will have friends of your own and a life independent of your daughter. If you make a genuine effort not to be a burden, Diana and Dave will cherish having you nearby.

Dear Annie: I read your column every day and really enjoy it, including the recent column about a woman who stopped showing an interest in her husband both physically and emotionally. She withdrew from her friends and family and spent all her time running and exercising.

Your response was that she may be depressed. I gotta tell you, when I read this, I nearly jumped off

the chair. This woman may be having an affair. When I was having my affair, I ran at our local high school track every single day and even lost 30 pounds. I was euphoric and wanted to look good for "him." I pulled away from my husband because I wanted to be alone to daydream. I certainly did not want to spoil that romantic feeling by being with my husband. I stopped seeing friends and family and no longer attended social functions. I didn't want to slip up about this affair, and if I didn't see anyone, I wouldn't have to lie.

I could be off base and the poor woman could very well be depressed, but I must tell you, I saw myself in that letter. -- New York

Dear New York: You weren't the only reader who mentioned the possibility that the woman was running to another man, and it's true that the "symptoms" are similar. Either way, we hope counseling is in the picture for this couple.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

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# BIG SPRING HERALD

710 Scurry • PO Box 1431 • Big Spring, TX 79721 • (432) 263-7331 • Fax 432-264-7205

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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### CLASSIFIED AD

Write one word on each line:

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DEADLINES:	CLASSIFICATIONS:
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BIG SPRING HERALD  
710 SCURRY  
BIG SPRING

WEDNESDAY

JAN. 5

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	TMC (250)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Premium
6	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid-Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anta No Te Rajes	News Serfekt (CC)	Raymond	Sam Peak John Hagee	News-Lehrer	American Chopper	Worlds	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Music Special	Sister, Sister That's-Raven	NFL Live Tit Preview	College Basketball: Us (CC)	Voices Wake Us (CC)
7	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Rubi	70s Show Quintuplets	60 Minutes (CC)	La Mujer en el Espejo	Si Swimsuit Model Search	Raymond	Update/Israel Joe McGee	Do You Speak American?	Motorcycle Mania (CC)	Movie: Mad Max	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers Grifnends	Movie: Zanon: The Zequel (CC)	College Basketball: Duke (CC)	Princeton at Tombstone (CC)	Movie: Tombstone
8	Alias (CC)	Alias (CC)	Amor Real	Nanny 911 (CC)	King Center-Univ	Gitanas	The West Wing (CC)	Serfekt (CC)	Light of the Southwest	(CC)	MythBusters (CC)	The Club	Movie: Desperado	Coming to the Stage	(CC)	Notre Dame at Seton Hall	NBA Basketball: (CC)	(CC)	
9	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight Show (CC)	Thing	N. McBride Joseph Good	Sign Off	MythBusters (CC)	15 Movie: Mad Max	Wildest Police Videos (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	Gamenight (CC)	NBA Fastbreak Outside-Lines (CC)	Dark Blue (CC)	
10	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight Show (CC)	Thing	N. McBride Joseph Good	Sign Off	MythBusters (CC)	15 Movie: Mad Max	Wildest Police Videos (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	Gamenight (CC)	NBA Fastbreak Outside-Lines (CC)	Dark Blue (CC)	
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC)	Los Metches Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	(CC)	Al Rojo Vivo: Late Night	Show (CC)	Thing	N. McBride Joseph Good	Sign Off	MythBusters (CC)	15 Movie: Mad Max	Wildest Police Videos (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	Gamenight (CC)	NBA Fastbreak Outside-Lines (CC)	Dark Blue (CC)	
12	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Alma Rebelde	Spin City Dharma-Greg	Show The Insider	Mania Celeste Corte-Familia	(CC)	Fraser (CC)	11:55 Movie: Feeling	Van Impe Pres Update/Israel	Great White Down Under	Blind Date Shipmates	The X-Files (CC)	Club Comic View	Kim Possible Lizzie McGuire	Basketball NFL Live	SportsCenter (CC)	45 Movie:	

DENNIS THE MENACE



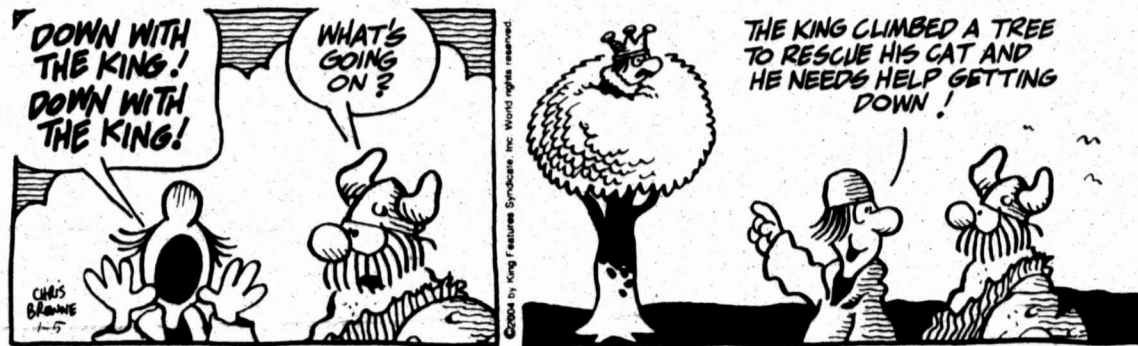
"IF THEY GAVE GOLD STARS FOR ANNOYING PEOPLE, DENNIS WOULD HAVE A GALAXY BY NOW."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Anybody seen my gloves?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2005. There are 360 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1925, Nellie T. Ross succeeded her late husband as governor of Wyoming, becoming the first female governor in U.S. history.

On this date: In 1589, Catherine de Medici of France died at age 69.

In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Va.

In 1895, French Captain Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.)

In 1896, an Austrian newspaper ("Wiener Presse")

reported the discovery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen of a type of radiation that came to be known as "X-rays."

In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Mass., at age 60.

In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Truman labeled his administration the "Fair Deal."

In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at their Clarksville, Pa., home. UMW President Anthony Boyle and three others were convicted of the killings.

In 1975, "The Wiz," a musical version of L. Frank Baum's "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" featuring an all-black cast, opened on Broadway.

In 1994, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, died in Boston at age 81.

In 1998, Sonny Bono, the 1960's pop star-turned-politician, was killed when he struck a tree while skiing in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; he was 62.

Today's Birthdays: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 77. Actor Robert Duvall is 74. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Chuck Noll is 73. King Juan Carlos of Spain is 67. Talk show host Charlie Rose is 63. Actress-director Diane Keaton is 59. R&B musician George "Funky" Brown (Kool and the Gang) is 56. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 55. Actor Clancy Brown is 46. Singer Iris Dement is 44.

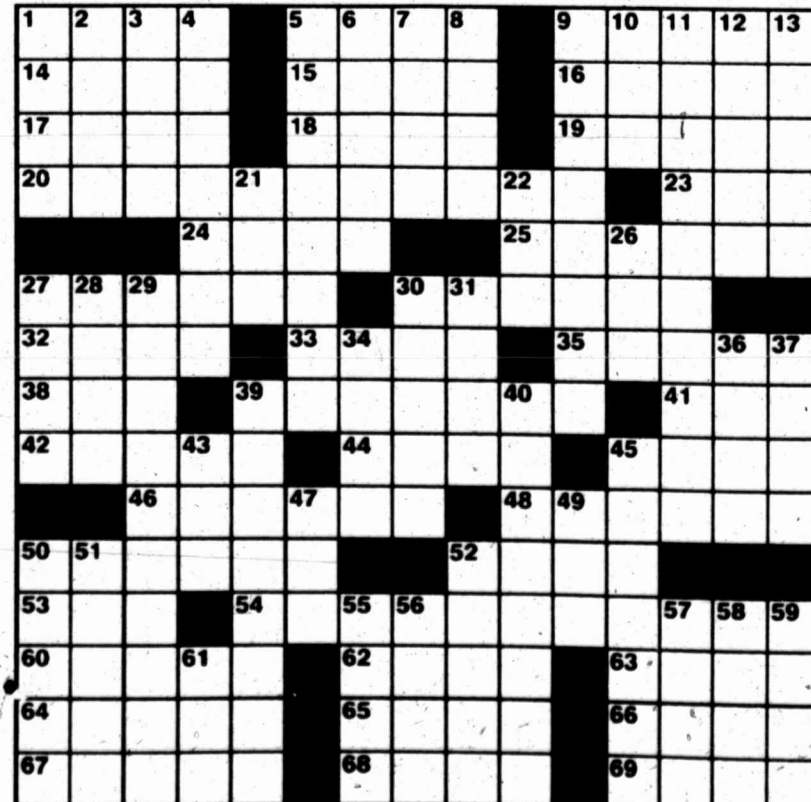
Answer to previous puzzle

SPAM	CALF	NOSES
ALSO	AIR	INTRO
SAID	TIER	COILS
HIDE	AND	SEEK
CEO		
DELLA	STEAK	
SOPUP	ALIBI	
USH	ESSAY	SMALL
SOOT	ERE	SLIP
CSPAN	SELLS	LES
ASCOT	SLAPS	
COOKS	TULSA	
IDO	DOUBLED	DUTCH
NATAL	GOOF	GROW
CYCLE	ANTE	GARY
ASHES	ROSE	OWNS

Newsday Crossword

HARDWARE STORE by Doug Peterson  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- |                                  |                         |                       |                                 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                    | <b>DOWN</b>             | <b>DOWN</b>           | <b>DOWN</b>                     |
| 1 Globule                        | 1 Oceanic obstacle      | 27 Hosp. areas        | 37 WWI German admiral           |
| 5 URL starter                    | 2 Stead                 | 28 Back of the neck   | 39 Causes consternation         |
| 9 Take the mound                 | 3 Kind of vaccine       | 29 Emery-board target | 40 Seat of Clark County, Nevada |
| 14 Leprechaun's land             | 4 Luggage lugger        | 30 To the third power | 43 Stein filler                 |
| 15 Field of Dreams setting       | 5 Longfellow subject    | 31 Mars' equivalent   | 45 Samson's weapon              |
| 16 Florida citrus center         | 6 Tally up              | 34 "The joke's ___!"  | 47 Bit of Morse code            |
| 17 Bona fide                     | 7 Christmas poem opener | 36 Soybean product    | 49 High crag                    |
| 18 Rat___                        | 8 Trodden trail         |                       | 50 Scrumptious                  |
| 19 Amarillo's locale             |                         |                       | 51 Accustom (to)                |
| 20 Short, violent rainstorm      |                         |                       | 52 Think the world of           |
| 23 Excuse starter                |                         |                       | 55 Strike callers               |
| 24 Powdered grain                |                         |                       | 56 Father of Ham                |
| 25 Frog-throated playpen dweller |                         |                       | 57 Iridescent gem               |
| 30 Yellow melon                  |                         |                       | 58 Soup bean                    |
| 32 Biblical farmer               |                         |                       | 59 High schooler, usually       |
| 33 Day division                  |                         |                       | 61 MPH measure                  |
| 35 Splinter groups               |                         |                       |                                 |
| 38 NBC rival                     |                         |                       |                                 |
| 39 Car-engine cooler             |                         |                       |                                 |
| 41 Keystone lawman               |                         |                       |                                 |
| 42 Love Story author             |                         |                       |                                 |
| 44 Desert bluff                  |                         |                       |                                 |
| 45 Boss, in Barcelona            |                         |                       |                                 |
| 46 Slipped away from             |                         |                       |                                 |
| 48 Pigeon's perch, perhaps       |                         |                       |                                 |
| 50 Mother of Calcutta            |                         |                       |                                 |
| 52 Declare openly                |                         |                       |                                 |
| 53 Raggedy doll                  |                         |                       |                                 |
| 54 Thor weapon                   |                         |                       |                                 |
| 60 Socially smooth               |                         |                       |                                 |





# A USER'S GUIDE TO

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## THE

# BIG SPRING HERALD

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Each day. The *Big Spring Herald* receives calls from readers - just like you - who have important questions about how the newspaper works and the services it offers. For your information and convenience, we have compiled this page of answers to readers' most frequently asked questions.

Save this page for future reference

### HOW TO

#### REPORT THE SCORE

You can report your sports results between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 263-7331, faxing 264-7205 or drop your results at the *Big Spring Herald* office at 710 Scurry, Big Spring.

### HOW TO

#### SUBMIT NEWS INFORMATION

To announce activities or events, mail or bring by the office a typed news release or fact sheet to Editor John Moseley as far in advance as possible. The release should include the who, what, why, when, and where of the event, and the name and telephone number of a contact person. If you have a timely news item, call John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

### HOW TO

#### LOCATE A SPECIFIC STORY

If you are unable to locate an article, call 263-7331, or come by the *Big Spring Herald* at 710 Scurry, and we will try to assist you. Remember, we can only provide information that appeared in the *Big Spring Herald*.

### HOW

#### OBITUARIES ARE HANDLED

Obituaries, whether paid or non-paid, are provided to the *Big Spring Herald* by funeral homes. Non-paid obits follow a standard form, while paid obits can include virtually anything the deceased's family requests. Any questions should be directed to the Editor John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

### HOW TO

#### GET DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME

Call our office at 263-7335 or come by 710 Scurry. Our subscription rate is \$93.42 per year or \$8.65 per month.

### HOW TO

#### OBTAIN BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the *Big Spring Herald* are kept on file for one year and may be purchased during regular business hours. However, some back issues sell out quickly and we cannot guarantee that any given issue will be available. You may also check with the Howard County Library reference department at 264-2262.

### HOW TO

#### SUBMIT MARRIAGE, ENGAGEMENT OR BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit engagement, wedding, or birth announcements come by our office at 710 Scurry and pick up a form. You may also download a form from our website at [www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com). If you have questions regarding the guidelines for these announcements, discuss them with Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331, ext. 236.

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#### PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 or come by 710 Scurry. Ads can be placed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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